

THE GROUNDHOG

Mentone, Valley Head, Hammondville

PO Box 387, Mentone, AL 35984

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Address Service Requested

Volume 30, No. 5

"Neighborly News from the Heart of Lookout Mountain"

May 2011

Dust in the wind

By Charlotte Gentry, Editor

We were standing on the deck on the brow of Lookout Mountain at Mentone, riveted by the sight of the horrifying, yet strangely-beautiful storm brewing on the other side of the valley atop Sand Mountain. The tornado moved amazingly fast, even though it looked to be at least a mile-and-a-half wide. It was dark. It was dangerous. It was eerie. It was amazing.

Helpless to do anything but watch, we could not take our eyes off this savage cloud of destruction moving relentlessly northward. We prayed. We talked. We were hushed with awe. We were shocked.

Just after the tornado passed that area, a waterspout began to rise from DeKalb Public Lake in Sylvania, moving upward like a spirit ascending to the heavens. It was horribly symbolic of those souls that were, surely, ascending to heaven at that very moment. We prayed some more.

The lightning directly over our heads ran in all directions like a maniacal light show. Some of those on the deck sought safety in the basement. Others of us were rooted to the spot, unable to tear ourselves away from what we knew was death and destruction to our neighbors on the other mountain.

Finally, the black monster abandoned Sand Mountain and headed more easterly toward Georgia to pounce upon Trenton. Debris swirled and danced in the air in its wake.

Night blanketed the world and there was pitch blackness before us, except for the winking red lights of distant emergency vehicles dotted here and there. Then another red dot would appear, and another...but we knew there weren't enough. Morning would have to bring its light before help could come to most of that ravaged landscape.

The sun did rise. It seemed somehow traitorous that we were able to wake up and go about our lives, knowing what was taking



We watched helplessly from the brow at Mentone, praying for those in the path of this dark force of nature.

place just a few miles away. We marveled that we were spared and we were only suffering the inconvenience of no power and, in some cases, water.

We began to recognize what a gift the new day was. Neighbors were actually becoming neighbors for the first time. Coffee was brewed and breakfast prepared, and these were shared with those who did not have generators. Chainsaws were being loaded into trucks and people began rolling up their sleeves, heading out to help wherever it was needed. There was courtesy and concern for people sitting in line waiting for gas or at improvised 4-way stops where traffic lights were not working.

Collectively, we were saddened to hear of the loss of people we knew, and shocked by the numbers of those killed and injured. We

were heartened by the miraculous stories of narrow escapes by others.

Above all, we knew life would go on somehow. It wouldn't be the same, to be sure, but it would go on.

Acts of kindness, large and small, were performed--little things like making a power strip available on the porch so that cell phones could be charged; offering a hot shower; making phone calls to check on loved ones; cooking food, that otherwise would have spoiled, on grills and feeding anyone who was hungry.

The neighbors came to help from far and wide--Louisiana,

North Carolina, Florida, Georgia, Tennessee, Mississippi, and all over Alabama.

Truckloads of relief goods were being sent from far away organizations. Utility trucks from several states rolled in to help restore power to North Alabama where the storms of Wednesday, April 27th, had ransacked TVA's major power lines.

The stories of heroism, loss, relief, kindness, hope, despair and miracles are so numerous that we can only nod our heads and be aware that we are blessed beyond measure to live in this place. There is still much to be done and recovery will take time...a lot of time. But, each day is a new day and a new opportunity to help. Instead of just watching from a distance as we did when the tornado wounded our neighbors, we can now take part in the healing.

(Editor's note: Four families, including pets, sought shelter at the Mentone brow home of Ginny and Paul Zulker on the night of the tornado. They had a basement and a generator to be able to keep up with the weather situation. To the Zulkers and the many others who offered their neighbors shelter from the storm and the use of their resources in its aftermath, thank you.)



THE GROUNDHOG

PO Box 387, Mentone, AL 35984

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



THE GROUNDHOG STAFF

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

MAPA OFFICERS

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Treasurer.....J. P. Nation
Members-At-Large: Charlotte Gentry,
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MAPA dues for the new year are:
\$10/individual and \$15/couple. Send
your dues to: MAPA, PO Box 50,
Mentone, AL 35984

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

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

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



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

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

From the Editor

First of all, an apology is due to our readers, advertisers and subscribers for the tardiness of the May issue of The Groundhog. We published a week later than scheduled due to the tornadoes and the subsequent "catch up" that came from having no power for several days. We are truly sorry this is the case, but we hope you will find this edition of our paper to be worth the wait.

The Groundhog has been around since 1982. The Mentone Area Preservation Association (MAPA) is its steward. The paper's intent, then and now, is to record the people, places and events, past and present, of the Mentone area.

With that in mind, we are making greater efforts to include stories, photos and features which we believe will be more relevant and enjoyable to our readers. We are planning to extend distribution of The Groundhog and have more drop-off points in area businesses. Folks look forward to picking up a copy of our free publication each month, and our subscribers pull it eagerly from their mailboxes to read the "Neighborly News from the Heart of Lookout Mountain."

In April, Evelyn Graves stepped down as Groundhog editor. She began her work for the paper by helping Marie Dillenbeck and then took over as editor a few years ago. The two of them kept the paper going for over 20 years. Most folks have no idea all the work these ladies put into The Groundhog and what a challenge it is to pull it together each month. What some would imagine as just a part-time thing, actually turns into a full-time job...and then some! Thank you, Evelyn, for your hard work and dedication to the community. We wish you health and happiness.

Through the years there have been several gifted editors and writers who have published in The Groundhog. In no way can we hope to actually do so, but we will do our best to live up to the standard they set in these pages. It is a humbling thing to set about to do.

We'd like to thank our advertisers who've been with us since the beginning and the new ones who see The Groundhog as a valuable resource to our community. Thank you, too, to the contributors whose family histories, poetry, photos or features have been shared with our readers. Without advertisers or contributors, there would be no Groundhog.

Lastly, thank you for reading The Groundhog. This is YOUR newspaper. There are stories going on all around you each day and you are, very often, the only one who can let us know about them. We invite you to submit your own writings, photos, poetry, etc. for possible publication. We especially desire to have historical photos that tell a story by themselves. You may have a story idea, but don't feel comfortable with the writing of it. Let us know and we'll work together to get it in a future issue. We would love to hear from you with feedback, comments and even criticism (please be civil, though). You can send email to EditorGroundhog@yahoo.com, write us at PO Box 387, Mentone AL 35984, or call 256-996-5995.

For MAPA and The Groundhog,

C.

Charlotte Gentry, Editor

Letters To the Editor

Steppin Up—

I think for the most part a majority of people, when faced with tough decisions, have a tendency to wait and see what everyone else does. Once in a while you see people that don't mind to step up and be the first to be ready to offer help or services.

I think Tom and Kristen at Mentone Market were a great help to us all during our recent power outage due to the storms that wreaked havoc on DeKalb County. Most of us were not ready or prepared to be without power. Mentone Market was in the same spot, but Tom and Kristen kept the doors open for the rest of us.

Tom ran a generator to provide power for us to pump gas to power our generators and autos so we could get around to check on neighbors, family and loved ones. They also had hot coffee and sausage biscuits that were not easily attainable for some of us at home. It also provided a great place just to go hang out and tell tales about the storm. My hat is off to Tom and Kristen and I hope a lot of folks around Mentone feel the same.

Sincerely,
Larry Smalley,
Mentone

Groundhog editor,
I was visiting in Mentone recently and picked up a copy of The Groundhog. I wondered, where does the name "Mentone" come from?

Sarah Dalke
Woodbury, VA

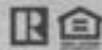
The name Mentone is from two root words: The Latin "mens" meaning mind; the Latin root word "tonus," and the Greek root word "tonus": a stretching.

Mentone, Alabama, was named by Alice Mason, young daughter of John Mason, father/ founder of the town, who in 1884 at the request of Dr. Frank Caldwell, builder of the Mentone Springs Hotel, gave the town its name. Info taken from "Mentone, Alabama: A History", by Zora Strayhorn



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Welcome To Mentone!!



