

THE GROUNDHOG

Mentone, Valley Head, Hammondville, Menlo, Cloudland

PO Box 387, Mentone, AL 35984

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"Neighborly News from the Heart of Lookout Mountain" — In our 30th year

March 2012

Shakespeare comes to Moon Lake School

By Charlotte Gentry

"To show our simple skill, that is the true beginning of our end."—Quince

From beginning to end, the group of eight young performers held the imaginations and attention of the 4th, 5th and 6th grade classes at Moon Lake Elementary School when a traveling troupe from the Alabama Shakespeare Festival brought "A Midsummer Night's Dream" to the mountain.

The production was a condensed, one-hour adaptation of the Shakespeare play, but lost none of the timeless humor of the original in the telling. The costumes and set were colorful and well-constructed, though simple and conducive to quick changes.

The dialogue was unchanged from the original and Moon Lake's students were exposed, most likely for the first time, to the different forms of verse employed by the author to differentiate between his characters. Though not familiar with some of the terms that are no longer a part of our speech today, the children's laughter showed they had no trouble understanding the various plots and subplots and final resolution of the characters' many comedic errors.

The mischievous Puck, the lithe and graceful Titania, the lordly Oberon, the noble Theseus and his lady Hippolyta, the lovely Athenian maidens Hermia and Helena, the handsome suitors Lysander and Demetrius, the simple and silly Craftsmen: Quince, Francis Flute, Robin Starveling, Tom Snout, and Snug the joiner who perform



(Photo courtesy of Mentone Inn)

The Alabama Shakespeare Festival Traveling Troupe, who brought "A Midsummer Night's Dream" to Moon Lake School is made up of eight talented young actors. (Front, L-R) Jay McClure, Candace Sholz, Bliss Griffin, Johnny Viel. (Back, L-R) Collin Meath, Ivan Perez, Craig Hanson and Laura Bozzone.

"Pyramus and Thisbe," and all the lesser roles were carried out splendidly by the players.

For those who have never seen or read the play, the story is three-fold. First, there is trouble in the court of Duke Theseus as one of his nobles (Egeus) wants his daughter (Hermia) to marry a man with whom she is not in love (Demetrius). Rather, she wants to wed Lysander. Meanwhile, her best friend, Helena, is despairing

because she is in love with Demetrius, but he has eyes only for Hermia. (It is due to this love quadrangle that Puck states, "What fools these mortals be!")

Secondly, there is trouble in the woodland between Oberon and his wife Titania (they are King and Queen of the faeries), who are quarreling over an Indian boy who each wants to keep as a page. Oberon's jester, Puck, causes all sorts of mischief when he is

instructed by Oberon to seek a certain flower that contains Cupid's love potion and drip it on the eyes of, not only proud Titania (so that she can be deluded to be in love with a donkey) but the Athenian couples as well. Everything gets mixed up when Puck puts the potion on the eyelids of the wrong suitor!

The final part of the play is when Titania agrees to let the boy be in the care of Oberon, thus restoring harmony in the woodland. The two Athenian couples find their real loves and Theseus allows the father to be overruled concerning Hermia. Lastly, the "Pyramus and Thisbe" is a hit with the court (becoming a farce rather than a tragedy in the hands of the craftsmen). All is well that ends well.

Following the play, the actors took time to allow the students to ask questions, and there were many. Some asked questions about the play and its characters. Others asked about the lives of the actors themselves. The imaginations of the students were further nurtured in a one-hour workshop where they learned more of what is involved in being an actor.

Funding from the Appalachian Regional Council made the appearance at Moon Lake possible. Russell Gulley of the Big Wills Arts Council was instrumental in obtaining the funding, with assistance by The Mentone Area Arts Council and Mentone Realty.

(For more information on the Alabama Shakespeare Festival, visit their website: www.asf.net)

See more photos on page 24

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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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 (Groundhog sub-
scriptions are not included)

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 couple
MAPA, PO Box 50
Mentone, AL 35984**

From the Editor

The Farmers' Almanac has been very accurate in its predictions for the Winter of 2012 when it forecast the weather for the Southeast to be warmer and stormier than usual. It hasn't been just the southeast that has seen more than its fair share of rough weather lately, either. Tornadoes and flooding have been causing extensive damage in much of the eastern portions of the country.

As the mountains begin to move toward Spring, the wildflowers are blooming early and so are many of the fruit trees. Some mountain folk speculate that there might be a late freeze that will cause much of the fruit crop to suffer. If the almanac holds true, though, we may be okay in spite of the early blossoms.

Subscribers to The Groundhog may have noticed a change in the copies of the paper they have been receiving over the past couple months. In an effort to speed delivery of The Groundhog to you, we decided to try sending the paper First Class Mail instead of the Bulk Mail for which we currently have a permit. We were getting calls from concerned folks who weren't receiving their issues for a month (in some cases more) after it was sent out.

With First Class Mail, most subscribers are getting their papers within 2 weeks of mailing. The down-side of this is that we have to trim off the extra half inch on the right margin and we have to tape it on three sides. While this may be a little inconvenient and there may, at times, be a bit too much trimmed off a page or two, we hope this is a good thing overall for our subscribers. Your feedback is welcome. We want our readers, wherever they are, to enjoy getting The Groundhog each month.

A big "Thanks" goes to Dorma Hutcheson, postmistress at Mentone, for helping us in this effort to get The Groundhog out in a more timely manner. She has been wonderful coming up with this new mailing method, which costs just a few pennies more per copy mailed.

The number of subscribers to The Groundhog continues to grow and we appreciate those who have bought subscriptions for themselves and as gifts for family and friends. As we celebrated 30 years of MAPA and The Groundhog in February, we heard from friends old and new all over the country. We hope to have more history and features in upcoming issues that will keep folks wanting to read, and advertise, in our publication.

C.

OOPS! In the February issue, Jennifer Cruse was incorrectly identified as the owner of the Clip Joint. We apologize to owner Amy Kirby, and are happy to set the record straight.

Letters To the Editor

To the Editor:

I enjoyed being at the 30th birthday celebration of the Groundhog and MAPA last month. The food and fellowship was great. I got acquainted with several new friends and enjoyed visiting with some old friends. Having been a fan of the Groundhog, I enjoyed hearing Sandra Padgett tell of the early beginnings of the paper. May the Groundhog continue many more years.

As a candidate for DeKalb County School Superintendent, I held a drop-in meeting on February 27 at the Wild Flower Café to discuss the future of Moon Lake School and my thoughts on the future of education in DeKalb County. I appreciate those who attended and asked many important questions. I believe we got some great feedback from people who were genuinely concerned about the education of our children and grandchildren.

Thank you to the people of Mentone and surrounding areas for your support.

Ed Burke

Dear Editor,

Could you please put this in the next issue? To all my family and friends- Thank You! After my recent heart attack, I learned how much I am loved! You all were there for me- just like I knew you would be! You people are the greatest! Thank You for each and every prayer, visit, card and all the kind words. I wouldn't have made it without you! Thank You!

Sincerely,
Denise Brown, Mentone

W. Chuck Groundhog!

Chuck the Groundhog was found and returned to us safely in February. Beverly Ashley, who works at the Moon Lake Community Library, along with volunteers Sue Schwarz and Jane Faile, found Chuck's hiding place under the bridge at Mason Park. Beverly sent an email to tell us of their find:

"Speaking for the collection of us old ladies that volunteer at the library, we certainly have enjoyed this issue [February] of the Groundhog. It was a very quiet Saturday morning at the library on the 4th, and Jane Faile and myself picked up the Groundhog. We started talking about the adventures of Chuck, and decided to look for the clues. Long story short, 3 old ladies searched the Groundhog for clues and their brains for ideas for an hour. We decided he must be at the park and Sue Schwarz, our 3rd member, took a little trip to the park to see if we were right. And there he was, lurking under the bridge. Now we need to get him back to you so that we can share lunch at the Wildflower."

The ladies declined to have their picture taken, but we are glad they enjoyed finding the clues and Chuck.

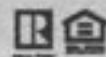
Look for the 10 clues in this month's Groundhog ads to find Chuck's hiding place somewhere in the Mentone area. Bring him back to us, and you'll win a prize. This month's prize is a \$20.00 gift certificate from The Tiger's Inn in Valley Head. If you find Chuck, call 256-996-5995, email editorgroundhog@yahoo.com or bring him by the Mentone Realty office to claim your prize.

This month's prize is a \$20.00 gift certificate from The Tiger's Inn in Valley Head. Good luck!



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"The Natural Choice"

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Office: (256) 634-4767

**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

20 ACRES W/NICE FISHING POND & DOCK, corner property, mostly woodland. Great place to take the family, park a camper and enjoy the weekends. Nice land, nice pond, nice price!! \$115,000. (21863)

JUST LISTED! 270' RIVER FRONTAGE ON W FORK, Little River, 3.01 acres, lightly restricted, private. Native holly, rhododendron, mountain laurel. Driveway already in place. Great place for a getaway cabin on the river! \$39,900. (21805)

BACK ON MARKET! 4.43-acre, unrestricted property holds a lot of promise when you're ready to build. But, while you're waiting to build, you can enjoy weekends in the RV that goes with the property! Private drive off winding country road, \$52,000. (21853)

62.32 ACRES WITH GREAT VIEWS of both valleys and Lookout Mtn from ridge top with great building sites on elevated, level ground. Own your own hunting preserve, secluded woodland retreat, or investment. \$229,900 (19492)

SLOW PACE LIVING at its best. Great building lot; unrestricted, level, with lots of trees. Not a big lot, not a big price. Only \$6,500. (21572)

A LITTLE OVER 2 ACRES in Hunters Ridge, Mentone. Wooded, Restricted. Several lots and prices to choose from. Lot # 20 is \$15,000. (20927)

10.8 ACRES ON N. BROW, Approx 340' of brow frontage. Ave-inspiring views; interesting rock formations; large trees. You can see almost forever, but this large tract of brow property won't last forever at this price. \$199,900. (21467)

3.21 WOODED ACRES, Mentone, Northend, Restricted, gated community, offering privacy and security for your mountain getaway. Now \$27,500. (21363)

5.62 ACRES, BEAUTIFUL, WOODED LAND in Mentone, across from Lake Lahausage. Undisturbed land for your own home or get-away. Lots of wildlife & trees; stream that runs through hand-built mtn stone culvert. Power & water at hand. Easy paved road access. \$63,500. (20850)



STATELY MOUNTAIN MANOR on East Lookout Brow. Entertain in luxury with panoramic views from every room. Featuring vaulted ceilings, stone fireplace, all new Kitchen w/granite, large Dining, covered stone porch on Brow, Carport/Pavilion and basement. Storm shelter & screened porch. This home has it all. Situated on 3.44 ac. Prime brow that adjoins over 1,000 acres in conservation, helping insure a lifetime of privacy & preservation. This approximately 3400 sq ft 3BR/3BA home is remarkably well appointed with inviting ambiance. Reasonably offered for \$599,000. (21789)



