Fighting A Good Fight

This Thanksgiving brought out the goodness of the Mentone people. Amid the tragedy and devastation of two weeks of fires, they found something to be thankful for. The community is thankful for the firefighters. The firefighters, though, are thankful for the community. Thus is the character of Mentone. It is truly a place where people come together for the benefit of the whole community.

Everyone was most thankful that no homes or lives were lost on the brow of the mountain or the mountainside. However, as residents began to breathe a sigh of relief, the day before Thanksgiving, we did lose the Mentone Market building in an unrelated incident.

When I say “firefighters,” I use the term loosely and refer to all the people who literally fought against the flames, made telephone calls, drew up plans, and directly supported those who did these things. When I say community, I speak of people who span far past the town limits, onto the brow, across the mountain, through both valleys, and far beyond any geographical borders. Words of support poured in, along with food, items, and money.

The first fire for our area started on November 9, near the Georgia line on the west brow of Lookout Mountain, south of the area where Georgia was already fighting another fire. Flames consumed approximately 200 acres the first day, with a total of about 500 by the end of the day Friday, and so it began. Others were to come. Sometimes the fires would be contained. At other times, they would jump the fire lanes cut by firefighting crews, foresters, and volunteers.

A strong stand on the southern most fire line came on Friday, November 21. Crews were in a position at the last access point down the mountain between the fires and County Highway 117. All possible water resources were unleashed to stop the fire before it raged further across the mountain and into town. By this time, the northern fire lines had converged and were contained, so the southern line was a primary concern.

Water was dropped, dumped, sprayed, and poured on the mountainside. Fire tankers shuttled water from a designated point behind the Hitching Post. Reservoir pools were set up at a home on the brow, and both the Alabama Law Enforcement Agency helicopter, with a capacity of 180 gallons, and National Guard Black Hawk helicopter, with a capacity of 530 gallons, made continuous water drops.

By the end of the day Friday, approximately a half-million gallons of water had been used to drench the mountainside. Even as the Black Hawk was refueling, flames begin to flare, but workers fought strong, even though it would have been easy to give up. The plan worked. By Monday, the Forestry Commission was able to announce 80-percent containment on the fire. They followed up on Tuesday with thermal imaging by airplane and on the ground, as needed, and doused any and all hot spots. Hopefully, this first week of December there will be rain in Mentone.

Fires from several different locations across northeast Alabama, northwest Georgia, and southern Tennessee filled the air with smoke for days on end. You couldn't see the beautiful valley below the brow, and you couldn't see the side of Lookout Mountain – not even from homes directly.

(cont'd on page 3)

Memories From the Market

For as long as anyone in this town can remember, the Mentone Market has been a huge part of the community. No one can really remember when the building was built or who opened it originally, but everyone seems to think it was somewhere around 100 years ago. Some say in its early years, it was owned by Bill Smith. We also heard that Peanut Bell had some sort of cafeteria there. I am sure there were others, and I guess the building itself was the only one who knew the whole story!

What we do know is that in 1961, William & Willa Blackburn bought the store from Mitchell Oil Company and named it The Mentone Superette. William ran the Superette for 30 years before passing it on to his son, Al Blackburn. In those 30 years, the store was guarded by a boxer named Tootsie and an English Bulldog named Brutus. Anyone that ever visited during the Blackburn’s days knew Tootsie and/or Brutus.

Al had the store until 1998 before he sold it to Hobson Kirby, who then sold it to Benny Goss, and finally in 2002, a sweet young family from Selma, Alabama, decided they wanted a piece of Mentone to call home.

Benny and Brenda Goss had the store for sale and after many visits helping Kristen’s parents remodel their home here in Mentone, Tom and Kristen Emory decided to buy the store and make the move themselves. And so, in April of that year, Tom and Kristen, with two little blonde toddlers named Byrum and Sadler, bought the

(cont’d on page 15)
THE GROUNDHOG
P. O. Box 387
Mentone, AL 35984

The Groundhog is published monthly by the Mentone Area Preservation Association, MAPA (Website: www.mapamentone.com; Email: mapamentone@gmail.com) and 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 501c3 non-profit corporation.

MAPA BOARD
Ray Padgett, President
Katherine Wheeler, Vice President
Kayla Worthey, Treasurer
Jerome Stephens, Secretary
Laura C. Moon, Parliamentarian, Past President
Courtney Roden
Jeff Rymer

GROUNDHOG STAFF
Anna Mae Horn, Editor
Beverly Bates, Design Manager

Advertise with the Groundhog!

Current Rates & Sizes:
1/8 pg - $50 (3.25"w x 5"h or 5"w x 3.25")
1/6 pg - $75 (3.25"w x 6.75"h or 5"w x 4.5")
1/5 pg - $87 (3.25"x8"h or 5"w x5.25")
1/4 pg - $100 (5"w x 6.5")
1/3 pg - $150 (5"w x 8.75"h or 10"w x 4.25")
1/2 pg - $200 (10"w x 6.5")
Full Pg - $300 (10"w x 13")
Upcharge for Color

Ad Deadline for Camera Ready - 16th of the month prior to publication month
Deadline for Ad Creation - 14th of the month prior to publication month
Layout Charge - 10% of ad cost
Classified Ads - $10 in advance
Birthday/Anniversary/Special Events with photos - $15 in advance

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

Contact The Groundhog
P.O. Box 387
256-465-1107
groundhognews@aol.com

Have a Letter to the Editor or a story idea? Send it to
The Groundhog at groundhognews@aol.com.

MENTONE MATTERS
By Mayor Rob Hammond

November was a rough month for Mentone. On Election Day--of all days--the contractor made the decision to pave on Hwy. 117 in front of Town Hall, the polling place for Mentone and the surrounding area. ALDOT was notified sometime after 8:00 AM that this was a problem, and they notified the project manager. Many people had a long wait in the single lane traffic lines to even get to the polling place. Some people who had only a small window of time to vote ended up not being able to vote at all. Representative Nathaniel Ledbetter and Senator Steve Livingston are looking into the decision to pave on Election Day and the delay in suspending operations.

The fires north of Mentone were finally contained after a massive effort. More than 1,000 acres were burned. Our Mentone volunteer fire department (officially the North Lookout Mountain Fire Protection District) joined with the Alabama Forestry Commission, fire departments from all over DeKalb County, Fort Payne Water, and helicopters from the forestry commission and the National Guard in battling the fires. The team worked and cooperation were outstanding. Local and state EMA officials were on the scene. Representative Nathaniel Ledbetter and Senator Steve Livingston were here and were in contact with the governor’s office and EMA.

The community support of the firefighters was phenomenal--neighbors helping neighbors. The DeSoto Rescue Squad, deputies from the DeKalb County Sheriff’s Department, Mentone Police, and Valley Head Police were all assisting. Renee McKenzie, Mentone Outpost, made sure everyone was fed. Many of you donated food, water, money, and drinks for the cause. At the Monday night meeting at the fire hall, Terry Ezell of Alabama Forestry was hopeful the fire was mostly contained. The helicopters returned the following day to work on the remaining “hot spots.” No structures burned and thankfully no one was injured.

Many people have asked me what they can do to support the volunteer fire department. These men leave their families and jobs to protect our lives and property. We should not ask them to do the job with outdated equipment. Please donate generously to the North Lookout Mountain Fire Protection District.

In the early morning hours of Wednesday before Thanksgiving, the Mentone Market caught fire. Despite a quick response from the volunteers, the building was a total loss. The market was more than a business—it was a local gathering spot and a happy part of our daily lives. Let us support Kristen and Tom Emory and their family in the effort to rebuild the Mentone Market.

It is time to put November behind us and to look forward to celebrating Christmas and welcoming in the New Year!

From The Editor

Thanksgiving is technically passed, but it should always be in our hearts. I am thankful lives were spared along with properties on the brow and in the valley. I am sorry for the loss of the Mentone Market building, but thankful that the spirit still lives on as many talked about rebuilding even while the building was still smoldering. I am inspired by this to have an enjoyable Christmas holiday with family in the atmosphere of a close-knit part of the country where folks help others every day, not just during special times. It is a nice feeling to live in a special place.

The Groundhog staff would like to wish you all much happiness throughout the holiday season and into the New Year! May the joys of the season bring warmth to your heart and your hearth!

~Anna Mae

The Groundhog is burrowing through January.

We’ll see you in February!
Dear Editor,

In my opinion, Mentone’s Presidential election on November 8th could have been a more positive experience for voters. I am not speaking about who won or did not win the election. I am concerned about the actual conditions of where we vote and, also, the road construction that was blocking easy access to a Federal Presidential election.

I would like to present a vision of what I would like to see for our voting experience in Mentone. I envision a much larger building than our current city hall. This space would allow us all to have privacy when we are voting. There would be enough tables and/or voting booths to accommodate all voters without anyone that is waiting in line standing over someone else’s shoulder who is trying to fill out their ballots in private. There would be a large enough room or space that would allow the poll workers to speak with the people that are stating their names and signing papers to do this process in another part of the room, so there is quiet and silence in the voting area.

On November 8th, I could not find a place to vote in our Town Hall where I felt that there would not be someone looking over my shoulder. I chose to go to the interior of the square of tables that had been set up so that I could “feel” a little space of privacy. But when I took up my seat at the interior opening of the square of tables, I realized that I was blocking the other people already in the interior of the square who were now standing up and wanting to leave. Now, they were standing over my shoulder. I then stopped my voting process and stood up to let two people out of the interior of the square.

There was a noisy atmosphere in the town hall on November 8th and a noxious smell came from the open door into the Town Hall from the road construction outside. In my vision, besides a quiet room, we would have ample parking and the location would be able to be accessed easily from all directions around Mentone.

Here are some of my suggestions for a new polling place for our next election:

Moon Lake School Gym
MERF House
Mentone Community Church Gym
Camp DeSoto Dining Room

I admit I do not know what is involved in changing the polling place or if any of these places are available, but I am willing to work with a group of people to make the voting experience as positive as possible for all of our citizens. If anyone else feels the same, please write to me at havenhoward1@gmail.com.

Reverend Cathy Haven Howard
Mentone, Alabama

---

Dear Rev. Howard,

First of all, let me commend you on voting. Also, I respect you for speaking up for the changes that you would like to see happen. That is always the first step for improvements. My voting precinct is in Valley Head, not Mentone, so I can not personally relate to the conditions in Mentone. I can, however, appreciate some of the issues you mentioned.

We all certainly want to feel we have privacy and the ability to concentrate while voting. I think you have taken a terrific first step by reaching out to the public to contact others who share your opinion. Even with a small group, you will be able to look into options and procedures for effective improvements, bounce around different ideas, and divide the tasks that need to be accomplished.

My husband and I found a sample ballot prior to election. We were able to mull over all the positions and ALL those amendments to make a decision from the comfort of home. This can make the actual voting process a little quicker. I believe voters can take a marked sample ballot with them inside the poll. However, they cannot leave it in the polling place- in order to maintain a neutral environment.

Honestly, I am also unfamiliar with the process of deciding the location and set up of polling places. I do know, after helping with this year’s municipal election, that it all is a big process! I am much more appreciative to those who work an election. My first suggestion to you is to become more involved in this process, if possible.

My next suggestion would be to talk individually to the clerk, the mayor, or a council member and see what they know about the process. They, too, may desire improvements but not realize how to go about making it happen. Then again, it may be a council decision. In that case, you would need to ask the town clerk to be put on the agenda for a council meeting. They generally have a deadline for this- usually a few weeks before the next meeting.

The DeKalb County’s Probate office organizes the poll worker training, sets up the machines, and generally oversees the elections. They should be a great source of information about the polling process. Also, look at the Alabama Secretary of State site (sos.alabama.gov). You will find plenty of voter information and links to the Constitution and Code of Alabama. All things considered, I honestly think the best place to start is with your city officials.

As far as the inconvenience of the road construction, I feel your pain! One day, it took us an hour to get home from school- which usually is a ten minute drive. I did notice that the paving machines seemed terribly near the town hall during the election. Please read what Mayor Hammond had to say about this (p2). On the up

side, the roads are in much better condition, and for that, I am thankful. I am also very appreciative of the care and diligence to restore the rock wall and keep its character.

I strongly encourage everyone who shares your opinion on the election to contact you and work to find a better solution. It may be as simple as reorganizing the setup of the room. With the help of volunteers, some different arrangements might be “tried out” before the next election. Also, poll workers can sometimes suggest “slow times” when voting might be easier. Whatever the answer, now is the time to start the process. Thank you for using your right to vote and for reaching out to make improvements to the process. I look forward to hearing the results of your efforts!

~Anna Mae

---

From the Editor (cont’d from page 1)

in the valley below. We were only left to wonder how bad the fire was ravaging the mountainside and claiming the beauty we hold so dear.

All in all, more than 2,000 acres of Alabama mountainside was burned. There is approximately a 10-mile swath across the western Alabama and Georgia mountainside that has been blackened and damaged by these fires. Because of the foliage that is still hanging on and extending the fall view, much of the damage still remains hidden when you look from the valley. If you drive north along County Road 89 atop Lookout Mountain, you will see the scarred remains in plenty of detail. You will see miles of black ground, scorched undergrowth, blackened trees, and stumps that remain, some possibly smoldering. The full extent of damage to the vegetation will not be known for sometime.