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

LOTS and LAND

LOTS OF LOTS from which to choose. Wooded, quiet, restricted. Priced from only \$15,000 (Lot 20, 2 ac), up to \$135,000 (Lot 7, 1.38 ac lot w/138' frontage on E Fork Little River). Hunters Ridge, Mentone. MLS #725702: (PLS #20927)

LOOKING FOR A BARGAIN? 14.5 ac of beautiful land in Hammondville. Just off I-59 w/residential or commercial potential. Just listed at \$36,975 (PLS #20914)

IMPRESSIVE ACREAGE WITH A COMMANDING SOLD on US 11 in the Valley. 40% open and 60% wooded pond. Price reduced to \$112,950. (20144)

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

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

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

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



A PLACE ON THE RIVER... Canoe to Lake Lahusage along Little River then come home to relax on the deck overlooking the river. 3.45 ac w/200' water frontage. Great room has windows & doors galore & cozy seating arrangements for TV viewing, dining or enjoying the WB fireplace. Kitchen has gas stove w/convection oven, lots of cabinets & pantry spaces. Main-level MA Suite w/walk-in closets, & huge bath. Other features: full, partially-finished basement, 2 car att. garage; breezeway. \$299,900 (MLS #956522)(21007)



LUXURIOUS LAKESIDE LIVING! This exquisitely-designed & furnished home on Mentone's secret jewel, Lake Lahusage, is ready for you to entertain guests right from day one! Comes complete w/ great covered dock, pontoon boat & Sea Doo! Walk down to the lake from the terrace-level patio, accessed from the den that features a vintage, commercial-style Brunswick pool table. Over 3,000 finished sq ft of living area w/ 5BR/4.5BA, open living/dining, galley kitchen w/ lots of cabinets & pantry storage areas, incl. a built-in china cabinet. Split-system CH/A. Spacious screened back porch, completely furnished for gracious outdoor living. Basement garage. A getaway or residence suitable for any lifestyle. Just listed for \$349,000. (MLS #655876)(20999)



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



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



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



YOU CAN OWN THE FARM.... or as much of it as you can handle! Newly-constructed rustic farmhouse with 4.5 acres, or buy the whole shebang with 15 acres, fenced, w/fishing pond & small barn. Picturesque yard w/heirloom flowering shrubs, big old trees & very pleasant views from front or back porch. Come home! \$167,500 or \$215,000. (MLS445045)(20810)



THE LITTLE WHITE COTTAGE, picturesquely nestled amid the trees & oak leaf hydrangea in downtown Mentone, next door to the Mentone Springs Hotel & Village Shops. Small & cozy, 2BR/1.5BA, completely renovated w/totally new interior, appliances (incl. washer/dryer), plumbing, CH/A & roof! Single attached carport, fenced backyard, extra-wide lot. Priced at only \$121,900. (MLS331553)(20249)



TWO FURNISHED LOG CABINS on 6 wooded acres, conveniently located on the road leading to Cloudmont Ski & Golf Resort at Mentone. Both have fireplaces, hot tubs & 3/4 wraparound porches. Active cabin rentals. Great investment opportunity. "Above the Clouds" has 2BR/1BA & a basement. "The Hideout" has 2BR/1.5BA. \$269,900. (MLS #496392)(20727)



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



HERE IT IS! The location, the price and the size in a cabin located in the very heart of Mentone. Just a few steps to the brow park, to the village shops, to the festivals, to the restaurants. It's packaged in a rustic exterior with nicely finished interior. Private backyard (but not too much yard so yardwork won't keep you busy the whole time you're in residence!) Priced at only \$115,000. (MLS#831292)(21058)



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

Welcome To The Rhododendron Festival!

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES MAY

Birthdays

- 2 - Jill Whitten, Ella Voils
- 3 - Oline Cochran (in memory)
- 4 - Oleda McCurdy
- 5 - Emily Howard
- 6 - Jessy Mayhew, L.A. Smith
- 8 - Regan Broome, Lesa Smith
- 14 - Lois Wood (in memory),
Jeanne Bare, Jay Broome
- 15 - Gail Gaylord
- 16 - Amy Kirby
- 18 - Nelson Kerby
- 20 - Alexis Manifold, Tom Tullis
- 21 - Anne H. Ransom, Susan Flynn
- 22 - Bobby Brown, Caitlin Kirby,
John Streatfield
- 23 - Colton Baggett, Nathan
Baggett
- 24 - Amber Hilliard
- 25 - Billy Wright, Jack E. Jones
- 26 - Norm Baker
- 27 - Christy Voils, Hank Van
Apeldoorn
- 28 - Dennis Hicks
- 30 - Shelly Shanklin
- 31 - Valeria Blalock

Anniversaries

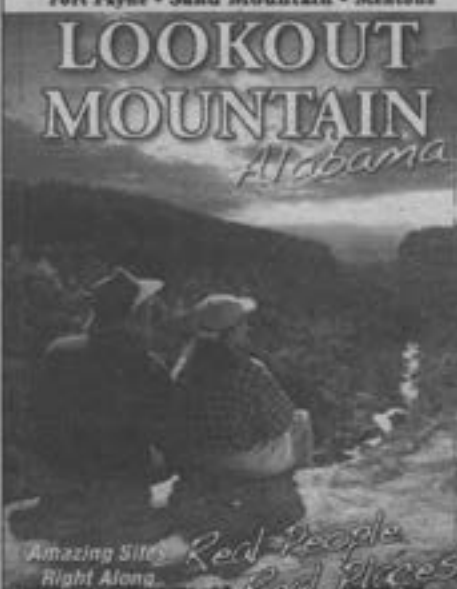
- 6 - Claud and Sharron Burke, Toby
and Rachel Manifold
- 8 - Joyce and Terry Turner
- 10 - David and Cheryl Baker
- 13 - Alvin and Velma Bone (49 yrs.)
- 16 - Amy and Preston Kirby
- 20 - Chris and Christina Stokes
- 27 - Donnie and Ella Voils
- 29 - Alfred and Eddie Langston
- 31 - Robert and Ilene Green

**Memorial
Day • 2011
May 30**

*Please have a happy
and safe holiday.*

Fort Payne • Sand Mountain • Mentone

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DeKalb County Tourist Association

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

• **28TH ANNUAL RHODODENDRON FESTIVAL** the 3rd weekend of May. Sponsored by MAPA. Food, arts & crafts, music, fun. On the brow at Mentone.

• **MOON LAKE 6TH GRADE GRADUATION**, May 26th, 1:00 p.m.

• **SACRED HARP SINGING** for beginners at Senior Center in Fort Payne every last Tuesday night of the month. 6:00 p.m. Call Henry Johnson for more information (256) 927-4915.

• **DECORATION** at the Little River Cemetery is the 3rd Sunday in May (May 15th)

• **DECORATION** at Bankhead Cemetery is the 4th Sunday in May (May 22nd)

• **MAPA** meets every 1st Tuesday of the month at 6:30 pm at the Moonlake Baptist Church. Next meeting will be election of officers for the fiscal year 2011-2012. If you are a current member, or if you are interested in joining the Mentone Area Preservation Association, please make plans to attend.

• **FIRST FRIDAY FISH FRY** each month at the Mentone Inn Pavilion. Tentative time 3:00-7:00 pm. Cost is \$5.00 per plate. Proceeds go to Strong Family Initiative. For more information, contact Angie Shugart with One World Adventure Company. 256-634-8370
www.facebook.com/pages/One-World-Adventure-Company

• **AUCTION TO BENEFIT TORNADO VICTIMS** at the DeKalb Theater in Ft Payne. Saturday, June 11th, 9 am-noon. Artists, crafts and individuals with goods or services which could be auctioned are urged to contact Hank Sturm at 256-393-9986 or Nancy Sturm at 256-393-2440. 100% of proceeds will go to tornado relief, administered by the Fort Payne Purpose Center.