35 ACRES WITH OVER 1200' RIVER FRONTAGE! West Fork of Little River, just upstream from historic Alpine area. Gorgeous land, intriguing rock formations, wonderful canoeing/kayaking access, deep natural swimming pool. Nice building site (approx 2 acres) cleared. Covered w/hardwoods, teeming with wildlife, close to DeSoto State Park. A perfect spot for your very own private mountain river getaway! \$299,900. (21869)



RELAX & REJUVENATE in this charming cabin, nestled in the hardwoods. 1450 sq ft, 2BR/2BA; open floor plan; glass porch; hot tub; vaulted ceilings w/open beam trusses & a real stone fireplace w/buck insert. 3-car carport w/workshop & detached 12x24 studio/office make this a great property for full or part-time living. 15 acres w/3 small bldgs & fenced, irrigated garden plot in field. Priced reasonably at \$215,000 (21697)



BABY IT'S COLD OUTSIDE! But, you can snuggle up by the gorgeous, stacked stone, WB Fpl in this 2BR/2BA cabin w/cedar interior, w/wood burning front porch, w/wood burning fireplace. The cabin is in a beautiful setting. The property is in a beautiful setting. The property is in a beautiful setting. **SOLD**



A REAL LOG CABIN in Hunters Ridge, on 2.06 acres. 2BR (or 3 if you decided to turn the DR into a BR)/2.5BA, great covered front porch to enjoy the serenity & quietude of 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. Now priced at \$144,500 (20916)



AND NOW FOR SOMETHING COMPLETELY DIFFERENT... An immaculate, one-level, rambling ranch home in the heart of Mentone. 4BR/3.5BA; det 2-car garage; att carport; deck; family room w/WB Fpl; den w/stone WB Fpl; formal LR & DR; huge kitchen w/b'fast bar & dining; new roof; det office/conference area. On the corner of Unchpney & Cool St. The brow view & lovely sunsets are only a glance away! \$195,000. (21833)



CALLING ORGANIC GARDENERS! If the worries of the world are making your thoughts turn toward simplifying & getting back to the land, this is a great place to start. Much of the preliminary work has been done for you to get this organic farm underway. Barn w/great solar exposure, water collection system & 1BR/1BA apartment. 15 acres w/pond, terraced garden & vineyard, fruit & berry areas. \$75,000.00 (21878)



THE LARIMORE HOUSE, a landmark home on the National Register, one of the few remaining early DeKalb homes. Hand-crafted doors; wavy window glass, well-worn heart-pine floors; massive stone Fpl in KI (there are six in the house altogether); smokehouse w/hand-carved meat pegs in rafters; the servant's quarters w/massive stone indoor fireplace. 3BR/2BA, Artesian spring well. Creek on property. \$189,900. (21788)



MOUNTAIN HAVEN. Down a winding lane, through the woods is this charming, one-level cabin home w/3BR/2BA, approx 1800 sq ft of living area, front & back porches (screened on back!) w/pleasant view of neighboring lake. Mtn stone, wood-burning Fpl; pine floors & ceilings; unfinished, grooved plywood walls throughout. Stone work along drive, foundation, steps & walkway. 15+ acres. \$239,900. (21688)



BEAUTIFUL, CLASSIC, RIVER-SIDE HOME on deep water, Lake Lahausage. Cypress siding, maple flooring & cabinets with Silestone(R) counter tops. Beautiful crown molding throughout. Solid interior doors; CH/A; rock WB Fpl w/gas igniter. Open pit BBQ house; new aluminum dock. Comes fully-furnished with few exceptions. Bring the groceries & you'll be enjoying waterfront living at Mentone. \$299,000. (21267)



A NATURAL SETTING in the trees & beautiful boulders means low yard upkeep on this 4BR/3BA cabin on DeSoto Pkwy. Pine tongue & groove walls; HW floors; partially-finished basement (great storm shelter!). Pine cabinetry w/striking red countertops in kitchen. Whole-house alarm; wired for satellite. Possible owner financing w/acceptable terms. \$185,000. (21161)

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

MARCH

Birthdays

- 1 - Gourdie, Roland Hendon, Erica Blaylock
- 3 - Michael Smith, Dawson Bone, Katie Meadows, Mentone Inn is 85 Years old!
- 4 - Jerry Rogers, Denise Brown, Tom Holt, Luther Kirby (in memory)
- 5 - Anna Gentry, Robert Mochr
- 6 - Willie Jean Baty, Donny Mason, Linda Jordan
- 7 - Arabella Stokes, Chase Flynn
- 8 - Kirby McMunn
- 9 - Todd Greeson, Connie Hughes
- 10 - Frances Day, Jim Bunch
- 11 - Justin Manning, Jay Chadwick, Coy Hall, Johnny Brown (in memory)
- 12 - Tonya Shanklin
- 15 - Dick Tindol, Samantha Rhodes
- 16 - Jesse Bone
- 17 - Walter Fowlkes, Daniel Sanders, Jana Canada, Dickie Gifford (in memory)
- 19 - Kacy Corsentino
- 20 - Hobson Kirby, Cynthia Kerby
- 21 - Brittany Hester, Dustie Nix Estes
- 22 - Robert Baker, Kallie Ingram
- 23 - Roberta Cash, Andrew Wooten, Chelsea Carrier
- 24 - Julie Mayhew, Eli Day, AshLee Carson
- 25 - Claud Burke, Evelyn Graves, Mary Ellen Fielder, Chef Ben (Wildflower Cafe)
- 26 - Tripp Griffith, Mike Fielder, John Martin, Buck Ellis (in memory)
- 27 - Matthew Collins
- 28 - Arden Shanklin, Holly Owen
- 29 - Donna Hilliard
- 31 - Alexia Carter

Anniversaries

- 5 - Michael & Donna Smith
- 8 - Dianne & Dick Tindol
- 11 - Martha & Hobson Kirby
- 12 - Andi & Charlie Runnels
- 17 - Terry & Dorna Hutcheson
- 21 - Josh & Pam Ferguson
- 23 - Nicky & Tina Langston
- 26 - David & Donna Hilliard
- 31 - Bill & Sue Schwarz



MARCH COMMUNITY CALENDAR

WATERFALL TOUR AT DESOTO ST PARK, Mar 10, 10 am-4 pm. Join DSP Staff for a fun day of hiking thought-out the park to see some of DeSoto's waterfalls, big & small. See Lost Falls, Laurel Falls & many more! Moderate Terrain. Meet at the Nature Center (Next to Country Store) Please bring a daypack with plenty of water/snacks & wear comfortable shoes/clothes. Not recommended for children under 10. Free to the public; registration appreciated but not required. 256-997-5025

BOOK SIGNING: BILLY BOB BOHANNON, Mar 17. The Book Shelf in Fort Payne. More info 256-844-8663

PERFORMANCE SKILLS WORKSHOP, Mar 17, 9 am. DeKalb Theater, Ft Payne. Provided by Big Willis Arts Council. For middle and high school students. More info, 256-845-2224, or bwac@russellgully.com

DISCOVER DEKALB MUSIC, Mar 17, 7 pm, DeKalb Theater, Ft Payne. Musical showcase for middle and high school students. More info 256-845-2224 or bwac@russellgully.com

PLANTS OF THE POCKET, Mar 21, 9:30 am-2:30 pm. Join DeSoto State Park botanist, Brittney M. Hughes, and JSU Field Schools Coordinator, Renee Morrison, for this enchanted botany trip to "The Pocket" on Pigeon Mountain. Excellent photo opportunities of unique and beautiful plants. Easy-to-moderate short hike. Meet at DSP Nature Center; shuttle to site. \$10 per person (transportation to site included) 256-997-5025

FAIRY TALE WEEKEND, Mar 23, 6:30-8:30 pm. Join DeSoto State Park for an enchanting night starting with "fairy stories" and watching a "true fairy tale film". Rated PG for fantasy images. Bring your own folding chairs or quilts. Snacks provided. DSP Campfire Circle. No Fee. More info 256-997-5025

CHILDREN'S NATURE OBSERVATION SKILLS: SPRING FAIRY HOUSES, MAR 24, 9 am-12 noon. Led by JSU Field Schools and DeSoto State Park staff, children learn to observe the tiny and important aspects of the natural world while constructing fairy homes along woodland trails. This is a very popular program & spaces fill quickly! DSP Playground Pavilion \$5 per child; pre-registration encouraged. 256-782-5697

FAMILY FUN PROGRAM: SPRING FAIRY HOUSES, MAR 24, 1:30-3:30 pm. Little River Canyon Center. Part of River Rhythms and Growing Up Wild program. No fee. May have limited space so pre-registration is encouraged. 256-782-5697

23rd ANNUAL GERALDINE QUILT SHOW. March 30 & 31. Geraldine Homemaker's Building. Beautiful handmade quilts of all designs on display and you can register to win a free quilt. Hours: Saturday 9 am-5 pm, Sunday 9 am-4 pm. Admission \$3. More info: 256-638-8263 or 256-659-6678.

SACRED HARP SINGING FOR BEGINNERS starts up again March 27, 6:30 pm, at the Senior Center, 600 Tyler Ave S, Ft. Payne. Held the last Tuesday, March-October. More info, Henry Johnson (256)927-4915.

MENTONE AREA ANNUAL CLEANUP, Saturday, Mar 24. Meet at 9:00 am (CST) at Mentone Inn. For more info, Please contact Lyle or Heather Nicely, (256)634-4124.

MENTONE FARMERS MARKET is open year-round. On the Square next to Mentone Inn. Wednesdays 2-5 pm; Saturdays 10 am-1 pm (winter hours may vary). Locally-grown & hand-made items, Jellies, jams, preserves, local honey and firewood. Pre-order available! Buy fresh, buy local! It's good for all of us!

SENIOR LUNCHESES at the MERF House, Mentone, Wednesdays at 11:30 am. From February 15th until April 18th. For more info or to help, contact Sarah Wilcox (256)634-4673.

FREE FOOD FOR NEEDY FAMILIES. New hours: Wednesdays, 9 am-12 noon. The Food Bank at St. Joseph's on the Mountain Episcopal Church. Recipients and new applicants. Joint effort between St Joseph's Community Outreach Ministry and North Alabama Food Bank.

FREE SQUARE DANCE LESSONS offered most Thursdays, 6:30 pm, at Tom Bevil Center in Rainsville by Duos and Solos Dance Club. For more information (256)638-2780

DEKALB QUILTERS meet every 4th Tuesday, 9:30 am, Second Baptist Church in Ft Payne.

SPAY AND NEUTER ASSISTANCE for dogs and cats is available through the DeKalb County Humane Society. Call 256-845-9463.

FREE BASIC COMPUTER and Internet classes for adults are being held at DeKalb County Public Library. Call 256-630-2769 to schedule an appointment.

THE LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN KNITTERS are ready to Knit 'n' Gab Thursday mornings, 10:00, at the MERF Community House behind Moon Lake School in Mentone. If you want to learn, join us, we'll teach you. If you only crochet, you can join us, too. We have fun!! For more information contact Beth Holt at (256) 390-9780.

