Over the last 76 years our Alabama State Parks, like most state park systems in every state, are among the top attractions for local populations and for visitors. Each year hundreds of thousands of people from all over the state and from all over the U.S. and from around the world come to enjoy our Alabama State Parks. Our very own DeSoto State Park is among the most popular in the state. Visitors from all over the world tell us how much they love coming to our Lookout Mountain piece of wilderness paradise at DeSoto State Park. The park built in the late 1930’s by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) was part of a nationwide program instituted by Franklin Roosevelt to get the depression era people working again.

It was perhaps one of the best, if not the best, federal government strategies of all time. With that said, two other great Federal and State government strategies are the National and State Park systems. They are for the people and about the people. We all learned in school that this is what state and local government is supposed to be all about. They represent us, to serve us and they are at our digression, so how can it be that there is talk about taking one of our most popular state government treasures away? It is not just the state parks that are at risk. Our state is in financial crisis and all state agencies that have been earmarked to receive money from the state general fund are being reviewed for potential cuts or even worse, closing. Our state tourism office is at risk too. Here is the thing. It is the State Parks and tourism that is...
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, April 5, 1982, and organized by its founder, Hope Harrison, as the voice of the community. Groundhog assumes liability only for the actual text, not for errors or omissions in advertising or for damages caused by the use or non-use of products advertised. The Groundhog is published on behalf of the Mentone Area Preservation Association, a non-profit corporation.

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Mentone Matters
By Mayor Rob Hammond

The annual community cleanup was a success. Thanks to Lyle Nicely for organizing the volunteers who worked hard picking up the roadsides. We would also like to thank Cynthia Stinson at the Mentone Inn for hosting the community cookout following, and the volunteers who brought food and prepared it. Bobby Hamby of Custom Words spent the morning at Town Hall collecting electronics for recycling.

The town has accepted a bid from Wiregrass Construction to pave North Cool Street from AL 117 through Brow Park to DeKalb 89. Hopefully the paving will be complete before Rhododendron Festival.

Police Chief Lamar Bray will retire as chief effective June 1. He will remain on the police force as a part-time officer. Kirby Johnston will retire also in May and will be available to fill in when needed. These two men have given outstanding service to the Town of Mentone and are important members of our community. A simple thank you here is not enough.

The council has appointed Brad Gregg to succeed Lamar as chief. Brad has filled in at Mentone in the past and has known Lamar for years. Brad earned a degree in criminology at Auburn University. He has served as chief of police at Sylvania since 2007. Brad became an APOSTC certified Law Enforcement Executive in 2011. He has over 320 hours of executive law enforcement training. Brad will begin patrolling with Lamar in May. Please give him a warm Mentone welcome when you meet him.

From the Editor

Change...

Farming has changed since I was a boy. Manual labor was the “farm power” used by our family. Until I was about 8 years old, we had no electricity, no indoor plumbing, no appliances, no truck, no tractor and of course no telephone. A dirt road ran by our front door on which a rickety old bus carried us to a little country school. However, we did have a horse, two mules, plows, planters, guano knokers, shovels, pitch forks, hoes, and a wagon. All these tools, along with daily family muscle, allowed us to have a garden, chickens, cows, hogs, and crops of peanuts, corn, cotton, and sugar cane – food was great and life was good.

Because of the unrelenting march of change, most “things” in our life were only imagined 75 years ago. Roads are mostly paved and give way to super highways. Ships and airplanes travel quickly around the world carrying people, food, and supplies of every kind – we even travel to the stars. Medicine cures old and new diseases, allowing people to live longer and healthier lives.

To me, the most astonishing change is the speed, complexity, and volume of communications - everyone is quickly and easily connected to everything.

Mentone has been described, as a town were time stood still, an artist community, a musical mountain town, a vacation paradise, and the friendliest town in Alabama. While maybe at a slower pace, change visits Mentone too. The old hotel is gone, St Joseph’s on the Mountain is into a rebirth, a new arts and cultural center is being planned and traffic on Hwy. 117 is increasing daily.

A famous philosopher, probably Yogi Berra, once said that change is the only constant in our lives. I like to think that backyard gardens, art, music and happy families will always be around. They certainly are in Mentone.

Ray Padgett
For the MAPA Board
Rhododendron Festival
(cont’d from page 1)

rides will once again be located at the Mentone Volunteer Fire Department, and horse drawn carriage rides on the brow will be loading in the Mentone Springs Hotel parking lot.

Mentone is famous for its unique and talented artists. This year, we want to harness the artist in all with opportunities for kids to create their own piece of art. There will also be face painters available to transform the kids’ faces into beautiful works of art.

BOAT RIDES

This year brings the return of the scenic boat rides on Little River! The boat will leave from DeSoto Falls and travel up river before returning. Each ride costs $10 and should last around 30 minutes, so boats will leave about every 45 minutes during the following times: (All dates and times are weather permitting.)

May 15th, Friday 1pm to Dusk
May 16th, Saturday 9am to Dusk
May 17th, Sunday 10am to 2pm

ART & MUSIC

Art and music have been the heart and soul of Mentone. This year we are proud to offer two full stages of very talented area musicians and more than 50 visual artists ranging from photography, painting and pottery to jewelry, fiber and sculpture. There will be something for everyone.

This year we have two headliners in the music category, one each night. Friday night Will Dooley and the Tatum Brothers will take the stage at the Mentone Inn at 6pm. One World Adventure will once again host the Friday Night Fish Fry to please your palate while you enjoy “train whistles and whippoorwills” from Will Dooley and the Tatum Brothers. According to them, “You will like it, your parents will like it, and your girlfriend will like it”; so we say, come out and enjoy it!

Saturday night beginning at 6pm, you can enjoy a feast at the Low Country Boil while listening to the Pioneer Chicken Stand Band on the Children’s Festival Stage, under the tent! “Mountain Folk-Rock from Deliverance Country” – that’s how the boys in Pioneer Chicken Stand describe their music. The band was formed in 2010 and has been gathering a following across the Southeast in venues from Mobile to Asheville and everywhere in between. Although two thirds of the band are now based in North Georgia, they will always be Alabama boys at heart. Matty Croxton (Vocals, Bass, Harmonica) and Derek Day (Percussion) are both DeKalb County natives, and Craig McGriff (Vocals, Guitar, Piano) is originally from Gadsden. The guys are all talented in their own right, but something magical happens when the three of them get together. Like a well-oiled machine that just won’t slow down. They’re not just a high-energy cover band either. The band has an arsenal of original music and has just finished recording its debut EP “Sin Town” to be released this summer.

Be sure to check out other great performers under the tent on the Children’s Festival Stage at Kamama’s Art Gallery parking lot throughout the weekend. The line-up is as follows:

Saturday, May 16th
11:00am – Taylor Henderson
11:30am – Dakota Halgun
12:00pm – The Fowler Girls
12:30pm – Boci Virili (Men’s A Capella Quartet)
1:00pm – Kenny Finlayson & Friends
1:30pm - Terry Hutcheson
2:00pm – Jess McClendon & Tom George
2:30pm – Clare Donohue
3:00pm – Curtis Strange
3:45pm – Shades of Gray

Sunday, May 17th
11:00am – Glenda Nunnally & The Tibetan Mastiffs (Westminster Dog Show Winners)
12:00pm – Avery Smith
12:30pm- John Latham
1:00pm – The Cloggers
1:30pm: Felipe Paccagnella & Clare Donohue
2:00pm – The Campfire Girls
2:30pm - Dancers at Heart

As usual, “The Sounds of Mentone” will fill Brow Park with two days of local entertainment. Don’t miss appearances by the following musicians on the Brow Park stage during the weekend.

Saturday, May 16th
10-11am: Josie Bruno is a 19-year-old from Chattanooga, Tennessee. She has been playing guitar since she was around 9 years old and writes a lot of her own music. She says her dad is responsible for her love of music, and she hopes to make it her full-time career.
11am-12pm: Ryan Keefe (see page 1 for photo) is a singer/songwriter/multi-instrumentalist from Fort Payne, AL. Ryan cut his teeth in various traveling blues and rock n’ roll bands, singing, writing songs, playing guitar, and mastering the precise art of awakening sleeping venues to the surging life of the best kind of late night live shows. His clear tenor voice and his uncommon skill on guitar help distinguish his performances from that of other myriad “bar bands” making the rounds in the Southeast.
12-1pm: Daniel Hughes is a Mentone native who began his musical exploration at a young age. He has cultivated a love for live performance by sharing his music throughout northeast Alabama. He is currently living in Nashville, TN where he spends his time songwriting and tweaking his musical style.

