

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

November 2011

OH, WHAT A TIME IT REALLY WAS!

By Charlotte Gentry

"This is the best Colorfest I can remember!" The number of times this was heard throughout the third weekend in October was quite gratifying to those who planned, organized and worked to see that Colorfest 2011 was, indeed, the best ever.

Not only were the festival-goers excited about the music, crafts, art and activities, the vendors were all smiles as well. "This was the best single day I've ever had at any festival," said artist Cloud Farrow about Saturday's business. "I don't think I've done as well in two days as I have this day alone," he continued.

The weather was perfect, too, which brought out large crowds for both days. Music filled the air in the Square, at the Mentone Inn Pavilion, at Brow Park Pavilion, and elsewhere. (The gnats filled the air, too, but they were nothing more than a nuisance as they flew their "last hurrah" before the first frost.)

Two additions to the Colorfest this year, the Business Festival and Children's Festival, were big successes, too. Kids could roll around in a Hamster Ball, fish for trout, ride ponies, go for a wagon ride, make masks and several other activities. Businesses lined up in the front parking lot of Mentone Springs Hotel and saw crowds of visitors stroll through looking at their offerings. The DeKalb County Animal Adoption Center even had three puppies adopted!

The variety of artisans and their wares was just amazing. So many talented and ingenious craftsmen demonstrated and/or displayed their creations and the crowd was delighted. They bought metal flowers, glass flowers, dried flowers, knitted flowers. They bought

wind-chimes made of recycled bottles, recycled kitchenware, recycled metal and recycled pottery.

There was jewelry made of glass, pottery, duct tape, buttons, hardware ("Junk Jewelry"), acorns, leather, wire and you name it! Paintings only an inch square up to several feet wide.

Photography, pen-and-ink, watercolor, acrylics, charcoals...art of all classifications was there. There were hand-crafted wooden canoes made to be used as cradles, wall décor, yard art and for paddling along a quiet river.

And the food? Did we mention the food? No festival would be complete without the BBQ sandwiches offered by the Volunteer Fire Department. There were French fries, funnel cakes, lemonade (lots of lemonade!), sausages, hot dogs, cookies, candies, breads...whew! Need we say more?

Mentone Area Preservation Association (MAPA) and Mentone Area Arts Council (MAAC) worked together on the event, with planning and execution of

the project being the task of the Festival Steering Committee. Those who served on the committee are: Neal Whitt - chairman, Doreen Waters, Joseph Lee, Cynthia Stinson, Ginny Zulker, Harriet O'Rear, Hank Willett and Wilma Fletcher. Two special committees were headed up by Rhonda Howell (Demonstrations) and

Heather Nicely (Children's Activities).

Not only did the festival benefit those who were vendors, but area restaurants, cabin rentals, inns, hotels, campgrounds and other businesses were flooded with customers for the weekend or longer due to folks coming early or staying later. There were many for whom Colorfest was their first trip to Mentone. Many, many folks were heard to say they'd fallen in love with our little mountain village and would be back.

Working together, MAPA and MAAC, town officials, business owners, volunteer emergency personnel and the citizens of Mentone have given notice to the Southeast that we know how to put on a festival! Already comments and suggestions for improvement are being taken into consideration and plans are being formulated to make the next Colorfest even better. And as we learned when we were children, working together we can do so much more than when we try to do it all ourselves. Thank you MAPA and MAAC. You did great!



See more great photos on
pages 12 and 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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MAPA OFFICERS

President.....Gerald Bailey
Vice President.....LC Moon
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Members-At-Large: Lamar Bray,
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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 (Groundhog sub-
scriptions are not included)

In case of errors in advertisements,
The Groundhog assumes liability only
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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

November is a month for giving thanks. We honor Veterans on Veterans' Day and thank them for their selfless service to our country. Throughout the history of this country, our soldiers have stood watch in every corner of the world so that we could sleep comfortably in our beds at night.

Thanksgiving Day finds most of us seated before a sumptuous feast and offering thanks to God for His blessings. We are blessed to live in this fertile, free land where we can worship, or not worship, as we see fit.

We have so much to be thankful for, don't we? Times are tough for many folks, but there is still that spirit of thankfulness to be found because of all the blessings we enjoy being in this little corner of Alabama.

The Mentone community saw what was, without a doubt, the best Colorfest weekend in recent history and big THANKS goes out to the Festival Steering Committee, comprised of members of MAPA and MAAC, for all their work in organizing and carrying out the logistics of the huge event. Thousands of folks enjoyed the third weekend in October as a result of their efforts.

Every community needs reliable emergency services and Mentone is blessed to have one of the best volunteer fire departments in the state. To show the town's appreciation to the North Lookout Mountain Volunteer Fire Department and to thank these volunteers and their families, the Town of Mentone provided a feast in October at Camp Riverview, hosted by Larry and Susan Hooks.

Each day there are people performing acts of kindness, volunteering their time, giving their money. Thank you to the tutors who help Moon Lake students who may be struggling in one or several subjects, free of charge, at the MERF house. Thank you to the volunteers who prepare and serve lunches to Senior Citizens at the MERF house. Thank you to the folks who volunteer their time at the Moon Lake Community Library. The list goes on and on.

Thank you for reading and advertising in The Groundhog. Thank you to those who contribute photos, poems and articles for publication. Thank you for my family's patience when I get into "Groundhog mode."

"In everything, give thanks." (I Thess 5:18)

C.

*Our readers
give thanks*

Letters To the Editor

Dear Editor,

As business owners in Mentone we would like to thank all the people who worked so hard on the planning of the Mentone Colorfest. Their efforts are appreciated and showed in the success of the festival. This years festival seemed to be the biggest that we have ever been a part of and all of the visitors were complementary of the event.

A sincere thank you to all,

Tom and Kristen Emory
Mentone Market

Dear Groundhog,

I would like to take a moment to say thank you to the ones who prepare the Senior Lunches at the MERF Community House and to the ones who work in the kitchen. May the Lord bless you for all the hard work you have done for us!

Gail Crider
Mentone

HELP US RANSOM CHUCK!

Donations to help raise the \$2,000 ransom for "Chuck" the Groundhog (our cute little stuffed animal mascot) are continuing to come in, but we still need your help! Last month, we informed readers of Chuck's kidnapping and published the ransom note where the kidnapper is wanting \$2,000 to be raised and donated to the Moon Lake PTO. All who contribute will have their names put into a drawing for a \$25.00 gift certificate to Mentone General Store. Donations may be made at Mentone General Store, Mentone Market, Mentone Realty or mailed in care of The Groundhog, PO Box 387, Mentone, AL 35984.

Thank you to all who have contributed so far!





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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

APPROX 1.54-ACRE BROW LOT on S Brow of Mentone (maybe a mile from the village) offers the perfect spot to build your dream cottage. \$120,000. (PLS# 21308)

1.69 ACRE LOT W/LAKE VIEW! Level, wooded, on a private road, approx 1.5 mi from downtown Mentone. Lightly restricted. Add'l land avail. \$27,500. (PLS#19225)

MENTONE LAND W/CREEK 4.42 acres, wooded, peaceful, abundant wildlife, myriad hiking/walking areas. Restricted. \$42,000 (MLS#578905, PLS#21482)

10.8 ACRES ON N. BROW. Approx 340' of brow frontage. Awe-inspiring views; interesting rock formations; large trees. \$199,900. (MLS#928654, PLS#21467)

TWO ACRES W/DRIVEWAY, public water at road, building site already prepared. Approx one mile from downtown Mentone on N. Scenic Hwy. Unrestricted, wooded, level. \$29,900. (MLS#553792, PLS#21346)

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

3.21 ACRE WOODED LOT in Northend gated community. Privacy & security to build your mountain getaway. \$39,900 (MLS#387708; PLS#21363)

NEW LISTING! Come back to the country. Slow pace Mentone living at its best. Historic Nightingale community. Great building lot; unrestricted, level, with lots of trees. Not a big lot, not a big price. Only \$6,500. (MLS#981737; PLS#21572)



CHARMING CABIN IN THE WOODS. Relax & rejuvenate in this approx 1450 sq ft 2BR/2BA getaway. Features include open floor plan, glassed-in 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. Priced reasonably at \$175,000. (MLS#560320; PLS#21546)