DESOTO RESCUE SQUAD meets the 1st Saturday of the month at 9am at the MERF house in Mentone.

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

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 Bunnel.

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 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. Sunday School 9:45AM; Sunday Worship - 10:55AM. Church office: 256.845.4756.

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 5PM.

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

21145 Scenic Highway, Mentone
Everyone welcome to 10:30 AM Sunday service of Holy Eucharist
Open for daily prayer and thanksgiving
Supporting our community with outreach
Call for more information 256-634-4476
<http://stjosephmountain.dioala.org>

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. Tom Holt is the pastor. He and his wife, Beth and daughter, Abigail reside in the parsonage which is adjacent to the church. 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 pot-luck lunch. Minister Tom Holt.

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 256-634-4418

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: Sunday School 9AM - all ages; Sunday Service 10:30AM; Bible Study Wednesday 6:00PM; Youth Services 7:00PM Sunday and 6:30PM Wednesday (Meet at Mentone Revival Center Bldg.).
Pastor Fred Johns

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

New Oregon United Methodist Church, located off DeSoto Parkway, would like to invite you to their services. Sunday School for all ages 9:45; Traditional Worship service 11:00. Sunday Evening youth activities 5:30 pm, Evening Worship 6 pm. We have a variety of activities for all ages including Wednesday evening youth activities; knitting ministry for ladies each Tuesday at 9 am; Elderberries for Senior Adults once a month for fellowship and meal. Pastor Jeff Davis, Associate Pastor Keith Davis. Address : 1203 New Oregon Dr, Ft Payne AL 35967. Phone (256)845-7446.

The Church of God 7th Day in Hammondville located just off Hwy. 11 N at corner of Hwy. 117 and Palmer Road. Sabbath School Classes at 9:30 AM and Worship Service at 11:00 AM. Visitors are always welcome.

Pray For Our Neighbors

Family



One of the valuable lessons which I learned growing up was that family is important. My father was fond of saying that friends would come and go, but that family would

always be there for you. I also recall how painful it was to both of my parents when there was an argument between siblings. Brothers and sisters shouldn't fight like mortal enemies, a little healthy competition is okay, but siblings should always stick up for each other. If there are rifts in your family, do your best to heal them, and strive to help your family and always be there in times of need. We should have this same attitude to our extended family, to our aunts and uncles, nieces and nephews, and even distant cousins. But, we should also realize that we are all God's children and thus part of the human family. No doubt it pains God to see his children fighting and killing each other; no less than it pains human parents when they see their children fighting.

"From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands. God did this so that they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of us."

As some of your own poets have said, "We are his offspring."

Acts 17: 26-28

MARCH to the Mentone Farmers Market

By Les Rivett

The Mentone Farmers' Market thanks everyone for their support during February. Officially, open Saturdays from 10 am-1 pm, we were busy all month.

March has started off with a Breakfast on Saturday on the 3rd. Breads and eggs from market vendors were used. Jams, jellies, honey and syrups from the market were also available for sampling. Breakfasts are always a good time with good food and good company, and we try to have one every 1st Saturday of the month. You'll want to plan to join us for the April breakfast.

March 17 is the "Third Saturday Cooking Demo." Using what's at the market and a few other staples, a dish will be created that you can make at home. Watch, ask questions, and taste freshly-prepared food.

Last month's demo had some great things to taste. This month's demo is expected to be just as good (or even tastier!)

During March, the Mentone Farmers' Market is open Saturdays 10 am-1 pm. You'll find fresh produce, including lettuce, greens, herbs, beets, green onions, cabbage and tomatoes. Look for baked goods, eggs, jams, dried vegetables, breads, and sweet treats every week. Some vendors can't stay away and show up Wednesdays from 2-5 pm, even though there's no information booth.

Stop by and visit Alabama's exclusive producer-only, year-round market. Dry Creek Farm, Old West Farm, Jay's Garden Variety, Jones Family Farm, June Cagle, Roger's Real Homemade and Bama Breeze Farm expect to be at the market in March. Buy fresh, buy local at your farmers market.

Booth space is available at weekly markets for local growers and artists. Musicians are welcome. Applications are at the market or on line at www.mountainmarket.org or call Les Rivett, 25-657-7247. See you in Mentone.



This month's recipe:

Coleslaw

7 cups chopped cabbage	¼ cup sugar
1 green pepper	½ cup vinegar
1 onion	½ cup oil (scant)
1 Tbsp. salt	

Cut green pepper and onion and chop cabbage. Mix salt, sugar, vinegar and oil. Boil and pour over cabbage mixture while warm. Toss until all vegetables are coated. Let stand at room temperature for about three hours. Then refrigerate-it will last for weeks.

LIBS FROM THE LIBRARY

Linda Brown



This was the meeting we, the members of the Board of Directors of Moon Lake Community Library, look forward to all year.

We go to the home of John and Jan Wilkinson and have lunch together. We were not disappointed this year. Because the annual meeting was changed to February this year, Jan used Valentine Day as a theme. Her table was set with beautiful tableware on a red tablecloth. At each place setting she placed a box of Valentine's Day candy.

After signing Jan's guest book and speaking to everyone, we had a moment of expressing our thanks to God (or any higher power you wish to name) for our friendship, our health and the things we have seen happen in the library. Then we sat down to a wonderful meal, complete with Red Velvet Cake.

After lunch, each chair of a committee gave an oral report and submitted a written one to be placed in the book of minutes to preserve the activities of the board members of the library. We hope that this will help those who come after us, not to copy but to use as a stepping stone to much greater things.

We heard a complete financial report so we would know how much we can spend and for what. We heard a report on training volunteers and the writing of this article for The Groundhog. The report of the Summer Reading Program brought back many pleasant memories. We heard about the book sales, book and DVD acquisitions, and the work calendar. The FRIENDS of the Library report showed a large number have joined this

endeavor this year. We heard about Operation Paperback, the collection of paperback books for members of the military. Special events such as the Christmas village and open house, Meet the Author and top reader for Moon Lake Elementary School made a glowing report. A letter of resignation was read from Ann Chesnut and she was given a vote of thanks for a job well done.

Then it was time for Jan to give her report which wrapped up the year in a paragraph or two. Except this year her report was quite different. She told us that she was resigning as a board member and as Chair of the Board of Directors after twelve years of service. What do you say to a leader who has carried us into being a well-stocked, well-run library? She has suggested innovative programs and then stood back and let us accomplish them and take the credit. She has listened to me moan and groan that no one was using the library any more. She assured me that they would when the weather improves. She has lead us to do great things which had never been done in Mentone or north Alabama before. She has worked with Moon Lake Elementary School to assure a smooth combining of one building for two different and yet the same activities. What do you say to someone who has accomplished so much and been so diligent and faithful in her support? We say, "Thank you and we wish you the best of everything. We love you." Signed, the members of the Board of Directors of the Moon Lake Community Library.

Next meeting: March 1st, 3 p.m. in the Moon Lake Community Library. You are invited to attend this and all of our meetings.

You may write to us at: Moon Lake Community Library, PO Box 481, Mentone, AL 35984. To be on the agenda for a meeting call Jan Wilkinson, 256-845-5048.

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The Awesome Wizard of Oz

By Armand Coutu



If you're like me, you enjoy the idea of having your cake and eating it too. With this indulgence in mind, let's take this one step further into another area of gorging ourselves. How about watching a favorite movie and reading it too. And if you're a real glutton for over-consumption, why not watch it, read it, and devour the Broadway musical version of it by listening to an original cast recording. And while you're at it, perhaps you may be lucky enough to go to New York and see a live performance of your top ranking movie / novel. What a feast of irresistible creativity! You may be surprised how far-reaching this simple idea can go. Let me make a few sugges-

tions and see how many cakes we can gulp down.

Everyone has seen the 1939 movie "The Wizard of Oz" filmed in sepia and spectacular color by MGM Studios. Since its debut, the characters, storyline, and dialogue have become a part of the American landscape and a part of film history; and if it's as equally imbedded in your psyche as in mine, why not get to know more about these wonderful characters—and many, many more less familiar—by reading the original source material "The Wonderful Wizard of Oz" written in 1900 by L. Frank Baum or any of his 13 sequels in the Oz collection. And if you still want many more servings of Oz, read the following 21 sequels written by Ruth Plumly Thompson; she wrote them between 1921 and 1976 after Baum's death.

Did you ever wonder what made the Wicked Witch of the West so wicked or what made Glinda the Good Witch of the South so, um, good? Then I suggest you start your fascinating journey by reading Gregory

Maguire's novel "Wicked: The Life and Times of the Wicked Witch of the West" published in 1996. Then read his sequel novel "Son of a Witch" (2006) followed by his third in the series "A Lion Among Men" (2009) and finally "Out of Oz" (2011). All of them are fun, creative, and a sympathetic look into the histories of the characters. But beware, Dorothy barely mentioned and isn't portrayed as squeaky clean as she is in the movie.

After all that reading try next a helping of musical theatre with "Wicked: The Musical". It opened in New York on Broadway in 2003 and is still running. If nothing else, listen to the cast recording. The musical—written by Stephen Schwartz, the creator of "Godspell"—is spectacular; it's funny, heartbreaking and exhilarating.

For those of you who are Oz purists, then a brand new stage production of "The Wizard of Oz" premiered in London on March 2, 2011; it too is still running to high acclaim. The driving force behind this musical version is Andrew Lloyd-Webber and Tim Rice (of "Jesus Christ Superstar" and "Phantom of the Opera" fame). Most of the songs from the 1939 MGM film are included, and there are 5 new songs. A cast album was released on CD May 9, 2011.

And if you have room left over in your brain and belly after this aforementioned smorgasbord of Dorothy, Toto, and the wondrous Land of Oz, take a trip online to www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Adaptation_of_The_Wizard_of_Oz; you'll discover more information than you can shake a broomstick at: more books, radio productions, stage plays and musicals, movies, and television shows all based on the brilliance of L. Frank Baum and a score of American and international artists. Bon appétit.

6. In the middle of everything

IT'S CLEAN UP TIME

Mentone Area Cleanup Saturday, March 24, 9:00AM

The Annual Mentone Area Cleanup will be held on Saturday March 24th, starting at 9:00 am (CST) at the Mentone Inn parking lot, where volunteers will be given bags, pickers and assigned areas to clean. The pick up will end at 12 noon with a picnic lunch at the pavillion behind Mentone Inn. Please come out & be a part of this annual event that makes such a difference in our community. If trash pick up is not for you, a covered dish to thank the hard-working volunteers or contribution to help cover expenses is greatly appreciated. Let's make this our best year ever. Please contact Lyle or Heather Nicely @256-634-4124.

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QUILTING FROM A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE

By Nathan Winkler

I am Nathan Winkler and I was raised on Lookout Mountain in Sand Rock. Two years ago I lost my job in the steel industry. At that point I decided to do something I always wanted to do—disassemble aging and dilapidated barns and reclaim the lumber that was mostly virgin timber when this mountain was settled. I have torn down over 16 barns and 2 houses since then. I love dismantling the structures and sorting through the various species I come across. We then make picture frames, furniture and various other projects.