You will see the charred grounds surrounding several homes. I can only imagine how scared these people were as the flames leapt so close to their home, some within a few feet of their door. I met one set of homeowners while they watched from the valley below as the smoke encircled their property. They tried desperately to peer through the smoke and see their home. The lady of the house had awakened in the middle of the night to the smell of smoke from a new set of fires farther south than the original fire. Firefighters came quickly and started working. Later in the morning, things seemed under control. The homeowners went out to lunch, only to be blocked from re-entering their property due to the dangerous situation that had flared up. Winds that day seemed only slight, but

(Cont’d on page 4)
Many people have asked “How can we help these firefighters?”

These volunteer firefighters are out there simply because they “want to help a neighbor.” It is a difficult task physically and emotionally. Some were on site for over 20 or 30 hours straight. Some miss work when called to fire duty; some use vacation time; most, however, work a full shift then report to the fire site, sleep a few hours, and start again. They faced the hot flames, the cold nights, the steep mountain, the woods, and the briars. They risked their lives. They missed their families who support their tasks that place them in the face of danger. To-date, not a single structure has been lost along a five-plus mile radius on top of Lookout Mountain. This, in and of itself, is a true testament to the hard work and dedication of our firefighters.

These volunteers have really sacrificed for their community, and it’s time for us to give back to them in their hour of need. The wildfires on Lookout Mountain have taken a large financial toll on the North Lookout Mountain Fire Protection District (NLMFPD) in Mentone. Expenses have been incurred in fighting these fires.

Not only were the typical expenses of a single fire multiplied by days and days of firefighting, but additional expenses came about due to the conditions and lengths of the fire. The NLMFPD’s fuel bill alone is projected to be astronomical for such a small fire department. They use it for the trucks (which have to run continuously), chainsaws, and other equipment. Due to the rough mountain and needs to be replaced. In addition to bills, all engines and tankers will need maintenance performed after this extended use. Much of the protective gear that volunteer units use are out of date, and the old equipment needs extra work. About 95% of their necessities are purchased through a fire supply company.

The other 5% are more common items that can be purchased, if one would rather help out in that way. Band-aids and first aid supplies are always needed, batteries (AA & AAA), soft leather work gloves, head lamps (for non-fire duties), grease rags, and soap, sponges, and paper towels for washing the trucks as well as items for the general upkeep of the fire hall and the trucks.

Barbara Tillery challenges each of us: “I urge each and every one of you to make a donation today to the NLMFPD. If you are able to volunteer, they also need volunteers. Not every volunteer

Firefighting Equipment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fire Hose</td>
<td>$30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nomex Hood</td>
<td>$40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fire Ax</td>
<td>$45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fire Gloves</td>
<td>$50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fire Rakes</td>
<td>$60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boots</td>
<td>$200+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Helmet</td>
<td>$400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chain Saw</td>
<td>$500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blower Backpacks</td>
<td>$500 (all more than 10 yrs old)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turn Out Gear</td>
<td>$1,500 (pants and coat)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brush Truck</td>
<td>$$$</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Barbara has set up an account online at gofundme.com/lookout-mountain-wildfires to benefit NLMFPD (a nonprofit organization). This is a very convenient way to donate; however, there is a small processing fee. If you would prefer to send in a donation via check, all funds will directly benefit the fire department. Please make all checks payable to the North Lookout Mountain Fire Protection District (may be abbreviated as NLMFPD) and mail to P.O. Box 154, Mentone, AL 35984.

Locally, Marsha Merrell has started Christmas for the Firefighters fundraising campaign at the town hall, convenience store, and restaurants throughout the month of December. For a donation by cash or check, you can sign a paper ornament that will be placed on a tree in the fire hall. As the firefighters see this tree being decorated, they will know their efforts are appreciated and feel the community’s supportive spirit.

Fighting A Good Fight (cont’d from page 2)

were enough to encourage the fire.

She spoke of the courageous firefighters and all they had been doing. She knew they were doing their very best to save her home, and they did. I spoke with her a few days later and she was so very thankful that her home and her treasures remained and that no one had been injured in saving them. The same is true for many homeowners and cabin owners along the brow.

One set of homeowners I spoke with has lived here less than a year. They were amazed at the dedication of these volunteers and at the outpouring of support from the community. Firefighters from Valley Head, Hammondville, and Georgia all came out to help NLMFPD fight the fire or answered other calls while departments were busy at Mentone.

The DeSoto Rescue Squad volunteers were on hand for medical needs, and they did whatever they could to help onsite. Members of the Alabama Forestry Commission stayed in the area for a long time. They left with a special place in their heart for Mentone and a renewed respect for volunteer firefighters. Mayors and law enforcement officers from the area lent a hand for traffic control and other tasks. Legislators came onsite when the fires started and stayed in touch with firefighters as well as the governor’s office to get all available help from the state. One legislator stayed up an entire night

filling out paperwork. Alabama EMA was on site much of the time, and ALEA provided needed resources. The Mentone community appreciates each and every bit of effort extended to fight these fires. Yes, there is much “thanks” to give this season.

The community not only spoke words of gratitude, but also supported the firefighting with action. Local stores, service stations, and restaurants donated meals and served as drop stations and couriers for supplies- everything from Chap-stick to socks, from meals to sweets, from cool drinking water to warm gloves for cool nights. The wives of volunteers took in food and supplies. Displaced homeowners and workers were provided accommodations; local ponds and lakes were used; money was donated. Approximately $8,000 was donated locally and another $5,000 online. Firefighters and workers were overwhelmed by the response. They send thanks to all.

Mentone Fire Chief Joseph Lee and all the firefighters continue to praise the community support received throughout the weeks of fire fighting. One said, “We are humbled by the care shown by the public. To know that people appreciate what we do means a lot.”

The firefighters are thankful this holiday for the lack of injury and loss, for the ability to do their task, and for the foundation of a good community both near and far. It took the effort and support of many for this operation to be successful. It’s what

being a community is all about. As the Chief said, “I wouldn’t want to live any where else in the nation. This is home.”
Mentone Arts and Cultural Center - “Help Wanted”

By Ray Padgett

Fund raising for the Mentone Arts and Cultural Center is in its infancy, yet we have donations and grants of over $200,000 and over fifty people have donated to the cause. As of November 2016, all our progress is the result of people who believe in this project, donating their time and talent to bring this shared vision of a multiuse facility for Mentone area residents and visitors to fruition. Many others have expressed an interest and desire to help with materials, in-kind donations and financial assistance. During the next year, we plan to renew our fundraising focus and ask everyone to step up to the plate and contribute to a cause that will highlight the musical and artistic talents of our community. We need your help!

The Mentone Arts and Cultural Center will provide a vehicle that helps channel Mentone growth in a way that builds on the foundation of a community that has a rich and diverse background in the arts and welcomes visitors with open arms. It will enhance the happy memories for children and adults alike, and they will return for generations. Folks are increasingly choosing Mentone as a place to visit and settle down. Unlike the Las Vegas slogan, we hope that what happens in Mentone does not stay in Mentone, but is shared with families across the South.

We would like to recognize our volunteers and contributors by listing their names here. They are in no particular order. Each person and company has given either time and talent or financially to our project. We appreciate everyone who has participated and wish them wellness and happiness at Christmas and in the coming year. You can be a part of something amazing by contacting any one of our Board of Directors or calling Ray Padgett at 850-974-3271.

Board members are: Rob Hammond, Marsha Hurt, Kristen Emory, Hank Willett, Bill Berry, Susan Hooks, Kaye Kiker, Charlotte Gentry, John Dersham, Philippe Lathrop, and Ray Padgett. Board members are all contributors.

Contributors/Volunteers are: Jetpolymer, MAPA, Dr. and Mrs. C.O. Sennett, Ann Benton, Grace Jones, Thomas Cobb, Joanna Bazemore, Barbara Hope, Karole and Harry Ohme, James Fletcher, on Alabama Highway 117--East of Moon Lake Elementary School.

Our quest was to identify the person who brought the tree (or seed) to Mentone and planted it. To that end, a couple, Charlie and Nancy Brown, stopped by to see the tree and deliver the news and solution to the mystery. Charlie remembers that the couple living in the house at the time, E.T. and Louise (Cash) Lyday, vacationed in California, mostly to visit the Giant Redwood forests. E.T. (folks called him T) so admired the trees that he wanted to bring one back to Mentone. He acquired a Redwood seedling and brought it back to Mentone – turns out it was not a Giant Redwood, but a newly sprouted Dawn Redwood.

This all happened in about 1952 according to Charlie. He said that E.T. wrapped the seedling in mulch and cloth, kept it well watered all the way back to Mentone and planted it in their back yard. This leaves us with the fact that the tree is NOT quite a hundred years old--more like sixty-five. It also means that within eleven years after their discovery in China, the Dawn Redwood was thriving in California and then brought to Mentone by a couple who so admired the Redwood that they brought one back to share with their Mentone neighbors.

Thank you E.T. and Louise. Mentonians and their visitors still admire our Redwood's beauty. A special thanks to Charlie and Nancy for solving the mystery and enlightening everyone about this ancient, majestic tree.

To date, we have received more than $200,000 in donations and commitments, with receipt of $36,500 toward the $50,000 3-to-1 matching grant.

Quality Jewelry Low Prices

- Engagement Rings
- Wedding Bands
- Pendants
- Earrings
- Sterling Jewery
- Gold Coins Silver Bullion
- Collectible Coins
- Custom Jewelry Designs
- Highest price paid for your gold jewelry, diamonds, coins, silver

Southern Gold, Silver & Jewelry
1706 Glenn Blvd.
Fort Payne
256-997-7591
My boards may be a little creaky and my paint a little flaky but I am full of life. I continue to open my doors to the young and the wise so my walls are full of joy, laughter and learning.

It's a party! Once again, the seniors of our community will celebrate the season with a Christmas party at the MERF house on Wednesday, December 7th. If everyone behaves between now and then, maybe a special visitor will make a stop on that red roof and have some of his youngest elves for some special entertainment. Joyful noises will be made!

Scholarship applications are due on Monday, December 5th. The Sue McLaurin Henry Scholarship is offered to Mentone and Valley Head residents pursuing a college or technical school degree. Students with a B average and financial need should apply. Applications are available from merf.mentone@gmail.com or the Mentone Market.

MERF has two fundraising events each year with the annual fundraising letter in December and the Art Auction in April. MERF has been able to provide services to Mentone for the past 23 years due to our faithful and giving contributors such as you. Please consider offering financial support for another year. Funds are needed to continue great programs for the young and mature, to maintain services of a director, and to make needed renovations to the MERF house. Donations can be mailed or submitted online. If you are not on our mailing list and would like to be, please let us know.

Two for the price of one! If you would like to support MERF and give a great gift, consider giving a "Leave Me in Mentone" mug, shirt, ornament or hat found at DeSoto State Park country store, Little River Hardware, Moon Lake Trading Company, Kamama or from Sarah. Also, your gift giving can support MERF at Amazon through smile.amazon.com when you choose "Mentone Educational Resource Foundation" as your charity for a percentage of your purchase. Thanks to everyone that supports MERF and this community. Have a wonderful holiday season and a fabulous New Year!

MERF: Mentone Educational Resources Foundation is a local non-profit with the mission "To enrich the learning and living of the community by identifying needs and coordinating resources." If you would like to support our programs, tax-deductible donations can be mailed to POB107 Mentone, AL 35984 or contribute online at www.merfhouse.org. Contact us at merf.mentone@gmail.com or 256-634-4673.

Fundraising (cont’d from page 4)

Chief Joseph Lee knows that the numerous volunteer fire departments that came to their aid will have expenses as well. He encourages everyone in the county to help their local fire departments as much as possible. Valley Head and Mentone are in desperate need of firefighters along with money and supplies.

Sometimes people want to know exactly where their money is going when they donate. If you have questions about the fundraisers in this article, give me a call at The Groundhog. If you would like to make a large contribution for a particular item, contact Chief Lee (256-899-4027) and let him know. He will be happy to oblige if possible. The fire fighters are overwhelmed at the generosity already shown through donations and help from everyone, but there are still needs. Any donations, no matter how small, will be very helpful, greatly appreciated, used wisely, and tax deductible!
Hello everyone. Well, that time of year is upon us again, and how wonderful it is. Here at your local Community Library, we have some great holiday reads and movies. This is the time of year for family, hot cocoa, and curling up for some family fun. We have some wonderful new books and movies just waiting for you to bring home and enjoy. And don't forget, we also have great books and DVDs for sale that special Christmas gift, and all proceeds go to the library. So, let's see what the elves have dropped off this month for your enjoyment.

