Moon Lake School—Full STEAM Ahead

Moon Lake School is right on track and making great progress! Results are in on last year’s academic year and the 21st Century After School Program is engaging young minds through STEAM activities. Recently, the DeKalb County School Principals met with new Superintendent Jason Barnett. The school's received their report cards from the state and the results were discussed. Moon Lake Principal Mary Lance proudly displays the report card on a bulletin board near the office, with several other items of interest to parents. Moon Lake's overall grade is 94. Mrs. Lance attributes the good results to the dedication and effort of the staff. Last year there were a lot of staff development classes as well as new ideas used to address the areas where students needed the most help. Mrs. Lance says "We will do this each year so that we keep working on what the kids need. That's why we are here- to help the kids."

Moon Lake scored higher than both the county and state averages for the 2015-2016 school year. Student Achievement reflects the percentage of students who are proficient (know the material they are required to know for their grade level) in the subject area. 74% of Moon Lake students tested proficient in reading skills, compared with 46% in DeKalb County Schools and 56% statewide. For math skills, Moon Lake received 90%, the county 52%, and the state 63%. The Learning Gains category describes the growth of individual students in reading and math from one year to the next. Moon Lake scored 100% in both reading and math— the only school in the county to achieve this. This means that EVERY child tested showed improvement from last year in both areas! This is encouraging. Kids are learning at school, as they should be. Mrs. Lance has a motto, "Teach every child. Meet them where they are and bring them to where they need to be." She believes in helping each child in the way that will best help them succeed. Her staff supports this idea as well. (cont’d on page 12)

Mentone Arts and Cultural Center . . . Envision A Place

For the last thirty-five to forty years, Mentone citizens and friends have discussed and dreamed about a place to house local historical artifacts, a place to educate and pass on their cultural heritage of art and music, and a place to show off local and visiting talent.

After all this time, these dreams and visions resulted in an action plan about three years ago. A broad-based community effort of volunteers formed an organization, developed a business plan, donated a building site, and created conceptual facility plans for a center that would bring these dreams to fruition – The Mentone Arts and Cultural Center.

Because of the critical need for an emergency safe room for Mentone residents, the plan incorporated a “Community Safe Room” into the center design. This part of the facility will double as an area museum.

While the primary purpose of the center is to educate and preserve area culture, the facility will also house a full commercial kitchen needed to host art and music related conferences, conventions, and special events.

A stage and multipurpose room with a capacity of 200 people is the key central feature. (cont’d on page 4)
Mentone Matters

By Mayor Rob Hammond

Senator Steve Livingston and Representative Nathaniel Ledbetter set up a meeting with ALDOT North Region Engineer Curtis Vincent and representatives from Wiregrass Construction concerning the paving of AL 117 in front of Town Hall in Mentone on Election Day. Valley Head Mayor Lamar Bray and I also attended the meeting. All expressed sincere regret for the inconvenience to voters. In planning work for the day, the fact that the polling place was Town Hall was overlooked. Once ALDOT and Wiregrass were notified of the problem it was difficult to stop the paving

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.

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Join MAPA Today!
Help us preserve Mentone’s history and impact its future.

Individuals - $20 a year
Couples - $30 a year

MAPA
P.O. Box 50
Mentone, AL 35984

From The Editor

Two months--that is how long it's been since the droughts and the wildfires. Now, we are amidst a flash flood. My driveway has been largely consumed by a river of water that flowed for several hours.

Sixty or so days ago, we were watering trees, not shrubs or newly set flowers, but trees that had been in the ground for over 6 months, because we were afraid of losing them due to lack of water.

Life changes; it changes fast; it changes with little or no notice. We must adapt; we must change fast; we must be flexible and diverse.

As I drive on the wet highway with the liquid whishing through my tires as they roll over the pavement and the wipers sway back and forth, to and fro, and we pass the swelled river beds, I recall the low water ponds and waterfalls that were not flowing and only barely visible a short time ago. In the span of a life or of a nation, one-sixth of a year is relatively brief. During this time, the Earth seems to have renewed herself in its little area.

Only a short time ago, the hotness and dryness made Her seem barren and desolate and harsh. Now, She weeps. Her tears which now ravage the mountainsides and roadways will soon bring life to the plants of spring.

Even Mother Nature has drastic mood swings. From the heat that seemed to spark fires from mere wizardry to the drenching of the downpours that wash away the very residue of those fires. When the spring comes anew there will be blossoms and blooms and even new life springing forth from the wildlife that have survived all the devastation.

As we start into this new year, let’s face it with the hope of renewal, strength from our trials, perseverance through it all, and a dedication to the best future possible.

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

By Anna Mae Horn

MAPA is looking forward to the 2017 Rhododendron Festival, and we are sure you are too! As soon as one festival is over, people start asking about the next one. Plans are being discussed for the Miss Rhododendron Pageant and all the wonderful vendors that will be showing off their handmade items and their delicious food. Musical talents are being lined up as you read this.

Yes, it's a few months away, but these terrific festivals take a lot of planning and a lot of effort from wonderful volunteers. Meetings have started, but it isn't too late to join in. The camaraderie at the meeting is always lively. Does this sound like fun? Be at Kamama at 1 pm on Thursdays!

We are excited to welcome a few new volunteers this year. One is David Killian, who will be coordinating the Boy Scouts assistance. Their help is always appreciated, and it is a great way to represent our community to visitors who come to the festival. Boy Scouts make a great first impression as they kindly assist visitors with their parking. They can be seen doing a lot of other clean up and service duties as well.

We are still in need of help with a few certain areas. We need someone to help with the signs that will direct visitors to the festival and advertise the event for us. If you have suggestions for new activities for this springtime event, those are welcome. Also, we would like to have some additional sponsors for this year’s festival. If you own a business and would like to sponsor, please contact us. If your workplace sponsors events, please inquire on behalf of MAPA or let us know and we will make the inquiry. Remember, funds raised are used to support many activities in Mentone and to preserve our culture and heritage. It’s a wonderful cause to support financially and through volunteering.

If you are a vendor and are interested in having a booth, be sure to sign up ASAP! Spots are limited and are on a first come, first serve basis. This year’s application is included in this issue of The Groundhog and is also available online. This year, the application can be completed and the fee paid all online. You still have the option to print it out and mail it in, or request that a copy be mailed to you.

Visit mapamentone.com for a vendor application or more information. Also, be sure to like us on facebook at Mentone Alabama Festivals for all the latest information and all the exciting plans for the third weekend (20th and 21st) of May.

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2017 RHODODENDRON FESTIVAL
SHOW APPLICATION
MAY 19-21

$100 FOR A 12’ X 12’ SPACE
APPLICATION DEADLINE IS APRIL 1

Contact Name_______________
Business Name________________________________________
Address______________________________________________
City, State, Zip________________________
Phone_________________________ Cell Phone____________________
E-mail_________________________ FB Page____________________
Website Address ____________________________

Type of Vendor: ___Art/Craft ___Food (see pg. 2) ___Business(promo only) ___Organization

Description of Art/Items_____________________________________

Electrical - Show number of outlets needed: ___110V Electricity ($25) ___220V Electricity ($50)
Water - ___Water ($25)

Vendor Special Needs______________________________________

Handicap Accessibility Needs________________________________

Number of Spaces______ Amount enclosed_____________________

This year’s Rhododendron Festival will be held all over Mentone, but the artists will be located primarily at Brow Park. Show hours will be 9am-5pm Saturday and 11am-4pm Sunday. You may set up your space on Friday, May 19, 12-5pm, or Saturday, May 20, 6-30-8:30am. Please be ready for the show to start at 9am. If you participate in the show, you MUST set up for both days. Cars MUST be moved to specified vendor parking area after unloading. You may break down beginning at 4pm on Sunday—no earlier.

If you require water or electricity, please indicate on the application. There is an additional charge for electricity and/or water. To avoid outages, electricity is reserved for food vendors and artists who require it to show and demonstrate their art or craft. (i.e. not for lighting or fans). No generators will be allowed.

You will be notified of your acceptance no later than April 15. We reserve the right to limit the number of vendors within a category. Spaces will be assigned the week prior to the show, but please check in with the information tent when you arrive as space numbers can change. No spaces can be reserved from show to show. We reserve the right to deny your application.

If you are an artist and this is the first time you have applied for the Rhododendron Festival, please provide photos of your work or a current website or Facebook address. Your application will be declined if there is no way to view your work. ALL ART MUST BE HANDMADE BY THE ARTIST. NO READY-MADE MERCHANDISE IS ALLOWED. The Rhododendron Festival is strictly an arts and crafts festival; therefore, no political or religious organizations will be accepted. Please contact rhododendronfestival@gmail.com if you have any questions. Thank you.

Send completed application form to:
MAPA, P. O. Box 50, Mentone, AL 35984
Make Checks payable to MAPA

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For Food Vendors Only

Name/Business Name__________________________

Please specify exactly the type and quantity of electrical outlets you will require:

___ 110V Electricity ($25)
___ 220V Electricity ($50)

What amp do you need?______________________

If bringing a food trailer:
Length (including tongue) ________
Service window opens from: _____ Passenger Side _____ Driver Side

Please list all food and drink items you will be selling:

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Contact List _____ Recd ________ Ck#_______ Emailed______ Approved_____ Declined______ Reason____

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MAPA NEWS

By Anna Mae Horn

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at-risk youth, and remedial students. This is a driving force behind our plans and efforts.

The Mentone Arts and Cultural Center will be a giant step toward protecting and sustaining Mentone’s cultural and artistic heritage.

The design calls for a state-of-the-art facility that will boost the area’s already great reputation as a tourist destination. Specific programs planned for the center will provide tourists with quality events that will extend their stay and keep them coming back for more. This is a natural extension of Mentone’s phenomenal Summer Camp programs for kids.

Specific practical programs included in our Five-Year Business Plan are described in the following paragraphs. These programs will result in diverse experiences that are participatory, entertaining, intellectual, and educational.

We’d like to teach the world to pursue their artistic dreams, play their favorite musical instrument, and write about things that feed their soul. In addition, participants will have the opportunity to dance and perform great theatre, preserve and foster their cultural heritage, grow, preserve and prepare food that sustains their health, and to understand and appreciate other cultures. And of course, we’d like to teach the world to sing.