40 ACRES WITH TWO PONDS & HOUSE Family farm, generations-owned, now for sale. Quaint board-n-batten 3BR/2BA farmhouse with 3/4 wraparound screened porch; outbuildings; old chicken houses; stream flowing through woods; two ponds; public water and well; workshop that looks like a dollhouse! Land is approx 1/2 pasture (fenced), 1/2 wooded, with frontage on two roads. Owner may divide into two portions. Property in town limits of Mentone. Build your own family compound, summer retreat, or get back to the land and become a farmer! A rare opportunity at a very attractive price! \$250,000. (MLS#554750; PLS#21468)



THE OLD BRUCE HOUSE, one of the few remaining of Mentone's early residences, on the corner of Cool Street and Linchney (the address alone is fabulous!) Two-story frame home w/heart pine walls, ceilings & floors. Stone, wood-burning Fpl fitted w/gas logs. The well bucket & windlass on back screened porch is still operational. Breathe new life into this one-of-a-kind classic home. Right in the heart of Mentone, behind the Mentone Inn. (MLS#913251, PLS#21463)



AUTHENTIC ENGLISH STONE COTTAGE on East Brow of Lookout Mtn. Private & timeless this secluded 3 or 4BR/3.5BA offers an amazing view from every room and the beautiful arched stone terrace. Heart pine floors & beams, whitewashed wide board walls & vaulted ceilings lend a charming old world feel to the well designed open floor plan that lives big for its 2800 sq ft. Surrounded by close to 1000 acres in conservation that include trails to streams and waterfalls off the side of the mountain, this home is the perfect private mountain getaway. \$590,000 (MLS#951165; PLS#21379)



THE JAMES PLACE on the brow with a breath-taking view of the valley below, mountains beyond and those fabulous sunsets! Over 185' brow frontage. House has 4BR/2.5BA, 2-car attached garage, hot tub on back deck, 1.46 acres of land, beautiful landscaping. Quaint stone columns and iron gated entry. Less than a mile from downtown Mentone. Residence, retreat or rental! Look around and you'll find this to be an incredibly reasonable price for this much land, this much frontage, this much house on the brow at Mentone! Priced at only \$275,000! (MLS#580676; PLS#21259)



ROOM TO GROW! 3BR/2BA, approx 1800 sq ft home. Elevation provides rolling mountain views; 5 acres land provides room for mini-farm. Home has full basement with recreation room & add'l areas. Many improvements. Detached garage. Pasture area. Room to grow your own veggies and have an animal or two. Additional acreage may be possible. \$100,000. (MLS#408619; PLS#21418)



DESOTO PARKWAY CABIN home. Low maintenance exterior, low upkeep, natural yard w/trees & beautiful boulders so you can spend your time enjoying the Mountain. Pine tongue & groove walls, hardwood floors. Full, mostly-finished walkout basement (great storm shelter!) with accessibility. Whole house alarm. PRICE REDUCTION with possible owner financing available. \$185,000. (MLS#959205; PLS#21161)



CLASSIC LAKESIDE HOME on deep water, Lake Lahusage. 3BR/2BA; cypress siding; maple flooring & cabinets w/Silestone(R) counters. Beautiful crown molding throughout. Solid interior doors, CH/A w/gas back-up heat & stone WB Fpl w/gas igniter. Open pit BBQ house; new aluminum dock. Fully-furnished w/few exceptions. Bring your groceries & enjoy waterfront living at Mentone. \$299,900. (MLS#631541; PLS#21267)



HOLY MOLEY! SPACIOUSNESS THAT IS POSITIVELY HEAVENLY! Circa 1870 church building divinely transformed into a split 2BR/2BA, 2500 sq ft home. Original heart pine floors & walls. Cabinetry made from original pews in K/DR area. The conversion from little country church to spacious one-of-a-kind home is almost miraculous! The price? Blessedly reasonable at only \$87,500. (MLS#313842; PLS#19569)



BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES NOVEMBER

Birthdays

1 - Sonny Gilbreath
5 - Andy Akes, LillieBelle Gentry
6 - Cathy Howard
8 - Debbie Guffey, Gene Cleckler
9 - Richard Green, Carol Hazell,
Kyle Dersham, Laura McKenzie
10 - Toby Manifold
11 - Shelly Sutton, Mike Houghland,
Angela McKenzie, Robert Crumley
12 - Ovie Black, Mark Gibson,
David Lusk
13 - Kimberly Langston Raley, Kelly
Anne McNutt, Lendall Chappell
14 - Brian (Bud) Jones
17 - Randy Green, Lorelei Lauro,
Leilani Dillenbeck, Wesley Griffith,
Stephanie Moore
21 - Yvonne Blalock
22 - Jamie Mayhew
23 - Henry Akes, Teresa Brown
24 - Pam Baggett, Max Cash,
Tammy Green, Sarah Bone
25 - Susan Hume
27 - Carrie Ruth Kirby, Wayne
Wootten, Leslie Blalock, Bill
Schwarz
28 - Janet Spahr
29 - Rod Hildreth, Carolyn Hendon

Anniversaries

5 - Margaret & Haywood Baker
9 - Mary Ellen & Bud Fielder
10 - Mark & Robin Hester
14 - Marris & LuJean Pierce
21 - John & Michele Kincer
24 - Paula & Jim Leftwich
26 - Butch & Elizabeth Wheatly
Jones
29 - Jimmy & Barbie Hester, David
& Dorothy Bridges



MENTONE VETERANS DAY PROGRAM

November 11, 2011,
11:00 a.m.

Join us at the Veteran's Marker at the flagpole in Mason Park, beside Mentone Town Hall, for a program honoring our veterans with music, comments and placing of a wreath on the marker. Refreshments in the Mason Park Gazebo (or inside town hall if weather is bad) at the end of the program.

Everyone is invited to attend and help us honor our Veterans.



Happy
Thanksgiving

NOVEMBER COMMUNITY CALENDAR

MAPA MEETINGS are every 1st Tuesday of the month, 6:30 p.m. at the MERF house located behind Moon Lake Public Library. MAPA is working to preserve the history of Mentone and to have an impact on its future. Join MAPA today! Yearly membership is only \$10.00 (\$15.00 for couples)

MOONLAKE PTO is conducting its annual membership drive. Parents, grandparents, guardians of Moon Lake Elementary School students are encouraged to be a part of this active and effective organization. For more information, contact PTO President Pam Thomas or any Moon Lake teacher, (email thomas1821@bellsouth.net)

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, custom-order Christmas wreaths & décor; Jellies, jams, preserves, local honey. Pre-order holiday baked goods and more! Buy fresh, buy local! It's good for all of us!

FORT PAYNE DEPOT MUSEUM is open Mon, Wed, Fri & Sun. 5th Street & Gault Ave N, across from Union Park. Railroad memorabilia, dioramas handcrafted in 1913, Native American artifacts, local history & more. Landmarks Historical Society publications available for purchase. For more info (256) 845-5714.

2011 NATIONAL GOSPEL SINGING CONVENTION first time in DeKalb County! Convention will be held November 18-19 at Broadway Baptist Church in Rainsville AL. For more info (256)657-3474.

NACC THEATRE PRESENTS: "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee". Performances Nov. 11-13 & 18-20. For performance schedule, tickets or additional information, call (256) 638-4418.

HISTORIC COLLINSVILLE TURKEY TROT, November 12, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 pm. Food, fun, games, antique car & tractor show, turkey shoot, cake walk, and historic "turkey toss" from the roof of a building. Something for all ages! (256)524-2788

GUN & KNIFE SHOW Nov 12 & 13. DeKalb County VFW Fairgrounds in Ft Payne. Admission \$5, children under 12 free with an adult. Free parking. More info (256)845-7140.