• **FARMERS MARKET** is open each Wednesday and Saturday on the Square at Mentone.

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

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

 **HOURS FOR MOON LAKE
COMMUNITY LIBRARY !!!**
TUESDAY, 3 - 6 PM
THURSDAY, 3 - 6 PM
SATURDAY, 9 AM - 12 AM

**Happy
Birthday**

SUPPORT YOUR CHURCH

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

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

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

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

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

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

Our Lady of the Valley Catholic Church on N. Gault Avenue in Fort Payne holds Mass Services at 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 Rev. Billy Dempsey, Pastor, Sunday School 9:45AM; Sunday Worship - 10:55AM.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Cloudland Presbyterian Church welcomes everyone to come join us for services, with Pastor Roger Kvam. Bible Study Sunday at 9:00 a.m. (e.s.t.) and Worship at 10:00 a.m. (e.s.t.)

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



Pray For Our Neighbors

A Tribute to the Heroes of Memorial Day

We proudly salute the brave men and women who have served and made the ultimate sacrifice for their country. With courage and conviction, these heroes have protected America's freedom through the generations, and we are forever grateful to them.



On Memorial Day, we once again pay our respects to America's fallen soldiers. We pray for their families, and we honor their memories with gratitude and humility. We remember that freedom is not free.

To all who have served and continue to serve our country,

THANK YOU.

HAVE YOU BEEN TO THE MENTONE GENERAL STORE?

Combining an interest in downtown rejuvenation and a knack for merchandising, Paul and Ginny Zulker of Mentone have opened the Mentone General Store. The newly-renovated store, located across from Mentone City Hall on Highway 117, features a great selection of new, name-brand clothing and shoes, jewelry, household items, fishing/outdoor supplies, biker wear, local arts & crafts, and...well, you just never know what you'll find!

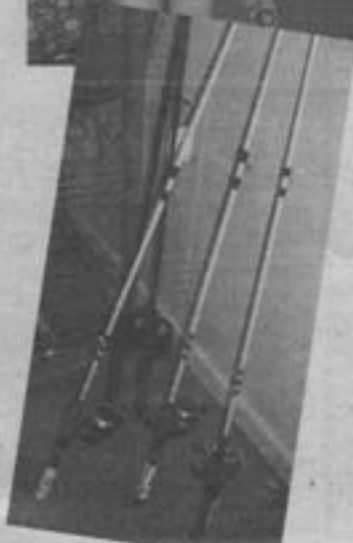
Just arrived! The Mentone General Store is an authorized dealer for Heatilator® pellet stoves and supplies. Economical, environmentally friendly and efficient, pellet stoves are easier to use than wood stoves, but offer the same or better heat efficiency. The pellets themselves are said to be the cleanest burning biomass fuel available. And, they are made in Crossville, AL. Stop in and take a look at the model which will be used next winter to heat the store.

The store is open seven days a week, 8:30 till 6; offers free WiFi service, and has a coffee bar so you can take a break while shopping to visit and relax.

Paul and Ginny, who also own Rock Bluff Rentals, knew there were many weekday visitors to the Mentone area who were disappointed to find nothing much open. (Most all of the village shops are open on weekends only.) They decided to offer fishing rods, flip-flops, swimwear and other items vacationers would enjoy, and they figured local folks might appreciate having a good selection of products available close by, too, so they wouldn't have to make a trip off the mountain to buy them.

So, rather than driving all over the place looking for that special item or gift for you or your family, why not check out the Mentone General Store? It's a department store, a gift shop, a boutique, and a gathering place all rolled into one.

The Mentone General Store's grand opening will be on May 10th, 2011, with the ribbon-cutting at 10:00 a.m. There will be specials all over the store that day; hot dogs and light refreshments will be served while they last. For more information, call 256-634-8008. www.mentonegeneral.com



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A Short, Noisy Life — The Periodical Cicada

By Charlotte Gentry

Unbeknownst to most everyone, for the past 13 years the nymphs of the periodical cicada have been living underground waiting for their time to emerge.

Precisely on schedule, and literally overnight, our peaceful woodland areas are transformed into a cacophony of noisy insect activity.

The hundreds of specimens we observed this year were located in a small area in south Fort Payne, hatching out in two waves. The first group was predominately black, the second group was predominately white. Both groups had red eyes, lacy wings and were much smaller than the late summer cicadas.

Unlike the cicadas that come and go every year during late summer, the 13-year cicadas of Alabama (known as Brood XIX to entomologists) are heard in early May through the beginning of June.

During the last couple days of April and first few days of May, the nymphs make their way upward from deep beneath the ground, forming mud tubes around tree roots. During the night they climb to where they would cast off their nymphal skins, unfold their wings, then fly off, leaving trunks, limbs, twigs and leaves (and any place else

species of cicada at all), the last time the periodical cicadas were seen and heard was in 1998. That was when Clinton was president and the movie Titanic was playing in theaters! And the next time they will be heard will be 2024.

The first ten days or so of the periodic cicada's life is spent making, or listening to, noisy love songs

(only the male produces the sounds). Then the mating actually begins. Shortly after mating, the males begin to die and the females lay their dozen or so eggs. By early June, they, too, are gone. In a matter of only a few short weeks, the periodic cicadas have finished their journey, the

woods grow silent, and the 13-year wait begins again.

For more information, and to hear the sounds of different species of cicadas, there is an excellent website you can visit:

<http://www.ag.auburn.edu/enpl/bulletins/cicadas/cicadas.htm>



they could climb) littered with the tannish-brown shells of this red-eyed species of cicada.

Sometimes referred to as 13-year locusts (a mistaken belief exists that these are the same insect spoken of in scriptures, which are actually grasshopper-like insects and not a



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RHODODENDRON GARDEN CLUB NEWS

Linda Brown, Secretary

Garden club members do not sit around and have tea and crumpets!! Garden clubbers are hard workers. This was very evident on April 19, 2011 when seven members of the Rhododendron Garden Club met at the M.E.R.F. Community House knowing that they were going to work. As a visitor, Mellanie Tuttle was introduced to what it means to be a garden club member. She stated that she was happy to help and would return.

One of the objectives of the club is to maintain the Heritage Garden. This is the gardens around the Community House. Most of them are in the same place and contain the same plants as when they were the gardens of Para lee Bell. Mrs. Bell was the last person to live in the house. After her death, it was sold to the organization of Mentone Educational Resources Foundation. They developed it into a house for

community activities.

The garden club meets there every month. Early on, it was decided that the club members would maintain the gardens. This includes replacing the plants as needed, keeping the beds free of weeds, thinning, pruning and otherwise keeping them looking good. This is what these members did. Each year one meeting is set aside to work in the gardens.

First, the members met inside and the meeting was called to order by President, Jill Whitten.

The pledge of allegiance to the flag of the United States of America was given. Marilyn Blanton Campbell gave the meditation and the meeting was dismissed to work in the gardens. The business meeting reconvened after work and business was conducted as the members ate their lunch.

President Whitten thanked the members who helped with recent events. The directors of The Home and Garden Show always ask the members of Northeast Alabama Federation of Garden Clubs to act as hostesses for the food room. Those helping from this club includ-

ed Elaine Gauldin, Madelon Houghland, Peggy Roark and Marilyn Blanton Campbell. Those helping with the federation plant sale were: Martha Wood, Beverly Ashley, Linda Brown, Peggy Roark, Marilyn Blanton Campbell, Dianne Kuehl, Gethryn Giles and Jill Whitten. They helped by supplying plants for the sale and baking cookies to sell and for dessert with lunch.

District II of The Garden Club of Alabama, Inc. held their Spring Meeting in Rainsville, Alabama on April 13, 2011. Martha Wood, Barbara Blalock, Linda Brown and Jill Whitten attended the brunch and meeting.