The Mentone Arts and Cultural Center will play host to musical events, local and traveling art shows, plays, readings and recitals, traveling exhibits, art and craft fairs, and arts-related meetings and conventions. An amphitheater and the facility open air design will enhance overall event possibilities.

To share our programs with a much wider audience, the MACC Board envisions future uses of the Center to include video and sound production, area radio station, and on-line TV and radio stations that can be connected to social media outlets. With these capabilities, we can record our programs and indeed tell the world about Mentone’s culture and heritage.

The Center would provide the catalyst that assures the preservation and sustenance of the region’s cultural, historic and natural resources, and help boost the economy of the surrounding area. It will be the culmination of almost four decades of dreams for Mentone’s citizens and friends.

To date, we have received more than $240,000 in donations and commitments, with receipt of $74,500 toward the $150,000 3-to-1 matching grant.

MACC (cont’d from page 1)

Mentone Arts and Cultural Center . . . Returning Soon

Back and better than ever! That’s the plan for the Mentone Market. The debris from the devastation of the fire has been removed. However, fond memories of good times there still remain, along with the anticipation of what is next in the life cycle of this place near and dear to all of Mentone.

Early in December, when their busy schedule slowed a bit, two State Fire Marshals and two Insurance Investigators determined that the Mentone Market Fire was an electrical fire. One of the freezers in the storage room was the cause. With that technicality out of the way, clean up could start. And it did. In only a few days, the main structure was cleared away leaving room for rebuilding the business, lives, and a representation of the camaraderie of Mentone folks and visitors.

A kinship so strong that even a burnt building will not keep them apart. In the true spirit of Mentone, a gathering was held at the MERF building and all friends, family, and family in spirit were invited to visit the Emory family and reminisce about the Mentone Market.

On January 21st, Kristen announced what so many had been waiting for: “We will be building soon!!” Excitement is filling the air to see what the future holds as her and Tom start building from scratch. This opens the door for them to use their creative ideas to conceive and build the structure that will once again hold smiles and laughter; food and fun; love and friendship. We can’t wait!
By Barb Stoll

Happy New Year!

Hello everyone and Happy New Year. Hope everyone’s holidays are full of fun and merriment. Now that the holidays have passed we can sit back and hunker down for the winter. This is a great time to visit your Community Library and enjoy our newest additions and the rest of our large selection of bestselling books and DVDs. Here a glimpse of what’s new this month.

**DVDs**

**Finding Dory** - From the Academy Award-winning creators of Finding Nemo (Best Animated Feature, 2003) comes an epic undersea adventure filled with imagination, humor, and heart. When Dory, the forgetful blue tang (Ellen DeGeneres), suddenly remembers she has a family who may be looking for her, she teams up with Marlin (Albert Brooks) and Nemo (Hayden Rolence) to take off on a life-changing quest to find her family. They also get help from Hank, the cantankerous octopus; Bailey, a beluga whale who’s convinced his biological sonar skills are on the Fritz; and Destiny, a nearsighted whale shark! This is sure to be a family favorite.

**Star Trek: Beyond** - From Director Justin Lin and Producer J.J. Abrams comes one of the best-reviewed action movies of the year. Dispatched on a rescue mission to the farthest reaches of space, the USS Enterprise is ambushed by Krall, a ruthless enemy sworn against the Federation. Crash-landing on an uncharted hostile world, Captain Kirk, Spock, and the crew are separated with no means of escape. Only Jaylah, a rebellious alien warrior, can help them reunite and find a way off the planet in a race against time to stop Krall’s deadly army from triggering all-out galactic war.

**BOOKS**

**The Whistler** By John Grisham - We expect our judges to be honest and wise. Their integrity and impartiality are the bedrock of the entire justice system. We trust them to ensure fair trials, to protect the rights of all litigants, to punish those who do wrong, and to oversee the orderly and efficient flow of justice.

But what happens when a judge bends the law or takes a bribe? It’s rare, but it happens.

Lacy Stoltz is an investigator for the Florida Board on Judicial Conduct. She is a lawyer, not a cop, and it is her job to respond to complaints dealing with judicial misconduct.

A corruption case eventually crosses her desk. A previously disbarred lawyer is back in business with a new identity. He now goes by the name of Greg Myers, and he claims to know of a Florida judge who has stolen more money than all other crooked judges combined have.

It seems the judge was secretly involved with the construction of a large casino on Native American land. The judge is taking a cut and looking the other way. But now Greg wants to put a stop to it. His only client is a person who knows the truth and wants to blow the whistle.

Lacy Stoltz immediately suspects this one could be dangerous. Dangerous is one thing; deadly is something else.

**The Chemist** By Stephanie Meyer

She used to work for the U.S. Government, but very few people ever knew that. An expert in her field, she was one of the darkest secrets of an agency so clandestine it doesn’t even have a name. And when they decided she was a liability, they came for her without warning.

Resolving to meet the threat head on, she prepares for the toughest fight of her life but finds herself falling for a man who can only complicate her likelihood of survival. As she sees her choices being rapidly whittled down, she must apply her unique talents in ways she never dreamed.

In this tautly plotted novel, Stephanie Meyer of the Twilight series and the Host, creates a fierce and fascinating new heroine with a very specialized skill set. And she shows once again why she’s one of the world’s best-selling authors.

**The Mistress** By Danielle Steel - Danielle Steel illuminates rarely glimpsed precincts of unimaginable wealth and power, where love and freedom are the most dangerous desires of all.

Natalya Leonov’s beauty saved her life. Discovered on a freezing Moscow street by a Russian billionaire, she has lived for seven years under his protection, immersed in rarefied luxury, while he pursues his activities in a dark world that she guesses at but never sees. Her home is the world and her only job is to keep Vladimir happy, ask no questions, and be discreet.

From Moscow to the Riviera, Paris, and London, The Mistress is a reviewing tale of vast fortune, cruelty, creative genius, and daring courage, as uncompromising individuals chart a course for collision.

Well, there you have it folks, that should keep ol’ man winter at bay for awhile. Come on down and gather up some books and movies, pile on the blankets, and enjoy the winter weather.

The library board was saddened to hear of the passing of Gethryn Giles. She served as a member for many years and her contributions to the library were greatly appreciated. Results of their involvement are still evident, and they will always be remembered.

Remember your Community Library has lots of books and movies to suit everyone’s taste. Plus, we like your company, so stop by and say hello. We have great books for sale too. Until next month…stay warm!
MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Little River Arts Council Annual Meeting & Social
Sunday, February 19  3:00 – 5:00  p.m.
Kamama Gallery
Open to members and all those interested in the arts!

Join us as we:
• Explore ideas for potential events and educational opportunities
• Discuss this year’s events:
  Summer Music Series 2017
  2nd Annual Creative Spirit Market
  10th Annual Home Tour & Silent Auction
• Consider how the Little River Arts Council can best further its mission for artists, and appreciators of art, in Mentone and the Little River area
• Induct new officers

Refreshments will be available.  Plan to attend and bring a friend!

SEE YOU THERE!
Southeast’s Largest Antiques Show & Sale

By Kathie Scobee Fulgham

Most people don’t think about American history when they think about glass, but the featured speaker at the 2017 Houston Museum’s Antiques Show & Sale, Anne Madarasz, says that glass production made Pittsburgh the national center of the glass industry, as well as one of the nation’s first gateways to the West. And those westward travelers transported Pittsburgh glass—both industrial and art forms—as they made their trek across the country.

“In fact, at one time, Pennsylvania produced more than 40 percent of the entire nation’s glass supply, with the first two factories opening in 1797,” said Madarasz, director of the curatorial division and chief historian and director of the Western Pennsylvania Sports Museum at the Senator John Heinz History Center in Pittsburgh, Penn. “With more than 200 years of production in the region, it’s very easy to see the interplay between the glass objects and the larger context of history.”

Visitors have an opportunity to meet Ms. Madarasz at the Houston Museum’s most popular fundraiser, which is scheduled Feb. 24–Feb. 26.

“Last year’s event was amazing with a full house filled with excitement, and this year’s event is shaping up to be even better,” says Director, Pete Conroy. “This dinner-show is a fantastic way to raise awareness of the arts and environment.

“We expect a sell-out event again this year, so make your reservations early,” says Sales & Services Manager, Anna Lindsey. She continued, “We encourage guests to let us know if they have any special needs so we can accommodate and make everyone as comfortable as possible.”

Please and an annual fundraiser for environmental education.

“Last year’s event was amazing with a full house filled with excitement, and this year’s event is shaping up to be even better,” Says Director, Pete Conroy. “This dinner-show is a fantastic way to raise awareness of the arts and environment.

“We expect a sell-out event again this year, so make your reservations early,” Says Sales & Services Manager, Anna Lindsey. She continued, “We encourage guests to let us know if they have any special needs so we can accommodate and make everyone as comfortable as possible.”

Advanced tickets are available online, onsite (at the Canyon Center Gift Shop), or by calling (256) 845-7213. Online tickets are $35 in advance. Please make your reservations by Tuesday, February 21, 2017. For more info visit www.canyonconcerts.com.

Doors open at 5:00 pm and the show begins at 6:00 pm. Admission includes both a meal and entertainment. Seating is first come first serve, so guests are encouraged to arrive early. Reserved tables available for parties of six or more. Coolers are welcomed.

The Rendezvous Event Space Hosts the First Annual “Starving Artist Booth Sale”

By Amanda Pilotte

Join us on Saturday, April 1, 2017, for the “Starving Artists Booth Sale” presented by Rendezvous Event Space. This will be an arts, crafts, music, and food event showcasing local, handmade artists only. The “Starving Artist Booth Sale” is a wonderful change of pace. It is an opportunity to bring together those in the community to view and experience art in all forms. During the event, the Rendezvous will serve as a venue presenting local musical talents and local food vendors as well.

Admission for all shoppers visiting the “Starving Artist Booth Sale” is free! Browse from a selection of handcrafted items and meet the artists who created them. You’ll be provided with a ticket when you arrive to fill out for a chance to win a door prize as provided by our vendors. A purchase from any one of the vendors will earn you an extra entry for door prizes.