TELLABRATION!! Storytelling in the Canyon. Nov. 19th, 3 pm to 5 pm. Join Alabama storytellers for this fun event which includes participatory activities that support the stories. Little River Canyon Center. Free to the public. (256)782-5697

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE WEEKEND Nov 18. 11 a.m. till noon. Little River Canyon Center. Growin' Up Wild for Preschool Children: Native American Stories. Join Canyon Center staff and volunteers for fun nature and art programs for preschool age children. No fee. Pre-registration encouraged. 256-782-5697

NATIVE AMERICAN POTTERY WORKSHOP Saturday, Nov 19. 10 a.m.-noon. Little River Canyon Center. Join local potter, Tammy Beane, to learn how pottery was made on Lookout Mountain thousands of years ago. We'll provide the clay as well as bone needles and paddles to make designs on your pots. \$20 adults/\$15 children. Pre-registration and more info 256-782-5697

NATIVE AMERICAN TOOLS & WEAPONS Sat, Nov 19, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Join National Park Service archaeologist Larry Beane for a demonstration of how Native Americans utilized natural resources to hunt and gather food, to make weapons, to start fires, and more! Demonstrations throughout the day. Free! 256-782-5697

MOONLAKE PTO CHRISTMAS PROGRAM featuring entire student body. Dec. 13th. 6 p.m.

11th ANNUAL "SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS" Community Nativity Pageant. Dec 2 & 3, Tom Beville Lyceum on the campus of NACC. For event information or to be a part of the pageant cast, contact Christina Wise (256)273-4467

NORTH ALABAMA COIN CLUB, Meets Mondays at Mi Casita's in Fort Payne from 5 pm - 8 pm (256) 630-3201. Visitors always welcome.

MENTONE KNITTING GROUP is being formed. Call Beth Holt for more information (256) 390-9780

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

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 Burrell.

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 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 - 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. 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 Stames, 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 35964. 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.

St. Joseph's Church Continues Registration for Food Bank

St. Joseph's Episcopal Church will continue to interview and register people who are eligible for Food Bank services at the church on Tuesdays and Thursdays this month, from 9AM till 12noon. If interested to learn about your eligibility please bring a photo ID, and eligibility papers for SSI, Food Stamps, or financial assistance from the Dept. of Family Resources. If eligible you can receive food the same day you are registered. Food will also be available to those already registered and found eligible, during the same hours.



Intercessory Prayer

And whatever things you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive.

New K.J.V. Matthew 21:22

God answers prayer and praying for others is very important in our daily lives. Intercessory prayer is effective and powerful, and God responds when someone takes the time to pray for another individual. Praying for others does not have to be long or time consuming. If an emergency vehicle goes by, a quick "Heavenly Father, please help whoever needs assistance from this emergency call, I ask this in the name of Jesus". Quite often we may want to do something for someone, but we don't know what to do. We can always pray for them. Praying is a wonderful and amazing activity. It has been around for thousands of years, and God is always there waiting and listening for us. Quite often you may hear of a group of people or a church group praying for someone; this is a wonderful communal activity that benefits both the person receiving and the person asking for our Lord's blessing.

MOUNTAIN LORE — Red Haws

By Charlotte Gentry

When the weather starts to turn cold, as it is now, I start searching for red haws. I remember my daddy picking one of the mottled, scarlet fruits and handing it to me to try when I was a little girl. He told me to just nibble around the outer edges and not to try and eat the whole thing. I was rewarded with a sweet, almost apple-like taste and texture. I've been a red haw eater ever since.

If you aren't familiar with the red haw, perhaps you've heard of the hawthorn bush (*Crataegus erythrocarpa*) and you may have been pricked by the thorns on the bush while out walking in the woods. The bushes seldom get over 6 feet tall, and are usually considered "scrub" in the wild. ("Civilized" varieties are also cultivated and used for ornamental yard plantings. These achieve a more uniform, bushy shape than their wild cousins and yield lots of fruit.)

The fruit is a pome, sort of an elongated "apple" shape and texture, usually about an inch long, with a central seed. The flesh of the wild fruit isn't very thick, so each "berry" yields only a few nibbles to eat.

This year, during my ramblings, I've located several of the bushes but have been disappointed to find no fruits so far. Wild red haws are sometimes hard to see at casual glance because they tend to be red with greenish and blackish markings (a fungus nature provides as a camouflage that blends perfectly with the autumn colors.)

However, the birds and beasts seem to have no trouble locating these nutritious dainties, which may explain why I've not found any of them. Or, it could be that this is just not a good year for red haws. As with many wild fruits, some years are better than others.

All parts of the hawthorn are useful and even the leaves make a good salad if they are picked early enough in the spring while they're still tender. Some say that the hawthorn makes the best walking stick you'll ever want (after the thorns are removed, of course!).

Hawthorn branches have been utilized throughout history by many cultures for religious and ritualistic purposes. The ancient Greeks viewed the hawthorn as a symbol of hope and it was carried in wedding processions. Celtic lore tells us the plant was used for rune inscriptions and it was said to heal the broken heart. Gaelic folklore holds that hawthorn bushes "mark the entrance to the otherworld" and strongly associates the plant



with fairies.

In strong contrast, Serbian and Croatian folklore held that hawthorn was particularly deadly to vampires and, if you were bothered by the pesky things, you must employ a stake made of hawthorn wood to slay them!

Traditional mountain medicine recommends the "haws" be used as a digestive aid, as a mild sedative and to strengthen the heart. The fruits are collected, dried, and made into a tea or ground into a powder and ingested. (There are clinical studies which now show the hawthorn may actually be beneficial in the treatment of chronic heart failure.)

By far, though, the best way to enjoy a red haw, is to nibble around the hard central seed, just as my daddy showed me years ago. I'm not sure about the actual medicinal qualities, but it does my heart good to find them and eat them. Unfortunately, it looks like I may have to wait until next year for another dose of "heart medicine."

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GET BACK TO NATURE! 3 ACRES NOW AVAILABLE between Desoto State Park and Mentone. Secluded, scenic area where spectacular log homes and rustic cabins are tucked back into the woods. 3 acres surveyed out of larger tract. Public water at road. MORE ACREAGE AVAILABLE! \$34,900.



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IN REMEMBRANCE: JAMES H. JOHNSON

(photo and article submitted by James H. Johnson Family)

James H. Johnson, age 90, of Mentone, Alabama, passed away on October 18, 2011, after a brief stay at Shepard's Cove Hospice of Marshall County following an extended time at Collinsville Health Care Center. Funeral services were held on October 21, 2011, at Mentone Community Church with the burial following at Bank Head Cemetery.

Mr. Johnson is survived by his daughter, Betty Sue Rickman, and son-in-law, Dr. Claude M. Rickman, of Clemson, South Carolina; son, Fred Johnson, and daughter-in-law, Susan Johnson, of Rainsville, Alabama; grandchildren: Stephanie Rickman Salsman and husband, Dr. John Salsman of Evanston, Illinois; Phillip Johnson and wife, Page, of Cleveland, Tennessee; Paige and Peyton Johnson of Rainsville, Alabama; and two great-grandchildren, Will and Ellie Salsman of Evanston, Illinois.

In addition to his parents, Rev. H.A. and Effie Johnson, he was preceded in death by his wife, Betty Joe Jones Johnson, and two sisters, Florice Joiner and Bernice Johnson, and a brother, Talmadge Johnson.

Born in Mentone, Alabama, on September 3, 1921, he was the youngest child of Rev. Henry Austin and Effie (Albright) Johnson. He attended Valley Head High School, Wesleyan Methodist Academy/College (now Southern Wesleyan University) in Central, South Carolina, and graduated from Winder High School in Georgia. He was drafted to serve in Gen. Patton's 3rd U.S. Army and assigned to the 80th Division. A member and Clerk of Company I, 317th Infantry Regiment, he attained the rank of Sergeant and was fully committed to combat during his service career until the end of the war at which time he was honorably discharged.

Upon his return from the war, James married his childhood sweetheart Betty Joe Jones in 1946 and celebrated 62 years of marriage. He was a devoted husband and provider, loving father, doting grandparent, dedicated and esteemed churchman, respected tax accountant, successful telephone executive, and an active citizen and member of the community.

James was employed for 30 years at Farmers Telephone Cooperative in Rainsville, Alabama, one of the largest telephone cooperatives in the nation. He served as General Manager for 10 years until his retirement, serving also as officer of regional telephone organizations during his tenure as manager. Recognizing his outstanding contributions to rural telephony and service to the state, the Governor, the Senate and the House of the State of Alabama honored him in joint session in 1985 with a citation and legislative luncheon. Possessing a boundless capacity for work and an impeccable work ethic, he also maintained a private accounting practice and was a beloved and highly-valued advisor who provided far more than accounting expertise to his loyal clients for over 50 years.