**Movies**

_Melissa McCarthy, Kristen Wiig, Kate McKinnon, Leslie Jones, and Chris Hemsworth make its long-awaited return with Director Paul Feig's unique and hilarious take on the classic supernatural comedy, led by the freshest minds in comedy today: Melissa McCarthy, Kristen Wiig, Kate McKinnon, Leslie Jones, and Chris Hemsworth. Together, they team up to save the nation of Earth developed a vast defense program to protect the planet. But, nothing could prepare us for a new invasion of unprecedented scale—only the ingenuity of a few brave men and women can save our world from extinction. Co-starring Liam Hemsworth, Jesse T. Usher, and Bill Pullman, _Independence Day: Resurgence_ is an action-packed thrill ride start to finish. I think this movie goes well with eggnog and homemade cookies!_

**Books**

**Home** - A decade ago, kidnappers grabbed two boys from wealthy families and demanded ransom, then went silent. No trace of the boys ever surfaced. For ten years their families have been left with nothing but painful memories and a quiet desperation for the day that has finally, miraculously arrived: Myron Bolitar and his friend, Win, believe they have located one of the boys, now a teenager. Where has he been for ten years, and what does he know about that day, more than half a life ago, when he was taken? And most critically: What can he tell Myron and Win about the fate of his missing friend? Drawing on his singular talent, Harlan Coben delivers an explosive and deeply moving thriller about friendship, family, and the meaning of home. Read this one in front of a warm fire with hot chocolate!

**Order To Kill** - Mitch Rapp is used to winning; but thanks to several scheming and unscrupulous members of the Pakistani secret service, he finds himself chasing false leads from continent to continent in an effort to keep Pakistani nukes from falling into the hands of terrorists. Together with friend and colleague Scott Coleman, Rapp struggles to prevent the loss of these lethal weapons. Soon it becomes alarmingly clear that the forces in Moscow are bent on fomenting even more chaos and turmoil in the Middle East, and Rapp must go deep into Iraqi territory, posing as an American ISIS recruit. There, he uncovers a plan much more dangerous and insidious than he ever expected—one that could have far-reaching and catastrophic consequences.

Written with the same breathless tension and relentless action as Vince Flynn's greatest novels, _Mitch Rapp's latest adventure is as timely and provocative as ever_. You will go through an entire box of candy canes with this one, so come prepared!

**Two By Two** - With more than 100 million copies of his books sold, Nicholas Sparks is one of the world's most beloved storytellers. His new book, _Two By Two_, is no exception to his amazing works.

At thirty-two, Russell Green has it all—a stunning wife, a loveable six-year-old daughter, a successful career as an advertising executive, and an expansive home in Charlotte. He is living the dream, and his marriage to bewitching Vivian is the center of that dream. But underneath the shiny surface of this perfect existence, fault lines are beginning to appear... and no one is more surprised than Russ when he finds every aspect of the life he took for granted turned upside down. In a matter of months, Russ finds himself without a job or wife, caring for his young daughter London while struggling to adapt to a new and baffling reality.

When a chance encounter with an old flame tempts him to take a chance on love again, he will navigate this new opportunity with trepidation and wonder. But with the loyal support of his parents and his wise older sister, Marge, and in the hard-won lessons of fatherhood, Russ will finally come to understand the true nature of unconditional love—that it is a treasure to be bestowed, never earned. I am predicting a few boxes of Kleenex may be needed for this one and some holiday sweets!

How’s that for some holiday goodies? I think Santa would be proud, but most of all, here at your Community Library we hope you enjoy these new additions. We at your library want to ‘Thank you’ for a wonderful 2016 and wish everyone a very, very Merry Christmas!
## December Birthdays

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan 1</td>
<td>Gayla Blalock</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 1</td>
<td>Mark Hatfield</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 1</td>
<td>Morgan Crane</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 1</td>
<td>Marcia Tucker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 1</td>
<td>Christine Brooks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 1</td>
<td>Megan Kelley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 2</td>
<td>Ladon Willingham</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 2</td>
<td>Dwayne McKenzie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 2</td>
<td>Angel Baggett</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 3</td>
<td>Karen Saterite</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 3</td>
<td>Austin Battles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 3</td>
<td>Angie Bell Young</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 3</td>
<td>Cherita Holman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 4</td>
<td>Lloyd McElhaney</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 4</td>
<td>Nichole Williams</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 4</td>
<td>Lydia Gifford</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 4</td>
<td>Heath Blalock</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 4</td>
<td>Sibyl Sadowski</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 4</td>
<td>Raymond Beasley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 5</td>
<td>Jess Goggans</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 5</td>
<td>Brian Howard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 5</td>
<td>Berkley Chambers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 5</td>
<td>Barbara Neel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 6</td>
<td>Austin Potts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 6</td>
<td>Judy Johnson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 6</td>
<td>Tonja Bell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 6</td>
<td>Sharon Crouch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 7</td>
<td>Gavin Myers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 7</td>
<td>Kesha Burgess</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 7</td>
<td>Reagan Owen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 7</td>
<td>Nathan Owen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 7</td>
<td>Olivia Burton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 8</td>
<td>Bailey Pryor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 8</td>
<td>Trish Clink</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 9</td>
<td>Ross Huglan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 9</td>
<td>Kevin Worthy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 9</td>
<td>Tammy Frost</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 10</td>
<td>Christine Ballenger</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 10</td>
<td>Toni Freeman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 10</td>
<td>Hannah Blanis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 10</td>
<td>Christy Cordell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 11</td>
<td>Kaelan Shankles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 12</td>
<td>Valerie Logan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 12</td>
<td>Jeff Nelson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 12</td>
<td>Connie Nelson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 13</td>
<td>Moria Potts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 13</td>
<td>Deborah Mason</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 13</td>
<td>Crystal Poteat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 13</td>
<td>Jerrod Landers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 14</td>
<td>Ginny Zalker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 14</td>
<td>Jim Phillips</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 15</td>
<td>Jessica Van Pelt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 15</td>
<td>Brody Baber</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 15</td>
<td>Justin Shankles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 16</td>
<td>Holly Davis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 17</td>
<td>Chris O. Smith</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 18</td>
<td>Ashley Pounders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 18</td>
<td>Daniel Brown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 18</td>
<td>Scot Sharp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 19</td>
<td>Brynda Hopper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 19</td>
<td>Jake Nelson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 20</td>
<td>Shelley Meadows</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 20</td>
<td>Denise Carden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 21</td>
<td>Tyler Dean</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 21</td>
<td>Jordan Henderson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 21</td>
<td>Coby Harrison</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 21</td>
<td>Lydia Roe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 22</td>
<td>Dale Howard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 22</td>
<td>William Beasley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 22</td>
<td>Briana Kilgore</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 22</td>
<td>Ashlee Smith</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 22</td>
<td>Weston Carter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 22</td>
<td>Bryan Roe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 23</td>
<td>Daniel Gray</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 23</td>
<td>Aubrey Smith</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 24</td>
<td>Caleb White</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 24</td>
<td>Joe Kent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 24</td>
<td>Emma Lee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 24</td>
<td>Avion Gelfenstein</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 24</td>
<td>Susie Southerland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 24</td>
<td>Sophia Sharp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 24</td>
<td>Anthony O’Shields</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 25</td>
<td>The Birth of Christ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 25</td>
<td>Merry Christmas!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 25</td>
<td>Mary Porter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 25</td>
<td>Irene Willingham</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 25</td>
<td>Justin Easier</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 26</td>
<td>Jason Goo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 26</td>
<td>Melanie Grisham</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 26</td>
<td>Sheila LaRock</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 27</td>
<td>Melissa Shoults</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 27</td>
<td>Houston Downer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 27</td>
<td>Jennifer Blalock</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 28</td>
<td>Avice Pearson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 28</td>
<td>Annette Chappell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 28</td>
<td>Brooke Morris</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 28</td>
<td>Elizabeth Turner</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## December Anniversaries

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dec 1</td>
<td>Cotton &amp; Pam Baggett</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec 1</td>
<td>Hoyt &amp; Helen Ashley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec 2</td>
<td>Joe &amp; Donna McClure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec 8</td>
<td>Alvin &amp; Sherry Durham</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec 12</td>
<td>Walter &amp; Christine Brooks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec 13</td>
<td>Ron &amp; Valerie Logan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec 13</td>
<td>John &amp; Jennifer Chambers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec 14</td>
<td>Benny &amp; Brenda Goss</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec 14</td>
<td>Mike &amp; Barbara Neel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec 15</td>
<td>Johnny &amp; Sissy Crider</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec 17</td>
<td>Rob &amp; San Hammond</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec 18</td>
<td>Jim &amp; JoAnn Byrum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec 20</td>
<td>Dave &amp; Jamie Vest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec 23</td>
<td>Heath &amp; Tara Kirby</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec 23</td>
<td>Eddie &amp; Mary Porter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec 23</td>
<td>Doug &amp; Kaye Kiker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec 28</td>
<td>Danny &amp; Julie Mewes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec 28</td>
<td>Howard &amp; Tonya Hilyer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec 28</td>
<td>Chad &amp; Ashley Wooten</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec 30</td>
<td>Matt &amp; Ginger Lee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec 30</td>
<td>Bryan &amp; Melissa Roe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec 31</td>
<td>Steve &amp; Patti Watkins</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## January Birthdays

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan 1</td>
<td>William Blackburn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 1</td>
<td>Alexis Reed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 1</td>
<td>Brittany Bates Harrison</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 1</td>
<td>Harold Carden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 1</td>
<td>Jim Byrum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 1</td>
<td>Kathy Carson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 1</td>
<td>April Hurst</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 1</td>
<td>David Tucker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 2</td>
<td>Donnie Bell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 2</td>
<td>Kristen Ann Nelson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 2</td>
<td>Amber Stokes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 2</td>
<td>Rickey Williams</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 2</td>
<td>Gideon Grisham</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 3</td>
<td>Stacy Howard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 3</td>
<td>Aiden Logan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 3</td>
<td>Owen Iezell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 3</td>
<td>Lance Elkins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 3</td>
<td>Cameron Hunt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 3</td>
<td>Tressie Thomas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 4</td>
<td>Ed Ringer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 5</td>
<td>Aidan Dupree</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 5</td>
<td>Angela Chambers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 5</td>
<td>Tiffany Wallace</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 5</td>
<td>Gage Gelfenstein</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 5</td>
<td>Steve Sharp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 6</td>
<td>Sharron Hatfield</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 6</td>
<td>Laiton Keith</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 6</td>
<td>Amanda Dyar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 6</td>
<td>Emily Guin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 7</td>
<td>Kristen Emory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 7</td>
<td>Madisen Smith</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 7</td>
<td>Jace Carden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 7</td>
<td>Hoyt Ashley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 8</td>
<td>Tyler Carden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 8</td>
<td>Garnett Smith</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 8</td>
<td>Zachary Wallace</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 8</td>
<td>Emily Stallings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 8</td>
<td>Jerry Boatwright</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 8</td>
<td>Ryker Abernathy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 9</td>
<td>Dallas Lee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 9</td>
<td>Ellie Shugart</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 10</td>
<td>Neal Whitt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 10</td>
<td>Stacey Worthey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 10</td>
<td>Nancy Frost</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 10</td>
<td>Heath Miller</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 11</td>
<td>Josh Shouts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 11</td>
<td>Robert Green</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 11</td>
<td>Kandis Lawton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 11</td>
<td>Preston Owen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 11</td>
<td>Allen Powell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 11</td>
<td>Freda Pike</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 11</td>
<td>Ryan Wooten</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 11</td>
<td>Avah Poe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 11</td>
<td>Annabelle Ferguson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 12</td>
<td>Beverly Henry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 12</td>
<td>Aaron McKenzie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 12</td>
<td>Bud Atkins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 12</td>
<td>Thad Heinrich</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 13</td>
<td>Paulette Manning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 13</td>
<td>Anita Johnson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 13</td>
<td>Erin Dean</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 14</td>
<td>Eric Kirby</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 14</td>
<td>Isabella Chaney</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 14</td>
<td>Larry Johnson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 15</td>
<td>Joe “Dude” Brown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 15</td>
<td>Anna Easier Bailey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 16</td>
<td>Wynston Keith</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 16</td>
<td>Trent Smith</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 17</td>
<td>Olivia Bowman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 17</td>
<td>Jim Poe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 17</td>
<td>Joseph Brown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 17</td>
<td>Michael Owen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 17</td>
<td>Caiden West</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 18</td>
<td>Nicole Goldsmith</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 18</td>
<td>Bobby Blalock</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 19</td>
<td>Candace Perkins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 19</td>
<td>Jacie O’Tinger</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 19</td>
<td>Judy McMahan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 19</td>
<td>Olivia Elkins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 21</td>
<td>Ryley Smith</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 22</td>
<td>Kyle Carden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 22</td>
<td>Anna Garrett</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 22</td>
<td>Rosetta McGee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 22</td>
<td>Alvin Durham</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 23</td>
<td>Scott Gifford</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 23</td>
<td>Melissa Couch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 23</td>
<td>Dowe Forman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 24</td>
<td>Sandy Sharp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 24</td>
<td>Marysa Wigley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 24</td>
<td>Darrin Smith</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 24</td>
<td>Tommy Harrison</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 24</td>
<td>Lucas Elkins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 25</td>
<td>Shannon Tolbert</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 25</td>
<td>Sarah Wilcox</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov 29</td>
<td>Aric Collins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov 30</td>
<td>Sandy McNutt</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## January Anniversaries

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan 2</td>
<td>Jim &amp; Cynthia Connor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 4</td>
<td>Raymond &amp; Heather Evans</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 10</td>
<td>Tony &amp; Cindy Tipton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 23</td>
<td>Kevin &amp; Ashley Gifford</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 24</td>
<td>Taylor &amp; Nancy Brown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 25</td>
<td>Greg &amp; Nikki Wheat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 28</td>
<td>Robert &amp; Annette Johnson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 29</td>
<td>Bubba &amp; Martha Browder</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Happy New Year!
Cranberry Relish

This is a family recipe from Mark Elaqu and the Mentone Springs Hotel. Submitted by Susan Van Apeldoorn for all those who enjoyed it at the MERF lunch. It is very easy and lasts forever in the fridge!