Any artist who is interested in becoming a vendor will find an application located in our photo album on the Rendezvous Event Space Facebook page.

Please submit your application as quickly as possible to secure a booth at our first annual “Starving Artist Booth Sale.” Vendors can offer no item over $99, and all items must be handcrafted. The Vendor space is 8’x8’ and the cost is $50. The Vendor must also provide a handcrafted item of their choosing for our door prize drawing. Spaces are limited! For additional information concerning the “Starving Artist Booth Sale” or reserving the Rendezvous Event Space for a special event, please call (256) 273-6686.

The NEW Rendezvous Event Space is located at 202 Gault Avenue North Fort Payne where Haralson’s Pharmacy was located for almost a century. As what was once the only pharmacy in town, the building provided more than medication; it served as a welcoming place for townspeople to gather and share experiences.

Moon Lake second grade teacher Sloan Pope and her husband Jon purchased the space to continue the tradition and draw people to the downtown area of Fort Payne. It can be booked for all types of events—parties, weddings, meetings. “We just thought the Starving Artist event would be a fun way to bring local artists together and give them a place to showcase their work.” Join us on Saturday, April 1, 2017, for the “Starving Artists Booth Sale” presented by Rendezvous Event Space. This will be an arts, crafts, music, and food event.
Medicare- - Who Pays First?
By Lynn Hixson

Medicare has rules about how it works with other insurance you may have. Depending on this other insurance, Medicare either pays primary (first) or secondary (second) on your health care claims (Bills). Insurance from your or your spouse's current employment pays primary to Medicare if you: are eligible for Medicare because you are 65 or older, and the company has 20 or more employees or you are eligible for Medicare because you have received Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) payments for more than 24 months, and the company has 100 or more employees.

Note: If you have Medicare due to disability, the insurance based on current employment can also be from your family member's current work.

Federal Employee Health Benefits (FEHB) based on current work always pays primary to Medicare because the government has more than 100 employees. Further, unlike other retiree insurance, FEHB retiree insurance will also pay primary if you do not sign up for Medicare Part B; however, you may face penalties and delays in accessing Part B if you don't enroll when you are first eligible.

TRICARE military insurance for active duty service members and their families always pays primary to Medicare – active duty is considered current work.

Veterans Affairs (VA) benefits do not coordinate with Medicare. Rather, VA benefits generally pay for services at any VA facility, and Medicare generally pays for services at any non-VA facility. There may be some exceptions, such as for emergencies.

Before delaying Medicare enrollment, you should determine whether your other insurance will pay primary to Medicare and also whether you will face penalties and/or delays if you sign up for Medicare later. If your other insurance will pay secondary, it is not advisable to delay Medicare enrollment. This is because your secondary insurance may refuse to cover you until you are also enrolled in Medicare, or it may take back any payments it made when you were eligible for Medicare but not enrolled. To avoid a Part B or (Part A, if applicable) late enrollment penalty (LEP) you need to qualify for a Medicare Special Enrollment Period (SEP). You will qualify for a SEP to sign up late for Medicare if you lose current employee coverage, such as through retirement. You can use the SEP while you are still covered or up to eight months after losing coverage.

Contact Lynn at the DeKalb County Council on Aging for personalized, one-on-one counseling and assistance at 256-845-8590.
THE RECIPE CORNER
~ February

Hominy Hummus

Makes about 2.5 cups of Hummus

Ingredients:
1 15.5-ounce can white hominy (about 2 cups), drained and rinsed
3 tablespoons sesame tahini
3 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil, plus more for garnish
Juice of 1 lemon
2-3 garlic cloves
½ teaspoon sea salt, plus more to taste
¼ teaspoon ground cumin
¼ teaspoon paprika, plus more for garnish
⅛ teaspoon cayenne pepper

Combine all of the ingredients in a mixing bowl. Blend using an immersion blender (or in an upright blender) until the hummus is smooth. Adjust seasonings to taste and serve garnished with drizzled olive oil and a dusting of paprika.

I started making hominy hummus -- which uses hominy in place of chickpeas to create the classic, garlicky Mediterranean dip--when I was working on a cookbook about the many uses of corn in southern cooking. While hominy has a very distinctive corn flavor (more like tortilla chips than fresh corn to my mind), the texture reminds me of cooked chickpeas, and that's how the idea for hominy hummus came about. I promise it's not a gimmick: the taste is definitely that of hummus, but with a hominy twist that is delicious served up with celery sticks, pita, or even tortilla chips. This recipe and others can be found in my Corn Cookbook, which will be available in March.

By Tema Flanagan
of The Farm at Windy Hill

February Birthdays
Feb 1 – John Lawton
Feb 1 – Abby Bell
Feb 1 – Tammy Kirby
Feb 1 – Walter Brooks
Feb 1 – Rindy Flannigan
Feb 1 – Fontana Stinson
Feb 1 – Thomas Blevins
Feb 2 – GROUNDHOG DAY!!
Feb 2 – Beverly Smith
Feb 2 – Karen Nixon
Feb 2 – Zeb Kincer
Feb 3 – Melanie Potts Garrett
Feb 4 – Angela Phillips
Feb 4 – Caron Frost
Feb 4 – Brittany Daniel
Feb 4 – Loree Brownfield
Feb 4 – Aubree Lewchuk
Feb 5 – Yon Hopper
Feb 5 – Savannah Wallace
Feb 5 – Cameron Collins
Feb 5 – Brylen Deal
Feb 6 – Amanda Blalock
Feb 6 – Allie McElhaney
Feb 7 – Jordan Sutton
Feb 7 – Tristan Rodriguez
Feb 7 – Haley Stinson
Feb 7 – Carley Verdon
Feb 7 – Jase Kirby
Feb 8 – Crystal Smith
Feb 8 – Helen Brown
Feb 8 – Annette Johnson
Feb 8 – Sandy Tate
Feb 9 – Kara Goss
Feb 9 – Jonnie Frost
Feb 9 – Heath Jones
Feb 9 – Joe McClure
Feb 9 – Leonard Keith
Feb 9 – Katie White
Feb 9 – Luke Hulgan
Feb 11 – Cayla Wigley
Feb 11 – Faith Nelson
Feb 11 – Gentry Grisham
Feb 11 – Amanda Ditmore
Feb 11 – Elizabeth Rich
Feb 11 – Rhet Davis
Feb 12 – Tara Kirby
Feb 12 – Nicholas Freeman
Feb 12 – Sydnee Grider
Feb 12 – Bubba Browder
Feb 13 – Gretchen Winder
Feb 13 – Carol Busby
Feb 13 – Craig Hall
Feb 13 – Isaac Pangle
Feb 14 – Valentine’s Day!
Feb 14 – Abbi Gifford
Feb 14 – Eddie Manning
Feb 15 – Diane Smith
Feb 16 – Katelyn Busby
Feb 16 – Mary Jane Gray
Feb 17 – John David Blalock
Feb 17 – Trey Moore
Feb 17 – Tyler Allen
Feb 17 – Renee Peek
Feb 17 – Tom Tate
Feb 18 – Richard Harrison
Feb 18 – Gail Crider
Feb 18 – Braden Villarreal
Feb 19 – Beverly Bates
Feb 19 – Danielle Powell
Feb 19 – Aaron Goss
Feb 20 – Jon Baggett
Feb 20 – Stella Pierce
Feb 20 – Joan Byrum
Feb 21 – Wendy Manifold
Feb 22 – Justin Langston
Feb 22 – Johnny Mack Ferguson, Jr
Feb 22 – Corey Blalock
Feb 22 – Derek McManhan
Feb 22 – Jordan Bethune
Feb 24 – Michael Chambers
Feb 24 – Tom Emory
Feb 24 – Payton Day Lewis
Feb 24 – Melinda Easler
Feb 25 – Susan Collins
Feb 25 – William Beasley
Feb 25 – Emily Tate
Feb 25 – Pam Bettis
Feb 26 – Kylee Elkins
Feb 26 – Johnny Battles
Feb 26 – Kate Smith
Feb 27 – Makayla Mullis
Feb 27 – David Hillard
Feb 27 – Holden Smith
Feb 28 – Derek Davis
Feb 28 – Ethan Bailey
Feb 28 – Russell O’Dell
Feb 29 – Ethen Battles

February Anniversaries
Feb 3 – Ray & Sandra Padgett
Feb 3 – Jeremy & Amy Henderson
Feb 4 – Larry & Kathy Gray
Feb 5 – David & Pam Dean
Feb 7 – Calvin & Myra Lanier
Feb 7 – Mack & Debbie Flannigan
Feb 8 – Clark & Genella Tolbert
Feb 10 – Danny & Sible Hopper
Feb 14 – Joey & Melanie Garrett
Feb 14 – Kevin & Connie McElhaney
Feb 15 – Leonard & Amy Keith
Feb 17 – Vance & Patti Carden
Feb 23 – Jeff & LeAnn Bain

Happy Day!
Feb. 2 - Groundhog Day
Feb. 2 - Beginner Wheel Class. Learn everything from throwing and trimming to Glazing and loading the kiln! Meet in Valley Head at the Hands on Learning Art Center on Thursdays starting February 2nd to February 23rd! From 5 pm-7 pm. Call to reserve your seat! 256-635-6863.

Feb. 3 - 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 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. 256-997-9577.

Feb. 3 & 4 - Loomis Bro. Circus. Come and enjoy the Show!! Circus features performing elephants, white tigers, dogs, ponies, acrobats, clowns, jugglers, trapeze and more! There are two shows 4:30 p.m. & 7:30 p.m. Doors open an hour before each show. Tickets are $15 for adults, two children age 12 and under are admitted free when accompanied by paying adult, additional children are $8 cash only is accepted at the circus. Shows last 1 hr. 45 min. 256-638-1650.

Feb. 4, 18, 22, 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. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. 256-997-9577.


Feb. 4, 6, 17, 18 - 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 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. 256-997-9577.

Feb. 5 - Cold Weather Survival Class. Learn tips to prevent hypothermia. 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. True Adventure Sports 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. 256-997-9577.