James was a devout Christian and as a young man, he began using his abilities to serve the church and community. A long-time member of the Mentone Community Church (formerly Mentone Wesleyan) where his father pastored three different times during his ministry, James served in many leadership roles, including church treasurer for 52 years, Church Board of Administration 56 years, and teacher of the Fellowship Sunday School Class for 20 years. On a church denominational level, he received awards for his service as District Treasurer and member of the District Board of Administration for the Alabama and Delta District of the Wesleyan Church for 40 years. He was elected as a district delegate to eight Quadrennial General Conferences of the Wesleyan Church International. Also dedicated to Christian Higher Education, he was elected and served as a Member of the Board of Trustees for 28 years (and was subsequently awarded trustee-

emeritus status) for Southern Wesleyan University, a denominational university located in Central, South Carolina, where he was also recognized as an Outstanding Alumnus of the Year and awarded a Presidential Citation.

A respected community member, he was elected and served on the Mentone Town Council, was elected AARP Man of the Year, and was a popular inspirational speaker for churches, clubs, and men's breakfasts, always provoking thought and motivating positive action amid laughter with an unparalleled ability to mesmerize an audience with his keen Southern wit.

Though a man of many talents, accomplishments, and awards, it is not honors that best describe James Johnson. It is the quality of his Christian example, his person, his deep love and commitment to his family, his drive for excellence, and his unquestionable integrity. A kind and true Southern gentleman with a genteel spirit combined with great strength, he was a man of deep faith and servant-heart with an all-encompassing commitment to honor God, family, and others before self. Truly, James lived out his life verse consistently from Micah 6:8 "...What does the Lord require of you but to do justly, love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God..."

Memorials may be made to Southern Wesleyan University for the Johnson/Rickman Scholarship Fund at Southern Wesleyan University at PO Box 1020, Central, SC 29630 for students needing financial assistance; Mentone Community Church Scholarship Fund at 90 Summerville Road, Mentone, AL 35984; Hospice of Marshall County at 408 Martling Road, Albertville, AL 35951 to enable others to also receive loving, quality care at the end of life. It is hoped that this lasting legacy will commemorate his life-time commitment to use his God-given abilities to serve others and will encourage aspiring young business leaders to follow his example.

The family is deeply grateful for the many expressions of love and support received from friends and family during this time of deep loss and celebration of a wonderful man's life and home going. May all of his friends be reminded of the important truth found in the following verse:

"A Christian Legacy"

*A Christian legacy means more than looking back
and remembering the blessings of our loved one's life;
it also means looking ahead and recognizing that our loved one
has gone before us and
given us a pathway of faith to follow!*



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BOBWHITE QUAIL

November 12 - February 29
12 a day - 12 in possession

RABBIT

October 1 - February 29
8 a day - 8 in possession
No running of dogs during daytime or after 3:00 a.m. during and in areas of spring turkey season.

SQUIRREL

October 1 - February 29
8 a day - 8 in possession

RACCOON

September 1 - February 29
Private Owned and Leased Lands: 5 per person
Open Permit-Public Land: 5 Per Party
No running of dogs during daytime or after 3:00 a.m. during and in areas of spring turkey season.

OPOSSUM

September 1 - February 29
No Bag Limit
No running of dogs during daytime or after 3:00 a.m. during and in areas of spring turkey season.

SNIPES

November 14 - February 28
8 a day - 16 in possession
Shooting Hours: One-half hour before Sunrise to Sunset.

DEER

County	Antlered Bucks		Unantlered Deer		Antlered Bucks And Unantlered Deer	
	By Stalk or Dog Hunting	Stalk Hunting Only No Dogs	Privately Owned or Leased Land Only	Open Permit-Public Land	Special Muzzleloader Privately Owned or Leased Land and National Forest Service Land Stalk Hunting Only (No Dogs)	Bow and Arrow and Spear Stalk Hunting Only (No Dogs)
Cherokee	No Dog Season	Nov. 19-Jan. 31	Nov. 19-Jan. 31	Dec. 17-Jan. 1	Nov. 14-Nov. 18	Oct. 15-Jan. 31
DeKalb	No Dog Season	Nov. 19-Jan. 31	Nov. 19-Jan. 31	Dec. 17-Jan. 1	Nov. 14-Nov. 18	Oct. 15-Jan. 31

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT THE ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT 2 OFFICE

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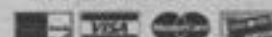


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WILD RIVER COMMUNITY - 1.6 acres on the east fork Little River 235 ft of pools and rapids. Bluff views. Large Rocks in water. Very Scenic, and private \$69,000 (21382)	WHIPPOORWILL FARM , 49 acres on the East Fork Little River, 2800 ft on the water 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. \$349,000 (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. REDUCED \$129,000 (20799)	40 ACRES LOCATED NEAR MENTONE , Stillhouse Branch runs through the middle of tract. Mtn Laurel line the banks of the creek with 2 waterfalls. Large rock formations along the hiking trails. What a wonderful sanctuary this would make for development or private estate. \$190,000 (18760)	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 room 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)	MUCH SOUGHT AFTER West Fork deep water. 1 mile upstream from Desoto Falls. Build your dock and gazebo and bring your boat or canoe to cruise on the river. Great recreational lot. \$30,000 (19164)	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/1bt with 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)	HENAGAR - 4.75 ACRES on Hwy 40. Septic, water, two electric meters, all in place. SOLD \$32,000 (21327)
					
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. 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 \$27,000. (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. \$105,000

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)

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)

ABUNDANT WILDLIFE! 114 acres of woods and clear cut land. This property is perfect for a home or agricultural use. Priced at only \$2300 per acre. (21089)

REAL, HOMEMADE GOODNESS

By Loree Brownfield

When Roger and Loree Brownfield moved to Mentone in September of 2010, they brought with them a love for preparing and sharing foods from all over the world.

Roger has a long-held passion for baking and food preparation of all sorts. Part of this love for creating good food stems from his family having owned a very successful deli in Terre Haute, Indiana, called Sycamore's, for many years. But first Roger decided to serve his country in the US Army.

Roger's Army career revolved around aircraft and aircraft maintenance. The first few years he spent flying in MedEvac units at Fort Benning, Georgia. Later, he went to Panama, where he served as a mechanic and maintenance supervisor. Then he was stationed at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, as a crew chief, co-pilot and mechanic. After five years in Missouri, he moved with his family to Germany where Roger served as a Battalion Retention NCO.

Upon returning to the USA, after three years overseas, Roger completed his 20 years of service as an Aircraft Maintenance Instructor at Fort Rucker, Alabama. He retired from the Army and moved his family to Michigan, where he utilized his military benefits and attended Lake

Michigan College. He received his Degree in Applied Science.

Roger and Loree returned to Alabama and settled in Enterprise. It was there he began fulfilling his dream of entering the hospitality and food service industry. Roger began making and selling his hummus and his pickled beets to a local health food store. Soon afterward, Roger and Loree decided to move again. This time it was to Mentone.

Roger seems to have a special knack for baking. So, when he and Loree finally got their feet planted in Mentone, they started their catering/baking business: Roger's Real Homemade International Delights.

Now Roger and Loree are regulars at the Mentone Farmers Market on Wednesdays and Saturdays where they offer all kinds of bread including Indian Fry Bread, Jewish Challah, an egg and honey bread, Bavarian Bretzel rolls (chewy good!). He also bakes a Kimmelweck roll (which originates in Germany) that is light and fluffy like brotchen or a Kaiser roll. Roger even bakes challenging breads such as Brioche!

In addition to his baked items, Roger also provides various flavors of Hummus made from scratch with all-natural, organic ingredients. (He has developed over 14 flavors of Hummus!)

Constantly looking for new tastes and ideas, Roger is developing all kinds of original uses for his basic bread recipes, such as 3 cheese rolls, Kimmelweck pizza rounds, Challah cinnamon rolls with orange icing, or his jelly challahs, which are delectable. He also makes polish donuts called Paczkis (pronounced "ponchkees") that are filled with different preserves, many of which he obtains from the Mentone Farmer's Market.

Take time to visit the Farmer's Market on a Wednesday or a Saturday and you may find some of Roger's baked delights such as savory falaphels, kugals and empanadas. Keep an eye out for his new sweet potato pecan pies, sweet potato cheese cake, and sweet potato breads. Roger can also fill special orders for hummus, breads, pies, and cakes. And you can always be sure it's "Roger's Real Homemade!"