1-2pm: Lisa Crow was born and raised in the south, but Mentone is her home (after 20+ years of mountain life). Lisa says, “As a cover artist, I try to choose the songs that move me... and those I sing too.” This year she has the talented James Roberts sitting in with her, so it should be an extra special treat for all! Her love of music is what inspires her to gather musicians each year for the festival. She says, “It is truly an honor to be a part of such a wonderful group of people!”

2-3pm: Amy Snider is a singer/songwriter/guitarist from Albertville, AL. She’s been playing all around the south for around 20 years now, even operating a studio from her home (Hippie Hilton Studios). With a mix of soulful songs she has written, as well as cover tunes, she definitely draws your attention.

Join MAPA Today!
Help us preserve
Mentone’s history
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Individuals - $20 a year
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MAPA
P. O. Box 50
Mentone, AL 35984
Mentone Area Arts Council Receives Grants for Summer Arts and Entertainment

By Rhea Pirch

The Mentone Area Arts Council is pleased to announce that it has received two grants totaling $3,200.00 from the Alabama State Council on the Arts (ASCA), the state arts agency, to present its Julyfest Art Show and Festival, and a Summer Music Series in Mentone.

The first grant, for $1,000.00 will assist the Arts Council in providing a juried art show during the annual Julyfest, July 18th and 19th. Over 50 artists will be featured, chosen for their artistic excellence, to compete for cash prizes. The festival will present artist’s demonstrations and offer a venue for local musicians to perform during the event, and also will host an evening concert with professional entertainment and a barbecue dinner at the Mentone Inn Pavilion.

The second grant, for $2,200.00 will benefit the Summer Music Series, which will offer four performances with a diverse selection of musical entertainment, free of charge, to Mentone’s residents and visitors throughout the summer months. This program allows amateur, local and professional musicians to share their musical talents, ranging from bluegrass to blues, jazz and rock-and-roll. The venues will vary, from casual music on the Town Square Stage to concerts at the Mentone Inn Pavilion.

The first performance of the Series will be held on Saturday, May 16th when local musicians will entertain on the Town Square Stage from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The second performance will be an evening concert to be held Saturday, May 23rd at the Mentone Inn Pavilion, entertainment yet to be determined. The additional two performances will be held during the months of July and August.

With this program, the Mentone Area Arts Council will also offer a venue for Mentone area Non-profit organizations to raise money through pre-concert fish-fries or barbecues.

Both Julyfest and the Summer Music Series are expected to draw 1500 to 5000 visitors to Mentone to purchase items from artists and local businesses, explore the historic community and enjoy the entertainment provided.

“We are honored and thrilled to receive these grants” said MAAC’s president, Cynthia Stinson. “They will help us to further realize the purpose of the Mentone Area Arts Council, to encourage the widespread appreciation of the arts and support the wide array of talented artists and musicians in this area, and to keep the involvement in the arts alive in the Mentone community.”

ASCA grants are awarded through a multi-faceted competitive review process. These grants signify that the Mentone Area Arts Council provides programs of artistic quality, serves the needs of the community and demonstrates high-level administrative standards, as well as enhancing education of students at all levels.

These grants awarded by the Alabama State Council on the Arts are made possible through funding from an annual appropriation from the Alabama State Legislature and the National Endowment of the Arts. This public support enables the Mentone Area Arts Council to reach new audiences, foster community development, provide the highest quality programming, and demonstrate the importance of arts as a component for quality of life in Alabama.
2015 MBA Officers

By Bob Hoffman
MBA Secretary

The Mentone Business Association held election of officers at our monthly meeting, April 20th. Charlotte Gentry, owner of Mentone Realty, is the new President and has several new and innovative ideas on potential ways to improve business around Mentone. Our new Vice-President is Susan Seago, co-owner of the recently-opened Earthly Elements Rock and Garden shop in the Log Cabin Village. Susan is a relative newcomer to Mentone but is very enthusiastic about doing what she can to help the town thrive. We had a great turnout at our meeting this month and were pleased to see the amount of interest shown for the future of the organization.

We at the MBA are getting ready for the upcoming Rhododendron Festival, like many others around town, and hope to see you at our booth near the brow.

Check us out at our new Facebook page: Facebook.com/MentoneBusinessAssociation; and our new website: MentoneBusiness.com. On the website, you’ll find all the meeting minutes, Groundhog articles, and other information about the organization. The Facebook page is very new, so it has little material thus far, but we plan to start posting updates on our progress and plans in the near future.

We’ve changed the day for our monthly meeting. Our next MBA meeting is the 2nd Monday of May, the 11th, from 6:00 to 7:00 and you’re all invited. It will likely be at the MERF House, but check MentoneBusiness.com to make sure. As we say every month, join us, contribute your ideas, and help us help the local businesses to be as successful as possible.

State Parks (cont’d from page 1)

generating the dollars that go into the general fund. Last year tourists spent 11.8 billion dollars in Alabama creating 176,000 tourism related jobs and producing over 43 million dollars for the Alabama general fund. It makes no sense to take the money away from the departments that are growing and generating the income and giving it to those who do not produce income. In order to fund anything you have to have sources of income and the state parks and tourism are doing that. This is why I feel good reason will prevail and DeSoto State Park will remain open and most others will too. There are a lot of people working on our behalf to make sure our Alabama Legislature hears our voice. We are giving them the facts and figures of a tourism industry that has continued to grow through most of our prolonged recession. I think our legislature will come to realize it may not be a good idea to shut down those who are creating the income and giving it to those who are not.

We are fortunate in our area to have great Legislators like Nathaniel Ledbetter, Steve Livingston, Clay Scofield and Richard Lindsey who understand the critical importance of our state parks and tourism to the economy of our area.

As a Destination Marketing Organization, DeSoto S.P. is critical to our success in attracting tourists to our area. When we advertise our area we have to deliver a very short and quick message to our potential visitors why they should come here. DeSoto Sate Park and Buck’s Pocket S.P. are two of the most important parts of our ability to get visitors to our area. Ken Thomas, our DeSoto S.P. park superintendent, and his staff have done a masterful job in keeping DeSoto State Park a premier destination. Only a few years ago they added the fantastic CCC museum at the original entrance building to the park. It was built by the CCC. Scheduled for this summer is the addition of a Zip Line which promises to be a great addition to the park.

Please call your legislators, sign petitions and pray that those we have elected statewide to represent us in Montgomery will help us grow and compete with our neighboring states and not take away some of the very reasons people visit us from other states.

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Moon Lake Community Library
By Liz Baker

The library Board of Directors would like to express appreciation to a new PATRON, Judy Brown. Your generosity keeps us going. Thank you, Judy! If you have forgotten to renew your FRIEND, Patron, or Angel donation, it is never too late. Just drop by the library or contact us at P.O. Box 481, Mentone, AL 35984.

Our recent concert was a great success, despite two postponements due to inclement weather. We are very grateful to the Blake/Bryan trio (Rising Fawn String Ensemble) for their willingness to put on this benefit for us and for their many fans. We squeezed a lot of chairs into the library, but could have sold many more tickets had we had sufficient room. The concert was an intimate conversation with these talented musicians, who shared not only their music but interesting stories from their times on the road. As Elizabeth Romans, said “that was the smoothest music I’ve heard in a long time.” New and old fans alike were thrilled by this musical event. We hope to hear more from them soon!

Book Club Anyone?? We would love to host a book club. If you are interested, please stop by the library and leave your name and contact information--phone number and email if you have it. If there is sufficient interest, we will plan a beginning date.

Expansion of Best Sellers Collection: With the success of our concert and our ongoing book sale, we are now able to purchase more best sellers. Look for a “Best Seller Section” in the next few weeks!

Cozy murders coming soon! We will soon have two new authors in the cozy murder mystery genre. Victoria Thompson’s gaslight series will be represented by her latest book, and older books in the series will be available in our book sale.

The leading characters are a nurse midwife (Sarah, from one of NYC’s oldest and wealthiest families) and a poor Irish cop, Malloy. It is best to read the series in order if you want to read them all. There is an intriguing mystery about the death of Sarah’s first husband, and a blossoming of her friendship and then romance with Malloy.

G.M. Malliet has written two series, one about St. Just, a policeman, and another about Max Tudor, a MI5 agent turned Anglican priest. Max lives in the charming English village of Nether Monkslip, where all is well except for the occasional, well…. murder. Max tries to help his friend, Inspector Cotton, solve these mysteries while keeping up with his sermon-writing and fending off amorous advances from the local spinsters. Wicked Autumn, A Fatal Winter, and Pagan Spring will appear on the shelves soon! If you like Agatha Christie and Louise Penny, you will love Max!