Last March, my mother Gail and I were delivering a horse to Iowa. Along the route, my mom would point out old barns and we would joke about me tearing them down. As we traveled into Northern Illinois, I saw the first barn with a brightly colored pattern and wondered to myself what that was.

The next morning, we got up and started the 16-hour drive back home. As I drove through rural Iowa, I noticed that there were more and more of these patterns on many barns. Before we left the state, I stopped at a rest area and picked up a state publication and in the back 4 pages was information on these mysterious symbols. Barn quilts. Now that the mystery was solved I anxiously anticipated seeing one on the journey home.

I continually thought about them and during the heat of the summer I decided to satisfy the urge to make one. I had researched them and my first pattern was "Crossed Canoes." I was hooked, and to date I have completed nearly 50 quilt squares. The process has evolved as well as my knowledge and interest in the various patterns.

I now understand the addiction that comes with quilting. As I finish one I can't wait to start the next. My intention for this column is to further explore the history, the beauty and the people of this truly amazing hobby.

(Look for future Quilting articles by Nathan Winkler. You can see his work at The Big Mill in Fort Payne and on his Facebook page www.facebook.com/nathan.f.winkler)



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WILD RIVER COMMUNITY- 1.6 acres on the east fork Little River 235 ft of pools and rapids. Bluff views. Large Rocks in water. Very Scenic, and private \$69,000 (21382)	WHIPPOORWILL FARM. 4.9 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. \$349,000 (19919)	FORMERLY MOUNTAIN MAMA'S CRAFT STORE AND ROCK SHOP. 4.5 wooded acres on the east fork Little River. SOLD \$129,000 (20799)	WOODED 40 ACRES, level mixture of hardwoods and Pines, some trails through property. Over 2500 ft. of paved road frontage. Could be nice development opportunity. Build a few cabins in this spot. \$184,500 (21649)	STUNNING MOUNTAIN HOME and Resort 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 bath has separate entrance to the deck, guest bedroom, and 2 more baths. 700 sq ft. 2 in 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)	WILD AND SCENIC LITTLE RIVER LOTS, privately located off Co. Rd. 628, Mentone. Two lots combined to make 2.2 acres with 337 ft on river. Partially cleared building area. What a View, \$69,000 (21685)	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 on 6 acres. \$255,000 (20453)	MOUNTAIN CREST CABINS. 2 fully furnished log cabins nestled in the woods on 6 acres, next to Cloudmont Resort. Both cabins are currently on a rental program. Above the Clouds is 2br/2bt w/kit kitchen/dining combo, and large crawlspace that can be made into a basement. The Hideout is 2br/1.5bt with open floor plan and small loft. Lots of amenities in both cabins. \$249,000 (21433)	3 ACRES LOCATED on the West fork Little River 1 mile above Desoto Falls. Deep water for boating, level wooded property with native Holly scattered throughout, circular drive, perc tested, water meter installed, a beautiful spot to build that retirement home. 70ft on the water, quiet neighborhood. \$125,000 (21648)
					
WATONS 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. REDUCED TO \$175,000 (20451)	7.15 ACRES with West Brow Sunset view. Great location between DeSoto Park and Mentone. Partial drive, County water available. Great price \$145,000 (21411)	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)	PRISTINE 25 ACRES on the East Fork Little River, over 1,000 ft of river frontage. Rapids, natural pools, fishing, canoeing, rafting. Build that dream home in this natural setting. \$295,000 (19136)	NICE LEVEL & WOODED LOT 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. Wild blueberries and trees are abundant. Priced to sell at \$25,000. (21087)	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. REDUCED \$95,000

LOTS AND ACREAGE

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 \$35,000 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)

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, perc tested. Lightly restricted. \$58,900 (19865)

WOODED .09 ACRE non-restricted lot. Perfect for mobile home or cabin. Paved road on two sides. \$9200. (21600)

OLD HOMEPLACE next to Shady Grove Dude Ranch. 1.7 acres. Great building sites. Non-restricted. \$20,000. (21599)

Diary of a Chicken Lady

Part 10

By Kristen Emory



What would my Great Grandmother from the Deep South, Selma, Alabama, say about her great granddaughter who wears blue jeans and carries a pocketknife? Is she rolling over in her grave thinking a woman, a Southern Belle, should never carry a knife much less wear blue jeans? What does my Great Grandmother from Paint Rock Valley, Alabama think about me? Probably, "Loving those dungarees and, girl, you have to have a knife to make it through your day".

Chickens have brought out in me something I have never experienced before, the need to carry a knife. Why, you ask, would I need to carry a knife? There are many reasons. When you have a small back yard farm there is so much to do and so many things to open. Bags of feed and cedar shavings have to be cut open. Strings on a small square bale of hay are almost impossible to get loose without a sharp knife. Even the Seven dust canister says, "use a coin or tool to open." What kind of tool can you carry in your pocket if it is not a pocketknife?

My first knife I bought for myself was from AAA Hardware. I had gone on a Saturday to buy toilet parts and as I walked in I saw the beautiful knives on the counter. All different colors-- yellow, blue, and brown. When I graduated from Kindergarten, my parents gave me a yellow pocketknife that had Coca-Cola written in green on both sides. I had that knife for years but, at some point, lost it and have wanted another ever since. I left the Hardware store with a beautiful yellow Case knife.

I was so proud of my new knife and I showed it off to anybody who would pay me any attention. That led to discussions about brands of knives and how long everybody had had theirs. Andy Beason still has the first knife his father gave him when he was 8 years old. If you know Andy, you know he is no spring chicken. He carries a knife that he has had for over 30 years. I am most impressed that he still has his very first knife and carries the same one for all these years. That's almost my entire life! Steve Barkley carries a beautiful yellow knife that he has had for over 20 years. Franky Kirby doesn't carry a pocketknife; he carries a box cutter in his back pocket. He means business!

I used my new knife all spring and into the summer. I lost and found it several times and washed it once (tip: Don't wash your knife. It will rust). I finally lost my yellow Case knife for good and who knows where. I had to have a new one and of

course it had to be a Case. I decided on blue. My new blue knife was a little bit bigger than my yellow knife but it was much sharper. It was beautiful and I was so proud of it. It didn't last long though. I didn't have this knife more than a few weeks and I lost it. I can hear Tom in my ear, "Why don't you buy a cheap knife instead of spending money on a Case and then losing it?" Well, I will tell you. If I am going to accessorize with a knife it must be attractive and spectacular.

Two knives lost in less than a year, not good odds for the next one. My current knife was given to me by my son, Byrum. He has many knives and he decided to loan me his orange, bone-handled Case knife. I love it. He thought maybe if it were on loan I wouldn't lose it. So far so good.

I found so many other uses for carrying a pocketknife. I open boxes at the store. Tom and my dad will say at least once a week, "Kristen you got your knife on you?" And yes, yes I do. What would they do without me? But my favorite use for my pocketknife so far is the day that Toby Manifold came in with one of his gray whiskers that had gone rogue. I asked Rachel, his wife, "Can I please trim your husband's beard?" Her response, "Please do." I cut that gray whisker as fast as I could with my very sharp Case knife.

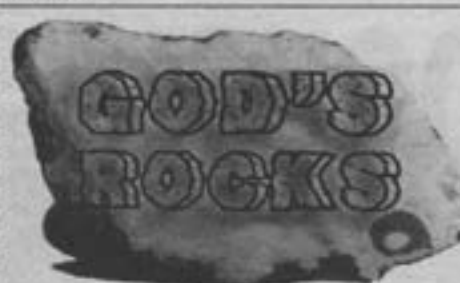
I can open things, fix things and trim a beard. I love carrying a pocketknife. I know a lot of you reading this have a knife story and I wish I could hear them all. I think all of my grandmothers would be proud that I have become a self-sufficient woman who takes pride in herself, her family, and her animals.

Now about the Chickens:

Favorite Chicken is better. Her bottom is clean and feathers look good. After consulting with Faye at Tractor Supply, Mr. Oliver at Oliver Feed Mill, and Dr. N. Weldon (my chicken vet), I do believe we cured her of whatever was wrong with her. I changed the scratch I was giving them and treated all the chickens for worms. I do think the best advice may have come from Markeita Crane, when asked, she said, "You should just wash it out." Everyone is doing great. My girls still lay an egg a day. Every once in a while one of them gets tired and has to take a break and I understand why. Can you imagine laying an egg everyday?

I have added a new chicken to our yard. Her name is Cora and is an Araucana, a green egg layer. She came to us because her family was moving and needed to find a home for her, a home that will not eat her, no chicken pot pies at our house. I have been slowly introducing her to the other girls keeping them separated by fencing but close enough to talk to each other. And talk they have done. Chickens are very social animals and I have really enjoyed watching my girls getting to know a new chicken. They are welcoming her into the flock. Now it's official: the chickens outnumber the dogs and the humans.

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



Jasper

By Dixie Wilson

Hello again! I'm afraid all semi-precious stones are my favorites! Today, we'll discuss a wider range of

stones called Jasper. This stone is also mentioned in Revelation. Jasper and agate are sometimes mistaken for each other. Both are beautifully patterned with many different colors. One indicator of jasper is that it is not

translucent or transparent. Another hint is that when struck and broken, the fresh surface is usually even, flat and smooth. Chalcedonies (including agate) almost always show a distinctly rounded or conchoidal fracture. Most agates have at least some translucent areas. One of the features I appreciate most in jasper is that the patterning often creates pictures. I have seen a baby's foot and leg above a pram! My husband often said I had

a vivid imagination! However, he did agree that my Pet Rock looks like an undersea painting! One lady even asked me how I got the paint to stay on the rock. I referred her to God as he is the painter!

Jaspers are found all over the world. They are a type of quartz. The majority of the Petrified Forest specimens of petrified wood are jasper. These stones range from a Mohs hardness of 6 to 8. I bent my first 10 inch saw blade on a piece of petrified wood - it is HARD. Most of the jaspers I see are from the western states and from around Lake Superior

or Mexico. Many of these different jaspers are named for the areas in which they are found. I have Biggs, Willow Creek, Wild Horse Canyon and many others. I don't remember the name, but one of my jaspers looks like cave writings.

Visitors are welcome to come into my work shop and see the many types of rough (and some in process) stones. Children love rocks and I have some

free ones for them.

Remember, if you have questions, e-mail me at jerrywilson@centurylink.net or give me a call. I will be happy to help you if I can. If I can't, I can probably put you in touch with someone who can help. Enjoy God's beautiful creation!

(Dixie's Rock Shop is located off County Road 600, along the Scenic Pkwy S, Mentone. For more information, call 256-634-4137)



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When We Were Wee

By Larry Smalley

Sometimes, when I see a person who has lived a long life, I can't help but think of all the changes they must have seen in their time here. It also makes me realize what treasures they are to us and most of the time we don't ask them about their lives to enjoy hearing about what they have seen.

Have you ever heard an older person tell you something from times past that was boring? I think we are so caught up trying to keep up with our changing times that we sometimes fail to listen to them tell of when they enjoyed simple things.