(Loree Brownfield is a singer/songwriter, voice teacher and freelance writer. For more information on Roger's Real Homemade, you can visit www.rogersrealhomemade.com)

RETIRING FROM MOON LAKE

A retirement celebration honoring long-time and beloved Moon Lake Elementary School staff members Brynda Hopper and Martha McCurdy is planned for Friday, November 18th, from 3:30 till 4:30 in the school cafeteria. Past faculty, staff and students are invited to come celebrate with us as we sadly say farewell to these wonderful women and happily wish them all the best in the coming years.

For more information or to help with the celebration, call (256)451-8671 or (256)657-6964.



Brynda Hopper



Martha McCurdy

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By Dixie Wilson

Hello! I am the owner of Dixie's Jewelry and Rock Shop in the Mentone Area. I'm not a geologist, gemologist, or an expert of any sort. But, I LOVE GOD'S ROCKS!

I make jewelry and other items with semi-precious stones and will enjoy sharing my knowledge with you.

A few points:

- God does great work! I do not want to mess it up—no dyes, no glass, etc.
- Often I will cut a rock and thank Him for allowing me to see this beauty.

- I use wire wrap to accent and hold the stones. Sterling silver and 14K GF are the wires I use.

The stones are lasting and the wire should be also. You will have original, lasting jewelry suitable for future generations.

There are countless types of stones and minerals. I usually use agates, jaspers, quartz, etc. Each month I will try to describe a stone for you.

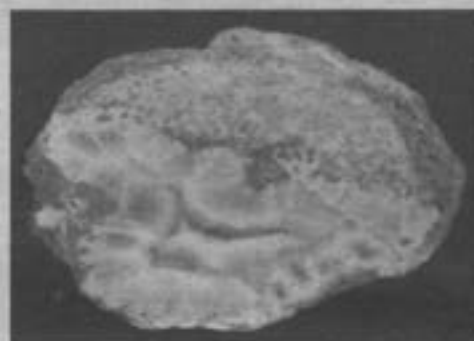
This month, I chose Larimar. It is only found in the southwestern region of the Dominican Republic. It is a simply gorgeous blue stone! Stones are colored by the chemicals and minerals in them. Copper often makes a stone blue or green. The color of Larimar is an exotic aqua-to-baby-blue with some white. The hardness of this stone seems to range between 6 and 7, which is good for most jewelry. Larimar is much in demand today and in very limited supply.

Remember, the MOHS scale

represents hardness of stone on a scale of 1-10, diamonds being 10. Most agates and jaspers are listed at about 5-7. Stones under 5 are prone to breakage and will seldom come through the rigors of cabbaging without breaking.

As we progress, I will incorporate a few technical terms which may interest you, but this is to be a fun column, not a textbook. If you have specific questions, I shall try to answer them and may include them in the column.

You may send the questions via email to jerrywilson@centurylink.net. Caution: rocks can be addictive!



Larimar is a semi-precious stone regarded for its distinctive coloration that admirers refer to as deep volcanic blue. Larimar is so rare it can only be found in one place in the whole world: The Dominican Republic. It has been called the Caribbean Gemstone.

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Scenes from Colorfest 2011



Colorfest photos courtesy of Hank Van Apeldoorn, Doreen Waters Crow, Cynthia Stinson and Charlotte Gentry.

Moon Lake School — First 9 Weeks

Honor Roll

1st Grade all A's:

Kendra Burgess
Nicholas Ferguson
Kyra Hamilton
Emma Harrison
Daniel Hawkins
Harley Helton
Kaden Johnson
Reagan Owen
Tyler Perrydore
Cody Smith
Ethan Smith

1st Grade all A's and B's:

Kaley Beason
Austyn Young

2nd Grade all A's:

Pacey Cooper
Reagan Gatewood
Lane Ingram
Zeb Kincer
Zachary Wallace

2nd Grade all A's and B's:

Dawson Bone
Brandon Collins

Cameron Collins
Cheyene Elrod
Makenna Purvis
Ian Thomas

3rd Grade all A's:

Hannah Gorham

3rd Grade all A's and B's:

Laden Crow
Riley Owen
Gibson Roberts
Matthew White

4th Grade all A's:

Randy Cook
Tanner Gatewood

4th Grade all A's and B's:

Laura Boehringer
Rachel Collins
Madisen Smith
Jordan Henderson
Bransen Huffstutler
Kallie Ingram
Ethan Perrydore

Ian Roberts
Ally Smith

5th Grade All A's: None

5th Grade all A's and B's:

Kandis Lawton
Jordan Sutton
Ashelyn Watson
Kori Willingham
Kaylee Cartwright

6th Grade all A's:

Breanna Blalock
Kyle Miller

6th Grade all A's and B's:

Caitlyn Collins
Hannah Durham
Kylie Hamilton
Haley Neal

PERFECT ATTENDANCE

Kindergarten:

Joeann Hamilton

1st Grade:

Nicholas Ferguson
Kyra Hamilton

2nd Grade:

Dawson Bone
Reagan Gatewood
Cloe Gold
Zeb Kincer

3rd Grade:

Luke Harrison

4th Grade:

Tanner Gatewood

5th Grade: None

6th Grade:

Kattie Bain
Caroline Baty
Bennett Crow
Courtney Meadows
Kyle Miller

Good Job!



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mark.mitchell.b2g1@statefarm.com

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THANKS TO VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS!

The Town of Mentone and Larry and Susan Hooks of Camp Riverview recently hosted the Volunteer Firefighter Appreciation Dinner at Riverview. Members of the North Lookout Mountain Volunteer Fire Department and their families were treated to a sumptuous Low Country Boil and Steak dinner, complete with delicious homemade desserts and all the trimmings. A check was also given to the fire department by the Town of Mentone.



Community Nativity Pageant Practice Underway

As incredible as it seems, the Christmas season is rapidly approaching. With all the hectic days ahead that generally crowd into the holidays, folks sometimes have a hard time getting into the spirit of Christmas.

How about becoming a part of The Spirit of Christmas Nativity Pageant and bring to life once again this timeless story, told in words, songs and acted out by community volunteers each year for the past 12 years, under the direction of Christina Wise.

Practices are each Tuesday at 6:00 p.m. at the Willis Valley Community Church. The performances will be at Northeast Alabama Community College Tom Bevill Lyceum, December 2nd and 3rd.

Aside from Mrs. Wise's narration, there are no speaking roles, so there are no lines to memorize. Volunteers may participate either as a character in the pageant itself, or as a member of the parade of nations who dress in native costumes of different countries across the world and carry a candle to symbolize the light of the Christ child throughout the world.

Young or old, male or female, there's a part for you in the Spirit of Christmas play. For more information, call Christina Wise at 256-273-4467 Or come to a Tuesday night rehearsal and get into the spirit of Christmas!



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NO INDOOR PLUMBING (BLESSED ARE THE POOR)

By: Doug Kiker

There is a lot to be said of indoor plumbing,
I've even heard in that certain place a bit of humming.
Those in the "know" say I'm not funning.
Way back "when,"
I guess I was eight or ten,
I saw a picture of plumbing within.
Mother liked it so much she cut the picture right out of the catalog.
She put it in a frame on the wall.
No, I'm not lying – not a'tall.
It was right beside the one of Jesus knocking on the door.
It might have been her way of saying "Blessed are the poor."
Now, as you know,
when we had to go –
It wasn't just the next door –
but that little hut
Way out back.
And when you REALLY have to go
it's a LONG way to that little shack!
What I never did understand
My daddy, he was a strange man –
We always had a "two-holer"
Like he might have been expecting company,
Or perhaps in his day,
people were bolder.
Or maybe he was anticipating
a long line and wanted to cut down on the waiting.
WHATEVER, the reason – On this I'm still debating.



(Doug Kiker is a writer of poetry and reciter of poetry. He and wife Kay reside in Mentone.)

WINNER OF HANDMADE QUILT, raffled off by MAPA during Colorfest, was Gary Holder, of Fort Payne. Gary, who works at GameTime, had purchased 20 tickets and was very pleased to be the winner. MAPA thanks everyone who purchased tickets and also thanks Mrs. Clara Bridgeman, who pieced and hand-embroidered the quilt. Shown with Gary is Wilma Fletcher, Mentone Town Clerk.