Martha Wood, Chairperson of Committee on Horticulture gave the monthly report. She explained how to divide plants. You divide spring blooming ones in the fall and fall blooming ones in the spring. You can make more plants by digging your root-bound ones and pulling the roots apart. Sometimes this requires cutting through the roots to separate the plants. This is a good way to start another garden or to share with plant sales or friends.

President Whitten made several announcements and adjourned the meeting.

Next meeting: Tuesday, May 10, 2011, at 10:00 a.m. the club will be meeting at a members home for a boat ride on Little River. This will be the last meeting until August 9, 2011.

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

A ditty by a mountain man

This dirt farm hippie life
ain't so neat

Gives me the pinworm
and aching feet

Cabin fever gets
everybody down

Only thing worse would be
livin' in town.

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



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



FORMERLY MOUNTAIN MAMA'S CRAFT STORE AND ROCK SHOP. 4.5 wooded acres on the east fork little river, approx. 550 ft on the water. Included on the property is 2 historical log cabins. Could be used as commercial or build that perfect place, for a relaxing mountain retreat. \$157,500 (20799)



NATURAL SETTING ON THE WEST FORK LITTLE RIVER. 4BR suites with Baths are part of this lovely home. Open Floor Plan, Dining, Den and sitting room. Kitchen with Complete Appliance package. 400 ft on the water with Rock formations. Located in the only Ski Resort in Alabama. Must see. \$379,000 (20246)



STUNNING MOUNTAIN HOME and Retreat center. Features vaulted ceilings, private Hot tub. Newly renovated Kitchen. 2 living areas, and Gas FP. Open loft above the 2nd living area and open kitchen design. Master bdrm has separate entrance to the deck, guest bedroom, and 2 more baths. 700 sq ft. 2 in guest cottage and a glassed Greenhouse/artist studio. Many possibilities with this wonderful property with seasonal views. \$329,000 (20562)



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



ENCHANTING COTTAGE in Laurel Creek Lakes. Access to 3 lakes for fishing & canoeing. Cypress sided 2 bedrooms, 2 baths with Stack Log and Stone Fireplace. Screened porch & Grilling deck. 1.4 acres \$147,000. (19676)



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



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



CHARMING HISTORIC FARMHOUSE on a beautiful level lot of almost 1.5 acres located within walking distance of downtown Mentone. Comfortable living areas, extra large dining room/gathering room, kitchen with walk-in pantry. 2BR/2BA, one with a jacked tub. Front and rear covered porches, an outbuilding with guesthouse possibilities and a circular drive with lots of parking. \$164,900 (20951)



AN INCREDIBLE ONE OF A KIND custom designed Log and Rock Home, with breathtaking view in Cloudland Ga. 1.5 acres with 100' road and brow frontage. Approx 6000 sq ft under roof, with 3000 heated. Heart Pine floors, log walls, cedar lined closets. Two rock FP with 100 yr old chestnut mantle in Living room. 3BR/2.5BA, oversized shower, antique rooted tub. Top quality appliances, furniture, quality cabinets. Amenities to numerous to mention. \$487,000 (20797)



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



THREE LOTS to choose from or buy any of the combination. 5.1 to 5.6 acres on the East Brow of Lookout mtn. Gated area called Valley View Forest. Very secluded, private, power available, must put in Well. Great buy at \$45,000 each (20296)



GETAWAY to this Mountain lake house in Mentone. Cedar sided 2BR/2BA. Two story with main level living, kitchen, dining all open. Large fireplace, screened porch. Lower level has the bdrms and large covered porch with stairs down to the water where the Pontoon boat awaits. 2 car garage with space for apartment above. \$309,900 (20215)



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



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



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

LOTS AND ACREAGE

33 ACRES of Virgin Wooded property. Huge Poplar and Oak trees. level with over 500 ft of paved Road frontage. County water available. A great tract of land in the mentone area. This kind of property doesn't come around often. \$245,000 (20300)

INDIAN TRAILS, 2 lots for sale. 1) 2.71 acres (lots 12, 13) sold together for building purposes. Brow view

city water, power, & paved rd. 2) 1.32 acres brow frontage & creek at boundary. Wooded, city water, paved rd. power. Both priced at \$40,000 ea. (19933)

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

business in mentone. city water, paved rd. One block from central business area. Reduced \$39,000 (20021)

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

EAST FORK OF LITTLE RIVER. 5.4

acres partially cleared. 200ft on River. Secluded with private road access. Scenic with rapids and pools. \$106,000. (19673)

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

WATER CONCERNS AT MENTONE

By Charlotte Gentry, Editor

Residents of North Mentone who live above the level of the water tank were without water for several days due to the power outage caused by the April 27th tornadoes. The reason for this is that water must be pumped up the hill to service those areas and there was no generator in place to provide emergency power. Those who live below the level of the tank did not see an interruption in service because their water comes to them via gravity feed.

"I regret we didn't have a generator in place," Brian Moon, who works for Mentone Water Works, stated at the Water Works Board Meeting on Thursday, May 05th. "Fort Payne let us borrow one after they got power back on." This didn't happen until Saturday, so approximately 70 customers had no water from Wednesday morning until then.

"Once the tornado happened, of course, it was nigh on impossible to get one then," Moon said. "You wouldn't believe the number of phone calls I made trying to get a generator. Sometimes I'd get someone who'd say, 'Yep, we've got one and we'll have one headed your way,' but it never happened."

Moon said he believed that there would be a generator in place by June. Finding one at a good price may be more realistic by then since so many folks had been looking to buy them in the aftermath of the tornadoes.

A big concern of residents in the affected area was the Boil Order issued by the Water Works.

According to Moon, any time there is a lengthy interruption in water flow, the EPA requires the utility to issue a Boil Order. "The water was not contaminated," Moon stated. "We tested the water and it was not ever contaminated. We had to issue the Boil Order because the EPA guidelines tell us to. Once you have continuous pressure on the lines again, you take samples and give them 24 hours to incubate. Then

you can end the boil order." It was lifted on Wednesday, May 4th.

The boil order made some folks afraid to drink the water. Even on the day of the meeting there were still air bubbles in the water, but Moon said that was to be expected because of air getting into the lines when there has been no water pressure for awhile. Though harmless, the air bubbles make the water look milky and not necessarily delectable to drink.

The Water Board also discussed the contract with Fort Payne Water that is coming up for renewal on July 1. The matter was tabled until the next board meeting, rescheduled for May 19th at 4:00 pm, so that all members could vote. The board is looking at the possibility of switching to getting Mentone's water from the spring at Valley Head.

Those members of the board who were at the meeting were Wesley Griffith (chairman), Wesley Chesnut, Tom Crowe, Karen Smith and Brian Moon. Concerned citizen and North Mentone resident Paul Zulker was also present.

• RECIPE CORNER

• This recipe is from *Favorite Recipes of Nippersink Lodge, Sixth Edition*. It is printed here exactly as it appeared in the original cookbook. Thanks to Gerald Bailey for letting us borrow his copy of the cookbook. It is a great piece of memorabilia.

• NIPPERSINK PRUNE CAKE

- 1 ½ cups sugar
- 1 cup Wesson oil
- ½ cup buttermilk
- 3 eggs
- 2 cups flour
- 1 cup chopped nuts
- 1 (heaping) cup mashed prunes
- 1 tsp each of: cinnamon, nutmeg, soda, vanilla

• Mix in usual method for cakes. Bake one hour at 300° in oblong greased, floured pan

• SAUCE

- 1 cup sugar
- 1 stick oleo
- ½ cup buttermilk
- ½ tsp soda

• Bring to a boil and pour over cake while hot. Serve warm with seasoned whipped cream.