We are looking for a few good book reviewers! If you are interested, please let us know. And we can always use volunteers!

Thank You
Thank You
Thank You

The Annual Mentone Clean Up is a great way to see a big impact in just 3 hours of focused trash pickup a year. Thank you to all the volunteers that picked up trash along the road side on Saturday April 11, 2015!! You make our community great!!!

Many thanks to our great Sponsors:
Camp Laney  Boy Scout Troop 106

The Groundhog Needs Your Help

The Groundhog is on the hunt for some missing hard copies of past Groundhog issues and we need your help. We need copies of the following issues:

January 1987  December 1989
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June 1993  July 1993
October 1993  November 1993
March 1994  July 1994
January 1995  September 1995
September 1996  January 1997
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August 1999  March 2000
June 2000  July 2000
October 2000  December 2000
January 2001  September 2001
October 2001  November 2002
Jan/Feb 2003  June 2003
July 2003  September 2003
November 2003  March 2004
June 2004 to December 2004
ALL ISSUES from 2005 to 2012

If you are in possession of ANY of these issues and would be willing to donate them back to The Groundhog, please contact us by calling 256.465.1107 or emailing us at groundhognews@aol.com. You can also mail your issues to us in a sealed envelope to The Groundhog, P.O. Box 387, Mentone, AL 35984.
Preliminary Designs Presented by Auburn Students

By Don David

On April third the Mentone Arts and Cultural Center took a giant step toward becoming a reality. That was when the collective creative talents of the second year architectural design students of Auburn University presented their preliminary designs for the new center.

There are approximately sixty students in the second year architectural program at Auburn. The entire second year class is working on the Mentone Arts and Cultural Center. This is a yearly competition that has been going on for decades. It is sponsored by the Alabama Woods Products Association. The winners will get scholarships and other recognition. A booklet will be published including the winning designs.

The entire second year class is divided into four studios. Four or five representative designs from each studio were “pinned-up” on large tack boards by the students for review and comment. Each project had drawings and a model. The students explained their design concept and answered questions. The quality of the work was exceptional for this level in an architectural school. There were many interesting concepts. Some had portions of their projects underground and others displayed many varying arrangements of the spaces. Ray Padgett, President of the Mentone Arts and Cultural Center Board of Directors, Sandra Padgett and Cultural Center selected by Auburn for this competition. What will be shown on the twenty ninth will represent literally thousands and thousands of hours of concentrated design effort.

Don David, Architect, were there representing Mentone. They stressed the importance of having the design reflect the unique character and context of Mentone and to act as a catalyst for art and culture in the town.

Comments made at the “pin-up” will be taken into account as they work toward finalizing their designs. The final designs will be presented on April twenty-ninth. A group of professors, design professionals and Mentone representatives will jury the final presentations. Winners, runner-ups and honorable mentions will be determined at that time. Mentone is lucky indeed to have the Mentone Arts and Cultural Center selected by Auburn for this competition. What will be shown on the twenty ninth will represent literally thousands and thousands of hours of concentrated design effort.

Mentone Arts and Cultural Center Logo Competition

During April and May, Auburn University architecture students will submit proposed logos for the Mentone Arts and Cultural Center (MACC) – and YOU are invited to join in this exciting competition! This logo will brand MACC’s facility, printed and social media, and website. It will be selected from all submitted proposals, whether from Auburn students or from local Mentone residents.

Your proposed logo should graphically represent the MACC mission, which is to preserve, display, and foster the rich heritage of creative arts in the Mentone area. As a multiuse facility, the building’s interior will provide space for exhibits and performances, conferences and education, and tourist information.

A $200 prize will be awarded to the person whose logo is selected. Submissions may be sent to MACC at mentonecenter@yahoo.com or at P. O. Box 515, Mentone, Alabama 35984. Deadline for submissions is June 1, 2015.

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May 2015
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The Groundhog
About 20 years before the Civil War began, the Sacred Harp was first published. It is an oblong shape note singing book that has been in constant publication ever since. Preserved for generations on Sand Mountain and in only a few other pockets in the South, Sacred Harp music has enjoyed a world-wide resurgence in recent days. It is passionate, full-voice, a capella singing that thrills the soul and engages participants from many traditions. Shape note singing was very popular one to two hundred years ago and many shape note traditions arose, but few except the Sacred Harp have survived to this day.

Once widely sung through the original colonies, it, too, had all but died, and perhaps would have except for the efforts of family singers like the Iveys of Henagar and the Woottens of Ider who kept it going long enough for the world to find it. The movie Cold Mountain featured two Sacred Harp songs recorded at Liberty on its award winning soundtrack and the world perked up their ears. Now, you will find exuberant singers in all parts of the US as well as foreign lands including England, Ireland, Scotland, Belgium, Germany, Poland, with singings even reported this year from Israel and Hong Kong! Many of these singers make pilgrimages to sing with local singers at Liberty Church in Henager, Antioch in Ider, Shady Grove in Dutton and Pine Grove, above Collinsville, host of the 100th annual Lookout Mountain Sacred Harp Singing Convention.

Arguably, the best place in the whole world to hear or sing Sacred Harp is DeKalb County, Alabama and for the third year in a row, many of these 5th and 6th generation singers will be ringing the rafters in Mentone at the Rhododendron Festival on Saturday the 16th of May at the St. Joseph’s Episcopal Church at the crossroads in downtown Mentone from 9:30am until about 2:00pm with a break from 12:00pm to 1:00pm. Sacred Harp singings last until the last leader has been called. Since we don't know how many singers will come we don't know exactly how late the singing will run.

It is one of the fine Sacred Harp traditions that each song is led by a different singer. Other traditions include bringing nothing to the square that might divide us, opening and closing with prayer, taking a break from the athletic singing every hour and recessing for dinner on the grounds for an hour at noon. The tradition values the contribution of every singer young or old, male or female and each singer is afforded the opportunity to choose their own song. They can pitch it where they like and lead it as fast or as slowly as they think it ought to go and select which verses will be sung. There are no practices or performances of Sacred Harp, singers meet and sit in a hollow square formation facing each other and sing for each other and for God. Listeners are welcome and loaner books will be on hand for anyone who wants to join in singing.

Sacred Harp singing has a sound unlike any other modern music. It is truly a living DeKalb County treasure and many of your grandparents probably attended singing school and were singers of Sacred Harp. Enjoy YOUR cultural history, come out to the festival and experience it yourself! You are welcome to come and go anytime during the singing. Stop in to hear a song or stay all day to sing them all!

You can learn more about Sacred Harp singing and the many opportunities to sing it or listen to it at www.fasola.org. To learn more about this singing, contact Susan Cherones at 706-859-1124.
Mother's Day Brunch

May is upon us and that means it is time, once again, to celebrate our Moms! Well, a little more than usual! Hopefully, we celebrate them daily! Speaking as a mom, we deserve it!!! I know my mom does! (Love you mom!) Mothers wear many, many hats every day of the year and let's face it, moms help the world go 'round! So this Mothers Day, treat your favorite mom with a special Mothers Day Brunch. And by “treat”, of course, I mean cook for her! Anyone can make a reservation, so show her how much you really care by cooking her a special meal.

There are tons of brunch items, but one of my favorites (sadly, not my moms, due to fact that she does not like eggs) is Eggs Benedict. And it is truly not that difficult to make.

So, I would like to say “Happy Mothers Day” to every mom out there! I hope you have a wonderful day!

Classic Eggs Benedict - Serves 2

Hollandaise Sauce: Add 3 egg yolks to a blender or food processor. Then add the juice of 2 whole lemons and gentle blend for a few seconds. With the blender on, slowly drizzle in 2 sticks of melted, slightly cooled butter. Once combined, stop and add a pinch of salt and blend for a couple seconds. Set aside. (you can, of course, buy an envelope of Hollandaise and cook on the stove top.)

Pour enough water into a 10- to 12-inch skillet so that it's three-quarters full. Add 2 tsp white vinegar and bring to a simmer over medium-high heat. (For eggs in a minute!) Heat a skillet over medium-high heat and cook 4 slices of canadian bacon, flipping once, until browned, about 1 minute per side. Remove and set aside. Gently break 4 eggs into the water/vinegar around the edge of the skillet, which will help keep the eggs together. Lower the heat to medium low and simmer until the eggs are just set, about 3 minutes: the yolks should still be runny. Remove the eggs from the skillet with a slotted spoon and set aside on a warm paper-towel-lined plate. If the eggs have any feathery edges, you can trim them if you like. Meanwhile, while eggs are cooking, toast and butter the 2 English muffins.