Outdoor Alabama Sweepstakes Offers Four-wheeler and More

A four-wheeler and a jon boat package are two of the prizes to be awarded in the Outdoor Alabama Sweepstakes, which runs through January 31, 2012. You are automatically entered when you purchase a 2011-2012 recreational hunting or fishing license online. You may also enter without purchasing a license. Only one entry per person is allowed, and it must be completed online.

For more details, go to outdooralabama.com.



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Thoughts of Thanksgiving

By Carrie Elizabeth Gentry

Now that the leaves have turned and the weather has become that gentle respite between summer and winter, I find my mind inclining toward Thanksgiving. Food, music, and family, three of my favorite things, are the embodiment of the holiday. More than that, though, my heart comes alive with the action of giving thanks. Really, the whole fall season is a time for gratitude and generosity.

When I was a little girl, eating was mostly a chore to me. I spent hours at the table, endeavoring to finagle my way out of eating that mound of mashed potatoes or that most daunting bowl of oatmeal. As I got older, however, eating became a rich comfortable pleasure. Not only do I enjoy food infinitely more, but now I can cook and share it with those I love. And some of the best foods to share are those typical of the Thanksgiving table. Plates full of turkey, casseroles of all sorts, pumpkin pie and other family favorites imbue guests and homebodies alike with a delicious drowsiness, a lavish languor which bathes the atmosphere in blissful contentment. It feels as though the entire day may be a celebration of the blessing of food and taste.

However, in my family, no gathering would be complete without music. Whether it's of high quality is neither here nor there; we simply love to share the singular bond that making music together gives. Dad and the boys bring out the guitars and sing in the dining room and living room, Mom and the ladies harmonize in the kitchen, and the younger generations drift throughout, furtively stealing prize morsels and nibbling out of sight. Before the day, I content myself with the warm luxurious tones of James Taylor, John Denver, and Gordon Lightfoot while I prepare for the company and the feast. The air itself is stirring with the brushing of leaves (susurrus—look it up!) and the whirring of

insects singing their adieus.

Important though they are, neither the food nor the music would mean much without family and close friends. This is especially true of people we don't often see. For a couple of days a year, we get to be together and catch up on life or just quietly enjoy one another's company.

Granted, "quiet" is not an apt word for my family in general, but there are those rare and precious pauses in the chaos which I like to savor. When the day is over, we snack on leftovers, pull out the Scrabble board, and make plenty of coffee so we can cheat well into the night. That's the real family time. After all the hubbub of the meal, we become more ourselves and can relax in the comfort of sated appetites, caffeine, invented rules, and the people who naturally understand it all.

Thanksgiving is a singular holiday, in that the only gifts given or expected are those of kindness, generosity, and companionship. Even disregarding its fable-like origins, it's as though God Himself sends us natural signals each year at this time to be homey, liberal, indulgent, brimming with simple and profound joy. The leaves, even those of humble undergrowth, rather than abruptly dropping dead from their perches save their energy all year to finally smolder into rich and varied hues that arrest and envelope the senses. The air, rather than turning abruptly biting and cold, slowly mellows into the pleasant breezes and gusts that invite us out into the woods and back in, perhaps to a little fire or a favorite blanket. And the culmination of all this is that one day, or several days really, in which we ourselves glow with graciousness, warmly inviting those we love to share our

homes, tables, and hearts. Happy Thanksgiving, everyone. I hope you all have as much as I for which to be thankful. God bless you!

(Editor's note: I give thanks daily for the love and assistance of my youngest daughter Elizabeth. She is a blessing to all who know her.)



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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 heirloom landscaping. A must see for \$799,000. (21010)



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



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. (20961)



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. \$179,900 (21496)



INCREDIBLE BROW HOME offers three levels to enjoy the gorgeous view. Kitchen has b-fast bar and stainless appliances. MBR has private deck, fireplace and wood walls and ceilings. Outside enjoy the stacked rock FP/bog grill, patio and decks. Come see this unbelievable home today! \$569,000 (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. \$349,900 (21142)



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



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/Beds&Bath. \$386,000 (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)



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



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



THIS IS IT! Custom 3BR/2.5BA cedar sided home on 1 acre in Mentone. Great room with FP, kitchen/dining combo, above-ground pool with decking, BONUS room, laundry/mud room, double garage, and lots more. \$219,000 (20051)



SURROUNDED BY DESOTO STATE PARK! This cedar-sided home is perfect for a week-end get-away or full-time residence. 3BR/2BA, living room with HW flooring, vaulted ceiling, skylights and rock fireplace. Great location - Great price! \$128,500 (21424)



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)



LAKE ON THE BROW PROPERTY WITH BEAUTIFUL VIEWS! Brick home sited on 1.05 acres. Greatroom, kitchen/dining combo, 3BR/2.5BA, radiant floor heating in the master bath, and three-season porch. \$299,900 (21222)



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. \$329,900. (18235)



FEELS SO RIGHT! 3BR/2BA Cabin offering spacious floor plan, attic storage, soaring ceilings. Main-level master, stainless steel appliances, Laundry room, and covered porch. REDUCED \$159,000 (21114)



LET RELAXATION BECOME A HABIT in this log and frame home. Main floor master with walk-in closet and screened porch. Located on 2 acres with private screened porch. Sitting on 2 brow lots. \$399,000 (21255)



CUSTOM BUILT, 2 BR/2BA Log Cabin situated on shaded, wooded acres. Two stone fireplaces, luxurious loft, 3 season sleeping porch, detached storage, additional small cabin, lily pond, kitchen with 5 Star six burner gas range... Ambiance/quality/privacy/dramatic flair. REDUCED \$289,500 (20272)



CAPTIVATING SETTING with the ultimate traditional charm! Enjoy the comforts of this restored and distinctive farmhouse sited on 58 acres. Formal dining, formal living, den with wood burning fireplace, large kitchen with breakfast area, 4BR/2.5BA. The list of amenities is long... \$589,000 (21233)



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

START YOUR NEW HOME HERE IN MENTONE, ALABAMA! The possibilities are endless as you explore these 3 acres. The entire rear of the property rests on Little River, adding to the features of the land. Come see all that Mentone has to offer as you plan to build

your getaway! \$64,900 each (20577/20578)

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

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



Each month we'll be featuring 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, mail it to The Groundhog, PO Box 387, Mentone, AL 35984, or drop it by the Mentone Realty office. 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.

This very simple, three-ingredient recipe was given to me many years ago by my oldest sister Margaret (who is now deceased). She gave it to me as Italian Beef and I still make it with beef most of the time. One year, though, we had a lot of venison given to us and my kids balked at eating deer meat. I decided to try the recipe using venison in place of the beef and we all agreed it tasted even better! Now that deer season is open, maybe you'll be fortunate enough to know someone (or be that someone) who has plenty of venison and wants a delicious, easy way to prepare it. You can use any cut of meat (even stew meat), but a roast works best. This is a great way to feed a crowd, too. Just get several crock pots, put the meat on to cook in the morning and enjoy Italian Venison (or beef) sandwiches while watching the game! (It can be made ahead and frozen, too!) —C

ITALIAN VENISON (OR BEEF)

1 venison roast (or beef chuck roast) large enough to fill bottom of crock pot

1pkg dry Good Seasons Italian Dressing mix

1pkg dry brown gravy mix

Place roast in crock pot. Sprinkle dry mixes over the meat. Don't add any water. Put on the lid, turn crock pot on lowest setting and forget about it for 6 or 8 hours (or overnight). Using two forks, shred meat apart and stir it up with the "gravy" that is in the pot. If the meat is too dry, you can add a little warm water to it. Put the lid back on and simmer for another hour...if you can wait to eat it! Serve on hoagie buns with mild banana pepper rings.



READERS: Next month, we'll feature HOLIDAY RECIPES. We'd love to share your tried-and-true family favorites! Submit your recipes before November 20th to Editorgroundhog@yahoo.com or mail them to PO Box 387, Mentone, AL 35984.

DID YOU KNOW?

Thanksgiving or Thanksgiving Day, celebrated on the fourth Thursday in November, has officially been an annual tradition in the United States since 1863, when during the Civil War, President Abraham Lincoln proclaimed a national day of thanksgiving to be celebrated on Thursday, November 26.