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LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN HOME! Full brick, three bedroom, two bath home on one acre. New roof, fresh paint, and new flooring...the list of updates goes on and on! Fenced backyard, detached storage building and SO much more! \$113,900 (20729)



LITTLE RIVER CANYON! Hike to Eberhart Point from this New 2BR/2BA custom built cabin featuring vaulted wood exposed beam ceiling, wood burning fireplace, wood and sheetrock walls! Split bedrooms, ceramic tile and jetted tub in master bath, eat-in kitchen, and a finished downstairs for a pool table or playroom! \$169,900 (20538)

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MOON LAKE SCHOOL SPARED FOR ANOTHER YEAR



Centennial Celebration will be held in September

The DeKalb County Board of Education, in their work session held Tuesday, April 26th, decided not to bring up the question of closing Moon Lake School at their regular board meeting. The meeting was scheduled to be held on Thursday, April 28th, but was cancelled due to the tornado that came through on Wednesday night. However, it was reported that the majority of board members at the work session were not in favor of bringing up the subject of closing Moon Lake. This means the school will remain open at least through the 2011-2012 school year. For this we are truly thankful.

A large group of concerned Moon Lake supporters were prepared to be present at the board meeting. PTO President Pam Thomas and Moon Lake parent Samantha

Perrydore appeared on WFPA 1400 AM radio during the Danny Lee Show on Monday morning to talk about the school, the upcoming meeting, and to encourage folks to voice their support for the school.

Moon Lake will be celebrating 100 years of quality education for mountain children this coming September. There is no definite date as yet, but plans are in the works for this to be a huge and fun event for everyone, whether you are a Moon Lake alumnus, parent or just a supporter of the preservation of small public schools.

We are grateful for the support of the community, the school board, and others who live outside the Mentone area who've been so positive in their feedback about our little community school. The board still faces tough budget decisions, so the best hope for Moon Lake is that enrolment grows, especially in Kindergarten students.

Centennial Celebration T-Shirts are \$10 each, (plus \$2 for XL-XXXL) Colors: white, natural, light pink, light blue. Available at the School and Rhododendron Festival. Checks payable to Moon Lake PTO.



MOONLAKE NEWS

The Moon Lake PTO meeting in April featured a school-wide musical event, produced and directed by Ms. Paula Easter. Every grade level was a part of the songs, dances and jokes for the fun-filled musical variety show, "Lighten Up!"

Cute costumes and sappy jokes made everyone laugh and that was the whole point of the program, especially as it was held just a few days before the DeKalb County School Board was to meet and it was feared this would be the last production in the little Moon Lake gymnasium.

Prior to the program, regular PTO business was conducted and then the board meeting was discussed. Plans were made for as many folks as could possibly be there to be at the meeting. Some were planning to carpool from the school. Fortunately, this proved to be unnecessary and the school is to remain open.

A special thanks goes out to Ms. Paula for having such a heart for the children and helping them to become comfortable speaking and performing in front of an audience. The personal confidence and public speaking skills she is teaching them will serve them well in life and is just one of the many things that make Moon Lake School a wonderful place to educate our children.

In other news, the Kindergarten and First Grade classes had a beautiful day for their Egg Hunts and class Easter Parties. Thanks to all the parents who helped with refreshments, hid eggs, and then helped with clean up. It was a fun day for all the kids. Thanks, too, to Principal Wisner and the teachers for still allowing kids to be kids, enjoy this tradition and for letting them have FUN!

Earth Day at Moon Lake School was to be rescheduled for May 6th, but was cancelled due to school having to be out almost a week after the April 27th tornadoes.

Sixth Grade Graduation is scheduled for May 26th at 1:00 p.m.

Scenes from the "Lighten Up" PTO Variety Show



LIBS FROM THE LIBRARY

Linda Brown

What a wonderful summer we are going to have!! Such fun!! The first four Thursdays in June (2, 9, 16 & 24) from 3:30 to 5:00 p.m. will be a time set aside for the summer program for the Moon Lake Community Library. This program will be for students who are the age of Moon Lake Elementary School students. More details will be available closer to time for this great event. This fun time will include a magician, some fun facts about Native Americans, and many other great activities. Possibly there will be a funshop of poetry for older participants. This might be on Tuesdays, but the idea is still new and plans are not complete. "Definitely", save your Thursdays in June. We know you will have a "fantastic" time!!

The list of FRIENDS of the Library continues to grow. We hope to have a cook-out for all of you this summer. We appreciate all that you have done for the library since it's beginning. You may be called on to do more in the near future. The list of volunteers who work in the library when it is open is included in the FRIENDS list. We could not operate without these persons. One of these volunteers must be present to open the library to the public. Beverly insists that she will be fine by herself but we do not intend for that to happen. If a volunteer is not present at the appointed time, the doors are to be locked until

one can be there.

By the time this issue of The Groundhog is in the stands, we may know whether Moon Lake Elementary School is scheduled to be closed as an operating school. Hopefully this will not happen and drastic measures will not be necessary. Moon Lake has stayed open during some major crises. About fifty years ago, the Board of Education had plans to close the school. Some of the parents of MLES students heard about this and the PTO (then PTA) called a meeting. The room was packed and spilled over into the hall. I don't know what was said at the meeting, but the school stayed open at least fifty more years. (I can date this because I was pregnant with my second child and he will be fifty-four this year.)

I am having a very hard time writing this article. I have erased it and started over several times. If the school is closed and we are forced to try to maintain the library on other funds, we may have to close also. The members of the DeKalb County Board of Education have been made aware of the fact that the library was built using a large donation from an individual and then by the community adding to this. This method of a library for school students and the members of a community is very rare. We have found only one other in Alabama. This takes a lot of work and dedication from a community and from the school system. Insert your own observation here.

It is my understanding that the Board of Education will meet in a work session which is closed to the public, on Tuesday, April 26, 2011. The final plans will be made in the regular meeting on Thursday, April 28, 2011. If you read or hear that MLES has been scheduled to close before another school year, start to think of a way for the library to remain open. I think that everyone is willing to work hard to accomplish this but it will take a lot of financial backing. If you know of a trust or grant (or an individual) that would entertain the idea of funding the library, tell one of the members of the board of directors for the Moon Lake Community Library. We will have to work together to make this possible. Mentone people can do it!!

Continue to donate your books for the library or the book sale. If we should have to close we hope that the board of education would at least help us keep the facility open for the summer. We will do something constructive with all contents of the library if we have to go that route.

The members of the Board of Directors of the Moon Lake Community Library meet on the third Thursday of each month at 3:00 p.m. in the library. To be placed on the agenda for a meeting, call Jan Wilkinson. Write to us at: Moon Lake Community Library, Post Office Box 481, Mentone, Alabama 35984.

This is a poem that was copyrighted and published in 2000. We thought the readers of the Groundhog might enjoy it as well.

THE ALABAMA VOLUNTEERS

They came from poor farms,
towns and plantations,
Their backgrounds as different
as their varied occupations;
They had one thing in common though,
their state has seceded,
So they marched off to war
because they were all needed.
They left loved ones behind,
some who would learn
That their brave men in gray
were not going to return.

They fought hard in Virginia,
or wherever they were sent,
Never ones to shirk duty,
when ordered they went
Up the slope of Little Round Top
that hot July day,
While their kinsman held Vicksburg
half a continent away.
They were the ones often
called on to fight,
And more times than not
put the enemy to flight.

They did not win every battle,
but they gave it their all,
And stood in the face of danger
with backs against the wall.
Some became famous and
well-known for their deeds,
While others - just as gallant -
are unknown in history.
They were different,
but united, in their cause
for those four years;
Long live the memory of the
Alabama Volunteers!

~Greg Stames

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Fri and Sat
10:30-8:00



Diary of a Chicken Lady

By Kristen Emory



I can hear the laughter still today, not just "Ha Ha." I am talking knee-slapping laughter from

all my customers when I told them, "I'm getting some chickens." Nobody could believe I was serious, not even my kids. "Mom is just doing another one of her crazy things," Byrum and Saddler said. You know, the concerns were warranted because I had no idea about how to take care of chickens.