Feb. 7, 14, 21, 28 - Adult Landscape Oil Painting Class. Classes held every Tuesday of February. Everything is furnished. Walk away with an oil painting in one class! $60 per class! Call to reserve your seat! Hands on Learning Art Center in Valley. 256-635-6863.

Feb. 8 - 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. 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. 256-997-9577.

Feb. 9 - Hand Building Slab Class. Fun for the whole Family at the Hands on Learning Art Center. $40 per person. Call to reserve your seat 256-635-6863.

Feb. 9, 20 - Afternoon Rock Climb. Come experience first-hand what rock climbing is all about in the afternoon with guides who are fun, safe and energetic. This trip includes all the gear plus basic instruction.

Feb. 10 - The Dekalb County Geneological Society. Join us at St. Philip's Episcopal Church at 10 AM. The program will be presented by Charles Shipp on Notable Women of the CSA. This presentation will focus on nurses, spies and women soldiers. Everyone interested in genealogy is invited to attend this free event.

Feb. 11 - The Dekalb County Geneological Society. Join us at St. Philip’s Episcopal Church at 10 AM. The program will be presented by Charles Shipp on Notable Women of the CSA. This presentation will focus on nurses, spies and women soldiers. Everyone interested in genealogy is invited to attend this free event.

Feb. 12 - Sculpt your Own Flower. Have you ever wanted to actually sit at the gaffer bench and feel what it is like to shape hot glass? In this class, its all about a hands-on experience in a safe and fun atmosphere with a final product we know you will love. After watching us shape glass into a flower, its your turn to sit at the bench to sculpt your own from an array of colors. Our artists are the to step in and lend a hand or guide you as you shape the glass. Each class is about one hour in length and with a minimum of three people and a maximum of five. Cost: $75 per person. 10:30 to 11:30 am or 12:30 to 1:30 pm. For more information or tickets, 256-523-3188.

Feb. 11-13, 16-18 - Children’s Advocacy Center Annual Dinner Theater. The Children’s Advocacy Center presents the 23rd annual dinner theatre. “Cheering for Auburn Can Be Murder” The play will be held at the First United Methodist Church. Ticket prices vary and are by reservation only. For more information or tickets, 256-997-9700.

Feb. 13, 24 - Advanced Rappelling Class. This class reviews rappelling basics then teaches advanced rappelling. Learn special rigging, mechanical advantage, ascending and rope walking, alternate rappel devices, changeovers, advanced knots, safety procedures, special gear, and backup belaying. You will also do several rappels and a change over before returning to the store for the rappelling test and knot exam. Meet at T.A.S. Training Center $135/person. Note: You will receive a class 2 rappelling certification photo ID card upon request and successful completion of this class and exams for a card processing fee of $15.00. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. 256-997-9577.

Feb. 14 - Happy Valentine’s Day!
Feb. 15, 22, 27 - 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. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. 256-997-9577.

Feb. 16 - Made in DeKalb Expo. Business representatives will have the opportunity to network with peers, representatives from education, the Alabama Department of Commerce – Export Alliance, the Small Business Administration, the USDA, the Fort Payne Career Center and others. Students (9th and 12th graders) from DeKalb County and Fort Payne Schools will have the opportunity to learn about local business career options and about DeKalb County’s manufacturers. At the Northeast Alabama Agri-Business Center in Rainsville. 256-638-1650.

Feb. 16 - Knot Class & Application. Introduction and instruction to essential knots and their application for camping, rappelling, rock climbing, outdoor survival, and other applications. 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. 256-997-9577.
Feb. 18 - Hot Chocolate 5k & Fun Run
Hosted by the FPHS Track & Field Team. 5k begins at 8 a.m. and Fun Run begins at 9 a.m. Fees and Deadlines: 5k - $30 and Fun Run - $20 Register by Feb. 10th to ensure a t-shirt! Go to racesonline.com/events/hot-chocolate-5k-fun-run to register for our race! All of the money that is raised will benefit the FPHS Track & Field Team.

Feb. 18 - Birding Hike: Great Backyard Bird Count. JSU professor Dr. Robert Carter, will be leading this birding hike at the Little River Canyon Center. This hike is for new and experienced birders. This will be a part of the Audubon's annual Great Backyard Bird Count weekend. Launched in 1998 by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and National Audubon Society, the Great Backyard Bird Count was the first online citizen-science project to collect data on wild birds and to display results in near real-time. Now, more than 160,000 people of all ages and walks of life worldwide join the four-day count each Feb. to create an annual snapshot of the distribution and abundance of birds. Things to Bring: Plenty of water and/or sports drink, snacks/lunch, sturdy shoes (open toe shoes are not recommended), binoculars (if you have them). Please be sure to dress appropriately according to seasonal temperatures/weather. 9 a.m.

Feb. 18 - Paperweight Class. All Paperweight Classes Saturdays from. This class is designed for those who really just want see what molten glass is all about – feel the heat, gather from the furnace, sculpt the glass into your own design. It is ultimately about the experience, some experimentation and a nice paperweight to take home or to the office to show your friends. Class size is maximum of four students so everyone has adequate time at the bench working. There will be material provided before the class for you to review and become familiar with concerning safety and basic glassblowing vocabulary. Please join us for some in-depth discovery. Cost – $35. 9 am-1 pm. For more information or reserve a spot, email info@orbixhotglass.com or call 256-523-3188.

Feb. 19 - 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 10:00-2:30. Reserve by noon Sat the 18th. Cost is $5. To learn more or reserve a spot send an email to cottagepaper@bellsouth.net or call 205-349-4026.

Feb. 20 - Presidents Day
Feb. 20 - Fee-Free Day at LRC. The Canyon Mouth Picnic Area part of the Little River Canyon National Preserve will offer free admission to all in honor of President’s Day. Just another reason to enjoy all that the Preserve has to offer.

Feb. 25 - Blow Your Own Ornament. This has become very popular here at Orbix Hot Glass. Come 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. 9 am to 4 pm. Cost is $38 per ornament blown. 256-523-3188.

Feb. 25 - Hotel California: Salute to the Eagles. Tickets available at eventbrite.com DeKalb Theatre 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Feb. 25 - A T.A.D of Jazz. Join us for dinner and a show featuring A TAD of Jazz at Little River Canyon Center. Southern Cuisine by Tina’s Cakes and Catering. Advance tickets are $35 until Feb. 21st.

The Little River group of Alcoholics Anonymous is adding another meeting. They will meet every Saturday and every Tuesday night at 6 pm at St. Joseph’s on the Mountain Episcopal Church, Mentone, AL. Both meetings are Open AA Discussion Meetings. Anyone who thinks they might have a problem with alcohol is welcome. The meetings are also open to members of Al Anon. Questions? call 256-634-3060.

AL-ANON family and friends support group. Meets every Tuesday at 6:00 pm at St. Joseph’s on the Mountain Church in Mentone, AL. Same time and location as the AA Meeting. Come join us and help us grow!

Ballroom dancing lessons offered at DeKalb County Council on Aging on Monday nights from 6pm to 8pm. 256-845-8590.

Line dancing lessons offered at DeKalb County Council on Aging on Tuesdays from 1:30 to 3:30pm. 256-845-8590.

Mentone Town Council meets the 2nd Tuesday every month at 6pm in the town council room. Everyone is welcome.

MAPA Board meets on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 6:00pm at Kamama Gallery. Gluten Free/Diabetic All Natural Cooking classes with Brenda Trace will be held at Little River Hardware at 6pm on Wednesdays. Classes $10.

Lookout Mountain Parkway Association meets every 3rd Wednesday of the month at 11am. Call to find out how to get involved! 256-845-3957.

DeKalb Quilters meet every 4th Tuesday, 9:30am, Second Baptist Church in Fort Payne. DeSoto Rescue Squad meets the 1st Saturday of the month at 9am at the MERF house in Mentone.

Free Square Dance Lessons offered most Thursdays, 6:30pm, at Tom Bevill Center in Rainsville by Duos and Solos Dance Club. 256-638-2780.

FREE FOOD for eligible persons and families. Hours: Wednesdays, 9 to 11:30am. New applicants welcome during these hours. Joint effort between St. Joseph’s on the Mountain Episcopal Church (Community Outreach Ministry) and the Food Bank of North Alabama.

Mentone Fire Department meets the 3rd Monday of every month at 7pm. Mentone Town Council meets every 2nd Tuesday at 6pm.

The Lookout Mountain Wholistic Center meets the 1st & 3rd Wednesday of every month at Rock Ridge Retreat Center in Valley Head at 6:30pm. Everyone is welcome!

Mentone Farmers Market open year round every Saturday, 10am-1pm.

Storytime at the Canyon Center every first Saturday of the month. 11am-Noon. Free. 256-782-5697.

The Mentone Business Association (MBA) will meet the second Monday of each month from 6-7pm.

The Rhododendron Garden Club meets on the second Tuesday at 10:00AM at the MERF House. ‘Green thumbs’ and ‘brown thumbs’ welcome! For more information, call 256-634-4403.

Scrabble Club will meet the first Monday of the month from 11-1 at Kamama Gallery and Cafe. Call Kaye Kiker 205-609-8100 or Clare Donohue 954-292-8130 with questions.

The DeKalb County Genealogical Society meets the second Saturday of every month in the DeKalb County Public Library, 10 AM.

Moon Lake PTO meeting on the 2nd Tuesday of each month. Everyone is invited to attend.

JHH & CLC meet at 9am each Friday at the DeKalb County Council on Aging following by a quilt making class that is open to the public.

Exercise Room open at the DeKalb County Council on Aging Monday through Friday (except for certain holidays) from 8 am to Noon.
Moon Lake School--Full STEAM Ahead (cont’d from page 1)

They utilize professional development classes to learn new techniques. They are learning to use technology to bring the world to Mentone. They coordinate with MERF to offer free after school tutoring to those who need it. Also, a new edition to the Moon Lake educational plan this year is the after school program.