Remember when Fort Payne had Whittlers' Corner at the city park and the old men would gather and sit and talk all day? They were peaceful and content just to enjoy the day and nothing more. Older people have come to believe that their past is not worth mentioning when, in fact, theirs is the one we should enjoy and learn from.

Ways of life should be passed down just as much as heirlooms, and should be held just as dear. When we lose parents or grandparents, the first thing we think of is that we all wish for more time with them when, in fact, we never put pen to paper on some of the things they told us or made a recording of their voice to play for the generations they leave behind.

Wouldn't it be great to hear their voices again,

especially if you had never heard them? We are losing what is said to be our greatest generation every minute of every day. If you know of someone that is in the latter part of life, go, sit and talk, visit, and I promise you will feel it was time well-spent.

I am a fairly young person, but even I have seen a lot of changes; we all have. We have a few interesting stories of how things used to be, so, in the next few issues of The Groundhog, let's share some of them. Send in things you remember, and things you may remember but don't know why they were this way and maybe someone can write in with the answers. I will mention a few just to get it started.



1-Remember when coffee was poured in a saucer from the cup? Why?

2-Remember when Motels along the side of the road advertised T.V. and Air conditioning?

3- Remember when people sat in lawn chairs at the Drive-In in the summertime, while the kids played on swing sets in front and below the screen?

4- Remember when you stopped for gas and it was pumped, your oil and tires were checked, and your windshield cleaned? WOW!

OK, I have it started, so let's see what we can remember about our generation that one day we may pass on.

(Send your "When We Were Wee" remembrances, questions, or whatever to PO Box 387 Mentone 35984 or email them to editorgroundhog@yahoo.com)

"BACK TO SCHOOL" TIME

By Harriet O'Rear

Bring your school supplies (crayons, pencils, paints, aprons, cameras, walking shoes) and show up for a mélange of spring classes beginning in late March.

MAAC presents an ongoing series of avocational classes to be taught by the crème de la crème of professionals, most of them residents of the Mentone to Summerville area. Classes are limited in size and filled in order of email or telephone reservations. Discounts of 25% will be given to MAAC members. For membership info, go to www.mentonearts.org/MEMBERSHIP.html

Making Jewelry with Polymer Clay, Mar 20, 6 pm (ET) at the Vision Gallery, Summerville, Ga. Taught by Linda Espy. Linda is the spearhead for the Christmas window display in Summerville and creator of many of the life size mannikins in the windows. A nationally-known doll maker, she is also a jewelry maker. Participants in the class will design and construct polyclay pendants for necklaces. (Cost tba)

Guided Tour, Wildflower Trail in The Pocket, (Crockford-Pigeon Mountain Wildlife Management Area, GA): March 30, 2012 - 9am (CT) at The Pocket entrance. Led by Carol & Hugh Nourse, botanical photographers volunteering at the Georgia St Botanical Garden since 1996. Their books include "The State Botanical Garden of Georgia", Favorite Wildflower Walks in Georgia and "The Wildflowers of Georgia" which will be available, signed, at the tour. \$10 each plus \$3 park fee.

Painting Still Life in Oil, March 31 & April 1 - Vision Gallery in Summerville, Ga. Taught by Suzanne Royal, a premier portrait artist who works primarily in oil on canvas. Participants will do a still life painting. (Cost tba)

NICELY DONE, SIERRA!

Sierra Nicely, a Junior attending the University of Alabama, Birmingham, in the Experiential Honors Program, has made the Presidential Honor Roll with a 4.0 GPA for the Winter Semester. Her parents state, "We are proud of her hard work and dedication that has qualified her for inclusion on the Presidential Honor Roll, not only this semester at UAB, but throughout her entire college career. We are equally proud, as she turns 21, of her responsible character, drive & the caring spirit she brings to all she does." We're all proud of you, Sierra! Keep up the great work.



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A Letter from a Founder: Of MAPA, the Groundhog & His Treasure!

By Bruce Bonfleur

"Why me?" That's what I said to myself when the Groundhog Editor asked if I'd write a feature article relating the early days of MAPA and the paper. I was honored, but I wasn't sure what interesting recollections or memories I might be able to share, or if I would have any words of wisdom or profound observations to offer Groundhog readers and the people of Mentone.

Then I thought, "Well, why not me?" After all, I have been credited – along with Sandra

Padgett – with founding MAPA, as well as having been an initial contributor and developer of the publication. Maybe I could come up with some memories and insights that would be welcomed, or at least tolerated. So here goes...

First, let me say that MAPA and the Groundhog were (and remain I'm sure) group efforts. No one or two or three people are responsible. I guess I was just an instigator – a promoter, even visionary – of what none of us would've ever imagined at the time – a 30-year shared experience, in writing, all about what we know makes Mentone such a special place. No, not the extraordinary natural beauty, or that unique, special 'spirit' of peacefulness that God placed here. That's obvious to even a casual visitor; cherished by those blessed to live on the mountain.

Really, in my mind and in my heart, the specialness of Mentone is rooted, literally, in the people who chose to live, work and die here – to raise families, develop traditions and to leave Mentone with more than what was here before they came. I believe this is my own legacy with Mentone, as relatively brief an encounter it has proven so far. (My wife Marsha and I still hold onto the dream of returning to the mountain some day.)

My fondest and most fortunate experience has been, and remains, my relation-

ships with Mentone mountain folks. I hesitate to mention those who are especially dear to me (and to my wife, Marsha) but list them I must, in no particular order, just with love: Homer, Bernise, Terry, Dorma, Sandra,

Ray, Amelia, Tom, Tookie, Randy, Annie, Lynette, Sharon B., Ruby O., Tony, Dana, Tim, Emily, Helen L., Susan C., Melinda, the Disneys, the Greens, the Stallings.

Prior to moving to Mentone in 1981, my only knowledge of the place was the little information I had gained from reading an article in a regional magazine regarding the "deepest canyon east of the Rocky

Mountains," and the unique stream/river that flowed "on top of Lookout Mountain." I had to see it. So, I came, alone and searching.

My first day on the mountain was in late fall. It was one of those sunny, clear days with that pungent, wonderful smell in the air of damp, fallen leaves. I was driving down DeSoto Parkway when I saw the sign to "The Southernmost Ski Resort – Cloudmont." I turned onto the gravel road and was immediately slowed down by this guy driving a sled (with wheels on it) pulled by a team of huskies!

For a boy from Florida used to sandy beaches and flat, wide open spaces (and no such colorful rigs) – it was, well, a heavenly scene. Little did I realize I was about to meet another "Florida boy" whose enthusiasm, vision

and love for the mountain would soon "hook" me on Mentone, as he had been decades earlier. My "kind of crazy" tour guide that day was Jack Jones – a kindred spirit and superb salesman for sure.

Part of the tour led us past this unique, boarded up old homestead along the parkway. It had a hand-painted "for sale" sign out front which only added to its appeal, at least to me. That old place was Cragmere, which became "Cragmere Restaurant and Gardens" – a place of good food and fun and wonderful memories for many throughout the 1980's and 90's.

I returned to Florida, developed a business plan, tendered my resignation as a YMCA Director, packed up and moved to the mountain.

Developing things, or maybe, re-developing things is a gift I have been given. (It seems to have also proved a curse, at times.) Actually, in retrospect, my experiences of reviving and bringing things back has been my purpose in life. Today, at 60, I can see how God has used me in perhaps small but significant ways to restore hope in the places I have lived, among the people I have loved. He has instilled within me an energetic, contagious (I think), optimism that can be used to make things better. I hope this doesn't come across as

prideful or boasting in any way. I am just a blessed, happy guy who desires to share what he has received. I believe not only in speaking life, but in doing life as well. Mentone has been one of those "stages" I was fortunate to have found.

But, as I mentioned at the beginning of this article, it is people coming together that really make a difference. It was only a few weeks into my new environs, at Cragmere – in Mentone – that my path crossed with another "crazy" dreamer, visionary and doer – Sandra Padgett – also a new resident of the mountain, and also a kindred spirit. It wasn't long before we shared our

dream of seeing this incredible place, with all this potential, come alive again. We decided to try and bring together folks, some we figured were like-minded, some definitely not like-minded, for an organizational get together at Cragmere. That meeting went well and shortly thereafter another one was called, this time at St. Joseph's Church, and it was there that MAPA was officially named and organized. The rest, so aptly recorded in over 300+ editions of the Groundhog, is history.

THANK YOU AND CONGRATULATIONS to all of Mentone – especially those pioneer families, the camps, the churches, the civic

organizations, the Groundhog editors and staffs, the businesses and dreamers – those who came and gave and left their gifts – all of you, vital parts of the picture that makes Mentone unique among communities.

I believe it is the founder of Mentone, John Mason, who is credited with saying that Mentone "is a great place to retire to once a person's fortune has been made." Well, I'd like to add to that statement what I guess would be my vision – my outlook for the future of Mentone. Mr. Mason's definition of fortune is limited to the financial or economic sense. I would add to it this: "My fortune was FOUND in Mentone. Not financially, or in retirement, but in the everyday of living here." and, "I am a very fortunate man to have found you, Mentone!"

Lastly, being the ever-promoter and schemer that I am, I leave you with a new slogan – it's in bumper sticker form – "FORTUNATE TO HAVE DISCOVERED MY TREASURE... IN MENTONE, AL!"

God's continued blessings and His Peace to you all.

(The BonFleur family including Bruce, wife Marsha, daughter, Genevieve (19), and son, Brent (17), have been serving the Lakota (Sioux) people of Pine Ridge Indian Reservation since the summer of 1998. The reservation is frequently listed in U.S. Census records as one of the poorest places in America. Many were made aware of this through Diane Sawyers recent ABC Special. The name of the Bonfleur's ministry is "Lakota Hope" and information relating to it can be obtained through their web-site: www.lakotahope.org.)



Bruce and Marsha Bonfleur today.



Bruce and Marsha Bonfleur, 1990.



Bruce Bonfleur, daughter Genevieve and son Brent at DeSoto Falls.

MAPA and the Groundhog celebrate 30 years with two birthday parties!



...the best part of both events was reading old issues of the Groundhog!





Each month we feature a favorite family recipe from one of our readers. If you have a recipe you'd like to submit, please send it to editor@groundhog@yahoo.com.

Please include any additional information such as where you got the recipe and any additional history or details you think would be of interest to Groundhog readers.

CELEBRATING 85 YEARS OF HOME COOKING WITH THE MENTONE INN

The Mentone Inn is celebrating its 85th Birthday in March. We thought it would be great to feature a recipe for some of the specialties that innkeeper Cynthia Stinson serves her guests these days.

Cynthia writes, "The French Toast is my own take on a familiar favorite. I made it for my girls when they were growing up. Very quick and easy and people love it!"