So, what do you do? You buy a book. Mistake number one. The book tells it all. They tell you where eggs come from. Did you know that eggs come out of the vent which is also where chicken's poop comes out? I did not, but now I do. Did you know that you don't have to have a rooster to have eggs? Eggs can even get stuck, which calls for extreme measures that involve a finger and vasoline. Can't you just take a chicken to the vet?

I have dragged my father, Jim, into this feathery adventure because I need help. He is retired (again) and what else does he have to do? Somehow I was able to get Tom on board and he has built the most wonderful mobile chicken coop. Now all we need is chickens and they need to lay a bunch of eggs to pay for their dwelling.

The more I read, the more overwhelmed I became. Here Tom has built this wonderful coop that moves. I mean you hook it to a lawnmower and pull it to a nice clean area for the chickens we don't even have yet.

I have to get off my roost—can't stop now. Tom has spent too much

time and money. My time has come. We must get chickens. (I mean *hens*; learned that in my book.)

Well, my dad and I have no idea how to buy chickens. The book says to check their feathers, combs, wattles, and their VENT. Remember that is where the poo and eggs come out. Neither one of us has ever even touched a live chicken!

With the help of Houston, our employee at the Mentone Market, Jim, Joan, and I take off to Collinsville Trade Day. I have never been to Trade Day and what an experience it is! Here we are with an ark full of animals, chickens, dogs, goats, guineas, pigeons, ducks, horses, and doves.

As we look at chickens, Houston would lean over and say, "That's a good-un Kristen." "Those look good." Then he found just what I wanted—Rhode Island Red pullets (young hens, learned that from my book). I engage the man in conversation and he looks at me like I am crazy. I might be crazy, but I'm not crazy enough to not notice when someone thinks I am crazy. That man would not even smile at me. Therefore, I did not buy his chickens. Instead I bought a Buff Orpington and an Araucana, I think! These folks were nice, they smiled!

I will wrap this story up quickly. We made it home with our chickens. We got them in their fancy coop, fixed their nests, fed and watered, and watched them scratch about. They are beautiful. The first day they both laid beautiful brown and green eggs. Dad and I go into the coop later that day to bond with our new hens. All of a sudden they started flying around and squawking and I realized, I am absolutely, positively scared of chickens!

Chicken Lady??!

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

MOUNTAIN LORE The Whippoorwill

By Charlotte Gentry, Editor

There are several differing bits of mountain lore pertaining to the Whippoorwill. Few have ever seen this nocturnal bird, which is actually a member of the night hawk family, but most folks recognize its call.

Perhaps the most commonly-held belief among mountain people was if you heard the haunting sound of a whippoorwill right outside your window at night, there would be a death.

Another, less gloomy, piece of mountain wisdom held the song of the whippoorwill to be a sign it was time to go barefoot. Some folk referred to the cold snap between "Dogwood Winter" and "Blackberry Winter" as "Whippoorwill Winter." One could pretty much depend on consistently warmer days when they began to hear the whippoorwill.

Unmarried young women would listen for the whippoorwill's calls and count them. One call meant she wouldn't get married for a year. Two calls meant a wedding in the near future. Three calls meant she was doomed to remain a spinster. A variation of this bit of folklore also exists where a young woman, upon hearing the whippoorwill, could make a wish to be married.

So, listen for the whippoorwill.

(Editor's Note: if you have mountain tall tales, home remedies or other folklore you'd like to share with Groundhog readers, please feel free to send them to editorgroundhog@yahoo.com)



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"BUT WE CHOSE MENTONE"

Doug and Betty Perkins

Doug and Betty Perkins were high school sweethearts. They married soon after graduation and never looked back. After spending a few years working at SUNY Cortland (State University of New York at Cortland), they looked to see more of the world and headed south. Florida was where they settled and it was there they raised their two sons, Eric and Matt. During these years they also built a solid electrical contracting business, Perkins Electric.

Travel was always a big part of their lives. Whether sightseeing or hunting big game, Doug and Betty have traversed the United States, Canada, Africa and Europe, bringing back with them memorabilia which has made its way to the walls and shelves of their home.

When an offer was made by an individual to purchase Perkins Electric, another move was before them. Doug had promised Betty a new house and she was determined to have it in Florida. All during this time, though, many trips were made and Doug always had an eye out for that "special" place. A ranch in Nebraska, a B&B in Homer, Alaska, and several other options made the list. Mentone, Alabama was always in the fore-

front. Only two years after moving into their new log home in Florida, it was for sale.

They had bought their first piece of Mentone, consisting of twenty acres tucked back off County Road 642. Doug's plan was to build a lake and have a small place where they could escape the heat of Florida summers. That Fall, though, things changed. A new



house was on the drawing board for the Perkins in Mentone. The choice was made. Hunters Ridge came next, along with other properties, and their fate was sealed. Mentone, Alabama was their new home. Both of their sons soon moved up to Mentone as well. Matt and his wife Teri Beth added a granddaughter, Madeline, to the Perkins list. (Another granddaughter is expected in late August of this year.)

Never being idle, Doug keeps himself busy behind a small sign

on his shop "The Mentone Toy Maker." More as a novelty than a sales sign, it hangs only for the locals to see when they stop by and visit him at his shop. Most kids who come by with their parents leave with a wooden creation that Doug has put into their pocket to play with or keep as a reminder of bygone days.

The wooden creations are what

Doug refers to as "Heritage Toys." These are the kind of toys that many of us played with in simpler times: wooden cars, trucks, doll houses, and wooden games. In these days of plastic throwaway toys and electronic gizmos, children are fascinated with these handcrafted toys.



Then there are the wood creations that are made for show only. Learning from the masters like Ivan Collins and Dale Ford, Doug meticulously crafts working miniatures out of wood. (Many might remember the wooden fire truck that was donated last year to the Mentone Fire Department for raffle during ColorFest.) These "toys" are never for sale, but are given to special folks that stop by the shop at the right time. The newest project is a series of horse-drawn wagons and coaches in 12:1 scale from the 1800s. As with most of his special pieces, these will be displayed in Doug's shop on shelves built especially for them.

These days, though, the doors of the Toy Maker are seldom open. Fate has Doug traveling again, this time working in Kabul, Afghanistan as the Electrical Supervisor at the US Embassy. But, not to worry, he has managed

to take a few tools with him and the work on the wagons still goes on. Betty will make sure, too, that his work is seen and appreciated back home by entering it at the DeKalb County VFW Fair. Just look for the blue ribbons in the woodcraft section. Most likely, that will be Doug Perkins' work.

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EARTH DAY CELEBRATION AT MENTONE

Hula Hoop for Health? This was just one of the several vendor booths at the Earth Day celebration held at Mentone's Brow Park on Saturday, April 23rd. The event was organized by One World Adventure Company. In addition to vendors,

there were several information booths for conservation and ecological organizations, including the Sierra Club, Alabama Clean Water Partnership, Alabama Forestry Commission, Alabama and National Forestry Services.

It was a beautiful day, the weather cooperated and there was great music, food, games and fellowship. Ben Keener, with the Wildflower Café, served up his famous sirloin burgers, which were even more delicious when enjoyed on the brow overlooking the valley!

Entertainment throughout the day was provided at the Brow Park Pavilion by musicians Pierce Pettis, Russell Gulley, Chad Shugart, The New Binkley Brothers, Will Dooley with Elisha & Jordan Tatum and The Pioneer Chicken Stand. An Earth Day Drama Skit was performed by Blackberry Little Theater.

A 5K run was part of the Earth Day event, with \$200 of the 5K proceeds being donated



ed to Moon Lake Elementary School. Several runners participated, with the top five finishers receiving medals of recognition and hand-made coffee mugs donated by Miracle Pottery. Winners and their times: 1st place, Marshall Darby, 18 min 55 sec; 2nd place, John Stanley, 20 min 30 sec; 3rd place, Jonathan Peace, 22 min 26 sec; 4th place, Chris Bible, 25 min 26 sec; 5th place John Crider, 25 min 42 sec.