To serve, put two muffin halves on a warm plate, top each with a slice of the bacon and a poached egg (optional). Best served immediately.

Have a great Mothers Day Brunch! And Happy Cooking! Angie
May 1, 25 - 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. 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. 256-997-9577.

May 5, 6, 13, 20 - Rappelling Adventure. Come experience the thrill of rappelling down the sheer sandstone cliffs of NE Alabama. No previous experience necessary. Each trip includes all the gear plus basic instruction. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. 256-997-9577.

May 6, 27 - Treasure Hunt Adventure. Do you enjoy trying to solve riddles and clues? This 5-hour adventure will take you deep into the heart of Manitou Cave. You will have to solve and follow each clue in order to find the next one, and ultimately the Treasure! TUES 3 p.m. to 8 p.m. 256-997-9577.

May 7 - Rock Climbing Adventure. Nestled in the NE corner of Alabama are some of the best and unique sandstone cliffs in the country. 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. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. 256-997-9577.

May 8 - Tri-stick and Knife Safety Class. Join Robert Wilson from Seven Pines Survival for a basic Tri-stick & knife safety class. Tri-stick is defined as practicing skills of woodworking joinery and is great learning tool in bushcraft when it comes to types of notches and knife safety Supplies limited; If possible bring a fixed blade knife and a green branch 1 ½ to 2 feet long and bout 1 ½ in diameter. DeSoto State Park Campfire Ring in the Improved Campground Gate will open 30 minutes before class Free. Ages 10 to adult; minors to be accompanied by an adult. 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. 256-997-5025.

May 8, 9, 22, 26, 29 - Wild Cave Tour. Go beyond where the average tourist explores! This 2.5 hour adventure is for those of you ready to explore on your knees, on your belly, in the mud and through tight tunnels. Explore in one of NE Alabama’s most unique all weather caves, Manitou Cave, in the heart of Fort Payne. Adventure includes helmet, cave lamps plus a fun informative guide. Meet at True Adventure Sports. 5 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. 256-997-9577.

May 9 Second Saturday Art Market. The Mentone Area Arts Council is making it possible for local artists and musicians to have a place to showcase their talents that is absolutely free to them. Located in the empty lot across from The Mentone Market. Plan now to attend! 9 a.m.

May 9 - Beginner Backpacking with One World Adventure Company at Desoto Lodge. Contact us at 256-634-8570.

May 9 - Blow Your Own Ornament. Come design and blow your own ornament with the help of one of our glass artists. No reservations are needed, it is on a first come, first serve basis. For this we welcome people of all ages (at least 5 years old), 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Cost is $35 per ornament 256-523-5188.

May 9 - Canoeing Class. Learn your basic canoeing strokes during this 4 hour instruction. You and your partner will each learn to manage the steer and the bow so your canoe excursions are fun and successful. Bring a bag lunch and personal water bottle. Snacks are provided. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. DeSoto Falls, $65 per couple or $35 per person and we will pair you with someone. For ages 12 and up. Pre-registration is required, as class size is limited. 256-634-8370.

May 9 - 7th Annual Cody Renfroe Rod Run/ Poker Run. Come spend the day looking at Vintage, Street Rods, Hot Rods, Motorcycles & Tractors. This car show is in memory of Cody Renfroe. There will be kid entertainment, great food and more. All proceeds go to Crossville Volunteer Fire Department. Crossville City Park. 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. 256-639-8532 or 256-302-3637.

May 11 - Orientering Class. Basic yet essential skills for survival navigation are taught to you in map reading, compass reading, and topography. 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. 256-997-9577.

May 11 - Valley Head Kindergarten Graduation. Lowell Barron Gymnasium at 6pm.

May 12-14 - High Adventure Trip. This is a 3 day adventure including a Wild Cave Tour, Rock Climbing, An Extreme Night Hike and end with a relaxing canoe trip. Price includes all activities, attractions, permits, fees, gear, and guides. $137 per person. 256-997-9577.

May 12 - Zip Line & Sky Swing 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. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. 256-997-9577.

May 14-17 - 17th Annual US 11 Antique Alley Yard Sale. Follow the scenic U.S. Highway 11 from Meridian, MS to Bristol, VA for more than 500 miles of yard sales! Explore charming historic communities and downtown districts like the 1889 boom town district of Fort Payne, Alabama. 888-805-4740 & 877-871-1386.

May 15 - Northeast Alabama Community College RN Pinning. Tom Bevill Lyceum at 1pm.

May 15 - Miss Rhododendron Pageant. Mentone Area Preservation Association presents the Miss Rhododendron Pageant. 2015. The categories for the pageant are as follows: Baby Miss 0 – 3; Tiny Miss 4 – 6; Mini Miss 7 – 9; Pre-teen Miss 5th grade – 7th grade; Teen Miss 8th grade – 11th grade
Miss 12th grade. (Received a scholarship from NACC) Deadline to enter will be May 8th.
The Pageant will take place at the Mentone Community Church Family Life Center at 6pm.
May 15-17 - Mentone Rhododendron Festival. A bonfire and delicious local food always gets this event off to a great start, and this year we are excited to announce the return of the Miss Rhododendron Pageant on Friday night at 6pm. Enjoy an event that highlights the best of Mentone! Local musicians, arts of all mediums, horse drawn carriage rides, a children's festival with rides, games and activities, ponies, sidewalk chalk art contest, a cow train, and a "Taste of Mentone" are some of the things you can expect for this year's festival. 256-845-3957.

May 15 – Northeast Alabama Community College Graduation. Northeast Alabama Agribusiness Center at 7pm.

May 16 - Fyffe First Baptist Church 5K Run/Walk. Join First Baptist Church for the 1st Annual "Send Me" 5K run/Walk. This is a fundraiser for a mission trip to Peru. Cost to enter is $25 (guaranteed t-shirt) if signed up by May 4th. Cost after that date is $30. Race day registration is 7 a.m. Door prizes will be given before awards ceremony 256-996-5872 or 256-630-8356.

May 16 - Paperweight Class. This class is designed for those who really just want to 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 couple nice paperweights to take home or to the office to show your friends. Maximum class size will be five 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. Reservations Required $135 per person. 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. 256-523-3188.

May 16 - Alabama Water Watch Water Chemistry Monitoring Class. This class will provide you with hands-on education about citizen water monitoring, water quality standards, water pollution, and ways to address pollution. Participants will learn the principles of water chemistry monitoring and bacteriological monitoring, and will practice monitoring techniques in the West Fork of Little River. Alabama Water Watch is a citizen volunteer, water quality monitoring program covering all of the major river basins of the state. The mission of AWW is to improve both water quality and water policy through citizen monitoring and action. DeSoto State Park Nature Center. 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. 256-634-8370.

May 16 Hand-Stamping Jewelry Class. Come see a demonstration by local artist Stephanie Abernathy on hand-stamping jewelry. The Graceful Giraffe shop in Mentone. 404-630-2918.

May 16 - Blacksmith Forging Demonstration with Walter Howel. Locally & nationally-known craftsman Walter Howel will demonstrate this interesting artform of usefulness & beauty. See raw materials become works of art using this age-old method of heating & shaping metal known as forging. Some of Walter's finished pieces of art will be available for purchase. DeSoto State Park Country Store & Information Center. Free & open to everyone. Stop by anytime! 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. 256-997-5025.

May 16 - Dutch Oven Cooking Demonstration. Dutch ovens have been in use for hundreds of years; especially when our country was expanding and families were on the move. Unable to bring their large cook stoves with them, women learned how to cook entire meals from stews & soups to bread & desserts, in their Dutch ovens. Stop in anytime and check out the basics of cooking in a Dutch oven and sample any food we have coming off the fire! DeSoto State Park’s Country Store & Information Center. Starts around 12 noon, till 4 p.m. Free & open to everyone; Great for all ages! 256-997-5025.

May 16 - Archery Classes. Join Alabama Department of Alabama Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Division's Stuart Goldsby for an opportunity to learn archery safety & techniques. Activity is suitable for those who have never shot a bow, or for those with some previous experience. DeSoto State Park’s Picnic Area (Across the road from the Country Store) Class times are 1 p.m., 2 p.m. & 3 p.m. Please arrive on time! These classes are free & open to everyone, but Pre-registration is appreciated: Call or sign up at DSP’s Country Store. 256-997-5025.