Baked French Toast Casserole

1 loaf French bread
8 large eggs
2 cups half and half
1 cup milk
2 tbsp. sugar
1 tsp. vanilla
1/4 tsp. ground cinnamon
1/4 tsp. ground nutmeg
dash of salt

Praline Topping

1 cup butter
1 cup packed light brown sugar
1 cup chopped pecans
2 tbsp. light corn syrup
1/2 tsp. cinnamon
1/2 tsp. ground nutmeg

Slice French bread into 20 1-inch slices. Arrange slices in a buttered 9x12 dish, overlapping slices. In a large bowl, combine eggs, half and half, milk, sugar, cinnamon, nutmeg and salt. Beat with a whisk until blended but not too bubbly.

Pour mixture over the bread slices, covering evenly. Cover with foil and refrigerate overnight.

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Mix together the topping mix and spread evenly over the bread and bake 25-30 minutes, until puffed and lightly golden.

Serve with maple syrup.

Serves 12-14




Lee's Song

Raleigh (Lee) Pritchard Age 6 (03-12-10)

Look at all the creations our Lord has made.
Just look at all the flowers and watch them bloom in the great spring.
Just listen to the joyful voice so bright with all their might.
Just think of all the creation, just think of all the birds. Just listen to their great,
just listen to their great, great praise of the world.
And just listen to the voice of our lord Himself.
Just watch the trees grow in the forest with their mighty strength.
Though nothing can destroy it but evil itself, with all our Lord's power we can
destroy evil itself!
Although something Lucifer was so good at first, but then he changed his ways.
He got sent away!
look unto Him our lord Himself with all his might power and righteousness with
all his glorious angels
They can defeat evil itself!
On earth it is different. Isn't it strange that we cannot see Angels?

Lee is the grandson of Dixie Wilson of Mentone who writes "Lee was running around and around in his Mom's bedroom, singing this as he went. She wrote it down verbatim as best she could."

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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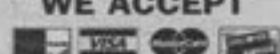
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UPON THE BOARDWALK... If you have not spent time at Little River Canyon National Preserve lately, you need to make a spring trip to see the new boardwalk trail which is a great user friendly hike through the woods and winds up with a great vantage point of Little River Falls. Another new trail will open soon that will allow you to hike from the Canyon Center to the falls without crossing HWY 35. You are going to love it.

(photo and info courtesy of John Dersham)

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IN REMEMBRANCE Joe Brandol Jones

Joe Brandol Jones passed away March 1, 2012, in Gainesville, FL. Brandol was born Sept 12, 1924 in Mentone. His parents were Foye Doherty Jones and Joe Blalock Jones and he had one sister, Wynema Jones. He attended Moon Lake School where his mother, Foye, taught for many years. He attended Valley Head High School.

During World War II, Brandol moved to Portland, Oregon to work in the shipyards. After the war, he returned to Alabama and was employed at US Steel in Birmingham for over forty years.

He met Blanche Pauline Barrontine at the soda-counter in the Valley Head Drug Store in 1945. They were married in 1946 and celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary July 19, 2011. Brandol and Blanche had two children, Bobby Grant Jones and Shannon Lee Jones.

After retirement, Brandol and Blanche moved home to Mentone where they remodeled the Jones home where Brandol was born and spent many happy retirement years there. Brandol and his dog Oreo were a common sight riding around Mentone on his four-wheeler with Oreo riding on the front.

Brandol was very involved in Moon Lake Baptist Church, where he served as a deacon for many years, and with the Boy Scout troop at Mentone.

Brandol is survived by his wife Blanche, his son Bobby and daughter-in-law Marcia Wine Jones, his daughter JoLaine (Shannon) Jones-Pokorney and son-in-law David Pokorney, three grandchildren, Stasha Jones Savage and her husband Dean Savage, Erin Jones Schmidt and her husband Mark Schmidt, and Philip Brandol Jones Freeman. He and Blanche have two great grandchildren, Nathan Dean Savage and Lillian Grace Savage.

A Memorial Service will be held at Moon Lake Baptist Church in the future. An announcement will be made about date and time. His ashes will be buried at Bankhead Cemetery.



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EAST FORK OF LITTLE RIVER RUNS THROUGH IT. Come and discover this newly listed 4.5 acre parcel with 3 rock/log structures, 550' on the East Fork of Little River and just 1/2 mile from the AL/GA line. \$129,000 (20929)



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 beautiful 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)



NEW PRICE! Rental cabin in downtown Mentone for sale at \$99,900, option to purchase four adjoining commercial lots. 2/3BR, 1BA, living/dining combo, stone FP, and CH&A. Cabin is being sold furnished. (20951)



MENTONE - A FRAME CABIN on 5.3 acres. Features 800 sq ft on the main level and 240 sq ft in the second floor loft. Open design living, dining, kitchen with ceramic flooring, tongue and groove ceilings, and a freestanding gas log fireplace. \$79,900 (21564)



ALMOST NEW CABIN in Mentone with a view of the lake. Features 2BR/2BA, pine walls and floors, large open living room with FP, spacious kitchen with dining area, appliances included, wraparound porch, back deck, and a great space for entertaining outdoors. \$159,900 (21495)



INCREDIBLE BROW HOME offers three levels to enjoy the gorgeous view. Kitchen has island bar and stainless appliances. MBR has private deck, FP and wood walls and ceilings. Outside enjoy the stacked rock FP/bq grill, patio and deck. Come see this unbelievable home today! \$589,000 (15736)



BEAR CLAU 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. \$344,900 (21142)



THE ABBEY! Custom built cabin with stained glass windows, pine floors and ceilings. Open living and dining areas. 2BR/2BA. Screened porch with hot tub. 35' Bell tower with observation deck. Most furnishings will remain for only \$174,500. (21872)



PRIVATELY LOCATED Authentic Mentone Brow house offers all you could dream of for a lovely retreat from every care of everyday life! Covered Porch, open living/dining area, spacious kitchen, 2BR/2BA, Screened Porch/Detached Guest House w/Bed/Bath. \$335,000 (21269)



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. \$325,000 (18278)



COZY COTTAGE with a unique atmosphere offering 2BR/2BA, open living area, rock FP, CH&A, screened porch with hot tub, complete appliance package. Currently on a rental program. A great investment opportunity! Call today. \$154,900 (21905)



JUST MINUTES FROM DESOTO STATE PARK AND MENTONE you will find this custom designed home situated on 3.5 acres. Kitchen has granite countertops and stainless steel appliances. Main level master bedroom and bath and two additional BR's. \$309,000 (21917)



YOU'LL FALL IN LOVE with this comfortable 2BR/2BA cabin with large screened porch, open living/kitchen with bar area, and stacked rock fireplace. Currently on a rental program. Call about this investment opportunity today. \$215,000 (21906)



THE BEST OF EVERYTHING has gone into this compelling 1.5 story home on the West Brow of Mentone. Over 4000 sq ft featuring 4BR/4BA, great room with FP, large living room with FP, A "view" from every room! Built on 8 acres that was formerly owned by Willie Nelson! \$429,000 (21890)



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. \$275,000 (20120)



LOVE PEACE AND PRIVACY? Own this secluded streamside 3BR/2BA cabin in superb condition. Kitchen offers island, full appliance package, custom lighting and dining area with exit to the relaxing screened porch. 3.17 Acres. \$259,900 (21135)



THE BARN! This unique cabin offers 2BR/2BA, kitchen, living/dining areas with a wood burning fireplace, CH&A. Screened porch with hot tub. Furnishings will remain for a price of only \$174,500. (21871)



WEEKEND RETREAT OR PERMANENT RESIDENCE! Either way, you will love coming home to this 2BR/2BA cabin located off DeSoto Parkway near Mentone. Kitchen/Dining corridor, eat-in bar and all appliances. Wraparound deck and walkout balcony on a nice wooded lot. \$134,500 (19835)



INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY! Two cabins located in Mentone already in rental program. Both cabins are being sold FULLY FURNISHED with all appliances and have 1BR, 1BA, jacuzzi tub, covered porch, deck, and hot tub. A great weekend getaway or a money-making business. Call now! \$129,000 (21590)



CUSTOM BUILT, 2 BR/2BA Log Cabin situated on shaded, wooded and acres two stone fireplaces, luxurious loft, 3 season sleeping porch, detached storage, additional small cabin, city pond... kitchen with 5 Star gas burner gas... large... REDUCED \$289,500 (20272)



RETREAT - OR PERMANENT RESIDENCE! Either way, you will love coming home to this charming cabin located just off DeSoto Parkway near Mentone. Features include 2BR, Den or 3rd BR, 2BA, CH&A and a detached guest cottage. You can't let this one get away. \$189,900 (21641)



WHISPERING PINES... Charming log cabin and guest house each with 1BR/1BA. Covered porches and a deck with hot tub connects to the guest cabin. Selling FULLY FURNISHED. A great investment property (currently in a rental program), or just a nice weekend getaway. \$89,000 (21580)

NOW'S YOUR CHANCE to purchase 100 to 243 acres on Lookout Mountain (Mentone). (\$3975 per acre.) (21449)

BUILDING LOT (.58) 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)

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

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)

12.1 ACRES... mostly wooded. \$48,500 (21689)

PRIME LOCATION... 31.45 Rolling acres that joins DeSoto State Park. Ideal for permanent home, weekend getaway or development. \$170,000 (21652)

PLENTY OF LAND TO BUILD AND FEEL SECLUDED! Wooded 7.13 acres in Mountain River Estates. Restricted land with possible creek flowing on back of property. \$54,500 (21573)

A RARE OPPORTUNITY to own a lot on the lake at DeSoto Falls. The perfect spot

to build the perfect mountain cabin home on this once in a lifetime lot with 944' feet of frontage on the water. Just Listed at \$194,500. (21532)

NEW LISTING...23 ACRES ON HIGHWAY 117 IN MENTONE! Just minutes from downtown, property has mature hardwoods, spring fed creek with potential pond site. Power, water and septic in place, private and extremely peaceful with abundant wildlife. By Appt! \$214,900 (21443)

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)

MOUNTAIN LORE— BLUETS AND HENBIT

By Charlotte Gentry

Tiny little bluish-purple-to-pale-white flowers on slender, almost unnoticeable stalks carpet the ground right now. Yet, many people never notice these dainty, diminutive dears. Oh, what they have missed when they fail to see the bluets!

I remember when I was a little girl and would see an expansive patch of bluets, it seemed like an invitation to lie down and rest awhile on a bed of sweetness. Yes, I probably mashed a few of them, but they recovered and didn't suffer any lasting harm. I would always pluck a few of them to nibble on while I lay there luxuriating in the warmth of the sun.

You've never eaten a bluet? Don't feel left out. Most people don't go in for "grazing" on flowers, especially such tiny things as bluets. But, why not be a little more adventurous and stoop down (or better yet, sit down in a patch of them), pluck one and taste its barely-there sweetness? No, you won't want to eat them en masse, but the sensation one gets from eating this flower is generally a cleansing-of-the-palate freshness.

Both the Latin (*caerulea*, from *caeruleus* meaning sky blue or dark blue) and the common name point to the flower's blue coloring. The flowers are also sometimes called "Quaker ladies" (supposedly due to their four-petaled shape being similar to that of a Quaker lady's hat.) Another name by which they are known in some areas, "Innocence," is a very sweet name for such a wee flower and is also very apt.