Through a grant, the 21st Century After School Program provides academic help, snacks, and activities- STEAM activities. STEAM is the fairly new term reflecting lessons that focus on Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math. Moon Lake after school staff is finding fun and creative ways to bring these concepts to the students in a free or low cost environment—no more than $5 per week. These activities also bring education to reality. Students are building their own bridges. They research and plan, do the math and engineering calculations, and literally build a bridge. They are building catapults. They are also learning about dance and archery (thanks to DeSoto State Park). With the gracious help of the Rhododendron Garden Club, they are learning to garden. The staff uses a lesson plan that incorporates as many of the STEAM ideas as possible prior to each activity. Then, the fun begins. To keep the program low cost, the supply list gets creative. They use things like popsicle sticks, spaghetti, marshmallows, gumdrops, and duct tape, of course.

This incredible program offers extended hours for working parents, homework help for the kids, a healthy snack, and an air of excitement to the educational process. Obviously the staff at Moon Lake is doing something right for the kids, based on the state report cards. They have definitely earned their ‘A’ through dedication and personal attention to the students. Encouraged by the students’ success, they face each school day full STEAM ahead!

Daniel Hawkins is a Boy Scout, enjoys playing his drums and guitar, and loves music and cars, both new and old. His favorite color is green, and his favorite subject at school is Science.

Sydney Ingram likes PE and her kitten. She wishes she could have a new 4 wheeler.
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.

December was fabulous at the MERF house with a fun-filled house full of big and little elves at the Seniors Christmas Party! Santa even had a chance to stop by and enjoy the crowd. Thanks to Mentone Community Church for a great meal and the little elves from Mrs. Lea

Congratulations to the 2017 MERF scholarship recipients Carol Rosales, Devin Leps, Brooke Moore, and Josie Crider (not pictured)."

Long’s class singing for the crowd. Lunches couldn’t happen without the wonderful kitchen elves every week: Pat Peterson, Shirley Hussel, Kathy McMunn, Thomas Qualls, Carolyn Nail, Hazel Bickerstaff, Kristen Emory, and Dee Dee Dunkerley! Speaking of the fun lunch crew, regular Wednesday lunches for the seniors will start back on February 15th! So hope to see all you sweethearts then!

The MERF Scholarship committee also met in December. The Sue McLaurin Henry Scholarship was established in memory of Sue, who was one of several Mentone residents that envisioned and established MERF over 20 years ago. She believed strongly in the value of education for lifelong learning as well as offering opportunities to be successful and effective citizens. The committee awarded Josie Crider, Brooke Moore, Carol Rosales, and Devin Leps with a check to help with school expenses at Jacksonville State University for Josie and Northeast Alabama Community College for Brooke, Carol, and Devin this spring. Congratulations on being deserving students!

Find your adventurous spirit and save the date for a wild night at MERF’s Taste of the Mountain and Art Auction on Saturday, April 22nd in the Moon Lake Elementary School gym. Contact Sarah Wilcox if you want to join in the planning and the fun to help make this evening a great fundraiser and celebration! Stay tune for more information next month.
Worship

The Sunday morning services at Winston Memorial Presbyterian Church are held at 9AM 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. 10AM Sunday Bible Study, 11AM Morning Worship, 6PM Evening Worship. Wednesday 6-8PM Awana (ages 4 to 18); 6:30pm Praise and Prayer time. Located at 4212 County Road 751, Valley Head. 635-1001.

Visitors are always welcome at the Valley Head United Methodist Church. Please join us each Sunday morning for a traditional worship service at 9:30AM. 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 10AM Sunday. Bible class or Lent/Advent services every Wednesday at 6:30PM. Steve Schrader, Pastor - 845-4314. Everyone welcome.

Walnut Grove Baptist Church on Highway 11 North of Fort Payne, welcomes everyone at Sunday School 10AM, Worship Service at 11AM, Wednesday night youth meeting at 6PM, and Wednesday night Prayer Meeting at 6:30PM.

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

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

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

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

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

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


Worship hour. Discipleship Training is at 5PM and Sunday Evening Worship at 6PM. On Wednesdays, Team Kids, Youth Bible Study, Adult Bible Study and Prayer Meeting are all at 6:30PM. 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 11AM GA Time; Sunday School 10AM GA time; Wednesday night Bible Study 7PM GA time.

Cove Road Baptist Church, County Road 631, Mentone, Alabama, invites everyone in the Mentone and Cloudland 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 10:45AM, Sunday night 5PM, Wednesday Bible Study 6:30PM. Pastor Lance Kincer invites everyone.

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

Mentone Community Church, 90 Summerville 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 9AM (EST) and Worship at 10AM (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 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 Conery. 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 Kvam 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.
Favorite Teacher is Key to Double-Secret Password

By Ben Shurett

Cyber security has risen near the top of the fret level of many Americans these days. That's understandable.

Emails disappear, high-security servers, whether personal or private, have been hacked, and you'd better be certain your personal passwords are encrypted to the point Vladimir Putin can't decipher them.

My Mary gave me a personal Internet Password Logbook. That was terrific, really thoughtful of her. The problem was I had only one password, or at least I did at the time she gifted me with the handsome, spiral-bound book encased in genuine pleather.

I thought one password would last me forever. My password of choice was easy to remember, particularly fits you and likely no one else.

The situation was only annoying, just a minor problem until I came upon a new requirement that caused a stark realization. The Social Security insisted on such encrypted passwords and worse, the SS required me to change my double-secret password every six months.

My system of one password to fit all situations faded into oblivion like eight-track tapes and cassettes.

It's not for nothing that every sophisticated and password-protected website offers a golden parachute of sorts. Each, it seems, routinely has a click-through passage with the cue, "Forgot your password?"

That should be simple enough. Those who could not recall their specific combination of numbers, symbols and letters and which to declare in upper and lower case should simply check a box that said, "Yes, thanks for asking. I did forget my password. Please tell me what it is."

I wish it were that easy, as it should be. No. At the next step, you are asked to remember the answer to a personal question, one that particularly fits you and likely no one else.

What is the first name of your best childhood friend? What street did you grow up on? What's the name of your first pet? What is your favorite sports team?

I always bypass all those options and select the one I'll never forget. Who is your favorite teacher?

Social Security. Suddenly, my simple password- -- WD40-- that had served me faithfully for years was woefully insufficient. Now, I needed upper case and lower case letters including some combination of numbers, letters, and symbols.

The book Mary gave me began to look much more like a necessity rather than a luxury.

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I always bypass all those options and select the one I'll never forget. Who is your favorite teacher?

I'll make you a bet. If you've read this far and got to the "favorite teacher" query, you've just now thought of your favorite teacher. Good for you and thanks for playing along.

Mrs. Hendricks was my favorite, a sixth-grade teacher at Verner Elementary in Tuscaloosa. You may remember that school if you're familiar with the Druid City. It was located where the high-rise Tutwiler Hall, the largest women's dorm, is now.

She was quite the no-nonsense educator, one who had "the look," a stare that would snap a classroom of knucklehead children back on task.

She was a genius at classroom management and not even two dozen 11- and 12-year-old students bursting through the seams of puberty dared to challenge her authority.

And my, could she teach. Mrs. Hendricks made us, all of us, want to learn, and she made learning fun. My classmates and I were engaged in the teaching/learning process every day and she was a blessing in that regard.

She had the gift -- some might say it was spiritually given to her from above -- of teaching but there was more. It was that extra measure, that "more" that elevated her to the top of the list of some really fine educators I've had in my life.

In spite of her toughness and because she made learning fun, Mrs. Hendricks would make the top three on the list of favorite teachers of any number of students. She taught me in 1962. She taught my sister in 1955 and my brother in 1969, and she taught quite a few years beyond that before she retired.

Furthermore, she volunteered at what Tuscaloosans call "new Verner" school well beyond her eightieth year before her death.

But beyond all else, even past the respect she commanded and deserved, Mrs. Hendricks inspired a generation of students to want to please her by doing their very best. Bettye Hendricks earned her place as the key to my double-secret password.

What teacher earned that place in your life?

Ben Shurett was publisher of five different newspapers in his 34-year career and served as president of the Alabama Press Association in 2004-5.
It's February. There will be "teaser days" this month with lots of sunshine and warming temperatures. Those of us who love to garden will be itching to get our hands in the dirt. What can we do this month to get ready for spring?

My first suggestion is to go outside on one of the sunny days, find a great spot to see your landscape, and observe the different areas. First, determine which direction the sun is located and how much light is in various areas. Look closely at those trees that are bare of leaves, remembering how much shade they will cast in the morning and afternoon. All plants like morning sun, but some of them want full afternoon shade. So, choose shade tolerant plants for afternoon shade.

Sun loving plants need about six hours of sun a day. If you have established gardens, make a list of what is planted in each. Did some of them die during the drought last year? Do some of the beds need more color or more year-round (evergreen) plants to make the beds more attractive?

Water requirements also determine where to plant. Big shade trees such as oaks require about 500 gallons of water a day so those other smaller perennials and shrubs are the last to get the water. Just remember this as you look for new plants and check their water needs--low, medium, or a lot.

Look through your new plant catalogs or online as you plan. Your local garden center usually has someone on staff with plant knowledge.

Other tasks during February include spreading a weed preventer over the landscaped areas to prevent early weeds like chickweed, henbit, poa annua (annual blue grass), crabgrass, and others. With the very warm temps in January, many weeds and some shrubs and flowers are emerging now. Put out the pre-emergent as soon as possible.

Roses can be pruned in February also. Cut them back by 1/3, no more. Again, ask your local garden center for more help. Dead stems and excess leaves can also be removed in February. Too many leaves can cause fungus and problems.

By Susan Seago

The Health Benefits of Decluttering

Psychologists are starting to recognize that having a clean, organized home is an essential part of the wellness equation. Cluttered spaces are chaos for the mind, overwhelming already taxed brains with too much sensory information--according to Psychology Today. With the excess stimuli created by a disorganized home, your brain becomes easily overwhelmed. Clutter can become a vicious shame spiral: it increases stress making you more ashamed or embarrassed about your home.

To get on the right track start small: toss your junk mail one day; hang up all your clothes the next day; and so on. One drawer a day and one room a month even! As you work, consider what you want to get rid of. Make sure you're not hanging onto something you don't really want or need, or because you think you might use it someday.