- 3 cans whole cranberry sauce
- 1 small can mandarin oranges, drained-reserve liquid
- 1 small can crushed pineapple, drained
- 1 box orange or pineapple Jello
- 3-4 stalks celery, diced
- 1 ½ c. chopped walnuts or pecans, optional

Boil orange liquid and use just enough to dissolve Jello.
Add all other ingredients and mix.
Refrigerate at least 24 hours.

Baked French Toast Casserole

It’s great for Christmas morning. While the kids are opening presents, you just put it in the oven to bake, and you don’t have to be in the kitchen and miss all the excitement.
Contributed by Cynthia Stinson at the Mentone Inn

1 Loaf French bread
8 large eggs
2 cups half and half
1 cup milk
2 Tablespoons granulated sugar
1 teaspoon vanilla
¼ teaspoon ground cinnamon
¼ teaspoon ground nutmeg
Dash of salt

Slice French bread into 1 inch slices. Arrange slices in a buttered 9x12 dish, overlapping slices. In a large bowl, combine the eggs, half and half, milk, sugar, cinnamon, nutmeg, and salt. Beat with a whisk until blended but not too bubbly.
Pour mixture over the bread slices, covering evenly. Cover with foil and refrigerate over night.
Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Mix together the topping mix, spread evenly over the bread, and bake 25-30 minutes, until puffed and lightly golden.
Serve with maple syrup. Serves 12-14.

Praline Topping

1 cup butter
1 cup packed light brown sugar
1 cup chopped pecans
2 Tablespoons light corn syrup
½ teaspoon ground cinnamon
½ teaspoon ground nutmeg

"Continuous service by the same family since 1933"

DIXIE SALVAGE
3630 N. Gault Avenue
Fort Payne, Alabama 35967

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

BROWN’S CLEANING & LAUNDRY
"An old company with new ideas"

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

Full Laundry Service
Dec. 1 - DeKalb County Children’s Advocacy Center Holiday Market & Open House. We are so excited about doing our Open House and Holiday Market here at the CAC! We will have dinner theatre tickets on sale, t-shirts, refreshments, Santa and more. 10 am to 6 pm. We will also have information available to those who would like to “adopt a child” for Christmas. 256-997-9700.

Dec. 1 - Rock Climbing Adventure. Come experience first-hand what rock climbing is all about with guides who are fun, safe and energetic. This trip includes all the gear plus basic instruction. No prior climbing experience is needed. 2-6pm. 256-997-9577.

Dec. 2 - Zip Line Adventure. All our zip lines are set up just before the adventure to ford a gorge or cross from one high point to another. Pre-registration required at True Adventure Sports by 6pm the day before the adventure. 10am to Noon. 256-997-9577.

Dec. 2 - “Christmas Peace” at Papa Joe’s Coffee House. It’s back! St. Joseph’s is hosting another coffee house event especially for the holidays. Brenda Johnson and Tena Cryer are returning along with Jane Faille and other favorites. Local author Greg Starnes will also be at this event along with other new faces. Everyone is welcome to bring their own Christmas story, poem, and/or music as we expect to have time for open mic performances. Starts at 6:30pm.

Dec. 2, 14, 17, 22 - Extreme Night Hike. This end-of-day adventure does not slow down just because it’s dark. Intended for a large group team-building exercise, this hike has a bit of bouldering, some scrambling, some spelunking, and a whole lot of required working together. True Adventure Sports. 6 to 8:30 pm. 256-997-9577.

Dec. 3, 10, 17 - Blow Your Own Ornament. Orbix Hot Glass. Design and blow your own ornament with the help of one of our glass artists. No reservations are needed. First come, first serve basis. We welcome people at least 5 years old. 9am to 4pm. Cost is $38 per ornament blown. 256-523-3188.

Dec. 3, 6, 27 - Rappelling Adventure. Come experience the thrill of rappelling down a bit of bouldering, some scrambling, some spelunking, and a whole lot of required working together. True Adventure Sports. 6 to 8:30 pm. 256-997-9577.

Dec. 7, 14, 21 - “From Jerusalem, to Bethlehem, to Alabama”. St. Joseph’s and St. Philip’s are partnering to present a series of classes that begin on Nov. 30th with a study of the Old Testament texts that lead up to Christmas. Together, we will study what these texts (probably) meant originally, how the church has used these texts over the centuries, and what these texts might be saying to us today. Our guide will be Rev. Dr. Rebecca Wright, the Old Testament professor at the School of Theology in Sewanee, TN. Dec. 7 class will be held at St. Philip’s in Fort Payne. Classes on Dec. 14 & 21 will be held at St. Joseph’s in Mentone. Soup and beverage will be served at 6pm before each class which will begin promptly at 6:30pm. Everyone is welcome to attend this enlightening class. Free. For more information, email stjom@centurytel.net or call 256-638-1650.

Dec. 7 - Cold Weather Survival Class. Learn tips to prevent hypothermia and death. This class covers the basics for emergency cold weather conditions and also covers a few tips on how to stay warm and comfortable for everyday cold conditions. 9am to 12pm. 256-997-9577.

Dec. 8 - A Joyful Ring Hand Bell Concert. The Grand Avenue Bells would like to invite you to a One-of-a-kind Christmas experience. Enjoy beautiful music of hand bells and hand chimes from several different churches in the community playing familiar Christmas music. There will be refreshments following the concert. In the Sanctuary of The First United Methodist Church of Fort Payne. 6:30 pm. 256-638-1650.

Dec. 9 - NASA Star Party. Join us at the River Canyon Center for a night of stars. Educator John Weiss from NASA will be leading this star party. There will be opportunities to see meteor and lunar samples, look at stars through the telescopes, and have hot chocolate, cookies, and apple cider. Little River Canyon Center. 7-10 pm.

Dec. 9 - Zip Line Adventure. All our zip lines are set up just before the adventure to ford a gorge or cross from one high point to another. Pre-registration required at True Adventure Sports by 6pm the day before the adventure. 2 to 4:30pm. 256-997-9577.

Dec. 9 - Fort Payne Christmas Parade and Christmas in the Park. Join in the festivities in Fort Payne City Park. Free soft drinks, hot chocolate, and meteorites, caroling, there will be a huge parade to make this annual event tons of fun! Festivities start at 4pm. Parade starts at 6pm. 256-845-2741.

Dec. 9 - Cook Castle 3rd Annual Christmas in Dixie Tour. Take a tour of the fabulous Cook Castle at Christmas. We look forward to sharing this place with you during the holidays. 6-9 pm, $30 per person. 256-845-2286 ext 7.

Dec. 10 - Educator Workshop: NASA Lunar and Meteorite. Teachers, you are invited to become an authorized borrower of NASA lunar and meteorite sample security kits for education. This workshop will prepare k-12 educators to borrow lunar and meteorite samples for use in educational settings. Information will focus on lunar exploration, and meteorite origins, sample security, and classroom linkages for physical and Earth and Space Sciences. Hands-on activities for the classroom will be taught and teachers will receive free educational materials to use in their classrooms. Little River Canyon Center. Preregistration required. Call 256-845-3548.


Dec. 10 - Fyffe Christmas Parade. Bring your family to this fun, festive event. Parade begins at 12pm. 256-623-2222.

Dec. 10 - SylvaHna Christmas Parade. Bring your family to this fun, festive event. Parade begins at 2pm. 256-638-2604.

Dec. 10 - Geraldin Christmas Parade. Bring your family to this fun, festive event. Parade begins at 2pm. 256-659-2122.

Dec. 10 - Collinsville Christmas Parade. Bring your family to this fun, festive event. Parade begins at 3:30pm. 256-524-2135.

Dec. 10 - Rainsville Santa Dash. Proceeds will be donated to Plainview School to be used to bring a Merry Christmas to children who might miss the excitement of receiving gifts on Christmas Morning. The one-mile run/walk will take place at the start of the Christmas parade at Sand Mountain Electric Coop, line up at 3:30pm in front of the Rainsville Christmas Parade. The cost to participate is $30 per person. Visit the event’s page on racesonline.com to pre-register by credit card or cash/check. Or, get registration forms at Body Vision, First State Bank, and The Carpet Center. Business donations will be recognized as social media. Contact Jerry Clifton at 256-717-5650.

Dec. 10 - Annual Rainsville Christmas At the Crossroads and Parade. Come and enjoy a celebration of the season with this fun, festive annual event. Parade begins at 4pm. 256-638-7800.

Dec. 10, 23 - Night Zip Line & Sky Swing Adventure. All our zip lines and sky swings are set up just before the adventure to ford a gorge or cross from one high point to another. Pre-registration required at True Adventure Sports by 6pm the day before adventure. 6-10 pm. 256-997-9577.

Dec. 12, 20, 26, 30 - Wild Cave Tour. Go beyond where the average tourist explores! This 2.5 hour adventure is for those of you ready to explore on your knees, on your belly, in the mud, and through tight tunnels. Adventure includes helmet, cave lamps, plus a fun informative guide. True Adventure Sports. 5-7:30pm. 256-997-9577.

Dec. 13 - Sky Swing Adventure. This is an adventure of a lifetime. Enjoy the thrill of the swing. Pre-registration required at True Adventure Sports by 6pm the day before the adventure. Meet at True Adventure Sports. Noon-2 pm. 256-997-9577.

Dec. 13, 19, 24 - Bouldering Adventure – Ato Lookout Mountain. Come experience first-hand what bouldering is all about with guides who are fun, safe and energetic. No prior climbing or bouldering experience is needed. Meet at True Adventure Sports. 2-6pm. 256-997-9577.

Dec. 15 - Knot Class & Application. Introduction and instruction to essential knots and their application for camping, rappelling, rock climbing, outdoor survival, and other applications. 1-5 pm. 256-997-9577.

Dec. 16 - Evening Zip Line Adventure. All our zip lines are set up just before the adventure to ford a gorge or cross from one high point to another. Pre-registration required at True Adventure Sports by 6pm the day before the adventure. 6:30-8:30 pm. 256-997-9577.

Dec. 17 - The Winter Excursion. The Winter Excursion is a mystery trip that includes hiking, bouldering, sightseeing, navigation, survival, teambuilding, waterfalls, and just plain fun. You will need to bring a small backpack, compass, flashlight, change of socks, warm clothes, camera, trail mix, water, small first aid kit, emergency blanket and emergency poncho. 10am-1pm. 256-997-9577.

Dec. 21 - Morning Zip Line Adventure. All our zip lines are set up just before the
What To Do Around Here! January 2017 Community Calendar

**Jan. 2 - Rappelling Certification Class.** This class covers rappelling basics, indoor and outdoor. The basic indoor class teaches you about rappelling safety/rappelling gear and its application, rappelling knots, and rappelling, and rigging points needed for rappelling. The basic outdoor class reviews safety procedures, knots, gear, and rigging points; then you learn how to safely rappel and do several rappels before returning to the office for the rappelling test and knot exam. Meet at T.A.S. Training Center. $165/person. Note: You will receive a Class 1 rappelling certification photo ID card upon request and successful completion of this class and exams for a card processing fee of $15.00. 10 am to 6 pm. 256-997-9577.

**Jan. 3, 26 - Cold Weather Survival Class.** Learn tips to prevent hypothermia and death. This class covers the basics for emergency cold weather conditions and also covers a few tips on how to stay warm and comfortable for everyday cold conditions. 9am-12pm. 256-997-9577.

**Jan. 4, 14 - The Winter Excursion.** The Winter Excursion is a mystery trip that includes hiking, bouldering, sightseeing, navigation, survival, team building, waterfalls, and just plain fun. You will need to bring a small backpack, compass, flashlight, change of socks, warm clothes, camera, trail mix, water, small first aid kit, emergency blanket and emergency poncho. 10am-1pm. 256-997-9577.

**Jan. 5 - Bouldering Adventure – Atop Lookout Mountain.** Come experience first-hand what bouldering is all about with guides who are fun, safe and energetic. No prior climbing or bouldering experience is needed. Meet at True Adventure Sports. 2 pm to 6 pm. 256-997-9577.