There is very little written about bluets as regards any medicinal qualities. Some think it is inedible, but I know better. Some say the Native American peoples used the bluet in tea form to prevent bed-wetting, but this information is sketchy at best and was never one of the reasons for my choosing to dine on the blooms. (I must admit, there may have been a period in

my childhood when this would have been a good thing to try by my mother when she was raising nine children!)

Another oft-ignored posy is the lowly henbit. Generally considered a nuisance and "trash" flower, the henbit is truly

interesting when studied up close. It has a square stem. Very few wildflowers have a square stem, you know. If you pull one of the little florets (there will be multiples on each stem) and nibble the base of it, you'll find it contains sweet nectar akin to that of the honeysuckle. Delicious!

The henbit has long been used as a medicinal plant and is either cooked or added to sal-

ads in its raw state. It is known to be very nutritious, high in iron, vitamins and fiber. The whole plant is used, not just the flower. In recent years, the seeds of henbit are shown by lab tests to possess high antioxidant qualities.

This handy little flowering plant is used to treat bleeding, with the freshly-bruised leaves being applied directly to the cut. When prepared as a tea, it is used as an astringent topically, as a diuretic and as a tonic to aid the kidneys and to promote cleansing perspiration.

Take time to notice the small things, especially the bluets and henbit, when you are outdoors. To stop and enjoy a few moments in God's creation is good medicine for us all!



ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE TO BENEFIT HOMELESS DOGS

*"Knick Knack Paddywhack— Give a Dog a Home" Parade sponsored by
Historic Mentone Springs Hotel*

The Mentone Springs Hotel will host the first annual "Knick Knack Paddywhack – Give a Dog a Home," Parade on Saturday, March 17, 2012, at 11 a.m. CST. The parade will benefit DeKalb County non-profit animal organizations.

Registration for the parade will begin in the parking lot of the hotel at 10 a.m. Entry fee is \$10 per dog. St. Patrick's Day attire is highly recommended for dogs and owners. Prizes for Best of Show, Most Original Costume, Worst Costume, Cute Dog Ugly Owner, and many others will be awarded.

"We hope dog lovers from throughout the region will come and stay with us or in one of the area's B&B's, participate in the parade, shop and dine in Mentone, and help us raise money for a great cause," said Bill Thomas, General Manager of the Mentone Springs Hotel. "We'll have dog goodies available, vendors, art-work and plan for a great dog-friendly weekend."

In addition to the parade, there will be a silent auction on the hotel's front porch, featuring items acquired from area artists and locals, including a weekend stay at the Mentone Springs Hotel valued at \$500. Lunch will be served at the hotel's restaurant with a portion of the proceeds going to the event. A traditional corned beef on rye sandwich, Irish Stew, chicken salad, and other menu items will be available. Those wanting to order "to go" lunches should call ahead.

An Irish feast will be served at the Mentone Springs Hotel Saturday night beginning at 6:30 p.m. Entertainment will be provided by Robby Jordan and James Roberts.

For more information about the weekend's events, visit www.mentone-springs.com or call 256-634-4040.

About The Mentone Springs Hotel The Mentone Springs Hotel was built in 1884 and is on the National Register of Historic Places. It is listed in the New York Times Best selling book, "1000 Places to Visit Before You Die," and was recently featured in Southern Living Magazine. The all wood Victorian mansion serves as a bed and breakfast to visitors wanting to experience laid-back living Mentone-style. Situated as the centerpiece of the Mentone community on Lookout Mountain, the hotel features wrap around front porches for dining and relaxing, and a trio of fireplaces in the main living room for guests enjoyment. For more information visit www.mentone-springshotel.com, contact us at 256-634-4040, or visit us on Facebook.

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A Stitch in Time

by Ellen Harris



fabrics put together, but careful planning can result in something beautiful.

Crazy Quilting all started after Philadelphia was host to a Centennial Exposition or a type of "World's Fair" in 1876. The Japanese pavilion had an exhibit of cracked or "crazed" ceramics and other art objects that provided a lot of interest. The asymmetrical, "crazed" look was so interesting that quilters wanted to be as creative with fabric. Magazines, just as they do today, came to the rescue and helped quilters incorporate this new look with crazy quilting advice.

The quilts were pieced from expensive fabrics including silk,

velvet and satin. The patches were irregular sizes and were a variety of colors. The patches were stitched onto a foundation fabric that eliminated the need for batting. Typically, the quilts did not have quilting but were tied. Nor did they have borders.

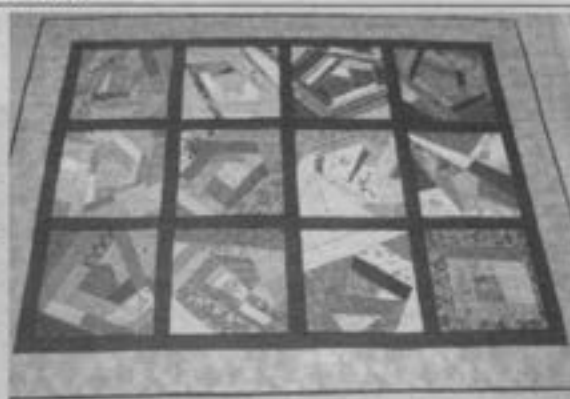
The crazy patches provided the background for lavish embellishments of embroidery, beadwork, and lace. The original crazy quilts were rarely bed size quilts and not made to be functional. They were closer to a lap size quilt and were showpieces for the home's interior decor and to exhibit beautiful needlework stitches. Crazy quilts were also popular fundraisers.

The magazines published embroidery designs to assist in the crazy quilt making. A favorite embroidery theme was animals and flowers and sometimes Bible verses were embroidered. It was considered good luck for the quilter to embroider a spider and its web onto the quilt.

If you would like to make a crazy quilt, I would recommend making crazy quilt blocks as the blocks would be more manageable than working on a whole piece of quilt fabric.

I belong to a quilt circle of friends. We call ourselves "Quilters Dozen." I like this group because we are not formalized. Kathryn-Tucker Windham's philosophy about joining groups was to belong to those without dues, bylaws and minutes. She called her breakfast meetings with friends her "Rabbit Club."

Last year, our Quilters Dozen group decided to make a crazy quilt block for each person in the group. At our monthly gatherings, each person received a total of eleven blocks from the cir-



cle of friends during their birthday month. The blocks did not include the embroidery as the recipients would plan to machine or hand embroidery their blocks as desired. We constructed the crazy quilt blocks on fourteen inch squares of cotton muslin. We located a five-sided template to use as the guideline to cut the first piece of fabric to place on the foundation. We used our favorite scraps of cotton fabric.

I used a book by J. Marsha Michler, *Crazy Quilting - The Complete Guide* as my resource, particularly for the embroidery stitches. The book demonstrates ten methods to patch a crazy quilt. Our group agreed to use something similar to log cabin construction. The five-sided patch can be placed anywhere on the foundation and faces up. Basically, we aimed for the center. A second patch was then cut and placed right sides together on this initial patch and stitched with a one-fourth inch seam. The ends were then trimmed to align with the first patch and the patch was opened out to press. Patches continued around the initial patch until the foundation was completely covered.

When I received my eleven crazy quilt blocks signed by my friends, I then made an additional block that I could put together in a quilt. I used pearl cotton size 8 that required a chenille needle. I embroidered each block with a variety of thread colors and variety of stitches. Since black is common in antique crazy quilts, I added black sashing between the blocks. I added borders and used a thin quilt batting for some hand quilting rather than tying the quilt. I did not embroider a spider web and spider. Here's a look at my crazy quilt.

Congratulations Marine!



Pvt. Brian Lee Jones, Jr.

Pvt Jones has completed 10 weeks of boot camp at Parris Island, SC. Graduation was Feb 10, 2012. His grandparents, his mom and Dave Tinker were there for the two days of Marine life and graduation day.

Pvt. Jones enjoyed 10 days leave and is now at Camp Geiger, NC for two weeks guard duty and four weeks of training.

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A Slower Pace— Get to know Kirby Johnston

By Susan Wright

Kirby Johnston has spent most of his life in law enforcement, retiring in 2003 from the Etowah County Sheriff's Office. During his 32-year career he was, at various times, a deputy sheriff, an investigator, chief of police (Rainbow City), undercover drug investigator, chief deputy and, finally, assistant sheriff.

So what does a retired officer do to pass the time? In Johnston's case, he works part-time for the City of Mentone as a police officer. According to Johnston, the Mentone area with its natural beauty and laid-back attitude is the perfect location to retire. Working with friendly and community-oriented citizens and coworkers, Lamar Bray & Wilma Fletcher, is a true pleasure.

Johnston has spent the past year working on a house he has purchased on 5-acres near Mentone, where he presently lives with his dog, cat, 4 horses, 2 guineas and several chickens. Even though it needed much TLC, this house appealed to him because it offered not only a spacious living area, but a large, open room in the back to shelter a growing collection that represents his other passion: training horses for riding and driving, and horse-drawn vehicles!

At this time, the room holds five vehicles. Perhaps the most eye-catching is a Concord stagecoach he had made by an Amish craftsman in Ethridge, Tennessee. Some of you might have seen it in local Christmas parades pulled by Johnston's favorite horses—two Haflingers named Leon and Lewis. The stagecoach has also been featured in several weddings.

Another treasure is an antique "wagonette", probably made in Europe in the nineteenth century. A wagonette differs from a regular wagon



Above: The Handcrafted Concord Stagecoach, pulled by Haflingers Leon and Lewis.

Right: Coach purportedly the original used to carry passengers from Valley Head to Mentone in the 1800's.

Below: 19th century wagonette used in his granddaughters wedding last October.



by being smaller and having facing seats in the back. Last October, Johnston took the wagonette to his granddaughter's wedding. In addition to

carrying the bride and groom, he enjoyed a couple of hours giving rides to many little flower girls.

Also in the house is a black, open Amish buggy, and a contemporary covered wagon which Johnston uses for trail rides. This is the wagon that he hopes to drive from Mentone to the Smoky Mountains sometime in the future. He and several friends have been planning this trip for a while!



His latest acquisition is a nine-passenger carriage that is said to be the original coach used to carry passengers on the route from Valley Head to Mentone and to Rising Fawn in the 1800's. However, Johnston has not been able to confirm this yet. Very soon, he hopes to take this most unusual coach to Ethridge to be restored by the same craftsman who built his stagecoach.

So, when you see Kirby, either in uniform behind the wheel of his patrol car, or in regular clothes behind a matched team of Haflingers with his Jack Russell terrier sitting beside him, be sure to stop and say, "Hello!"

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RHODODENDRON GARDEN CLUB NEWS

Linda Brown, Secretary

We were happy that the weather allowed us to have a meeting in February. We have had to cancel this month for the last year or two. As we gathered in the M.E.R.F. Community House in Mentone, Alabama it was evident that almost every member was in attendance. We were also glad to see our guest, Ann Houston. She seems like a member because she has been here so often and we see her at all garden club events. President, Jill Whitten called the meeting to order and led the members in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America. She read the collect of the club as the meditation. Refreshments were served by Mellanie Tuttle and Jill Whitten.