May 16 - Valley Head Spring Carnival. 10am to 2pm with a color run beginning at 8am. For more information, contact the Valley Head School at 256-635-6228 or Valerie Logan at 256-364-9687 or Kim Johnson at 256-634-8127.

May 16 - Night Zip Line Adventure. All our zip lines are set up just before the adventure to fold a gorse or cross from one high point to another. Pre-registration required at True Adventure Sports by 6 pm the day before the adventure. 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. 256-997-9577.

May 18 - Bouldering Adventure Atop Lookout Mountain. Come experience first-hand what bouldering is all about with guides who are fun, safe and energetic. This trip includes all the gear plus basic instruction. We will climb on some of the best boulders atop Lookout Mountain. No prior climbing or bouldering experience is needed. Meet at True Adventure Sports, 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. 256-997-9577.

May 19 - Valley Head High School Graduation. Lowell Barron Gymnasium at 6pm.

May 20 - Moon Lake Kindergarten Graduation. Moon Lake Gym at 9am.

May 21 – Moon Lake Sixth Grade Graduation. Moon Lake Gym at 9am.

May 21 Wild Tea Demonstration. Join Robert Wilson for a taste-test of teas made from certain plants found in the great outdoors. Some dried herbs will be provided with tea certain plants found in the great outdoors. Some dried herbs will be provided with tea.

May 22 – Movie Night under the Stars: PBS Special. The Civilian Conservation Corps Hawaii, Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands) the men of the ‘C’ created camping areas and hiking trails in State and National Parks, built roads, fought forest fires, constructed dams, and planted 2.3 billion trees—half of the trees ever planted in the U.S. all for $1 a day. In celebration of DeSoto State Park’s 76th Anniversary of its dedication day on May 24, 1939, DSP will be showing the PBS American Experience DVD, The Civilian Conservation Corps. This film has personal accounts of CCC veterans and rich archival images to tell the story of the Civilian Conservation Corps from 1932 to 1942. DeSoto State Park Lodge Deck. Free and open to everyone. Seating is limited, so bring your own comfortable camp chair if you wish. 8 p.m. 256-997-5025.

May 23 - 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? It’s all about hands on experience in a safe and fun atmosphere with a final product we know you will love. There is a minimum of 3 people and a maximum of 5 in each class. Reservations are required. 256-523-3188.

May 24 - Tri-State Paper Crafting. Join us to learn, create and be inspired while crafting with papers, stamps, inks, punches, and die cuts. No experience needed. Kamama Gallery in Mentone AL 1:00-2:30. Reserve by noon Sat the 23rd. Cost is $5. To learn more or reserve a spot send an email to cottagepaper@bellsouth.net or call 205.349-4026.

May 28 - Sky Swing Adventure. This is an adventure of a lifetime. Enjoy the thrill of the swing. Pre-registration required at True Adventure Sports by 6 pm the day before the adventure. Meet at True Adventure Sports 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. 256-997-9577.

AA Alcoholics Anonymous meets every Thursday at 6:00 PM. at St.Joseph’s on the Mountain Church, Mentone, AL. Questions? call 256-634-3060.

MAPA Board meets on the first Tuesday of each month at 6:00pm at the MERF House in Mentone.

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 Blevill Center in Rainsville by Duos and Solos Dance Club. 256-638-2780.

Moon Lake Elementary School PTO meets every 2nd Tuesday of the month at 6pm in the Gymnasium.

FREE FOOD for eligible persons and families. Hours: Tuesdays, 9 AM to noon. 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.
3-4pm: Marsha Morgan is a seasoned singer, songwriter, guitarist out of Guntersville, Alabama with influences such as Bob Dylan, Townes Van Zandt to Heart and Lacey J. Dalton… some would say Folk Rock/Country.

4-5pm: David Lusk, a Mentone native, is a singer and multi-instrumentalist. Though the festival features acoustic music, David usually performs using pre-recorded backing tracks he creates himself in his home studio. David is best known for his sets of 50s, 60s, and 70s music, as well as entire sets of Beatles songs. He sometimes intersperses that music with his original songs. David is an alumna of both Moon Lake Elementary and Fort Payne High School, and a veteran of the U.S. Coast Guard. He currently lives on ‘the other mountain’ with his lovely wife Jennifer.

Sunday, May 17th

11am–12pm: Silvia Costantino was born in Cosquin, Córdoba Argentina. She has been singing since age 3 (she remembers that because her dad made her a recording at that age) and has always sang with her sisters. She sings from her heart songs that inspire her, that have touched her.
Nestled in the woods atop Lookout Mountain, near Mentone, Alabama, this quaint little chapel is surrounded by ferns, forest and flowers. The chapel is a scaled version of traditional Appalachian churches of days gone by. Stained glass windows filtering soft forest sunrays and soft organ music accent an ambiance fitting the wedding ceremony. Inside, wooden pews will seat approximately 60 guests.

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

To arrange your wedding or renewing of your wedding vow, call 256-634-4181

12–1pm: Matty Croxton began his musical career here in DeKalb County before relocating to Ellijay, Georgia in 2011. As co-frontman of Pioneer Chicken Stand, he has honed his craft even further, and it shows in his solo performance as well. His repertoire and songwriting are highly influenced by various artists of days-gone-by, but mostly classic and alt-country. A solo album is in the works, but a release date has not been set.

1-2pm: Marc Womack, a musician from Collinsville, AL. He plays many shows locally as a solo act, as well as collaborating with many other musicians/friends. Although his musical interests are diverse, he plays mostly classical rock/pop/folk. Many of the songs he performs are recognizable classics, but perhaps not typically heard in local venues. Marc is married and has 5 children.

2–3pm: Curtis Strange has been active in music (Rock, Folk, and many other genres) since he was 10. Music has played an integral part in his life since he learned guitar from his dad and started singing. He has played music out in public venues for 9 years now and prides himself above all else on his collaborative efforts with musicians of all sorts and his endeavors into music of all varieties. He plays music of all genres and decades and considers it his finest musical quality. Although he spans the music gamut as much as possible, he has a special personal preference for the music of the ‘60s and ‘70s.

3–4pm: Chris Hale’s music, straight out of the Heart of Dixie, is honest and inviting. Reminiscent of the old-time songsters of the 1920’s, his music has been best described as a combination of Appalachian mountain music and country blues. Chris’s captivating live performances are fueled by his unique banjo and guitar playing, as well as his timeless vocals. With his foot stomping to the rhythm, Chris Hale instantly transports us back in time.

FESTIVAL HEADLINERS

Fri. 6pm - Will Dooley & The Tatum Brothers
Sat. 6pm - The Pioneer Chicken Stand Band

Mountain Grove
at Cloudland B&B

Join us for Dinner and a Show
This month
Carole Isis from England
Wednesday, May 27
$50 inclusive--limited seating
706-859-1124
www.mgbb.com

Private Parties · Weddings · Retreats
This Old House: MERF Community House - May

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.

Oh what a night! The 3rd annual Taste of the Mountain and Art Auction was a blast. Hope everyone had as much fun as those that made it happen. Thank you to everyone that came as it would not have happened without all the support from local businesses and residents. The night was fabulous due to the hard work of the Decorating committee and the MERF board. Thanks to Gail Jones, Kat Griffith, Lea Long, Paula Easter, Lolly Howser, Bill Berry, Kathy McMunn, Bill Berry, Roland Hendon, Walt Pullen, Kristen Emory, Carl Ferguson, Joyce Smith, Yon Hopper, Jim and Joan Byrum.

Please thank these businesses for supporting MERF in this event verbally or by buying their services and products: Royal Auctions Unlimited, Keepsakes Framing, Wildflower Café, Kamama, JoeJohn’s Catering, Chocolate Jelly Farms, Mentone Market, Fontana’s Catering, Jess the Singing Chef, Zelma’s Jellies, Nightingale Pottery, Creo, Lookout Mountain Photography, Lydia Randolph paintings, Scott’s Happy Art, Tim Smith Metal Sculptures, Shannon McMichael Goshen Pottery, Rita Winter’s Handwovens, Moon Lake Elementary School, Mount Vernon Mills, The Wishing Well, MAPA, MAAC, Alpine Camp, Camp DeSoto, Camp Laney, Riverview Camp, Skyline Camp, Mentone Community Church and J.R. Brown.

If you were unable to attend, you missed MERF’s new video produced by Robert Moehr productions. MERF’s new website www.merhouse.com will let you see it in sections and it will be available on MERF’s youtube channel. Thanks Robert for telling MERF’s story.

Come see MERF at the Rhododendron Festival as new “Leave Me In Mentone” items will be available! You will want one.