If your house is a mess, you're probably familiar with searching frantically for your keys, wallet, or purse on your way out the door in the morning. That annoyed feeling can completely change how you see your home. Instead of thinking of home as a place of rest and peace, it's a source of stress.

Dust, dander, and pet hair can pile up in unexpected place. Those unused items sitting in the garage or spare room aren't just taking up space--they are also increasing the number of allergens in your home.

Clutter can impact your finances. Late fees, bank fees, tax penalties, misplaced checks, lost cash, lost or expired gift cards, missed appointments and cancellation fees, and the cost of items you meant to return but never did are just some of the ways being disorganized erodes your budget. If you're so disorganized that you can't find your stuff, you'll end up buying duplicates and triplicates of the same item, whether it's kitchen tools, clothing, sports gear...the list is endless. Anything you can't find, you'll pay to replace.

While not always a sign of larger mental health issues, chronic disorganization can be symptoms of bigger problems, such as depression, anxiety disorder, or obsessive-compulsive disorders, says David F. Tolin, Professor of Psychiatry at Yale. How we deal with our stuff has a lot to say about our emotional state; so take a thoughtful approach about how they affect you. Half completed paintings and half-finished remodels can suggest an unsustainable perfectionism and may provoke a sense of failure. Take stock of all the projects you currently have "in process," Then be willing to let go, clean up, and move on.

My parents were from the depression era and held onto lots of things, just in case or "the minute I let it go, I'll need it," but they were also very charitable people if they had two of something. My father and mother would give new young couples and people just arriving to the states lots of things they had two of. Also, each of us had desks in our room as a quiet place to study and to organize our books and work. I appreciate them for these very important life skills that served me well.

As we age, "managing stuff" and multitasking become harder and harder. The younger generation has to work harder and harder -- both partners working, managing kids, and multi-tasking just to stay afloat, this is important for you too. We can only manage so much. There is goodness and true wealth in GIVING away what we don't need. No one on their death bed ever wished for more money or stuff. Happy New Year!
By L. C. Moon

In honor of remembering love in February, we will take a look at hearts in the wildflower and botanical world. The classic heart shape means love to people of all languages and when the heart is referenced in literature, it is in regard to love. Hearts-a-Bursting or Hearts-a-Busting (Euonymus Americanus) is the first wild botanical that comes to mind when I think of hearts. It is a shrub that’s also called Strawberry Bush. Its unique beauty strikes love into the heart of any plant enthusiast.

The small, pale green flowers of Hearts-a-Bursting are very discreet in comparison to the (four lobed) seedpod that forms and gives the shrub its common name. The seedpod develops into a shape and texture that resembles a strawberry and turns a similar red color. As the seedpod matures, it begins to open up, eventually bursting out dangling bright red berries from its strawberry colored seedpod.

Most herbalists I know, because of the potential side effects, do not commonly use the medicinal benefits of Hearts-a-Bursting and often classify it as poisonous. The seed tea is a very strong laxative but it can be too strong and lead to severe dehydration. A tea has been made (to eliminate dandruff). Other folk uses for Hearts-a-Bursting have been treatment for malaria, liver congestion, and stimulating menstruation.

Wildlife incorporate Hearts-a-Bursting in their diet but it is not a primary food source for any. Wild turkey and birds will occasionally eat the seeds, while deer and eastern cottontail rabbit will eat the leaves.

Other wild heart shape that comes to my mind when I think of nature is the violet leaf. Violet leaves have even been known to help such as sinus, bronchitis, sore throat, and cough. The leaves can be eaten both raw and cooked. The leaves and flowers are healthy with minerals and vitamins, especially A and C.

Violets are classified as an alterative (helps to moderate anger, to comfort and to strengthen the heart), according to A Modern Herbal by Patricia Kyritsi Howell. There are so many varieties of violet on Lookout Mountain though; all species are edible and have similar medicinal qualities, so no need to be concerned about exactly which one you need to harvest. Violet leaves and flowers are healthy with minerals and vitamins, especially A and C.

The leaves can be eaten both raw and cooked. Cake decorators commonly use candied violets. I add fresh leaves and flowers to salads or cook the leaves in a sauté or soup, then garnish with the sweet and tangy fresh flowers.

Violets are classified as an alterative (helps the body restore) and blood purifier (helps eliminate toxins). They are known to stimulate the lymphatic system and are useful for swollen glands. Violets are known to help with stubborn skin issues such as acne, eczema, psoriasis, skin inflammation, and rashes, as well as to support the immune system in warding off infections such as sinuses, bronchitis, sore throat, and cough.

Violet leaves have even been known to help to shrink tumors and cancers. There are cases where violets have been effective (when used regularly and taken both internally and used externally as a poultice) for skin cancer, tumors, growths, and lumps such as cysts, mastitis, and fibrocystic breasts.

I have a great affinity for heart shapes and it endears me even more to the plants that represent the heart. Daily I see heart shapes in rocks, clouds, the bark of a tree and many other random places. It is one of the things I like to use as a reminder to focus on sharing love and compassion in all things I do. Of course, sometimes it is easier than others and that is why I am even more grateful for the serendipitous heart shaped reminders.

Next month I will continue the heart shaped theme and write about Wild Yam and Little Brown Jug, two more heart shaped leaved wildflowers that live in our Lookout Mountain forest. Until then, visit MentoneWildflower.com for a link to color photos of a dish I created with violets and other “weeds” such as ground ivy, dandelion, and henbit. “May all your weeds be Wildflowers”

*Disclaimer- It is wise to contact your health care provider before making any changes to your health care regimen.
CEHAR-STYLE CABIN on Middle Fork, Little River. Pine floors; stone, woodburning fireplace; high-end windows & doors; gas range w/elec oven; 2640 sq ft. 3BR/3BA; loft 4thBR; on-demand hot H2O. Screened porch, covered deck. Three levels, incl walkout basement guest suite. Bluff areas & an intriguing wet-weather stream bed w/fabulous stones, ledges & multiple falls; then on to beautiful Little River. 3.81 acres. $237,500 (1019875)

LOTS and LAND
BROW-FRONT LOT WITH STUNNING SUNSET VIEWS! a panorama of the valley & mountains beyond. Ready for your mountain getaway on the brow! Just a mile from downtown Mentone along the parkway. Quaint split-rail fence. Seven lots available. Lot 14 offers 0.68 acres. approx 97' brow frontage. $107,500 (1055932)

4.43 WOODED ACRES, unrestricted. Seep tank to accommodate a 3BR/2BA home, driveway, public water & power already in place! Great place for RV ready to build. You’ll not find a better price in Mentone. $33,900. (31288)

WEST FORK AT DESOTO FALLS. Located just down from the picturesque “red boat house,” the beautifully wooded lot offers approx 94’ of river frontage in the prime part of Little River; the truly navigable part where you can canoe, kayak or contain all the way to Mentone! Hardwoods, rhododendron, laurel. So much natural beauty, so rarely available to be purchased. $162,500. (395152)

RENT FOR A YEAR TO BUILD YOUR DREAM HOME! 2.75 unrestricted acres with underground utilities, & septic tank! Just minutes from downtown Mentone, but tucked quietly into the woods! Call today before this one’s gone! $35,000. (1054986)

2 WOODED ACRES with a tiny little rustic “cabin” (no plumbing). Build your getaway cabin here amongst the hardwoods, picturesque boulders, wild turkey, deer...most any kind of wildlife found in these hills. Restricted. $39,700. (1034503)

4.33 ACRES ON SMALL LAKE. Property consists of two lots being sold as one on Full Moon Lake in Laurel Creek Lakes, Mentone. $45,000. (1049899)

2.2 UNRESTRICTED, WOODED ACRES Mentone. Corner property, excellent location for a home or cottage or keep a few chickens. Public water & power at the road. $18,000 (101111)

WOW! WHATTA VIEW!!! Build your dream home on this 3-acre lot overlooking beautiful Weiss Lake. Already cleared & ready to build upon with mature trees left for shade, utilities at the road. $30,000 (10518320)

COTTAGE OR SHOP? OR BOTH? Downtown Mentone. This is one of those rare opportunities to own a place that has been used for a business & living quarters right in the heart of the village. Built as a beauty shop & residence, this sweet bungalow is one of those rare opportunities for a business & living quarters for small business owner, here’s an economical place to get going with a loft space perfect for the weekends, full workshop/of fice/studio. Multi-use space for privacy, views, woods & space offer much for the person wanting privacy & elbow room! 10 miles from downtown Mentone in Cloudland, GA. Only $250,000 (Coworkerage with Georgia-licensed company, Lookout Mtn Preferred Realty, Angela Wood) (1060014)

FRIENDLY ACRES. Rugged good looks, inside & out, with all the creature comforts. Full, covered front porch; screened back porch. Pine walls & ceilings; vaulted living w/stonework accents. gas-log fireplace, tile kitchen; 3BR/2.5BA. Main-level Master BR & bath. Sunroom w/door access. Full basement, mostly finished, w/large rooms, work areas & garage work. Quaint red barn; equipment shed; workshop w/studio apartment overhead w/pine floors & lots of potential. Yes, there’s work to be done, but the privacy, views, woods & space offer much for the person wanting privacy & elbow room! 10 miles from downtown Mentone in Cloudland, GA. Only $250,000 (Coworkerage with Georgia-licensed company, Lookout Mtn Preferred Realty, Angela Wood) (1060014)
The Rhododendron Garden Club met December 13 at the home of Mary Shurett for a luncheon and installation of officers. The “pot-luck” meal was well planned with ham, a variety of delicious side dishes, and several desserts. JoAnn Glover came as a guest and joined the club; she is a welcomed addition. Ann Houston presided over the installation of officers and charging each with the responsibility of her office. New officers are: Mellanie Tuttle, President; Marsha Merrell, Vice-President; Brenda Cox, Secretary; and Dianne Kuehl remains as Treasurer. The club has added members, successfully competed in flower shows, become more involved in the Mentone community, and gained an increased knowledge of horticulture under the tutelage of out-going President, Martha Wood. Thank you, Martha.