Peggy Roark introduced Ann Houston, Master Gardener and District II Director. Ann stated that one of her duties as District II Director was to visit all twenty-six member clubs. She thanked the members for letting her attend the meeting today and said that this visit would count. She then presented a program on Mulches for the Landscape. Mulch can be defined as a protective cover placed over the soil of the garden or landscape. Mulching retains moisture, reduces erosion, provides nutrients and suppresses weed growth and seed germination.

Mulching in gardens and landscaping mimics the leaf cover found on the forest floors. Perhaps, the greatest advantage of mulching is the conservation of soil moisture. Evaporation of water is reduced when the soil is protected from the direct rays of the sun and moving air. Also, rain falling on the mulch does not pack the soil surface. Mulch also decreases erosion.

Another advantage of mulching is the control of weeds. Mulch greatly reduces the need for weeding. It is especially important to mulch rather than cultivate

around shallow-rooted plants such as rhododendrons, azaleas, and camellias.

Controlling soil temperature is another plus with mulch. In summer, high temperatures may injure root growth and prevent beneficial bacterial activity in the soil. In winter, frost penetration is less likely to occur in a mulched area. Evergreens must absorb moisture in the winter as well as summer. Therefore, a winter mulch can prevent the soil water from freezing and becoming unavailable to plants. As it decays, mulch works down into the topsoil. Decaying mulch also adds nutrients to the soil and improves the appearance of the area.

There are many materials which can be used as mulches. Some of the more commonly used ones include: wood chips, which are a byproduct of pruning or cutting of trees; bark chips, produced from the bark layer of timber trees; straw mulch, used mostly for vegetable gardens and as a winter cover; and cardboard or newspapers, best used as a base layer upon which a heavier mulch is used to prevent the paper layer from blowing away. Leaves from deciduous trees may be used if chopped with the lawn mower. Grass clippings tend to mat down, so they need to be mixed with tree leaves or rough compost.

Ann was given a large round of applause and thanked for the visit and the program. Some items of business were discussed and the meeting adjourned. You are always welcome to attend our meetings. We like having visitors.

Next meeting: Tuesday, March 13, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. at the MERF Community House in Mentone, Alabama. The program will be Invasive Plants presented by a DeKalb County Master Gardener.

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

From The Groundhog Archives Logan Chambers

Then



Logan Chambers
Happy 7th Birthday

Logan Russell Chambers will have his 7th Birthday on July 23. Logan is the son of Rusty and Angela Chambers of Mentone. Grandparents are Jane & Kent Kirby and Calvin and Marie Blanton of Valley Head. Great-grandparents are Alfred & Polly Chambers and Mary Crowe of Mentone. Logan will celebrate his special day with a pool party at DeSoto State Park on July 19th from 7 p.m. until 10 p.m. and all friends and relatives are invited to attend.

The Groundhog - July 1996

Now



Airman First Class Logan Russell Chambers resides with his wife Courtney in Rheinland-Pfalz, Germany. He is a Combat Engineer, working with heavy equipment on a three year tour at Ramstein Air Force Base, Germany.

Logan is a leader among his peers, and we are so proud of him.

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From Left to Right: Vickie Vaughn, Mark Vaughn, Deborah Schrimsher, Martha Gilbreath, and Susan Reeves

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By Christy Hardin, CEM®

Are you ready? And you may ask, "For what?" Asking that question is a good place to start!

Thinking through what might threaten your family, at the top of the list you will usually find burglary, robbery, and fire. In light of the recent natural disasters, you might even have tornadoes, flooding, or a big snow event. All of these are correct answers, and there is no particular order, since the likelihood of any of these directly affecting your family is relatively small. But, what if??

In the last five years, DeKalb County has been impacted by numerous tornadoes (including that 5 day power outage last year), several ice/snow events, hail, strong winds, and flooding. How can the family prepare for this unpredictable weather on a shoe-string budget? You probably have much of what you need already. Everyone should assemble a disaster kit. Each member of the family should know what is in it, and how to use it. It should be set aside from your pantry, maybe stored in a plastic bin.

We all know that we should have a three day supply of food and water (don't forget the can opener), personal hygiene items (including adult or child diapers, if needed), medications (both prescription and non-prescription), first aid supplies, and extra bathroom tissue. It is also smart to keep vehicles full of fuel. Your disaster kit can begin small, and add an item or two each time you make a trip to the grocery store.

An important item to add to your preparedness plan is a notebook. Why should a notebook be a part of your disaster plan? Good question!

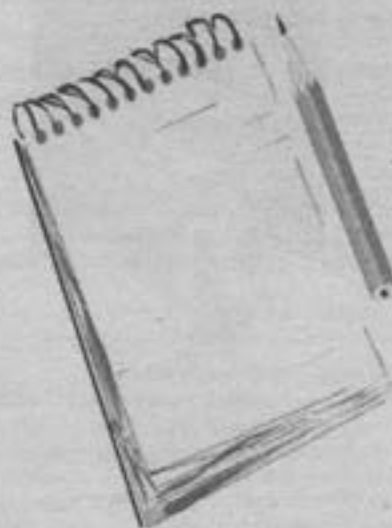
You should purchase a notebook immediately. I suggest the hardback kind that elementary students use. They are cheap, and it is harder to tear out pages and lose your information. They also fit into a gallon size plastic bag, for protection from moisture.

In your notebook, you should begin by writing your name, address, and phone number on the very first page. If it gets lost or blown away, you stand a better chance of having it returned. Turn the page, and begin writing names, phone numbers, and addresses of local people that you may need to contact. Then add names, phone numbers, and addresses of out-of-state relatives. Be sure to add 'friend' or 'relative' where appropriate.

Turn a few pages over and write the names, birthdates, and social security numbers of each member of your family. Over a few more pages, and write the name and phone number of your insurance agents. You will need to include policy numbers, and what is covered. Most families have multiple agents for home, auto, life, and health insurance. Turn a few more pages, and list the names and phone numbers of doctors and pharmacies. The page will also include current medications for each person, and prescription numbers. Over another few pages you will add your banking information, to include bank, contact person, and account numbers. You will also want to include phone numbers and account numbers for utility companies. Turn to the last page of your notebook, and begin a list of items you want in your ready-kit. You may then work your way forward as you continue to add items to your wish list. As you place that item into your kit, check it off.

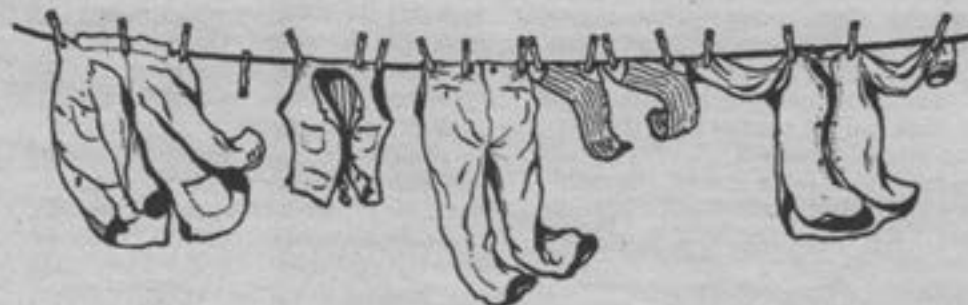
Finally, place that book into a gallon sized plastic bag, and put it into your ready-kit. As you think of things that you believe should be added to the book, you will have plenty of room for those additions. Now that your book does contain somewhat sensitive information, make sure that your ready-kit is stored in a secure place in your home. Once a month, review the information in your notebook. Get the whole family involved in thinking about what other information should be included in your notebook.

The only way to practice preparedness is to start today. Think about it, and at the very least, start your notebook. If disaster strikes, the last thing you need to worry about is trying to locate all of this information when you really need it.



Prayers and wishes for a speedy recovery going out to Liz Baker of Mentone, who had an emergency appendectomy in early March. Liz is a volunteer with Mentone Education Resources Foundation (MERF) and tutors Moon Lake students. Liz's caring and generous presence will be missed during her absence. Get well soon!

THE CLOTHESLINE



A clothesline was a news forecast, to neighbors passing by. There were no secrets you could keep when clothes were hung to dry. It also was a friendly link, for neighbors always knew. If company had stopped on by to spend a night or two. For then you'd see the "fancy" sheets and towels upon the line. You'd see the "company tablecloth" with intricate design. The line announced a baby's birth, from folks who lived inside. As brand-new infant clothes were hung, so carefully with pride! The ages of the children could so readily be known; By watching how the sizes changed, you'd know how much they'd grown! It also told when illness struck, as extra sheets were hung; Then nightclothes, and a bathrobe, too haphazardly were strung. It also said, "Gone on vacation now," when lines hung limp and bare. It told, "We're back!" when full lines sagged with not an inch to spare! New folks in town were scorned upon, if wash was dingy and gray. As neighbors carefully raised their brows, and looked the other way... But clotheslines now are of the past, for dryers make work much less. Now what goes on inside a home is anybody's guess! I really miss that way of life - it was a friendly sign; When neighbors knew each other best by what hung on the line.

(author unknown)

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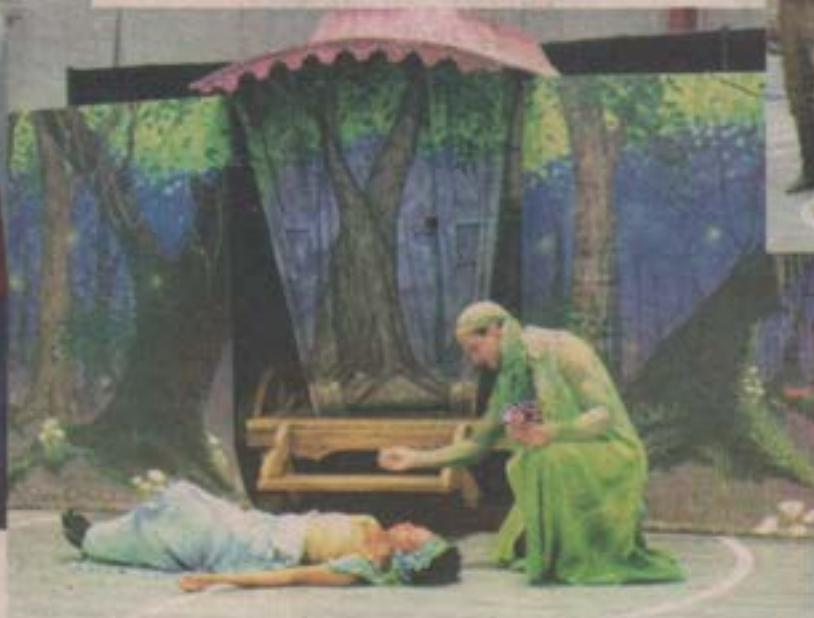
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Shakespeare: a performance at Moon Lake School



photos by Charlotte Gentry & Cynthia Stinson