**Jan. 6, 16, 27 - Extreme Night Hike.** This end-of-day adventure does not slow down just because it’s dark. Intended for a large group team-building exercise, this hike has a bit of bouldering, some scrambling, some spelunking, and a whole lot of required working together. True Adventure Sports. 6 pm to 8 pm. 256-997-9577.

**Jan. 7, 9, 13, 21, 25 - Rappelling Adventure.** Come experience the thrill of rappelling down the sheer sandstone gems of NE AL. Each trip includes all the gear plus basic instruction. 10am-2pm. 256-997-9577.

**Jan. 7 & 8 - Northeast Alabama Cutting Horse Association Competition.** Enjoy the team cutting competition at the Northeast Alabama Agri-Business Center in Rainsville. Gates open at 6 pm and bull riding starting at 7:30 pm. Tickets are $15 Adults, Kids 6-12 $10, and 5 & under Free. 256-638-1650.

**Jan. 8 - Tri-State Paper Crafting.** Join us to learn, create, and be inspired while crafting with papers, stamps, inks, punches, and die cuts. No experience needed. Kamama Gallery in Mentone AL. 1:00-2:30pm. Reserve by noon Sat the 14th. Cost is $5. To learn more or reserve a spot send an email to cottage-paper@bellsouth.net or call 205-349-4026.

**Jan. 10 - Celestial Navigation.** This two-hour class is a basic introduction to navigation by the stars. Learn how to navigate without the use of a compass or GPS with the same rules used for almost six thousand years. Meet at True Adventure Sports. 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm. 256-997-9577.

**Jan. 11, 20, 24, 31 - Rock Climbing/Rappelling Adventure Combo.** Come experience first-hand what rock climbing and rappelling is all about with guides who are fun, safe and energetic. This trip includes all the gear plus basic instruction. No prior climbing experience is needed. 10am-2pm. 256-997-9577.

**Jan. 11, 30 - Hypothermia Class.** This 3-hour class teaches the extreme dangers and how to treat hypothermia. Learn how quick hypothermia can set in and the signs indicating it is setting in. $30 pp. True Adventure Sports. 1-4pm. 256-997-9577.

**Jan. 13 & 14 - West Bucking Bulls.** Come and enjoy the thrill of a Rickey West Bucking Bull Production Event will be held at the Northeast Alabama Agribusiness Center in Rainsville. 256-638-1650.

**Jan. 15 - Stilts and Paper Crafting.** Join us to learn, create, and be inspired while crafting with papers, stamps, inks, punches, and die cuts. No experience needed. Kamama Gallery in Mentone AL. 1:00-2:30pm. Reserve by noon Sat the 14th. Cost is $5. To learn more or reserve a spot send an email to cottage-paper@bellsouth.net or call 205-349-4026.

**Jan. 17 - Mountaineering Adventure.** This 4-6 hour adventure starts with a rappel into a low light maze where we will stop and another part of the way down the rock wall and travel on the rock face mountaineering style to get to our main destination. True Adventure Sports. 10 am to 1 pm. 256-997-9577.

**Jan. 18 - GPS Basic Training and Navigation Class, Part 2.** You will learn to find a beacon placed in the woods as a SAR attempt while knowing your position, and the position of your teammates. True Adventure Sports. 5-9pm. 256-997-9577.

**Jan. 19 - Orienteering Class.** Basic yet essential skills for survival navigation are brought to you in map reading, compass reading, and topography. 10am-1pm. 256-997-9577.

**Jan. 21 - Night Zip Line Adventure.** All our zip lines are set up just before the adventure to ford a gorge or cross from one high point to another. Pre-registration required at True Adventure Sports by 6 pm the day before the adventure. 6:30-8:30pm. 256-997-9577.

**Jan. 21 & 22 - Tennessee Valley Roping Association.** Enjoy the team roping competition at the Northeast Alabama Agri-Business Center in Rainsville. 256-638-1650.

**Jan. 30 - Wild Cave Tour.** Go beyond where the average tourist explores! This 2.5 hour adventure is for those of you ready to explore on your knees, on your belly, in the mud and through tight tunnels. Adventure includes helmet, cave lamps plus a fun informative guide. True Adventure Sports. 5pm-7:30pm. 256-997-9577.
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.

To arrange your wedding or renewing of your wedding vows, call 256-634-4181
Moon Lake School Harvest Festival

Moon Lake 2016 Harvest Festival
King and Queen:
John Tyler Lawton and Emma Harrison

Top 5 Essays each for Harvest King and Harvest Queen

#1. I would like to be Harvest Festival Queen, because I’ve never been it. There is a bunch of girls that hasn’t been it. I’ve never been one of those kids that’s popular and so this might be my chance to prove to myself.

#2. I would be a good Queen because we would have a lot of fun. I have not been here long. I came in the middle of 4th grade. But I would love to win to make the school a great place to be at.

#3. I should be Harvest Festival Queen because I want to wear a big crown.

#4. I think I’d be a great Harvest Festival Queen, because I’m trustful and a good leader. If you have a problem I’m here to help. I’m friendly and I will never turn my back on you. I love all people. I’m caring. If you’re sad, I’ll try and cheer you up, or if you’re mad, I’ll calm you down. I never thought of running for Harvest Festival Queen, but if I win, I can’t say it was luck or anything because I know it was God who let me win.

#5. I am in 6th grade. I have been at Moon Lake since Kindergarten. This year, I am going to push myself to be the best I can be. I have made some great friends since I’ve been here. This year, I will do my best and make good grades. I am very helpful to people who need my help. I also have great friends that are with me no matter what. I have courage and confidence in myself and others.

#6. I should be the Harvest Festival King because I’m very helpful and kind to little kids and help them on the hay ride. That’s why I should be King of the Harvest Festival, and vote for me, please.

#7. I think that I should be the Harvest Festival King because I do my work at school, I hold the door for people, and I try to be as nice as possible even to people that are mean to me. I try to be on my best behavior for teachers, and a good influence for other kids, and that is why I think that I should be the Harvest Festival King.

#8. I should be the Harvest Festival King because I have really good sportsmanship when I am playing baseball, football, and basketball. I am very nice to everybody and my family. I do good in school and have all A’s. This is why I should be the Harvest Festival King.

#9. I should be the Harvest Festival King because I could help with games. I could help set up. I could tell people the rules of games. I can help make things.

#10. I should be the Harvest Festival King because I will not make a mess. I am responsible and dependable. I am not mean, and I don’t bully people. I will do what I’m told. Please consider me to be Harvest Festival King; thank you.

Much thanks to Charlie Stone for the photographs.
The Sunday morning services at Winston Memorial Presbyterian Church are held at 9 AM each Sunday, except no services on 5th Sunday. Rev. Jerry Davis is our minister for these services.

Valley Head Baptist Church invites you to come and worship with us. On Sunday, Bible Study is at 11:00 AM & Morning Worship is at 11:00 AM; Kidz Connection is at 5:00 PM, Evening Worship at 6:00 PM. Kidz Connection & Youth meet on Wednesday from 5:00 – 6:00 PM & a snack supper is provided. On the second Wednesday of the month, there is a church wide covered dish Fellowship Meal at 6:00 PM.

Lea’s Chapel Baptist Church welcomes you to worship with us. 10 AM Sunday Bible Study, 11 AM Morning Worship, 6 PM 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 9:30 AM. Tony Gunter is the Pastor. All are welcome.

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: 9:30-10:45AM, Worship Service 11:00-12:15. Pastor - Wilbur Atwood; Lay Pastors - James Hartley and Ryan Bunnel.

Our Lady of the Valley Catholic Church on N. Gault Avenue in Fort Payne holds Sunday mass in English at 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. in Spanish. Tuesday at 6:00 p.m. in English, Wednesday at 5:00 p.m. bilingual, Thursday at 6:00 p.m. in English, Friday at 9:00 a.m. in English and Saturday at 6:00 p.m. in bilingual.

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 1519 Smith Gap Road (County Road 85), Fort Payne. Regular Worship Services are at 10 AM 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 10 AM, Worship Service at 11 AM, Wednesday night youth meeting at 6 PM, and Wednesday night Prayer Meeting at 6:30 PM.

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 6 PM. God Bless You.

Grace Presbyterian Church (PCA), 5760 Gault Ave. NE, Fort Payne, AL. Sunday School 9:45 AM; Sunday Worship 10:55 AM. Church office: 256-845-4756.

Menlo Church of Christ invites you to attend the 10 AM and 11 AM services and evening services are at 5 PM on Sundays and Wednesdays. Visitors are always welcome.

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

DeSoto Church of Christ invites you to attend Sunday Bible Study at 10 AM, Worship at 11 AM, Wednesday Bible study at 5 PM.

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

St. Joseph’s On-The-Mountain Episcopal Church, 21145 Scenic Highway, Mentone. Everyone welcome to 10:30 AM Sunday service of Holy Eucharist. Open for daily prayer and thanksgiving. Supporting our community with outreach. Call for more information, 256-634-4476, stjosephmountain.dioala.org

Mentone United Methodist Church, 415 Cutler Avenue, Mentone, Alabama invites you to come and worship with us. Each Sunday, our Worship Service is at 11 AM and Sunday School is at 10 AM. Tony Gunter is the pastor. 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. Bible Study Wednesdays at 6:00PM.

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

Alpine Community Church, 115 Hwy. 337, Menlo, GA. Pastor and Rev. Rodney Blaylock welcome each and everyone to worship service Sunday morning at 11 AM GA time; Sunday School 10 AM GA time; Wednesday night Bible Study 7 PM GA time.

Cove Road Baptist Church, County Road 631, Mentone, Alabama invites everyone in the Mentone and Cloundland Communities to services-- Sunday School 10 AM (GA Time) Morning Worship 11 AM (GA Time) Wednesday Prayer Meeting & Bible Study 5:30 PM (GA Time) Bro. Brian Keith is the pastor.

Summit Church of God invites you to be in service Sunday morning 10:45 AM, Sunday night 5 PM, Wednesday Bible Study 6:30 PM. Pastor Lance Kincer invites everyone.

Mentone Church of God of Prophecy - regular service times are Sunday School at 10 AM, with Worship at 11 AM. Evening services begin at 5:30 PM on Sunday and 6 PM on Wednesday. Bro. Whitney Smith invites everyone to attend.

Mentone Community Church, 90 Summervile Rd, Mentone, AL 35984. Pastor Tim Miller; Crosswalk Sunday School K through Adult - 9:15am; Adult Worship Service - 10:30am; JC Kids Worship Service - 10:30am. Van Ministry for Children pick-up/take home, ages k-12, for all surrounding areas 8:15am. For children pick-up and drop-off van, please call Donna Bunn 706-398-0720. Wednesday small group study - 6:30pm.

Cloudland Presbyterian Church welcomes everyone to come join us for services, with Pastor Roger Kvam. Bible Study Sunday at 9 AM (EST) and Worship at 10 AM (EST).

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 10:55AM. 256-845-2915.

New Oregon United Methodist Church: Located just off Desoto Parkway 1/4 mile south of Fischer Crossroads. We would like to invite you to worship with us on Sundays. Sunday School for all ages 9:45am, Traditional Worship 11am, and}

Sunday Evening Service 6pm. Sunday Evening youth meet at 5:30pm. We have Wonderful Wednesdays during the school year with Bible studies for all ages, meal at 5:30pm and classes at 6:15pm. We also have Wednesday morning Bible study at 8:45am, and knitting every Tuesday at 9am. Pastor Ian Conerly. Address 1204 New Oregon Drive NE, Fort Payne, AL. 35967. phone 256-845-7446.

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

Gravel Hill Baptist Church, 14701 Hwy 11 South, Ft Payne, AL 35967 has Sunday School 10 AM & Worship Service at 11 AM each Sunday. All welcome! Wednesdays at 6PM we have supper and a brief devotional time together. Pastor George Moses.

Greater Vision Ministries Church of God, 38623 US HWY 11, Hammondville, AL 35989. Come as you are . . . LEAVE CHANGED! Sunday School 10 am, Sunday Worship *10:45 am, (*Nursery & Kid’s Church). MidWeek re-charge Wednesday 6:30pm. Loving God & Serving Others. Pastor Tim Coppock. 256-601-0679.

Menlo Presbyterian Church (ECO) invites everyone to attend services with us. Sunday School at 10am (EST) and Worship Service at 11:15am (EST). Dr. Roger Kvan is our pastor. We are located at 70 North 6th Ave., next to the park in Menlo, GA.

Send any changes to The Groundhog at groundhognews@aol.com or P. O. Box 387, Mentone, AL 35984.
Carla King Dutton, formerly of Mentone, Alabama, and Scott Dutton, formerly of Calhoun, Georgia, are proud to announce the birth of their daughter, Carson King Dutton. Carson is the granddaughter of Lamar and Cheryl King of Mentone and David and Sonia Dutton of Calhoun. Carson was born on November 17, 2016, at Peidmont Fayette Hospital. Carson was 20 inches long and weighed 8 lbs 11 ounces. The Duttons currently reside in Peachtree City, Georgia.