The January meeting of the RGC was held at the MERF House on Tuesday the 10th. Several members were out of town so attending members tried to do justice to the food that hostess Dianne Kuehl prepared. President, Mellanie Tuttle, called the meeting to order and led the Pledge to the Flag. For the meditation, Brenda Cox shared a poem “Sunward With God” written by Sybil Ames. Roll call included naming sources for seed catalogues. Everyone agreed that Stark Bro’s Nurseries and Orchards catalogue and website was an excellent source for information on fruit, nut, landscape trees, and berries. In the ‘Growing Guide’ section is a fascinating article that tells how “one of the world’s most familiar apples, Red Delicious, was discovered by chance; an event that vaulted Stark Bro’s into the chronicles of apple lore.” (Someone should make a movie.)

Committee reports were given and old and new business was discussed. Horticulture Chairman, Martha Wood, explained that the Butterfly Weed (Asclepias tuberosa) was named the 2017 Perennial Plant of the Year. A native plant, it is deer resistant, drought resistant, and grows best in well-drained soil. Well named, the Butterfly Weed, but spraying has diminished the plant and sightings of butterflies as well. Please be judicious in use of pesticides and repopulate the native Butterfly Weed.

Club members are very excited about a joint project with other Master Gardeners to meet once a week for an after school program. Two raised beds will be constructed, filled with soil, and planted with vegetables and flowers. Students will learn about maintaining those beds and all things horticulture as well as occasional floral design instruction. Our goal is to promote the love of gardening, floral design, and environmental responsibility.

The next meeting will be held at the MERF House on February 14 starting at 10:00 am. “Be Our Valentine” and learn about “Berries of Many Colors.”

New officers left to right: Dianne Kuehl, Brenda Cox, Marsha Merrell, Mellanie Tuttle, and Ann Houston.

Marsha Merrell presented a ‘delicious’ power point program about the history of apples. Malus pumila is a deciduous tree in the rose family and propagated by grafting onto rootstock. This is the preferred method since trees grown directly from seeds can reach sixty feet, and the seeds do not consistently produce trees that will bear apples true to the parent tree. Now cultivated worldwide, the ancestor of the modern apple, Malus sieversii, grew wild in Central Asia and China and spread to Europe. Colonists brought apples to North American where Rev. William Blaxton planted the first orchard in Boston in 1625. The Crabapple is the only U.S. native apple tree. The popular image of Johnny Appleseed spreading seeds randomly as he walked is not true. John Chapman actually planted nurseries, fenced them in, left a local person in charge to sell trees on shares, and returned yearly to check the stock. He left an estate of over 1200 acres of nurseries from Pennsylvania to Indiana. Thomas Jefferson grew 18 varieties. The ‘Esopus Spitzenburg’ was his favorite and is one of the best for making pies. He also grew the ‘Newton Pippin’, which was so popular with Queen Victoria that she removed the import tax! In 1928, 14,000 varieties were known, today 90 or so are grown commercially. The refrigerated railcar enhanced the popularity of the apple to become the ‘American’ fruit we all know and love.

Club members were saddened by the death of Gethryn Giles. Since her move to NC, club business has not always been in compliance with the Robert’s Rules of Order. She will be missed.

The next meeting will be held at the MERF House on February 14 starting at 10:00 am. "Be Our Valentine" and learn about "Berries of Many Colors."

RUSTIC CABIN near Mentone: 1-1/2 story, 2BR/2.5BA home, open floor plan, large vaulted ceilings. Left guest bedroom overlooking living area. Lge screened porch in porch. $239,900. MLS #1017671.

Two Cabins: minutes from DeSoto State Park and Mentone. Cabin 1 has approx. 460 sq. ft. Cabin 2 has approx. 412 sq. ft. from cabins have 1 BR/1BA and sold furnished with all appliances. $114,900 MLS #1036084.

Furnished Cabin on Parkway: Minutes from DeSoto St.Pk. and Downtown Mentone. Approx. 664 sq ft. with 2BR/2BA, wood-burning FP, wood floors/walls, fully equipped kitchen W/D. CH&A. 5-per. hot tub. $135,000. MLS #1021601.

Custom Cabin w/ great room and kitchen, oak flooring, and wood burning fireplace in this 2BR/2.5BA home. Sleeping porch w/FP. 11BR entrance gate near downtown Mentone. $248,000. MLS #1051679.

Two Residences on the Brow with 45 +/- acres! Rock walls, walkways and patios. Call for more details. $495,000. MLS #1039666.

Enjoy the Brown View from porch of this two-story home with vaulted and open living has 3BR/2BA, furnished and gas log fireplace. $268,900. MLS #1048786.

Belaveol Mountain Get-Away with gorgeous view year round. 3 bedrooms, 2 bath, shake-sided outside w/bow maintenance metal roof. Deck. $239,900. MLS #1000068.

Unbelievable brown home on 1.5 acres. 2BR/2BA, open living/kitchen area, formal DR, numerous decks and screened porch. Many gorgeous rock formations, a detached 2-car garage/workshop and more. $129,900 MLS #1048899.

Gorgeous 11.27 acre lot with fabulous view of the valley. Included is a 2BR/1BA mobile home with a screened porch and deck. 2 rock bluff points with trails for easy access. $144,900. MLS #1052553.

Live & Play on the Water! 200' of frontage on East Fork of Little River. Featuring 3BR/1BA, rock floors, some carpet, all appliances, WB fireplace, and storage building. Call for more details. $155,999. MLS #1029410.

In the heart of Mentone, this updated 3BR/2BA home features hardwood floors, custom cabinets, FP & storage space. New carpeting upstairs. $110,900. MLS #1031222.

Whippoorwill Farm. 2BR/2BA rock log home w/wiroom & FP updated kitchen, historic barn, 2-stall stable w/2BR apt. Screened sleeping cabin, dock on navigable part of the river. midway between Mentone and DeSoto Falls. $325,000. Call for details. MLS #815966.

Less than 10 MLS from downtown Mentone, 3BR/2BA house w/roughed in microwave & dishwasher, instant heat & hot water, front porch, above ground pool with deck, 3 out buildings, hot tub built/installed by sellers. $179,000. MLS #1046823.

Cabin overlooking the water features pine walls & floors, vaulted ceilings and fireplaces. Enjoy your own relaxing paradise w/privacy of Mountain Laurel and rocks. Built to preserve the property’s natural beauty. $65,900. MLS #1036543.

Two Cabins: 1 BR/1BA in Hidden Lake Sub. Access to 14-acre lake. Living w/hardwood floors & FP. Recent renovation. $49,950.

Two Cabins: 1 BR/1BA open, living area with amazing view year round. Open design from porch downstairs. Lge BR/BA and sitting area upstairs. Laurel Creek Lakes. $209,900. MLS #1015755.

Downtown Mentone: Enjoy access from this brown side cabin. Open design, new 23’ ceilings, new walls & flooring, and fireplace. This 2BR/2BA unit is leased and is available for your personal enjoyment. $110,900. MLS #1029410.

Land Opportunity! Lot in Laurel Creek Lakes, Mentone. 3BR/2BA, 5+/- year old roof. Garage apt with 1 BR/1BA and sold furnished. Approx. 650 sq ft. 1.35 acres. $139,900. MLS #1046823.

Cabin & Boat House in Mentone. Master suite has hardwood floors, wood burning fireplace in this 2BR/2BA, full house generator. MLS #1046940.

In the heart of Mentone, this updated 2BR/1BA cottage and 2-car garage with apartment potential. $247,500 MLS #654813.


In the heart of Mentone, this updated 2BR/1BA home features hardwood floors, custom cabinets, FP & storage space. New carpeting upstairs. $129,000 MLS #1029410.

Water Front Vacation Home. 2BR/2BA 1-1/2 story cabin located in the Laurel Lake subdivision. Mentone. Open floor plan. Master Suite has its own entrance to a large screened in back porch that could serve as a whole new living area in pleasant outdoor space. $174,500. MLS #1031566.

Lot 30A Forest Park and Mentone. Approx. 680 sq ft. 3BR/2BA, open, living/kitchen area, formal DR, numerous decks and screened porch. Many gorgeous rock formations, a detached 2-car garage/workshop and more. $129,900 MLS #1048999.

One of the most photographed landmarks in Alabama...The iconic Reelfoot Log Cabin on Little River less than 500’ from Desoto Falls. 2BR/2BA apt. Screened sleeping cabin, dock, great views, trails, rock walls/patio, gazebo, outdoor shower, old spring house. $125,000. MLS #1059325.

Two Cabins: 1BR, 2Acre, 2BR/2BA vintage log cabin in Mentone. Master suite has wood-burning FP, wood floors/walls, fully equipped kitchen, W/D, CH&A, 5-person hot tub. Currently in rental program. $115,000. MLS #1042624.

Two Cabins: 1BR, 2BA, on 2.8 acres w/low maintenance metal roof. Deck. $239,900 MLS #1000691.

The Historic Cragmere Manor. On several acres as rental lodging and/or event hosting. Perfect setting for large or small groups. 3BR/2BA, large kitchen, dining, and living area, covered pavilion. $775,000. MLS #1050326.

[Image 281x316 to 394x376] One 5+/- year old roof. Garage apt with 1 BR/1BA and sold furnished. Approx. 650 sq ft. 1.35 acres. $139,900. MLS #1046823.

One 5+/- year old roof. Garage apt with 1 BR/1BA and sold furnished. Approx. 650 sq ft. 1.35 acres. $139,900. MLS #1046823.
Our Small Town Makes National News Impact

By Cathy Haven Howard

On Saturday January 21st over 70 people gathered from five different states and many towns in Alabama to participate in the Sister March to the Women’s March on Washington DC on the sidewalks of Mentone. Organizer Cathy Haven Howard and her Leadership Team of deJoly LaBrier, Sharon Habin and Lisa Schad wanted to express their solidarity with the national Women’s March in DC. They approached the Town Council and Cynthia Stinson of the Mentone Inn to see about the possibility of having a march here in Mentone. The affirmative answers kept coming and in a few short days the team of women had pulled together a March that was FOR Human and Women’s rights and strictly followed the national guidelines of non-violence.