Later that same evening, "Green Tie and Bluegrass Music" continued the celebration with foot-stompin, toe-tappin fun. A large crowd showed up at historic Nippersink Lodge to listen to featured bands Will Dooley and the Tatum Brothers and The Pioneer Chicken Stand.

The Earth Day event was a fundraiser for One World Adventure Company, a non-profit organization dedicated to helping form strong families by providing quality, fun and educational outdoor opportunities for children and their families. Co-sponsor for the event was Mentone Area Arts Council (MAAC). Other sponsors were Ladd Engineering, The Times-Journal, Lee Energy, Builder's Supply, EBSCO Industries, Bruce's Foodland, Local Farmer's Market and Walmart.

2012 Earth Day Celebration is set for Saturday, April 21st, 2012. Thanks to Angie and Billy Shugart for organizing both these events. For more information on One World Adventure Company, visit their Facebook® page www.facebook.com/pages/One-World-Adventure-Company or call 256-634-8370. Thanks, also, to the Boy Scouts, Mentone Troop 106, who helped with the parking at Brow Park.



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



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



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



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



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



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



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



HIS WARM & COZY 2 bedroom, 2 bath cabin nestled in the woods offers seclusion, privacy & tranquility in an artist setting. Some features include gorgeous pine wood floors, wood burning fireplace, vaulted ceilings with exposed beams & a covered front and back porch. \$159,900 (19524)



LOFTY CONTEMPORARY! 3-levels of spectacular views. 3/4BR, 3BA, detached 2-car garage with a 1BR/1BA apt overhead. Courtyard, pond w/fountain, swing, hammock, seasonal landscape and more. \$439,000 (20554)



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



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



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



CUSTOM BUILT LOG CABIN.... situated on 2 lots in Laurel Creek. 2 LARGE BR/2BA, spacious great room with cathedral ceilings, hickory floors, 2-car garage, and fishing dock. \$229,000 (18898)



WINDWOOD FARMS. Established restaurant located on Hwy. 117 in Mentone! Approx. 1350 +/- SF with several dining rooms, kitchen, prep area, & room for expansion on this 1.36+ ac. lot. Call for more details. \$175,000 (20377)



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



HEARTWOOD... 5 acres, 1500 sqft, 2BR/2BA, vaulted ceiling, exposed beams, wood burning FP, wood floors, sleeping porch, and lots of character. Add'l acreage and outbuildings can be purchased. \$185,000 (20352)



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



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



MENTONE CABIN READY FOR NEW OWNER!! This 2BR/2BA cabin is top of the line with custom cabinets, full appliance pkg. Master has whirlpool with separate tile shower, double vanity. 2nd BR with private deck entrance. Rock wood burning FP, sited on 0.97 acres! Fully furnished for \$159,900 (20708)



MENTONE...You will be amazed at the Magnificent Views to be enjoyed from this 3BR/2BA Custom Log Cabin. Ceiling Fans throughout. Open Dining/Kitchen with all appliances. Laundry area w/washer and dryer to remain. This home offers so much more, call for details. \$344,500. (18235)



MENTONE TREASURE! Over 300' of the most private and panoramic brow frontage in downtown Mentone. Restore this 3BR/2BA home to its original splendor. Also included is an in-ground pool and pavilion. \$600,000 (18271)



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



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



MENTONE - Over 200' of breathtaking brow view of mountains and valley located within walking distance to Historic Mentone. Partially finished cabin with 2 rock fireplaces and a 2-car carport. \$275,000 (18270)

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

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

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

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

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

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

Nature Was A Word To Me: A Tribute to My New Found Home

by Patricia Shavers

Nature was a word to me, like table, chair or bed.
I never was the woodsy type, preferred the town instead.
Until one summer on a lark I rented me a place.
It sat upon a mountaintop. I thought I'd hate the pace.
Yet, sometimes, one just needs a change to get a fresh perspective.
A change it was. More than I'd thought. Change and a retrospective.
No Internet, no news at all, no cable, no TV,
No fast food chains within 10 miles, alarming thoughts to me!
But I decided, just this once, I'd give the woods a try.
As just a temporary thing, I never have been shy
To take a bet, a chance, a dare. I like to think I'm tough,
And brave, and strong, and smart and sharp - the real thing, not just fluff.
I've always had a poet's heart. I thought, I'll think and write.
The hardest part will be the total silence day and night.
Of course, I had a bag of books that needed to be read,
The kind of books that literary people read in bed.
The classics, Homer, Plato, and the literary sages,
Like Blake and Shelly, Faulkner, Poe, the giants of the ages.
Yet somehow all those lovely books, the ones I prize so dear,
The ones I paid a fortune for, bought seven more last year,
Have been collecting dust upon my fully loaded shelves,
As I make good excuses, the ones we tell ourselves.
So no more ifs, or ands, or buts, I'll read them all, I will!
Philosophy and fiction and science! What a thrill!
Night number one will be the test. If I can make it through
Then I have utmost confidence on staying for night two.
Unnerving first, and then just strange, especially that night,
Just me and my peculiar mind, and nothing else in sight.
But I was wrong. I realized that I was not alone,
Queer sounds I had not heard at first, a modulated tone.
Then as the minutes ticked away the tones began to swell
With rhythms sure as metronomes. What was it? Who could tell?
And as the evening wore along the repetitious sounds
Began to sooth me with their songs. My tight-wound mind unwound.
The morning came in gradually. It peeped in through the trees.
I'd left the window open and it came in with the breeze.
The night sounds gone, but in their place a different sound I heard.
Now that sound is familiar. I know that sound. A bird!
One bird sounds just the same to me as any other bird,
Until that morning when I really listened to each word.

Well, not real words. Of course, I mean the songs of different kinds.
Then oddly, it occurred to me, what's on their little minds?
It must be urgent since they say it time and time again.
An-thro-po-mor-phic-ally, I mused, I wonder if they're kin?
Or maybe they're just neighbors. But are they friend or foe?
Or maybe they are lovers! I'd really like to know.
For God's Sake! Stop these foolish thoughts. You came up here to write.
To write about important things, perhaps the nation's plight.
The Senate is in shambles. This country's in a mess.
I should write to my congressman! Perhaps I'll call the press!
Or I could write about the earth. My God, it's getting hotter!
The icebergs melting! Polar bears are drowning! And the water
Is full of stuff that might cause plagues, or blight, or some disease
That we have never thought of! And then, I ask you, Please!
To think about the . . . food supply . . . the whales . . . the acid rain . . .
The wars . . . the conflicts everywhere! Oh world, I feel your pain!
But then I looked around me, while standing on the deck,
It seemed to me that no one else had noticed what a wreck
The world was in. The birds, the bees, the flowers and the trees
Were going on their merry way, like all was fine. Oh Please!
The squirrels were all just scampering. A bee buzzed on a bloom.
Those poor dumb beasts don't comprehend the fast approaching doom.
Yet as I watched them, I could swear, they seemed just fine, intact.
They seemed a lot more fine than me. Could I be wrong? In fact,
I wonder just what things they know? Dear Lordy, could it be,
The other way around? What makes them happier than me
Is what they don't know! Hummm. I'll think about that soon.
But first my coffee, Then a nap, Enough to do 'til noon.

(Patricia Shavers is a free lance writer who now resides in Mentone.)

Mentone Wedding Chapel



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

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

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Silent Spring Botanicals Opens in Mentone

By Barbara and Clay Patrie, Proprietors

Have you ever thought about opening a business? Have you ever thought about why you would open a business, other than being your own boss and working too many hours?

We have been selling soaps and herbs through the farmer's market for about three years. When my brother started making jewelry, he needed places to sell it. My thought: It's time to open a store. Thanks to Christine and Michael of the Moonlight Bistro, we were able to open Silent Spring Botanicals.

Let me share my favorite sale of the first week with you. A man and woman walked in with their little girl; maybe six or seven years old. The little girl is looking around and

puts on a child's apron. She is so excited, because it fits, and her parents are giving her many praises. They purchased the apron and I told them that a friend of mine made that for my little girl. We all talked about how special the apron is. I get a warm feeling, a big smile, and feel wonderful about this little girl wearing my daughter's apron.