George Campbell Smith III

George Campbell Smith III was born on June 15, 1949 to George C. and Frances Smith. Campbell died on November 4th surrounded by his family. He graduated from Fort Payne High School in 1967, where he was actively involved in the marching and concert band. He graduated from Jacksonville State University with both his bachelor and masters degree. Campbell was the band director at Plainview High School, Ider High School, and Valley Head High School. He also served as Guidance Counselor for Pfyfe High School for a short time and then half-time guidance counselor at Valley Head High School. Campbell retired from teaching in May 2000. He was a life-long member of First Presbyterian Church in Fort Payne, where he served as a ruling elder and choir director. Campbell also worked in radio for 43 years, working at WFJA in Fort Payne, WKEA FM, and 101.7 the Storm. He retired in July 2011 to become a full time Paw Paw for his grandchildren. He loved to pick up his grandchildren at daycare and school. This was the highlight of his day to get to spend time with them. Emma Campbell and Liam were his proudest accomplishments.

He is survived by his wife, Lisa Smith; his daughter, Rebecca Smith Crawford, and husband, Paul; step-daughter, Beth Gillispie, and husband, Tim; his grandchildren, Emma Campbell Crawford, Liam Crawford, and T.J. Gillispie; brother, Dexter Smith, and his wife, Janet; 3 nieces, Megan Smith, Savannah Smith McGuire, and Shannon Smith. The family would like to say a special thank you to his precious caregivers, Dottie Wood and Paulette Keller and to Amedisys Hospice.

Memories From the Market (cont’d from page 1)

store, changed the name to the Mentone Market, and transformed the little convenience store into a local market, a restaurant, a coffee shop, an art gallery, an information center, a gathering place, a community hub, and an integral part of the town, among other things.

They have honored some of Mentone's favorites with rocking chairs, plaques, and photos. They have supported the community by hosting fundraisers for local clubs, groups, schools, and organizations. They have given monetarily, donated food, their time and so much more for this little community that has become their home.

Early November 23rd, North Lookout Mountain Fire Protection District (NLMFPD) received a call at around 3am that the Mentone Market was on fire. They arrived on-scene in about three minutes, but despite their best efforts, the fire had already done too much damage. The building was a total loss; a heartbreaking loss for the Emorys and their family…a too much damage. The building was a total loss; a heartbreaking loss for the Emorys and their family…a devastating loss for the Emorys and their family…a heartbreaking loss for the community.

It is unclear what caused the fire, but the fire marshal is still investigating. Sadly, no matter what the outcome, Mentone has lost another iconic community treasure. Everyone wants to know, "Will they rebuild?" Well, the Emorys would love to rebuild, but the question remains—how do you replace something that was so precious? Can you really bring back what was once there? Or do you just start fresh with something new? What the future holds, it is too early to tell and no one really knows, but we do know that we will always have our memories to hold dear.

The Sunday before the fire, my family and I stopped by for one of our favorite meals -- the loaded BBQ potato. I hope to one day be able to enjoy a meal, socialize, and watch my kids play a game of checkers again; whatever, wherever and whenever that may be.

As we all know, Mentone is home to many summer camps and the Mentone Market became the welcome mat to many of those campers, counselors, and parents. One of those counselors, Samuel Henderson Hardin, says that Mentone and the Mentone Market mean the world to him so he has set up a Go Fund Me account for the Mentone Market. If you would like to support them, you can do so by going to gofundme.com/help-the-mentone-market and making your contribution. This town has been fortunate to call the Emorys neighbors for almost 15 years, and now, we can't imagine this town without them!

P.S. I heard that Santa Claus may still be coming to town this year, so be on the lookout!

Quotes from the Mentone Market Community -

Sad day for our little town. –John Chambers

I am sad today, still in shock. The heart of Mentone has burned. Our lives have changed, that may sound a little dramatic to those who didn’t visit all the time, but it’s true. Everyone say a prayer for the Emory’s. No time is a good time, but it feels worse at the holidays. I wish I knew what to do for them like all the times they have done for me. This was the last time me & Winford sat on our stools. Mentone loves you Emory’s….especially me. - Rachel Lusk

Such a special place, run by such special people! Thinking of and praying for you all. – Margaret Wilbourne

The Mentone Market is and has been a very special place to our family for a long time. - Kathy & Jay Skinner

(contin'd on page 16)
The Hat

By Doug Kiker

I remember like it was yesterday,
Looking and longing for that hat, with no money to pay.
I told Mother and Granddaddy and even my dad.
Mother and Granddaddy looked sad,
Daddy just looked mad and walked away.
Sometimes when things were bad
And Pearl mule was eating hay,
I sat with her and secretly told of my day.
Without my knowledge, Mother came by and heard what I had to say.
Later that night, without her knowledge,
I passed by her on the stairs.
She heard me not-she was deep in her prayers.
Not wanting to intrude-for I knew this would be very rude-
I tip-toed lightly around the chairs,
But these words I chanced to hear -
As my mother sat on the stairs so dear.
"Father, I won't keep you long but I need your advice
About something-a gift-not for me, that wouldn't be nice.
As my mother sat on the stairs so dear.
But these words I chanced to hear -
Not wanting to intrude-for I knew this would be very rude-
I tip-toed lightly around the chairs,
But these words I chanced to hear -
As my mother sat on the stairs so dear.
"Father, I won't keep you long but I need your advice
About something-a gift-not for me, that wouldn't be nice.
As my mother sat on the stairs so dear.
But these words I chanced to hear -
Not wanting to intrude-for I knew this would be very rude-
I tip-toed lightly around the chairs,
But these words I chanced to hear -
As my mother sat on the stairs so dear.
"Father, I won't keep you long but I need your advice
About something-a gift-not for me, that wouldn't be nice.
As my mother sat on the stairs so dear.
But these words I chanced to hear -
Not wanting to intrude-for I knew this would be very rude-
I tip-toed lightly around the chairs,
But these words I chanced to hear -
As my mother sat on the stairs so dear.
"Father, I won't keep you long but I need your advice
About something-a gift-not for me, that wouldn't be nice.
As my mother sat on the stairs so dear.
But these words I chanced to hear -
Not wanting to intrude-for I knew this would be very rude-
I tip-toed lightly around the chairs,
But these words I chanced to hear -
As my mother sat on the stairs so dear.
"Father, I won't keep you long but I need your advice
About something-a gift-not for me, that wouldn't be nice.
As my mother sat on the stairs so dear.
But these words I chanced to hear -
Not wanting to intrude-for I knew this would be very rude-
I tip-toed lightly around the chairs,
But these words I chanced to hear -
As my mother sat on the stairs so dear.
"Father, I won't keep you long but I need your advice
About something-a gift-not for me, that wouldn't be nice.
As my mother sat on the stairs so dear.
But these words I chanced to hear -
Not wanting to intrude-for I knew this would be very rude-
I tip-toed lightly around the chairs,
But these words I chanced to hear -
As my mother sat on the stairs so dear.
"Father, I won't keep you long but I need your advice
About something-a gift-not for me, that wouldn't be nice.
As my mother sat on the stairs so dear.
But these words I chanced to hear -
Not wanting to intrude-for I knew this would be very rude-
I tip-toed lightly around the chairs,
But these words I chanced to hear -
As my mother sat on the stairs so dear.
"Father, I won't keep you long but I need your advice
About something-a gift-not for me, that wouldn't be nice.
As my mother sat on the stairs so dear.
But these words I chanced to hear -
Not wanting to intrude-for I knew this would be very rude-
I tip-toed lightly around the chairs,
Understanding Medigap Basics

A Medigap policy is standardized supplemental health insurance that pays for part or all of the Original Medicare cost-sharing gaps that you owe. You may hear Medigaps referred to as Medicare supplements or supplemental health insurance. The costs that Medigaps cover include deductibles, coinsurance amounts, and copays. For example, a Medigap pays for your Part B coinsurance charges, meaning that it will pay for the 20% coinsurance you normally owe when you receive Medicare-covered physicians’ services.

It is important to know that Medigap policies only work with Original Medicare Parts A and B. If you get your Medicare benefits from a private Medicare Plan, known as a Medicare Advantage Plan, you cannot purchase a Medigap. Medigaps only pay for Original Medicare cost-sharing gaps. In fact, if you already have a Medicare Advantage plan, it is illegal for anyone to sell you a Medigap policy unless you are switching back to Original Medicare.

There are ten different types of Medigap policies, referred to as ‘plans’, which are named after letters of the alphabet. Though the coverage offered within each plan is set by federal law, insurance companies do not have to offer all ten. Regardless of the company selling them, plans with the same letter must offer the same benefits. However, each company may charge a different monthly premium for the same-lettered plan. Here is a scenario to illustrate that point: Medigap Plan A offered by Insurance Company (1) provides exactly the same benefits as Medigap Plan A offered by Insurance Company (2), but Insurance Company (2) charges a higher premium. You can get the same coverage with Insurance Company (1) for a lower monthly premium. That’s why you can benefit from shopping around. Contact your State Health Insurance Assistance Program – called “SHIP” – to learn more about how to compare Medigap policy coverage. If you have any questions, please call Lynn, the SHIP Counselor at the DeKalb County Council on Aging, at 256-843-8590.

By Jan Newhoff

Since the election of a president who has promised to repeal the Affordable Care Act, some citizens are in a quandary about what they should do about their insurance. Here are some things to consider:

1. At this time, the law is still in effect as written. Open Enrollment for 2017 is still underway through January 31, with no changes from before the election. Tax credits are the same; policies offered are the same; deadlines are the same.

2. If you need health insurance, it makes sense for you to take care of those needs now. You can address changes in the law that occur if and when they take effect.

3. There are over twenty million Americans who did not have health care before and now have it under the Affordable Care Act. It is hard to imagine that our leaders in Washington, D.C., will leave all of these people high and dry. They imagine that our leaders in Washington, D.C., did not have health care before and now have it under the Affordable Care Act. It is hard to encourage enrollment in health care except that no compensation. They have no motivation to make a positive difference in how much you pay.

4. It is recommended that everyone who already has insurance with the Affordable Care Act revisit their account to make sure all information is current and to reconsider the policies offered to be sure you have the best one for you.

Updating your information can often make a positive difference in how much you pay. The three certified Navigators available in DeKalb and Jackson Counties are volunteers, receiving no compensation. They have no motivation to encourage enrollment in health care except that they believe that all Americans need and deserve health care. They will be available through January 31 on Thursdays (2-4) at the Fort Payne Library and on Tuesdays (9-11) at the Scottsboro Library. Information is available at 256-254-0668. You can also call the government at 1-800-318-2596, or go to healthcare.gov.

Affordable Care Act: What To Do Now?

Serving Northeast Alabama for Over 50 Years!

877-272-1451

BUILDERS SUPPLY CO., INC.

"Quality & Service You Can Build On"

Fort Payne (256) 845-1451

Sylvania (256) 638-2244

Andersen

Installed Insulation

Concrete Blocks

Window and Screen Repair

Pallets & Crates

Lumber and Building Materials

Roof and Floor Trusses

Custom Closet Design and Installation

Paint, Plumbing & Electrical

SACE ADVICE:

By Susan Seago

Mulch is Good

I love mulch! What is mulch? It is protection and weed prevention for landscaping. It also helps to retain moisture in the ground for the plants. Plant roots are protected from extreme temperature in winter and summer. Who wants to water more than necessary? This has been a severe drought year, so any help for the landscaping is a very good thing. Maybe you spend some up front for the mulch, but you save a lot of time, money, and worry about your landscape.

If you already have mulch on your beds, now would be a good time to check for sufficient coverage before winter. After the first frost (which may have occurred between the writing of this article and the printing of this paper), apply a new or fresh layer of mulch. A three to four inch layer of mulch should be applied around trees and shrubs as well as in all flower beds. Keep mulch six inches from the trunks of trees and about 2 inches from shrubs to prevent suffocation of the roots. Spread mulch to the drip line of trees or at least in a four to five foot diameter from the tree. The roots go out many feet from the trunk and that is what you are trying to protect.

Avoid "volcano" mulching around trees--piling up around the trunk. A layer level will suffice. Too much of the mulch around the trunk will cause decay from the moisture held by the mulch and invite pests to the bark. The trunk is the lifeline of the tree to carry food and water to all the branches and must be protected as such.

Natural mulch, such as leaves, can be applied three to six inches deep. It feeds the soil as well as protects the roots and retains moisture. The leaves will break down through the winter and more mulch will be needed come spring. It is not costly in money, but in time and work. Pine straw can be applied as another mulch. Again, it needs to be at least three inches deep after settling. It will break down within six months and need additional amounts applied. It feeds the ground, but it adds acidity to the soil, so those plants that need a higher pH will not grow as well.

My favorite mulch is ground or shredded hardwood. Experience has shown that this type of mulch will last much longer before needing a new application. It is more costly than pine straw, but, as it lasts so much longer, it is economical in the long run.

While the weather is still somewhat comfortable for working outdoors, mulch your landscape. It will be very pretty and save you time, money, and effort through the entire year.
RUSTIC CUBIN near Mentone. 1 1/2 story, 2BR/2BA, home, open floor plan, large vaulted ceilings. Large guest bedroom overlooking living area. Lge screened in porch, $279,900. MLS #1011761.