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

Top of Page: The decorating committee for MERF’s Taste of the Mountain and Art Auction once again transformed the gym into a fabulous setting for the evening.

Above: Lillie Belle Gentry’s picture of Mentone’s rock is now hanging in town hall after Mayor Rob Hammond bid high enough to buy it at MERF’s Taste of the Mountain & Art Auction.
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.

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

Lea's Chapel Baptist Church welcomes you to worship with us. 10AM Sunday Bible Study, 11AM Morning Worship, 6PM Evening Worship. Wednesday 6-8PM Awana (ages 4 to 18); 6:30pm Praise and Prayer time. Located at 4212 County Road 751, Valley Head. 635-1001. Visitors are always welcome at the Valley Head United Methodist Church. Please join us each Sunday morning for a traditional worship service at 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 Bunnell.

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

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

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

St. Joseph's on the mountain Episcopal Church, 2119 1/2 Scenic Highway, Mentone. Everyone welcome to 10:30AM Sunday service of Holy Eucharist. Open for daily prayer and thanksgiving. Supporting our community with outreach. Call for more information, 256-634-4476, http://stjosephmountain.dioala.org

Menlo United Methodist Church, 415 Cutler Avenue, Mentone, Alabama invites you to come and worship with us. Each Sunday, our Worship Service is at 11AM and Sunday School is at 10AM. Tony Gunter is the pastor. The service of Holy Communion is celebrated the first Sunday of each month, the second Sunday is Youth Sunday and Fifth Sunday is a service of music and pot-luck lunch. Bible Study Wednesdays at 6:00PM.

Moon Lake Baptist Church invites you to worship with us. Sunday School begins at 9:45AM, with classes for all ages. Morning Worship is at 11AM. The Lord's Supper is observed on the first Sunday of September, December, March and June at the morning worship hour. Discipleship Training is at 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. Terry Turner is the pastor.

Alpine Community Church, 115 Hwy. 337, Menlo, GA. Pastor and Rev. Tommy Pledger 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 - 9AM; Traditional Worship Service at 11AM. Evening services begin at 5:30PM on Sunday and 6PM on Wednesday. Youth Bible Study, Adult Bible Study and Wednesday night Bible Study 7PM are all at 6:30PM.

The Church of God 7th day in Hammondville located just off Hwyl. 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 10AM & Worship Service at 11AM each Sunday. All welcome! Wednesdays at 6PM we have supper and a brief devotional time together. Pastor George Moses.

Send any changes to The Groundhog at groundhognews@aol.com or P. O. Box 387, Mentone, AL 35984.

HISTORIC CHURCH SEEKS HELP

St. Joseph's-on-the-Mountain Episcopal Church, whose origin is an 1870 log cabin, now finds that its present building has serious problems. Its foundation is unsound, its walls admit moisture and vermin.

This small church finds itself facing a repair bill of $200,000. The active congregation of 35 members wants to preserve this Mentone icon for worshippers and tourists but cannot do it alone.

The church asks those who would like to help, please send your checks to  St. Joseph's on-the-Mountain, P. O. Box 161, Mentone, Al 35984, with a note that it is for the Church Renewal Fund.
SOUTHERN PROPERTIES
Agency, Inc.

256-845-6000
www.southernpropertiesagency.com
311 Gault Ave. N., Fort Payne

RUSTIC CABIN near Mentone. 1-1/2 story, 2BR/2BA home, open floor plan, large vaulted ceilings. Loft guest bedroom overlooking living areas. Lge screened in porch $339,000. MLS #1017671.

ENJOY LIFE in this custom log get-a-way on 4 secluded acres. Loft bedroom and 1 bath with wood floors offering a cozy atmosphere and a front porch complete the picture $125,000. MLS #1548780.

Mountain Laurel Inn...7 acres, Main Residence, Guest House and Gathering House. Call for more details $479,000 MLS #917483.

REAL BARGAIN. Lge 2BR/2BA home blocks from downtown Mentone. Screened porch, open floor plan, garage, bonus room, workshop plus storage bldg, fire pit, and more. $299,900 MLS #1015478.

4-ACRES on the West Brow of Look-out Mountain. Main house, guest house, rock walls and so much more. $648,000 MLS #185966.

FIVE APARTMENTS... large retail space and storage building located on Hwy 117 minutes from downtown Mentone. 1.5 acres, totally fenced. Appointment only! $187,500. MLS #1013991.

BEAUTIFUL Mountain Get-Away with gorgeous view year round. 3 bedrooms, 2 bath, slate-sided outside w/low maintenance metal roof. Deck $269,000 MLS #1000691.

18-hole Golf Course situated on 92 acres w/3 stocked ponds, inviting 3BR/2BA home built over Pro Shop. 7449 sq. ft. metal bldg; excellent investment for civic or religious camp. $195,000 MLS #1010954.

UNIQUE!!! Main House, Guest House, Boathouse and approx. 470’ of frontage on Little River. $850,000 MLS #1007536.

Lake Lahusage... in your back door! Bank owned 2BR/2BA cottage and 2-car garage with apartment potential. $247,500 MLS #654813.

L O T S & L A N D

7.13-acre lot in Mountain River Estates Sub. $49,500. MLS #656265.

1.95-acre lot at Lake on the Brow Subdivision. $44,900. MLS #981441.

1.02-acre lot in Hidden Lake Subdivision. $45,000. MLS #726331.

1-acre lot in Hidden Lake Subdivision. $45,000. MLS #665968.

106’ of prime brow view with paved road frontage. $109,500. MLS #403694. Lakefront! 200’ of water frontage and 169’ on paved road frontage. $42,000. MLS #845943. Great 5 acres tract of wooded land and paved road frontage! $30,000 MLS #1004370.

NEAR LITTLE RIVER CANYON. 3BR/3BA log cabin w/loft, wood floors/walls, clerestory, open living/dining/kitchen, rock woodburning FP, screened porch, deck, loft/basement/game room. $164,500. MLS #1017450.

HANDCRAFTED WOODWORK throughout this 2BR/2BA mountain home. Great room w/ cathedral ceiling, full front & back porches, lge utility room all on a wooded lot. Located in Laurel Creek Lakes w/ access to 3 lakes & walking trails. $174,500. MLS #1017650.

NEAR LAUREL SPRINGS SUBDIVISION. 3BR/3BA log home w/land, wood floors/walls/ceilings, open living/dining/kitchen, rock woodburning FP, screened porch, deck, loft/basement/game room. $164,500. MLS #1017450.

READY for the person yearning to be self-employed. Thriving convenience store and restaurant in a small resort town. Covered gas pumps and newly paved parking lot. $375,000. MLS #1011575.

3BR/2BA with a brow view. $299,900 MLS #6927795.

HIGHLAND SPRINGS SUBDIVISION near downtown Mentone! 2BR/2BA cabin on 1.23 acres. $153,500 MLS #359224.

BEAR’S LAIR - Adorable cabin currently in a rental program. 3BR/2BA with a brow view. $299,900 MLS #6927795.

MANY POSSIBILITIES! This commercial building offers office space w/ exterior entrance. Open warehouse space & covered back open area 4.5 acres with plenty of parking. $183,000. MLS #1015365.

BROW PROPERTY! 2BR/1BA home on 2.5 +/- acres. Lots of wood features inside the house, enclosed porch and more. $239,900. MLS #1016159.

NATURE LOVER’S PARADISE! Log home on 5 acres. Bordered by LRC Nat’l Preserve. Wrap around porches, guest cabin, stone fireplace & cathedral tongue/groove ceiling! $275,000 MLS #1016120.

BROW PROPERTY! 2BR/1BA home on 2.5 +/- acres. Lots of wood features inside the house, enclosed porch and more. $239,900. MLS #1016159.

BROW PROPERTY! 2BR/1BA home on 2.5 +/- acres. Lots of wood features inside the house, enclosed porch and more. $239,900. MLS #1016159.

BROW PROPERTY... 3 br/ 3 ba with finished basement and large bonus area with outdoor access to admire the view. $239,900. MLS #1010897.

1 acre in Hidden Lake Subdivision. $45,000. MLS #1007350.

Enjoy the natural beauty of Brush Creek from your building site on this wooded .69 acre property. $29,900. MLS #1011734.

Build here on this gorgeous 4.4 acre tract with a fabulous view of the valley. $190,000. MLS #392849.

Mentone Brow Lot! Beautiful views for miles, paved road frontage. $124,900. MLS #1014183.

BUILDING LOT... Lot 17 of the Oakwood Subdivision. Lightly restricted, wooded lot with utilities available. $30,900. MLS #1016112.