Putting smiles on people's faces, and feeling good about what you are doing is really what it's all about.

Silent Spring Botanicals is a unique gift shop where you will find local-



ly grown and handmade items. Jellies, honey, and sorghum, are from local farmers. Teas are blended from wild plants or purchased from local farmers as much as possible. Our Green Salve is like your grandma made, with homegrown wild-crafted comfrey and plantain. We deal in organic, naturally grown, and pesticide free products, as we care about



your health. No GMO! We encourage you to support your local farmers, shop locally and remember to recycle as we care about the earth.

We will be open year-round (only weekends in January and February). You will find us weekdays from 11:00AM to 5:00PM, weekends 9:00AM to 6:00PM. Starting in May,

we will be closed only on Tuesday. These hours may change once we get the hang of this store biz. They will be posted at the store, which is located in the Village of Mentone.

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Around and About — MENTONE



Medical Clinic Open in Valley Head

The Valley Head Clinic is pleased to announce it is now open and ready to serve the residents of our area who want to receive medical care close to home. They are located in downtown Valley Head next to the drug store and across from Citizens Bank.

As a family practice, the clinic sees all ages —

newborns to elderly patients—with a wide range of services such as childhood and adult immunizations, EPSDT screenings, DOT physicals, sports physicals, and women's health. An EKG machine is available, if needed.

The Valley Head Clinic is a branch of the Pisgah Medical Clinic and is under the direction of Dr. M.E. Ata. The nurse practitioner, Cathy McCurdy O'Linger, CRNP, is in the office Monday-Friday from 8:30 to 12:30, and Dr. Ata is there to see patients on Wednesdays starting at 8:30.

Dr. Ata graduated from Dow University in Pakistan and Wright State University in Dayton, Ohio. Cathy, who holds a Master's degree, attended the University of Alabama and Vanderbilt University in Nashville, TN.

Medical Office Assistant Angie McKenzie is an area native and long-time resident of Valley Head. She holds an Associates degree in Medical Assisting with a focus in Management. She received her phlebotomy training from NACC.

Valley Head Clinic accepts Medicare, Medicaid, and most major insurances. Clinic hours are M-F from 8:30 to 12:30. If they need to speak with someone after those hours, they may contact the Pisgah office at 256-451-1250.

Scenes from the Mentone Community Egg Hunt and Free Food Cookout during the power outage after the April 27 tornado.



Happy Birthday Ray!

Well-wishers from near and far came to the Mentone Springs Hotel on April 16th to wish Ray Padgett a happy 70th Birthday. Music was provided by Terry Hutcheson and Carl Orand. The setting was perfect, the food delicious, the mood festive and the laughs plenteous! And the sweetest part of the evening was when Sandra Padgett sang "The Tennessee Waltz" to Ray.



History in pen and ink—the art of Cloud Farrow

By Charlotte Gentry, Editor



You know that really cool picture of St. Joseph's Episcopal Church you've seen? Or maybe what caught your eye was the beauti-

fully-colored drawing of The Wildflower Café? Or, was it the gnarled and starkly-beautiful pine tree growing on the rock captured in pen-and-ink and framed in rough, barn wood?

Chances are you've admired the work of self-taught artist Cloud Farrow. You may even have been fortunate enough to have purchased one of his prints or original works. But, whether you are a long-time fan or a new convert, you'll be pleased to know Cloud is the featured artist during the month of May at Studio 117 in Mentone.

Born in Birmingham and now residing in Sand Rock, Alabama, Cloud Farrow is one of those people who have been blessed to be able to turn a lifelong knack for drawing into a livelihood and a vocation. He sells prints and original drawings and he teaches drawing to youngsters in the Cherokee County area. These days it appears he derives the most pleasure out of seeing the budding artist emerge in his young protégés.

Having been a master furniture builder and worker with wood, then leaving that profession behind after the loss of a couple fingers and a battle with cancer, Cloud Farrow re-invented himself as an artist and recorder of history by using his natural talent to preserve landmarks that could otherwise be lost forever. His drawings include Cobia's Mill, the Cornwall Furnace and a series of prints featuring railroad depots. Many of his subjects no longer exist except in the beautiful pen-and-ink or watercolor pen-



cil drawings he's done of them.

Framed original art, prints and boxed note card sets are available for viewing and for sale this month at Studio 117, the upstairs gallery at Mentone Realty's log cabin office on Hwy 117 in Mentone, in front of the Wildflower Café. The exhibit, sponsored by the Mentone Area Arts Council (MAAC) is open Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m., Saturday, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., other times by appointment.



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The Mentone Springs Hotel reopens

By Charlotte Gentry, Editor



The historic Mentone Springs Hotel was alive with laughter, good music and good food as friends old and new celebrated the hotel's re-opening on April 21st. Visitors were able to meet Innkeeper Mary Rodgers Bridgeforth, and taste a sampling of the fare which will be offered in the Mentone

Springs Restaurant by the new managers Tony and Cathy Wilson. Tony Goggans kept the evening lively with his great variety of music and mountain wit & wisdom.

Much has been written in books, newspapers, magazines and travel publications through the years about this grand landmark, built in 1884. Long-time readers of *The Groundhog* have seen numerous articles dedicated to the happenings at the Hotel. If one does a Google® search for the Mentone Springs Hotel there is a treasure-trove of information, photos and links to satisfy curiosity. There is even a Facebook® page to "LIKE" the hotel (www.facebook.com/MentoneSpringsHotel).

In recent months as the new owner, Jim Rotch, and master carpenter/handyman/jack-of-all trades, Billy Thomas, continued renovations to overcome the effects of the dear old place having sat vacant for over a year, they were also gracious enough to allow tours and private events to be held there. In April, for

instance, the DeKalb County Association of Realtors® met there for lunch and continuing education class. And, if you missed Ray Padgett's 70th birthday bash on April 16th, then you missed a real treat!

Mary Rogers Bridgeforth was named as Inn Keeper in March, and since that time she has succeeded in creating a welcoming atmosphere that would make the original owner, Dr. Frank Caldwell, proud. Mary Rogers has impressive education and experi-

ence in the hospitality services industry, but what really makes her truly qualified for the position is her graciousness and Southern charm gleaned from her upbringing at the family's ancestral home, Quiet Shades Plantation, in Vaughn, Mississippi.

"Growing up on my family's home-place gave me a chance to see hospitality and food in a different way than most. Entertaining and cooking were a pleasure and seen as a gift to others. Making others

feel special through hospitality of food and conversation has always brought me joy," Bridgeforth states on the Mentone Springs website.

Rounding out the hotel's team, Tony and Cathy Wilson have taken over management of the hotel and restaurant and hope to create a place where tourists and local folks alike can feel welcome to dine, sit a spell and enjoy pleasant conversation in this unique setting. Tony and Cathy

bring many years of experience in the restaurant business, including ownership of Windwood Farms in Mentone.

"We decided to change the name to Mentone Springs Restaurant [instead of Caldwell's] when we reopened," Tony states.

"We will be open on Fridays for lunch 10:00 am-2:30 pm; dinner from 5:00-9:00 pm.

Saturday we'll offer a breakfast buffet from 8:00-10:30 am; lunch from 10-2:30; dinner from 5:00-9:00 pm. Sundays we will serve a brunch buffet from 10:00am till 2:00pm.

Lunch will be casual dining; dinner will be a finer dining and menu experience."

As for the lodging aspect of the hotel, Tony, Cathy and Mary Rogers are working to accommodate the needs of those wanting to visit the

area and stay at Mentone's most famous location. "We'll be focusing mainly on weekends," Tony states, "but we will be open most days. It would be best to call first and make reservations. People can also check us out on Facebook® or on the hotel website."

(For more information about Mentone Springs Hotel, visit www.mentonesprings.com or call 256-634-4040)





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