The weather that morning was a dense fog on the mountain which quickly turned to a rainy downpour, but people kept coming and braving the elements. We were so grateful to have the Pavilion behind the Mentone Inn as a dry gathering place before the March and also where we listened to passionate speeches afterwards. We were able to have an opportunity to really connect with each other and to hear the variety of reasons why people were marching. These reasons ranged from equality to marching for our grandmothers, daughters, granddaughters and those women who do not have a voice.

The rain let up right at the time we took to the sidewalks of Mentone, walking with many colorful and meaningful signs, and chanting slogans of equality and peace. As we walked to the Post Office the wind picked up and we had to hang on to our signs, but our spirits were buoyed as drivers honked and yelled affirming thoughts to us. We returned to the Pavilion and were able to listen to inspiring speeches and watch an awesome peace dance from a Crow Native American veteran woman, Julia Kelly, who danced in her traditional jingle dress. With each speech the feelings of connection, unity, and momentum built and we linked arm in arm and sang songs like “We Shall Overcome,” and “I will be Your Standing Stone.” We ended our time together by having a wonderful, delicious lunch in the Gallery of Kamama provided by Fontana of the Wolves Den restaurant.

A photo taken of Mentone area resident Susan Cherones before she made her speech was posted on Twitter and went viral; at the time of this writing it had received over 50,000 likes. The post has received many encouraging words from all over the world. They range from: “Don’t give up. Proud of women around the world”; “Thanks to all you awesome folks representing in small towns.” One of those that wrote to us stated, “I’m hoping to bring my nieces (who are 2 and almost a year) someday to this amazing city and to show them places like NYC and DC so they know there are different types of people out there and that we must all seek equality.” Another said, “I know it likely wasn’t your intent when you organized the march, but it has garnered attention from people all over the country who are now asking where to eat and stay not if, but when, they visit our little mountain gem.”

We are so grateful for the support we received from the town and all the participants! Thank you so much.
Gethryn S. Giles, age 80, of Black Mountain, NC died peacefully at her home at Givens Highland Farms, January 4, 2017.

Gethryn was born in Decatur, AL on July 11, 1936 to Roger Benjamin and Ruby Reeder Steverson. She attended Huntingdon College and obtained her Masters of Social Work at the University of Tennessee School of Social Work in 1968, where she received the Rhoda O'Meara award for exhibiting the most promise for contributions to her field. She began her career as a social case worker in Tuscumbia, Huntsville, and Talladega, AL. and retired in 1996 as Assistant to the Commissioner for the Alabama Department of Human Resources in Montgomery.

Upon retirement, she and her husband Gene moved to Mentone, AL., and she continued her service with Alive Hospice in Scottsboro. Gethryn was involved with many of the ministries at St. Joseph’s on the Mountain including serving as the President of the Episcopal Church Women there. She was also President of the Rhododendron Garden Club (2005 - 2007), and was involved with Friends of the Moon Lake Library.

Among other offices she held (too numerous to mention them all), she was past President of the Alabama Conference of Social Work, President of the Episcopal Church Women in the Diocese of Alabama, and served on the Vestries of Holy Comforter Episcopal Church, Montgomery and St. James, Black Mountain. Most recently she was President of the Residents’ Corporation at Givens Highland Farms, Black Mountain.

Gethryn sought to serve in all aspects of her life. Described by many as a “force of nature,” she was the ultimate administrator and organizer. She was also a kind, caring, generous, supportive wife, mother and grandmother who took great pride in her family’s accomplishments. She lived a full and joyous life entertaining, playing bridge, bird watching, and attending the symphony.

She is survived by her children, Kim (Jeff) Strickland of Nashville, TN; Kelly (Jonathan) Stephenson of Black Mountain, NC; four grandchildren in whom she took such pride – Riley and Maggie Stephenson and Anna and Audrey Strickland; and one sister, Dr. Gayle (Jack) Steverson Kent of Lakeland, FL. She was predeceased by her husband of 39 years, George E. (Gene) Giles.

A Celebration of Life service was held at St. James Episcopal Church, Black Mountain, at 10am on Monday, January 9. In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made to the Resident Assistant Ministry at Givens Gerber Park, 2360 Sweeten Creek Road, Asheville, NC 28803.

Dr. James Haywood Baker

Dr. James Haywood Baker, 75, of Mentone, Alabama, died December 18, 2016, after a brief illness. A memorial service was held at St. Joseph’s on-the-Mountain Episcopal Church in Mentone followed immediately by a luncheon for friends and family. Dr. Baker was born in Opp, Alabama, on June 7, 1941. He graduated from Opp High School, where he was known as a great sportsman and a gentleman even in youth. Following graduation from the University of Alabama and the University Of Alabama School Of Dentistry, Dr. Baker served two years in the U.S. Navy Dental Corps, including a brief stint at Guantanamo Bay Naval Station. Dr. Baker practiced private dentistry in Huntsville before becoming Chief of Dentistry at Searcy Hospital in Mt. Vernon, Alabama. Dr. Baker and his wife, Margaret, lived in Orange Beach from 1986 to 2000, but he continued the lengthy commute to Mt. Vernon in order to enjoy beach living. During his time in Orange Beach, Dr. Baker was an active community member. He served on the Orange Beach Planning Commission and was elected to the City Council. He and his wife were charter members of St. Andrew by the Sea community church in Gulf Shores. In February 2000, he and his wife traded life at the beach for life in the mountains when Dr. Baker acquired an Affordable Dentures practice in Albertville. He ran the practice for 15 years before retiring in June 2015. Over the last decade, Dr. Baker served on the University of Alabama College of Arts & Sciences Leadership Board.

Dr. Baker was the family protector and beloved patriarch. He opened his heart and home regularly to abandoned cats, dogs, friends, and family members. An avid reader of newspapers (3-4 a day) and lover of knowledge, Dr. Baker often served as a “personal Wikipedia” to those around him. Selfless. Gentle-spirited. Determined. These are some of the ways his loved ones describe him. He treasured spending time with family and friends, being Paps/Papi to his grandchildren, cheering for University of Alabama sports teams, working daily with his caring and committed staff, playing his Martin guitars, attending weekly breakfasts with fellow ROMEOs (Retired Old Men Eating Out), running errands with his yellow lab Milo and ensuring that his home was well stocked with quality paper products, Diet Coke and light ice cream.

Dr. Baker is preceded in death by his parents, J. V. and Sarah Pittman Baker of Opp. Survivors include his wife of 56 years, Margaret Riggs Baker, of Mentone; son James H. Baker II (Andrea) of Franklin, Tennessee; daughter Suzanne Baker (Britt Cloud) of Atlanta, Georgia; grandchildren Elizabeth Baker of Atlanta, Matthew Baker of Basking Ridge, New Jersey, and Hayden Cloud of Atlanta; sister Janice Greer of Santa Clarita, California; brother Thomas Baker (Ann) of Castle Rock, Colorado; and a host of adored nieces, nephews, cousins and in-laws.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Tapestry Public Charter School, 3130 Raymond Dr., Atlanta, GA 30340 (tapestrycharter.org), Atlanta Lab Rescue, P.O. Box 250206, Atlanta, GA 30325 (atlantalabrescue.com) or the St. Joseph’s on-the-Mountain Episcopal Church Memorial Garden Fund, PO Box 161, Mentone, AL. 35984.

Lookingout Mountain Memories

A. Jerry Akridge

Oh, I’ve traveled the world all over, And been from the East to the West, But of all the places I have ever been, There’s only one I can call the best.

This place lives within my heart, Lookout Mountain is its name. People there are all your friends; There is nowhere else the same.

No place on planet Earth. Speaks better of God’s creation. For here it is His sure delight, To show His own such adoration.

At DeSoto Falls and Mentone town, Rhododendron and mountain laurel grow, And in my mind and its canyons deep, Swift blue waters of Little River flow.

While pausing on a canyon’s rim, One can seem to slow the clock, Or meditating at Howard’s Chapel, A church built solid on the Rock.

The faith of our founding fathers, Is reflected in the people here. They mirror love of a saving God; Their trust in Him is so clear.

It’s a place dreams are born from, Where sorrows and troubles cease. There on top of Lookout Mountain, Are found beauty and precious peace.
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MENTONE
Body Maintenance
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Gourdie Shop
Hair @ The Village
Kamama's
Little River Hardware
Lookout Mountain Realty

Volunteers Needed

- Little River Canyon Center needs event staff as well as program assistants for environmental education to help with field trips and other educational programs.
- MAPA is looking for people to help with the Rhododendron festival for planning as well as during the event.
- MERF is in need of people to help with tutoring K-6 students in Math and Reading for 2 hours per week.
- Mentone Community Library is asking for helpers 2-3 hours per month.

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Healing Artists Circle--Love Yourself Through Health

by Lisa A. Schad, LMT

Our last gathering of 2016, held in December, brought together about 25 folks interested in networking with each other to learn more about and share their interests and talents in the healing arts. Rather than a formal meeting, our meet and greet joined with celebrating Tohi Spa and Massage Studio’s one-year birthday party. Several local vendors donated door prizes and gift certificates for their services which were awarded as every one of us introduced ourselves and shared our connections to healing arts. All shared their joy in meeting new folks and learning new things about folks they already know. Who knew we have a therapeutic clown in our midst that helps folks heal through laughter and exploring their facades and many faces? Clare Donahue taught us about the power of our voices; Lisa Crow played and sang for us; Sharon Habin shared a group tarot card reading she did for us, and many others shared.

Debbie Happy Cohen was our presenter for January with her topic of The Power of Appreciation and Honor on Health and Longevity which included discussion and experiential exercises.

February’s circle will meet at Tohi at Kamama on Thursday, February 16. Meet and greet at the Wolve’s Den, 5-6:30 for a Dutch style meal and 6:30-8 there will be a presentation by the Tohi team- Lisa, Orion and Sonya- on the topic of Loving Yourself through Health. We will discuss and demonstrate the healing benefits of essential oils, massage, and energy techniques. Please bring your business cards and samples if you are a provider/business owner and your interest and healing stories if you are a layperson.

Please contact Lisa A. Schad, LMT at 256-635-8855 for more information.