BUILDING LOT... Lot 16 of the Oakwood Subdivision. Lightly restricted, wooded lot with utilities available. $30,900. MLS #1016118.

BROW LOT! Pick your house plan and get the construction started on the 1.15 acre lot on the Brow in Mentone! $145,000. MLS #1016848.

BEAUTIFUL, WOODED, Lakefront Lot in Private, Gated Subdivision. Enjoy the 14-Acre Lake for fishing or canoeing. $50,000. MLS #945265.

CUSTOM HOME. 4500 sqft+ w/ 3BR/3BA, 2 story, wood burning fireplace, master w/ sitting room, patio landscaping, screened porch, courtyard, 2 decks on .13 acres, community lake. $347,000. MLS #1011510.

1.37 acres. community lake. $547,000. MLS #1016248.

NATURE LOVER’S PARADISE! Log home on 5 acres. Bordered by LRC Nat’l Preserve. Wrap around porches, guest cabin, stone fireplace & cathedral tongue/groove ceiling! $275,000 MLS #1016120.

READY for the person yearning to be self-employed. Thriving convenience store and restaurant in a small resort town. Covered gas pumps and newly paved parking lot. $375,000. MLS #1011575.

BUILDING LOT... Lot 17 of the Oakwood Subdivision. Lightly restricted, wooded lot with utilities available. $30,900. MLS #1016112.

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Eagle Scout Service Project Completed

Boy Scout Troy Ingram of Troop 74 from Fultondale, Alabama, amazed hikers and State Park Officials with the completion of his Eagle Scout Service Project on April 4th at Desoto State Park.

After 6 months of planning that included site visits, research on trail construction and maintenance techniques, Troy Ingram supervised the construction of stairs along a historic trail at Desoto State Park. Preparing the project also required Ingram to coordinate with the State Park, procure materials and recruit volunteers. Having worked on previous trail projects at the park, he was aware of a particular need to improve the yellow trail near Indian Falls. This trail allows park guest to access the west fork of Little River in one of the most scenic areas of the state.

The original trail was built 70 years ago by the Civilian Conservation Corps. Great care was taken to repair the trail in a manner that would be similar to the rustic and lasting work of the CCC. Ingram wanted the project to not only benefit the park users, but to be a fitting tribute to Company 472 of the CCC. Company 472 performed the original construction of Desoto State Park in the 1930’s.

Many of the buildings on the park today were built of native stone from within the park. With permission from Desoto State Park, a team of volunteers Supervised by Troy collected large stones from the old CCC quarry and transported them to the work site on the trail. Much of this work was done using old fashioned muscle and hand tools. “It was a job that took a lot of teamwork” Ingram said.

On Saturday April 4th, a group of 30 volunteers recruited by Ingram complete the project. Working together, they built a curved stone stairway so that Hikers can now safely walk to the river below Indian Falls. Park Superintendent, Ken Thomas said “These stairs feel good under my feet.” Thomas went on to say the project was one of the best volunteer projects he has seen.

Troy Ingram would like to encourage everyone to visit Desoto State Park and enjoy hiking there. The 23rd annual Wildflower Saturday on May 1st is a good time to see the park. Park Staff will conduct guided hikes and some of them are sure to traverse the trail where Ingram’s Eagle Project is located.
APPT ONLY. $150k (22865)

management and in the front porch and grilling deck. with Rock Fireplace. Covered sleeping loft, 2 baths. Great room and private. 2 bdrm with view. A must see! $135,000 (23096)

that overlooks stone picnic tables, to the screened porch & large deck, with stone FP . 3 french doors leading

CHARMING LOG CABIN

5 ACRES

6.1 ACRES

Lightly restricted. Seller is very motivated! REDUCED $49,900

OLD HOMEPLACE

next to Shady Grove Dude Ranch. 1.7 acres. Great building sites. Non-restricted. Reduced $18,500 (21599)

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

6.1 ACRES with Brushy Creek running through, drive way in place, wooded. $36,000 (23044)

5 ACRES on the East brow tract overlooking Pleasant Valley. Rock formations, wooded. See Weiss Lake in the distance. Private gated

area. Joins National Preserve & Forever Wild protected property. $60,000 (22866)

9.7 WOODED ACRES with stream located on Desoto Parkway, Mentone. Residential or commercial use. Old Homestead, large rock formations. Possibilities are endless. $90,000 (22824)

6 ACRES West Brow lot, 1 mile south of downtown Mentone. Wooded with rock formations. Great building lot. Prime location, great sunsets. 5 lots available. $114,900. (23043)

.75 ACRE WEST BROW LOT, 1 mile south of downtown Mentone. Wooded with rock formations. Great building lot. Prime location, great sunsets. 2 lots available. $124,900. (23042)

CAMBRIDGE BLEU COMPOUND.

California style in serene country setting. 2 story Herringbone brick home complete with archedway entrance. Porches overlooking lake, fields, old home place and the ridges beyond. Inside on main level, walk-in to the foyer that opens into the great meeting kitchen with high end appliances, granite counters, eat-in bar, cherry cabinets throughout entire house. Master with glamour bath, dressing room. 2 additional bedrooms and bath. Large utility w/built in cabinets, freezer, w/d. Downstairs suite has 2 brdms, Den and bath. So many amenities and landscaped naturally with flora and fauna. The Guest Cottage is 2 brdms, 1 bath, living room with ceramic wood burning insert. Heart pine floors, ceilings, and walls. The old home place on property was built in 1895 when the land was homesteaded. Even the African goose stay and all the wildlife abounds! Total of 90 acres. $974,900. (23094)
Six members of the Rhododendron Garden Club met at the MERF House on Tuesday, April 14 and then set off for the annual trek to the Shirley Miller Wildflower Trail (The Pocket) on Pigeon Mountain. Field trips are always fun, filled with anticipation and adventure. Normally, in dry weather, the car is parked in the gravel lot, an easy walk is made to the boardwalk and the trail starts. Some members came prepared for that scenario. This year, navigating the unpaved road due to days of rainy weather and figuring out how to ford the stream was a challenge. Members wearing waterproof shoes had fewer problems crossing. Rocks were strategically placed for those who had the balance to use them. One member crossed the stream, removed her ‘Crocs’ and tossed them back to nameless others who put them on, crossed the stream and repeated the process until all were safely through the waters. No problems were encountered on the boardwalk. The wildflowers were plentiful although beaten down by the rains. No one ventured off the boardwalk to view the waterfalls. The walk takes about an hour and was well worth the adventurous to get there.

The Federation Plant sale successfully earned over $700. Thanks to Martha Wood who worked the sale, to members who brought plants for sale and food for the workers and to those of you who came out and purchased plants. Not only is this a great fundraiser for the fall flower show, but also the gardeners who have grown the plants are on hand to advise and graciously share their knowledge. Be sure to come next year.

Our little garden club took 1st and 2nd place awards at the State Convention for our work in conservation and Martha Wood’s program paper on ‘Seasonal Gardening’ earned a 1st. A goal for the coming year is to better document our accomplishments, then actually fill out the paper work and apply for awards. Pats on the back are a good thing.

Thanks to Brenda Cox and her husband for beautifying the beds around the Mentone rock signs; weeds were pulled, new plantings put in and then mulch applied. What a colorful way to welcome people to Mentone.

The next meeting will be held on May 12 at the MERF House at 10 AM. If tie-dye t-shirts, burritos and rock concerts were your thing in the 70's this “Deadhead” talk may not be for you, but if you want to learn how to keep your plants blooming and garden tidy please join us.


For Sale
2-BR, 2-BA newer log cabin on brow in Cloudland, just minutes from Mentone. 133 feet of brow, dramatic rock outcroppings w/pastoral view of Shinbone Valley; Cathedral ceiling, mountain rock fp, rock patio on brow, c/a + heat, full stand-up basement, 2-car garage, 2-car carport, large screened porch on brow, private, quiet setting.

$269,500
ph: 706-862-6322
(sorry, no texting)

For Sale
Just minutes from Mentone!
Incredible view home on east brow in Cloudland. Custom-built log home features indoor & outdoor fireplaces, large covered-porch areas, granite countertops in kitchen and bathrooms, 2 large bedrooms plus oversized room could be additional large bedroom or recreation area. Three bathrooms, vaulted ceilings, top-quality custom doors, fixtures, heart pine floors, too much to list. Oversized 4-car garage and additional storage/ workshop areas. View photos at: www.browcabin.webstarts.com or call 706-862-6322 or Heather Nicely/Bellora Realtors at 256-276-8422.