Three BR/3BA home with vaulted ceilings, open floor plan, and hardwood floors throughout. $350,000. MLS #1057784.

ROYAL POINSETTA! 2BR/1.5BA home. Nestled in the lush greenery of the Roundstone woods. $199,990. MLS #1039092.

Enjoy the Brow view from porch of this two-story home with vaulted ceilings and brick fireplace, $279,900. MLS #1048786.

Beautiful mountain Get-away with gorgeous view year round. 3 bedrooms, 2 bath, shake-sided with gorgeous view year round. $239,000. MLS #1017671.

Two homes on 2.8 acres with b/w view walking distance to town. 2 master suites, each w/access to porches & views, lge screened porch, open deck, irrigation system, full-house generator. MLS #10357784, $350,000.

RUSTIC CABIN on 3+/- acre lot, furnished and gas log fireplace. $279,900. MLS #1048786.

UNIQUE CABIN with a VIEW in Valley View Forest. 3BR/2BA, Den and Formal Living area with lots of rustic features. Open kitchen and Den. $239,900. MLS #1056992.

RUSTIC CABIN with gas fireplace, kitchens and sleeping nook, private porch downstairs. Lge BR/BA and sitting area upstairs. Laurel Creek Lakes with access to lakes & walking trails. $139,900. MLS #1053545.

Southern Charm offers Loft, 1BR and 1BA with wood floors, oak flooring, and wood fireplaces. Enjoy your own relaxing paradise w/plenty of Mountain Laurels and rocks. Built to preserve the property’s natural beauty. $459,900. MLS #1054116.

Live & Play On the Water! Cabin overlooking the water features hardwood floors, custom cabinets, FP & storage space. Newly remodeled apartment. $255,000. MLS #1055588.

2BR/2BA with full appliance package, storage building, screened front porch, back deck, totally remodeled with an addition within the last 5 years to include windows, doors and wiring. FURNISHED! $169,900. MLS #1055485.

DOWNTOWN MENTONE. Enjoy sunset from this b/w side cabin. Open design living/dining/wall of windows, vaulted ceilings. All furnishings included. New roof and patio. Enjoy your own relaxing paradise w/plenty of Mountain Laurels and rocks. $155,900.

Two Cabins near Big Canoe, 3BR/2BA. One has a 4 season room with wood burning stove. $129,900. MLS #1056992.

Lotus and Land

#392849 - 4.4 acre tract on b/w. $190,000
#405694 - 1.06 of prime brow view. $109,500.
#665265 - 7+ WOODED ACRES in Mt. River Estates. $59,000.
#665968 - 1 ACRE LOT in Hidden Lake Sub. $40,000.
#672351 - 1.02 ACRE LOT in Hidden Lake Sub. $40,000.
#485945 - 200 of water frontage. $42,000.
#495265 - 1 ACRE LOT in Hidden Lake Sub. $49,000.
#1011734 - .69 ACRE wooded lot on Brush Creek. $27,900.
#1014183 - 1.5 ACRES, Brown Lot on CR 89. $124,900.
#1021165 - 2 ACRE LOT offering lake and bow foot. $59,900.
#1027934 - Lot on River Lane. $29,900.
#1052720 - 2.8 acres with travel trailer, water, septic, dock. $82,500.
The Rhododendron Garden Club met on Tuesday, November 8, at the MERF House. Hostess Carol Argo welcomed fall with creatively displayed pumpkins on a wooden crate and more eats than required. The mulled cider was especially tasty and much appreciated since a decided chill was in the air.

President, Martha Wood, called the meeting to order. The pledge to the flag was followed by the roll call. This month, members were to bring a piece of fall foliage. Oak, dogwood, sumac, redbud, hydrangea and Bradford pear leaves provided shades of red/purple, and the yellow/oranges were seen in the hickory and maple leaves. We were amazed by the intensity and variety of colors since the weather had been so hot and dry. We welcomed visitor Jo Anne.

The meditation, Martha read a poem, Sewing Seeds of Service by Trece Chancellor and passed out a timely handout about forcing bulbs to bloom indoors. Committee reports, old and new business followed.

Club member Madelon Hoagland asked members to bring a low bowl to use for the hands-on part of her program "How to Force Bulbs Indoors." She provided rocks and Paperwhite Narcissus bulbs that were ready for forcing. They do not require chilling and only need water as the medium for growing. (Amaryllis and Freesia also require no chilling but are usually planted in soil.) Pots should be wide and have at least 2 inches below the bulb for root growth. Potted bulbs look best when crowded- so snuggle those bulbs together (close but not touching). We loaded the containers with pebbles, placed the bulbs on top, and added a few more pebbles to cover where the roots would emerge. The final instruction was to put enough water in the container to cover the bottom quarter or third of the bulb. Now to wait patiently for the blooms to appear!

Other bulbs that may be forced are Crocus, Daffodil, Hyacinth, Iris, Lily of the Valley, Snowdrop and Tulip. The bulbs require a "chilling period" which tricks them into blooming out of season. The ideal chilling temperature is 40 degrees, and the chill time varies with bulbs. Most bulbs need 12-16 weeks of cold before the embryonic flower starts to develop. (If chilling in the refrigerator, be sure NOT to put the bulbs near fruit as the released ethylene gas reduces bloom. Store the bulbs in a ventilated mesh bag.) Use a good quality potting soil, and make sure the container has excellent drainage. Tops of bulbs are just covered in soil, and the soil should be kept moderately moist in a cool location. When the green sprouts appear, move to a bright window and, soon, a little springtime in the winter!

After the program, members put together six fall containers to decorate the tables for the Senior luncheon on the following day at the MERF House. Orange, yellow and white containers were filled with Mums, Boxwood and Pine boughs. The hope is to make decorative units each month to improve our design abilities and provide the seniors with lovely arrangements for each table. We'll see how that goes!

The December meeting is a luncheon held in the home of Mary Shurett. Officers will be installed and programs and plans decided for the upcoming year. The club always meets on the second Tuesday of the month. Some of us are Master Gardeners, some Master Talkers, and others are Master Killers of plants, so visitors or possible members should be able to find a comfortable niche and are always welcome.


Financial Strategies. One-on-one advice.

Ty M Willeford, AAMS®
Financial Advisor
503 North Main St
LaFayette, GA 30728
706-638-6673
www.edwardjones.com

Edward Jones®
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING
Member SIPC
CEDAR CABIN in the woods, open floor plan with great room, eat-in kitchen, 2 bedrooms, 2 tiled baths, pine floors, tile counter and island in kitchen, loft, tuck and groove walls, covered deck with hot tub. Fireplace. Stainless appliances. Nice quiet setting. Appt Only. $219,000 (22973)

LEVEL WOODED LOTS in Crestline Park Subdivision in Mentone. Lot 24. 1.27 acres. Great area to build that getaway cabin in the woods. $25,000 (23184).

TUCKED AMONG THE RHODODENDRONS. Humlocks, Oak trees is a rustic 1 1/4 story, 3 bdrm, 2 bath. on 3.85 acres. Listen to the creek run over the rocks from the screened porch. Open floor plan, wood burning FP. Hot tub. Furnished. Located in Cloudland, GA. Seasonal views. $182,000

TRETOPS is a wonderful rustic log cabin nestled amongst giant boulders and hardwood trees. A large stone fireplace is the centerpiece of this cozy cabin. The timber walls and antiques add more charm to this mountain get away. The large bedroom has a vaulted ceiling and expansive views of the tree tops. A full width screened porch and multi level decks provide plenty of room for outdoor entertaining. Fully renovated bath with stack washer. This charming cabin comes fully furnished and includes all appliances. It’s ready for your enjoyment! $112,000.

8.75 ACRES with 200 ft on West Fork Little River. Hardwoods, hollies, and easy access to river. Level to rolling terrain. $89,000 (23183).

3.8 ACRES located in East Fork Little River Estates. Nicely wooded with a portion of the historic Dinky Line Railway. 175 ft. on river (Cherokee Co. Mentone). covenants & restrictions. 3 bdrm, 2 bath. $45,000.

COTTAGE ON LITTLE RIVER CANYON. What a peaceful setting and private. 2 bdrm with sleeping loft, 2 baths. Great room with Rock Fireplace. Covered front porch and grilling deck. Adjoins on the back side Wildlife Management and in the distance the canyon preserve. Private access. Appt Only. $140k (22865)

8.75 ACRES located at Canyon View Forest Subdivision. Wooded and joining the bluff of Little River National Preserve. $60,000

SECLUSION AND TRANQUILITY are nestled in this 2 story luxury 18R/18B Heritage Log Home. Located on 30 acres of breathtaking views and woods on the East Brow of Lookout Mountain, Cloudland, GA. This fully furnished home features vaulted ceiling in the great room and kitchen/dining room both of which have handcrafted rock fireplaces. Fully equipped kitchen with granite and concrete countertops, stainless steel appliances, and eat-in bar. Amenities include 4 CHA units, laundry room, and separate petting shed/workshop. The detached 2-car garage has a full upstairs 18R/18B and extra storage room. An ideal mountain escape! Craftsmanship and attention to detail makes this property one of a kind. Appointment only. $835,000. (23208)

LOTs AND ACREAGE

5.7 WOODED ACRES with a beautiful view across from Lake Lahuage. The driveway has been started to build your Mentone getaway! Paved road frontage, city water available, perc tested. Lightly restricted. Seller is very motivated! REDUCED $49,900 (19865)

3.8 ACRES on the East brow tract overlooking Pleasant Valley. Rock palmalades, wooded. See Weiss Lake in the distance. Private gated area. Joins National Preserve & Forever Wild protected property. $60,000 (22866)

VALLEY VIEW FOREST East Brow view of Shoshone Valley. Located in Cloudland, GA. $127,500 (23213)

5 ACRES on the East brow tract overlooking Pleasant Valley. Rock palmalades, wooded. See Weiss Lake in the distance. Private gated area. Joins National Preserve & Forever Wild protected property. $60,000 (22866)

8.75 ACRES located at Canyon View Forest Subdivision. Wooded and joining the bluff of Little River National Preserve. $60,000

SECLUDED AND TRANQUIL are nestled in this 2 story luxury 18R/18B Heritage Log Home. Located on 30 acres of breathtaking views and woods on the East Brow of Lookout Mountain, Cloudland, GA. This fully furnished home features vaulted ceiling in the great room and kitchen/dining room both of which have handcrafted rock fireplaces. Fully equipped kitchen with granite and concrete countertops, stainless steel appliances, and eat-in bar. Amenities include 4 CHA units, laundry room, and separate petting shed/workshop. The detached 2-car garage has a full upstairs 18R/18B and extra storage room. An ideal moun- tain escape! Craftsmanship and attention to detail makes this property one of a kind. Appointment only. $835,000. (23208)

Dixieland Delight Farm in Mentone, AL. Beautiful 19.3 acres with open pasture, 2 ponds, wooded area with trails for horseback or ATV. Barn with tack or equipment storage. Fenced for livestock. City water and paved road frontage. What a setting! $150,000 (23155)

THE SHADOWS, A UNIQUE LOG CABIN. Sunroom, 2 bdrm, 1.5 baths. 2 fireplaces. Living Dining combo, sitting room. Native Landscaped yard. Covered porch. $169,000. (23143)

THE WHITE COTTAGE. Adorable 2 bdrm 1.5 bath. Completely Remodeled. Walk to the shops and restaurants in Mentone. Living room, updated kitchen, and cute breakfast nook. Established rental property and a great investment. $128,500 (23209)

DESIGNER HOME W/3ac, Pool & views. What a setting! $330,000 (23207)

5.2 ACRES with 140' of frontage on West Fork Little River. Cabin nestled amongst giant boulders and hardwood trees. $75,000 (23206)
Circles can be complete to themselves, like an island. Even an island is made of many connected parts (land, trees, animals) that must interact with the rest of the world for survival (sun, rain, fire). Many of us, particularly at this holiday time of year, can feel isolated and alone and forget that we are an integral link in the circle of life—in this small mountain community as well as in this vast Universe.

The drought and fires of the past month have reminded us of our connection to our town, our neighbors, and the local community. At the same time, the recent election is changing our political landscape. Meanwhile, every morning the sun shines, and the leaves change, and my dog needs to go for a morning walk to gather the neighborhood news. Whether these changes seem large or small to each of us, they do connect us by the power of their occurrence.

Our community has so many healing artists of such a variety of modalities. For our December meeting, we will be hosting a Holiday Healing Arts Circle at Kamama on Friday, December 9th, from 5 to 8 pm CST. Tohi is sponsoring the event in celebration of their first year of business in Mentone and will be having an open house with mini massage sessions and introduction of their two new massage therapists. Locally prepared light snacks will be served, and some local healing arts vendors will provide mini presentations and opportunities to purchase their products. Local music will be side by side with poetry, prayers, and meditation during our open mic time.

I am so excited to be celebrating a year of my business in the heart of Mentone, at Kamama! Thank you Ray and Sandra Padgett for your support this time last year when I asked if I could rent the room in the back of the gallery to offer chair massages for shoppers through the holiday season. Although I was entering my 6th winter in Mentone, I hadn't really rebooted my massage practice full time after having taken a brief hiatus. A one month holiday stint turned into a rental agreement and the installation of a private room for the table massage. And now, a calendar cycle later, my “island” is growing with an additional relaxation station and two more therapists—Orion and Sonya.