Each year since 1947, the National Turkey Federation and the Poultry and Egg National Board have given a turkey to the President of the United States at a White House ceremony. Since then, presidents have been more likely to eat the turkey rather than give it a reprieve. A notable exception occurred in 1963, when President Kennedy, referring to the turkey given to him, said, "Let's just keep him." It wasn't until the first Thanksgiving of President George H.W. Bush, in 1989, that a turkey was officially pardoned for the first time.

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Mentone Wedding Chapel



Nestled in the woods atop Lookout Mountain, near Mentone, Alabama, this quaint little chapel is surrounded by ferns, flowers 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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LIBS FROM THE LIBRARY

By Linda Brown



We have two new board members! Liz Baker and Harriett Lillich are new members of the Board of Directors for Moon Lake Community Library. We welcome these members and are very glad to have them.

Jan Wilkinson convened the regular meeting on October 13, 2011. The order of business was conducted as usual. Once again, we have many irons in the fire. Harriett gave a report on a project she has introduced to the library. It is called Operation Paperback. The idea is for anyone who will to bring paperback books and place them in a special collection box in the library. These will

then be carried to Harriett's church where they will be shipped to military personnel. She reported that a shipment goes out on the first of each month and last month the collected books went to military persons on a ship.

Jan reported that the library had been cleaned by the members of the board for the Moon Lake Elementary School Centennial Celebration. This will take place on October 15, 2011 and the members will serve as greeters in the library. She reviewed the ongoing book sale in the library. It hasn't caught on big time yet, but we are not discouraged. Look for this shelf of books when you visit. You can pick out a book and pay Beverly one dollar for it. This is our way of trying to move some of the many books which we continue to collect. We have a "Bring One, Take One" shelf of paperbacks. This is very popular.

For several years, the members of the board have served a Senior Lunch at the MERF Community house. This year we have taken November 2nd for our time. We enjoy doing this as it is one of the few projects we have which does not involve books. Whoops! Yes, it does! Ann Chestnut, who is a member of the board, takes a crate of books each week and the seniors can check out books there. They bring them back when they are finished reading them and get more.

We have Beverly Ashley in place now as the librarian for Moon Lake Community Library. We do not have a grant to help with this. We ask you to help by becoming a FRIEND of the Library. You can do this by sending your name and address plus twenty dollars to the address below. We are starting a search for the possibility of finding a grant to help with this. If you know of some entity which offers grants to libraries, write us or tell a member of the board.

In order to stay open, we have cut the hours. This does not seem to be hurting the use of the library. Please help us continue to offer this service to the community. We need to realize how fortunate we are to have a library this size and continue to work together to make it better. Let us know any ideas you might have for grants, programs, projects or improvements which might help.

The next meeting of the members of the Board of Directors of the Moon Lake Community Library will be Thursday, November 17, 2011 at 3 p.m. in the library. To be on the agenda, call Jan Wilkinson. Write to us at Moon Lake Community Library, PO Box 481, Mentone AL 35984

RHODODENDRON GARDEN CLUB NEWS

By Linda Brown, Secretary

Five members of the Rhododendron Garden Club and one visitor met on October 11, 2011 at the MERF Community House in Mentone, Alabama. The business meeting was chaired by Elaine Gauldin, vice president of the club. An important item of business was to approve a memorial to Ann Wright in Hortensia, the official publication of garden clubs in Alabama. Ann was a lifetime member of the state and national garden clubs and was a charter member of this club.

The program was presented by Mr. Lowell Tilley. He lives in Baton Rouge, Louisiana and comes this way quite often to visit with relatives and friends. He is proficient in preparing and maintaining plants to be an example of bonsai. Last year, Mr. Tilley prepared and presented a bonsai specimen to the club. None of the members were brave enough to take on the responsibility of caring for it, so he carried it back home with him. He brought the juniper specimen back this year.

Mr. Tilley had wired some branches of the juniper in place last year. The first thing he did was to carefully remove those wires. This freed the plant to show its newly-developed shape. He stated that he had the hobby of bonsai because he gets a satisfaction from watching the plants form the shape he has chosen for them. He stressed throughout his talk that the main goal for a bonsai plant is to force it to develop a large main stem. The whole idea is to make a very small, new plant look like a big, old tree in miniature. He stated that he leaves his bonsai outside all the time, but here in Mentone it might be necessary to bury the entire pot in dirt and mulch. This will protect the roots from freezing.

He gave directions for planting a bonsai specimen, stating that it is necessary to water often and fertilize with a weak mix during its growth. He proceeded to cut some of the branches out of the club plant. He then wired some of them into place again. He would wind a wire around the branch and then start to bend the wire until the branch was almost in a circle. One important thing is to keep each tier of branches so the sun can shine on them, otherwise they will die. This explains the cone shape of most trees.

Proof has been found that the Egyptians developed bonsai many years ago. The Chinese picked up the idea and carried it to Japan. The Japanese improved upon the technique and it is now an art which is popular all over the world. Mr. Tilley stated that it is important to develop your own style.

Susan Hume, a bonsai artist, agreed to come to the meeting to hear him and to take the plant on the condition that if something happened to it the club members would not hold her responsible. They readily agreed to these terms. Mr. Tilley seemed pleased that someone would take the plant which he had given to the club. The members asked Mr. Tilley if he would come back next year and do a program for us. He agreed to do this and promised to bring an entirely different type of plant to be developed into bonsai specimen. He concluded his program by saying, "A bonsai is always a work in progress."

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.



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Out & About - MENTONE AREA

Last First Friday Fish Fry



Halloween Dance - Moon Lake School



Diary of a Chicken Lady

Part-six
By Kristen Emory



I know you have been waiting with bated breath to know why I took one of my chickens to the veterinarian. Well, here we go. Are you ready for an amazing story?

Being in the store business you get to meet a lot of different people and sometimes meet them under strange or uncomfortable circumstances. About 7:30 one night a real nice, young, good-looking man pumped \$75.00 in diesel. He came in and, low and behold, no wallet. In an embarrassed panic, he quickly patted himself down and attempted to call his wife, with no luck. (He has Verizon phone service and we all know only AT&T works in Mentone.) At this point he starts giving the reason for not having his wallet: "I am a Veterinarian and I am in a different truck tonight. May I use your phone and call my wife?" For \$70.00, of course he can use my phone!

I look over at Tom - BINGO - a vet who owes me money! This is a situation I have never been in; he has to talk chickens with me. Specifically about my hen that I think has turned into a rooster. Charlie, the chick that ran through the aisles of Tractor Supply, has got aggressive and trying to crow. Yea I said it. My hen is trying to crow. Charlie has been at the center of many family discussions regarding gender. I say she is a hen, maybe only because I so badly do not want a rooster, and my mother says rooster because "that chicken is mean!"

Here is my chance to question a Vet for free and I am not going to let it slip away. My question: can you neuter a chicken? I don't want a rooster violating my hens in my backyard. Some of you may disagree or find this odd and that is okay. We are all entitled to our own opinions and desires when it comes to Chicken Farming.

Tom is looking at me and I can see it in his eyes, "Please Kristen, don't ask." I cannot help myself, "So Doc, can chickens be neutered? Can I make my new rooster be nice and not violate my sweet hens?" I had seen what

those roosters can do to hens on YouTube and let me say that is was definitely a violation. The answer, "Yes you can." Dr. X begins to explain that in chickens the process of changing a rooster is caponizing. My rooster will become a capon. There is hope for my poor hens!

When can I bring her, I mean him to you? Dr. X says tomorrow would be fine but he has to tell me something. "Now I have never done this procedure on a live chicken, only a dead one in Vet School. In fact, how attached are you to this chicken because I cannot guarantee that it will survive." At this point I am at my wit's end with Charlie because all she, I mean he, does is peck me, flog me, and try to crow. My family does not want a crowing rooster and neither does Evelyn Ruth, my neighbor.

The next morning we load Charlie up in a dog kennel, put her in the back of Tom's truck and head to Georgia. We pull in and I said, "Well, let's go in." Tom's response, "I think I'll just stay in the truck." I knew then that I had pushed my dear, sweet, supportive husband too far on this whole chicken adventure and he was just going to stay in the truck. Alone, Charlie and I walk up the front steps of the Vet's office. It is caponizing time.

The receptionist hands me the paper work to fill out.

dog ___ cat (I write in Chicken)
Breed- Cornish Rock
Color- White
Age - 6 months (I think)
Name-Charlie the Chicken
Reason for visit- neutering of chicken

I leave Charlie not knowing if I would ever see her/him again.

At exactly 2:00 pm, my cell phone starts to beep. I have a text message. It is from Dr. X and Charlie is still alive. He has sent a picture. Oh my heavens. I cannot believe what I am seeing. Charlie is in a kennel at the vet with an egg at his feet! Caption reads, "Your Rooster is a Hen!!" Oh my goodness, Charlie laid an egg! My first egg. My sweet baby chick has laid her first beautiful white egg. I mean him. What is the meaning of all this?!!

Back to Georgia to get my chicken. The office is all abuzz about the Rooster that laid an egg. Dr. X and two of his colleagues come out to talk to me. "Mrs. Emory, it seems that you are the proud owner of a Hermaphrodite Chicken. We put Charlie to sleep and began surgery only to discover eggs, lots of eggs.

Charlie is a hen on the inside and a rooster on the outside."

All I can think about is that I can't wait to tell this story. Charlie provides us with a whole other meaning of Chicken She-it. Nobody is going to believe me. I am the proud owner of a spectacular she/he chicken who lays the most beautiful white eggs.

Out of consideration for the veterinarian, he shall remain nameless. A veterinarian that can take a Rooster and have it laying eggs in a matter of hours would be overrun with chicken farmers.

With regard to the pecking and flogging, I took advice from local and more experienced chicken farmers. I softly smacked her on the head a few times and she has stopped. Charlie will live a long life in my backyard laying eggs and trying to crow.

After Charlie's visit to the vet she started laying an egg everyday and so did my other girls. I get three brown eggs and one white egg by 10:00 every morning.

I wish you all a Happy Thanksgiving and I am so glad I am not a turkey farmer!

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

I'M HERE

By Loree Brownfield

The wind is howling:
as leaves scurry about.
Gold, greens, reds, and browns,
tumble helplessly to the ground.
The sky is scowling a yellowish gray...the birds are warning,
"Winter...winter is on the way!"
A solemn silence utters
"Be still...winter is coming,
over the hills."
I ask for His shelter,
and He says, "I'm here.
No winter shall bother the
likes of you, dear."

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FARMERS MARKET NEWS

By Les Rivett

Beginning November 9th, the Mentone Farmers' Market starts its Wednesday evening winter hours of 2PM- 5PM. Saturday mornings will remain 10 AM – 1 PM through November. The market in the square at the Mentone Inn is Alabama's only year round, producer only market. How great it is to have a market in a community that supports it year round.

This month at the market you'll find the fall crops under way with many varieties of lettuces, spinach, kale and other greens, peas, broccoli, cabbages, kohlrabi, pak choy, herbs, dried peppers, sweet potatoes, gourds and more. Several growers use hoop houses to extend the season, so we expect to see fresh vegetables into the winter months.

More than just vegetables are available at the Mentone Farmers' Market this month:

Dry Creek Farm is taking orders for pasture raised chickens. Everyone who tried them last summer said how good the chicken was so the Dijkhuis' increased the number of chicks for the fall. She often has homemade baked goods and salsas from her produce. Eileen is also one of the no-chemical vegetable growers in regular attendance at the market.

Roger's Real Homemade has humus in several flavors and a variety of international baked goods. There's usually challah bread with many variations and sizes. Roger's always trying new things like cinnamon buns and hand held ready to eat pizza bread. He usually has samples available, so try it, you'll like it. Roger is a regular vendor at the market.

Jay's Garden Variety has homemade items from the kitchen this time of year. There are pies of several varieties, caramel corn, oatmeal cookies, caramels and other candies as the weather cools. Dried herb blends are part of their offering too. They are taking holiday orders now. Decorations from the farm include wreaths and baskets. Jay and Les are no-chemical vegetable growers in regular attendance at the market.

Silent Spring Farm has organic breads, brownies, granola, and focaccia. Sometimes Clay has small loaves of organic banana bread too. He makes natural scented soaps and lotions. Dried teas are often available and everything uses organic ingredients.

The Straw House Blueberry Farm has blueberry preserves and syrup from their blueberries. Dee also has local pear preserves. She's working on Kefir to have at the market. Come to the market and ask Dee about it and it's benefits.

June Cagle has several varieties of pickled produce like okra, beans and peppers. She also has fruit preserves. On Saturday morning, June usually has fried pies too, just like grandma used to make.

Flying Turtle Farm plans to be at the Wednesday markets with pasture raised beef and pork. John's beef and pork are grass fed and everyone who tries it comes back for more. He'll let you know the best way to prepare the cuts too. John is also a no-chemical vegetable grower.

This list is only some of the vendors at the market and some of the things they bring. New growers and artisans attend on a regular basis, so every market has something new to offer.

The information booth is set-up every market with flyers and handouts about supporting local farms and where to find them, gardening, recycling, and more. Harriet has the coffee hot and ready. As the weather cools there will be hot chocolate to sip around the fire. Donations are accepted to keep the hot drink fund rolling. All cups and cutlery are "green" and the market provides "green" bags for vendors to use.

Fall recipe-Roasting it a'

This is simple and works with any variety of fall vegetable. First, peel and dice the firm vegetables like Sweet potatoes, kohlrabi and squash and place on a cookie sheet. Toss with oil, garlic and spices. Use your favorite blend of herbs and spicy or not so spicy pepper. Roast at 400 until tender about 20 minutes depending on the size of the pieces. Toss the veggies and add your leafy vegetables like kale and cabbage and roast for another ten minutes or so. The combined flavors are great and the crispness of the leafy vegetables is a nice way to add greens to your meal.



Next month we'll have the date for the Holiday Market at the Mentone Farmers' Market. Interested in being a vendor at the Holiday Market? See the website for the non-profit, North Sand Mountain Farmers' Market at www.mountainmarket.org for a grower or artist vendor application and bring it to the information booth at the market.

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The Scholarship Committee of the Mentone Educational Resources Foundation is pleased to offer the Sue Henry Scholarships for the Spring 2012 semester. The basic criteria include:

- Mentone or Valley Head family residency
- Currently enrolled full time college student
- Financial need
- Academic performance

Last year MERF awarded scholarships to local students Jason Broome, James Hawk, Daniel Hughes and Brandon Willingham.

GUIDELINES FOR THE SUE MCLAURIN HENRY SCHOLARSHIP FUND

This scholarship is sponsored by the Mentone Educational Resources Foundation and has been established in memory of Sue Henry, an educator and advocate of providing educational opportunities for a lifetime of learning.

We have established the following written guidelines in order that you may know our criteria for making decisions and the expectations that we have of you for continuing to receive scholarship help.

We must receive the completed scholarship application and family financial statement by the established deadline. **Forms received after the deadline will not be considered.**

This scholarship is available only to Mentone and Valley Head residents.

We give priority based on financial need and academic records.

The scholarship is ordinarily only available to recent high school graduates unless special circumstances apply and an exemption is given.

Before the scholarship is awarded, proof of admission must be provided on an official form from the school.

The schooling involved must lead to a degree or a professional certification/certificate.

Once enrolled, the student must maintain the equivalent of a 2.8 GPA on a 4.0 scale in order to qualify for the succeeding year, and the Scholarship Committee will need the appropriate academic records with the new application.

The scholarship is available for a maximum of four years.

The student must maintain a course load of eight credits per semester or equivalent in order to qualify.

We do not discriminate on the basis of religion, race, or gender. All applications are welcome and will be given equal consideration.

All applications must be mailed to **MERF, PO Box 107, Mentone AL 35984** and be postmarked no later than **December 1, 2011**. We will require the Application, the Family Finance Form, a copy of your high school transcript, proof of admission to the institution of higher learning and, if applicable, your current college transcript. We recognize that there may be some uncertain details at the deadline, but we need the most complete information you can provide at that time. For further information, contact Dorma Hutcheson at (256)899-6901, (256)634-4449 or at merf.mentone@gmail.com.

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Scenes from Colorfest 2011

Colorfest photos courtesy of Hank Van Apeldoorn, Doreen Waters Crow, Cynthia Stinson and Charlotte Gentry.