Orion Nicely, LMT, has completed his Massage Therapy Certification as part of his Associates Degree in Applied Sciences from Northeast Alabama Community College in Rainsville, AL. Since obtaining his Alabama Massage License in mid-October, he has been providing therapeutic massage sessions in and out of the office to fantastic reviews. We will enjoy and benefit from his services until Spring 2017, when he returns to his studies to become a physical therapist. I am honored to have him as part of the Tohi team and to support his professional and personal goals. From Orion: “I have lived in Mentone all my life and... would ask for love and support in my new profession. I can never give back everything this town and its people have given me. I hope that many of you can support... my practice so I can continue to further educate myself in order to become a better healer.”

Sonya Henderson, LMT, just graduated from the Therapeutic Massage Program at Gadsden State Community College. She was Licensed by the State of Alabama in mid-November and immediately joined me here at Tohi. She brings her Mom skills (mother of 3), sales skills (Akins Furniture), and hostess skills (Wildflower Cafe) 'to the table'. Sonya believes “in a holistic approach to health and whole body wellness, with therapeutic massage being a big contributor to our health. I look forward to being a part of the Tohi team and serving the community with healing touch.”

These two new massage therapists are the best birthday present I could imagine for Tohi’s first birthday! From our tables to yours, throughout these holidays: breathe, relax and may you go with the flow. And if not...please make an appointment. :) Gift certificates make great presents.

We are all looking forward to seeing visitors and the variety of healing artists that will be joining us for our birthday celebration and healing arts circle. Please contact me at 256-635-8855 if you are interested in presenting at the program or in donating door prizes. All healing arts are encouraged; from song and dance to a group Reiki or water blessing....please come and express your creative, healing self.

By Lisa Schad, LMT
Mentone
Realty

Charlotte Gentry
Broker/Owner
256-996-5995

“The Natural Choice”

Merry Christmas
and Happy New Year!

from our
Mentone Realty family to yours

Welcome to Mentone

Stop in and see us at our log cabin office in the heart of Mentone.
Best coffee around!

LOTS AND LAND

19 ACRES beautiful woodland with Laurel Creek running through it. Level to gently sloping. Perfect for soaking up a blue sky getaway. Wild turkey, deer, bobcat, foxes...just about any kind of mountain wildlife one could imagine has been spotted on this property by the owner. Mountain laurel, laurel-tolaudodendron, cucumber, magnolia, wild azaleas. Some restorations. $60,000

ACREAGE WITH A SMALL LAKE HEAD START ON YOUR BUILDING SITE! $30,000. Lightly restricted 4.33 wooded acres on Full Moon Lake, Laurel Creek Lakes Subdivision. This ACREAGE has a beautiful pond, fenced at entry, stone sidewalk and stone foundation. Well water isn't perfect, needs some spiffing up. $27,500

2.2 UNRESTRICTED, WOODED ACRES Mentone. Corner property, excellent areas to walk, bike or keep a few chickens. Public water & power at the road. Great building site for one or a couple of cabins. $18,000 (101111)

WOW! Build your dream home with a view! 3-acre building lot overlooking beautiful Weiss Lake. Already cleared & ready to build with utilities at the road. $30,000 (1051832)

A PROPERTY RARE. Yes, you can buy wooded acreage. Yes, you can have a bow-side view. Yes, you can have abundant wildlife. BUT, where else will you find 44 acres of hardwood mountainside with forever views, several level building sites and ready for utility hookups? Tally Cave. Don't let it get away. Priced at $119,000 (785767)

4.43 WOODED ACRES, unrestricted. Septic tank to accommodate a 3BR/2BA home, gravel drive, public water & power already in place! Great place for RV, ready to build. You’ll not find a better price in Mentone. Now only $33,900. (311229)

VIEWs OF SUNRises, SUNSETS, sparkling water below from awesome vantage point! Approx 10.5 acres & 140' frontage on Ft Payne Reservoir. Paved road frontage on Hwy 137 & Oakwood Ave. Lots lots along Berdella Rd. Feathersound and the Highlands! This property has it all! Beautiful woodlands, beautiful views and beautiful potential. Roads already cut in, public water on property & property in the making. $550,000 (1045845)

2 WOODED ACRES with a tiny little rustic “cabin” (no plumbing) on 4 acres. Hardwoods, picturesque boulders, wild turkey, deer...most any kind of wildlife found in these hills. A quiet place to find yourself returning at the end of the day, or as a weekend get-away. $36,700. (1034593)

STOP IN AND SEE US AT OUR LOG CABIN OFFICE IN THE HEART OF MENTONE. BEST COFFEE AROUND!

SOLD

TALL MEADOW RUE. A new cottage with an “old world” look and feel. Details that are seldom seen: English chimney pots, transom doors; tall windows; stained glass; craftsmanship in stone & brick-work; arched entry & front door; curved lines; storm room; custom cabinetry & quartz counters; antique mantel & brick fireplace w/bookshelves both sides; Main-level bath w/cathedral tub. Extensive professionally-landscaped gardens w/stone path, tea house, lighting and tiny chapel. A place words fail to adequately describe; and to see it one finds endless wonders to take in. Exquisitely furnished, with most items to remain with cottage. Discover it for yourself. You’ll be enchanted. Intriguing price, $321,500 (1045090)

SPACIOUS, IMMACULATE & BEAUTIFUL CABIN on 3.8 acres w/pond on Middle Fork, Little River. 2640 sq ft; woodburning fireplace; pine floors; high-end windows & doors; pro-quality gas range w/electric convection oven; on-demand hot water. 3BR/2BA+loft 4thBR. Main-level Master suite. Move-in ready! Screened porch, covered and open decks on two sides. 3 levels, each with private bath/bedrooms. $249,900 (1019875)

HOW DOES ONE PUT A PRICE ON SOMETHING SO SPECIAL?
To be right there at DeSoto Falls. To hear it, to see it, to be able to experience it from your private back deck. It’s an amazing thing. To be able to fish most any time or put in a kayak most any time from the public launch at DeSoto Falls Lake. Nothing compares. Then experience it from your private back deck. It’s an amazing thing. To be right there at DeSoto Falls. To hear it, to see it, to be able to experience it from your private back deck. It’s an amazing thing. Tons of cabinetry & quartz counters; antique mantel & brick fireplace w/bookshelves both sides; Main-level bath w/cathedral tub. Extensive professionally-landscaped gardens w/stone path, tea house, lighting and tiny chapel. A place words fail to adequately describe; and to see it one finds endless wonders to take in. Exquisitely furnished, with most items to remain with cottage. Discover it for yourself. You’ll be enchanted. Intriguing price, $321,500 (1045090)

HOW DOES ONE PUT A PRICE ON SOMETHING SO SPECIAL?
To be right there at DeSoto Falls. To hear it, to see it, to be able to experience it from your private back deck. It’s an amazing thing. To be able to fish most any time or put in a kayak most any time from the public launch at DeSoto Falls Lake. Nothing compares. Then experience it from your private back deck. It’s an amazing thing. Tons of cabinetry & quartz counters; antique mantel & brick fireplace w/bookshelves both sides; Main-level bath w/cathedral tub. Extensive professionally-landscaped gardens w/stone path, tea house, lighting and tiny chapel. A place words fail to adequately describe; and to see it one finds endless wonders to take in. Exquisitely furnished, with most items to remain with cottage. Discover it for yourself. You’ll be enchanted. Intriguing price, $321,500 (1045090)

OWN YOUR OWN LITTLE CANYON with Johnny Creek cascading through the forest below. 36 acres & a fabulous cypress-sided home. Approx 3600 sq ft of deliciously-designed living inside, tremendous tree-top decks & porches outside! Brazilian hardwood floors, 2 fireplaces, fab light fixtures throughout. Tons of cabinetry, commercial-grade gas range, granite countertops. Simple luxury in a mountain retreat or residence. $599,000. (1010510)

LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN HOME on two acres inside Ft Payne City Limits. Vaulted living room w/stone fireplace, dining room, large country kitchen; utility room; walkway to in-law suites & storm room; curved lines; storm room; ceramic tile. A place words fail to adequately describe; and to see it one finds endless wonders to take in. Exquisitely furnished, with most items to remain with cottage. Discover it for yourself. You’ll be enchanted. Intriguing price, $321,500 (1045090)

WELL-MAINTAINED LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN HOME on two acres inside Ft Payne City Limits. Vaulted living room w/stone fireplace, dining room, large country kitchen; utility room; walkway to in-law suites & storm room; curved lines; storm room; ceramic tile. A place words fail to adequately describe; and to see it one finds endless wonders to take in. Exquisitely furnished, with most items to remain with cottage. Discover it for yourself. You’ll be enchanted. Intriguing price, $321,500 (1045090)

EXPANSIVE VIEWS & PLENTY OF ROOM INSIDE & OUT! This Mentone front-home has a fantastic possibility for your personal family getaway, residence or rental. 4BR/2.5BA; beautiful hickory floors in KI/DI/LR; newer stainless appliances; 2-car attached garage (convert it into a huge den w/ a bow-side view?). Needs a bit of updating, but with approx 170’ bow-frontage, this place could be the best buy on the mountain! $239,000 (1038210)

EXPANSIVE VIEWS & PLENTY OF ROOM INSIDE & OUT! This Mentone front-home has a fantastic possibility for your personal family getaway, residence or rental. 4BR/2.5BA; beautiful hickory floors in KI/DI/LR; newer stainless appliances; 2-car attached garage (convert it into a huge den w/ a bow-side view?). Needs a bit of updating, but with approx 170’ bow-frontage, this place could be the best buy on the mountain! $239,000 (1038210)

SELLING SELLING SELLING

Merritt’s Blessings
Be Yours
This Christmas!
Have a Joy-Filled Christmas!

Holly Watson-Houston
Assoc. BROKER®  256-996-9552

Ben Johnston
Assoc. REALTOR®  256-996-1774

Melody Sellers
Assoc. REALTOR®  256-996-0297

www.mentonerealty.com
Office: (256) 634-4767
ATTENTION GROUNDHOG READERS!
Copies of The Groundhog are available at the following locations:

FORT PAYNE
Alabama Fan Club
Big Mill & Vintage 1889
Brown's Cleaners
Bruce's Foodland
Chow King
Days Inn
DeKalb Library
DeKalb Tourism
First Federal
Ft. Payne Chamber of Commerce
Hampton Inn
Holiday Inn
Huddle House
Priceless IGA
Quality Inn
Southern Gold & Silver
Southern Properties
The Spot Coffee Shop
The Strand
The Wishing Well
Waffle House
Waffle King

VALLEY HEAD
I-59 Flea Market
Alabama Organics
Burt Funeral Home
Citizens Bank
Dave's Antiques
Hammondville Quick Stop
Headquarters Beauty Salon
Miracle Pottery
Tigers Inn
Valley Head Drug
Valley Head Food Mart
Valley Head Town Hall
Victory Fuel
Water Board

MENTONE
Body Maintenance
Clip Joint
Community Library
GracefulGiraffe
Gourdie Shop
Hair @ The Village
Kamama's
Little River Hardware
Lookout Mountain Realty

COX TILE - 706-766-2758 - Sunrooms, marble, baths, shower pan repair. James Pleasant Cox, jpcxstlile1@gmail.com.

Subscribe to The Groundhog!

Name ___________________________________________________________
Address__________________________________________________________
City__________________________________State_________Zip___________
Email ______________________________________ Phone________________

Is this a new or renewed subscription? ___________________

Is there someone special who would love to have a Groundhog subscription? Just fill in their information above and fill in your name below:
From____________________________________________

Send your check payable to:
The Groundhog, P. O. Box 387, Mentone, AL 35984

Have The Groundhog delivered to your mailbox!
Subscribe now or renew your own subscription.
Just $20 a Year!

YOU'RE INVITED!!
Moon Lake School
December PTO Meeting
Christmas Program
Dec 15th - 6 pm
Moon Lake Gym
Buy Chances on Gift Card Give Away

Moon Lake Basketball
Saturdays in December
Games @ 10am & 11am
December 3, 10, 17

WALL BEDS (Murphy Bed style) - We have all size Wall Beds. Great for spare room and small areas. Come see our showroom in Collinsville, AL on Hwy 68 at the Alabama Mattress Outlet. Store 9-5 Mon. – Sat. Call 256-523-3622 or Andy Crow 256-490-4025.
The recent Creative Spirit Market hosted by the Little River Arts Council & DeSoto State Park drew more than 350 visitors on its first day. This event was a new twist on the traditional art fair. It was designed as an open-air showcase, with artist demonstrations, locally & regionally created fine & folk art, premium hand-crafted goods, live acoustic music, as well as interactive kid’s art area. Shoppers watched more than 30 artists in their creative process, listened to music, plus purchased goods from fine and folk artists such as painters, potters, quilters, weavers, basket makers, fabric spinners, culinary artists and other craftsmen.