Priced to sell at $369,900
Welcome To Mentone!!

Stop by our Loa Cabin office in the heart of Mentone for some great coffee and conversation.

Don’t forget Rhododendron Festival May 16 & 17!

...LOTS and LAND...

40 ACRES ON LOOKOUT MTN., Walker’s Chapel Rd., mobile home; 3-bay garage/barn/shop (w/apartment & kennel); frontage on both sides paved road; rock formations; wet-weather stream; abundant wildlife & native plants! $199,000 (316165)

2.2 UNRESTRICTED, WOODED ACRES Mentone. Corner property; hardwoods; public water & power at the road. Great building site for one or a couple of cabins for rental, full-time or part-time enjoyment. $20,000 (1011111)

BEAUTIFUL 3-ACRE LOT, NORTH-BEND, a wooded mountain subdivision right across from the brow, approx one mile from Mentone, Rock Park & downtown. Light restrictions; underground utilities, public water. $24,000 (869021)

BE INSPIRED! Take the meandering drive along DeSoto Pkwy to Cades Rock Rd (the giant boulders on this road are a feature of rock-climbing enthusiasts). 3.2-acre lot to build your mountain home! Near DeSoto St Park & Mentone. $53,500 (1003658)

YES, WE HAVE 388 ACRES IN MEN-TO, FOR SALE! 12 miles, on 3 creeks, 2 cabins, 3 reservoirs for pasture, rock outcroppings. Private. Quiet. Secluded. Priced to amaze at only $1,690 per acre. $655,720 (1011611)

CREEKSIDE 3.7 ACRES, walking distance to downtown Mentone. Access on both sides of the creek. Privacy wlight restrictions & covenants. $55,000 (564423)

4.4 WOODED ACRES, unrestricted. Septic tank, gravel drive, public water & power already in place! Great place for RV or to build your getaway. $39,900 (311288)

180’ LAKE FRONTAGE, 3 lots being sold together (2 of which are on the lake). Total 3 acres. Nice walking trails along the lake; common areas with gazebo. Gated entry into subdivision. Little River Canyon Natl Preserve. $75,000 (1010792)

RARE DOWNTOWN MENTONE building lot. Remnants of the old stone foundation and hand-cut rock cellar still in place. Septic tank of unknown condi-tion also on property. Commercial or residential possibilities! $45,000 (765396)
THE HISTORY OF MENTONE

In a series of articles to be published in the upcoming issues of the Groundhog I will attempt to provide historical anecdotes and maybe provide some new information to the many Mentone residents who know some of the story.

The Rescue and Resurrection of the Mentone Springs Hotel

Many of the residents of Mentone know some of the history of the area, but many of the new residents and the occasional visitor might not know how the Mentone Springs Hotel was saved. I will use Sandra Padgett's story of how she came to see the Mentone Springs Hotel for the first time.

Sandra and husband Ray had been visiting with her sister and brother-in-law who lived in Rising Fawn and had gone to DeSoto Falls for a picnic. Knowing that Ray and Sandra had an interest in old buildings, having been involved in the resurrection of the Grant Park area in Atlanta, suggested they take a different route back to Rising Fawn so that he could show them the oldest standing wooden hotel in Alabama.

As they rounded the last curve heading into Mentone on County Road 89 there ahead loomed the old hotel building, sitting high on a hill, but partially obscured by kudzu covered pine trees. They drove around the rear of the building and discovered that part of one wing had been removed and the wall was covered by rotting boards.

The doors were locked and many of the windows boarded, but they walked around the old building and seeing the state of disintegration, wondered how the building was still standing. The roof was in terrible shape and many of the high windows were missing the glass panes which exposed the interior of those rooms to the elements.

Although they had no information about who owned the building or why it was in such a state, Sandra said she fell in love with the building and it captured her heart. They checked at a nearby store and was able to get the name of the brother of Norville Hall, the last owner of the building who had died the year before.

As mentioned in the previous article Norville repaired pipe organs and used the building not only as his home but for his business. With Ray and Sandra's love of old buildings and with their optimism and determination they launched a quest to save the building and return it to its former grandeur, so in September 1980 they purchased the building.

By the time I traveled through Mentone for the first time in the Spring 1982 much had been done to stabilize the building. A new roof had been added, some of the broken boards replaced and all of the kudzu had been removed. As a former architectural student and a lover of old buildings I, like Sandra, was immediately struck by the old building. When I passed back through Mentone a couple of days later I stopped to look around the old building.

As with Sandra on her first visit, I walked around looking in windows. In a few minutes Sandra appeared around the corner of the building. I introduced myself, told her of my interest in old structures and she invited me in to look around. After a tour of the building we sat in her kitchen, drinking iced tea and by the time I left a few hours later I felt as if I had found a long lost friend.

Sandra told me about Ray and their children Duncan and Julia, and how she and the children had just begun living in the quarters that Norville Hall had built for his residence.

Since they had purchased the building they had been coming to Mentone every weekend to do repairs and renovations.

I was hooked and beginning the next weekend I was also coming to Mentone almost every weekend to help with the repairs. During the next few years many changes took place as many of Ray and Sandra's friends came and volunteered to help with the work. We worked hard all day, got dirty and grimy, laughed, talked and became friends. As we worked it was as if the “Grand Old Lady” as the building had come to be called responded by giving back to us some of the energy that had been absorbed into her structure from all the years of joyous patrons who had visited.

A new coat of paint, repairing broken windows, removing tons of organ pipes that Norville had stored seemed to give new life to the building and it seemed, at least to me, I heard a sigh of relief from the old building. No story would be complete without a couple of humorous anecdotes.

As mentioned Norville stored old organ pipes and pieces of organs in every area of the building and it has been mentioned that part of one wing of the building had been removed. One weekend Ray decided that we needed to remove all of this from the third floor of the building by throwing it out of the window near the east turret onto the ground below. Ray made sure that no one was in the area and we began throwing this scrap wood out of the window. As

(continues on page 22)
Sage Advice: The “Hummies” Are Here!

By Susan Seago
Co-Owner of Earthly Elements Garden and Rock Shop

Hummingbirds are arriving and are eager to feed on the bright blooms of flowers. “Hummies,” as I call them, add happiness to the garden. They are beautiful to watch and their energy is unending. They are wonders of nature in their tiny size, yet they can move so quickly that sometimes they are a blur. They can dart back and forth with great speed. I have seen as many as twenty-five hummies feeding at once. What a sight that was to behold!

The ruby-throated hummingbird is the only species to breed in Georgia, although other species from the West may visit in fall and winter. I have noticed the hummies are already here this year, enjoying our beautiful spring flowers that are in abundance because of our sufficient rainfall.

Hummingbirds feed on nectar from flowers. They seem to especially like red flowers but they will feed on most any color bloom that has sweet nectar, and there are many. A few that you can plant in your garden are salvia, pineapple sage, coral honeysuckle, monarda, red-hot poker, columbine, trumpet creeper, cardinal coral honeysuckle, monarda, red-hot poker, plant in your garden are salvia, pineapple sage, nectar, and there are many. A few that you can

One shrub that especially appeals to hummingbirds is the butterfly bush. No matter the color of the bloom, they will hover for hours feeding on the nectar. The yellow and purple butterfly bushes provide bright colors that lure the hummingbirds to them for an elegant meal.

Hummingbird feeders are different than regular bird feeders. Most have a long tube because the hummies have long beaks they use to feed from the tubes and flower throats. The formula for the “nectar” in the feeder is four to five parts water to one part white table sugar. Do not use honey or imitation sweetener or food coloring. The feeder should be cleaned once a week, although if your hummingbirds eat the way mine do, you will need to clean and refill it every couple or three days during the blooming season.

Fill your garden with blooming shrubs and flowers, sit back in your favorite rocker on the porch, and feast on the site of the hummingbirds at your garden table. If you are wearing a bright colored shirt, they may even buzz you!

History of Mentone (cont’d from page 21)

I picked up one piece I noticed that something had been written on the wood. I almost fell over laughing as I read what was written. I looked out the window at the pile of wood on the ground that was at least 10 feet high and 20 feet wide and called to Ray. I read the note out loud, “Norville, I have gone to town for more wood.”

On another weekend when I came up to work Ray decided that we would try to lift the east end of the building where the wood sill had rotted away and allowed the building to drop and cause all of the window panes to slope down breaking out the glass. We had a huge house jack and built-up a framework to support it under the part of the sill that was still solid. We would crank the jack until we heard a groan from the building then we would run out of the basement until all creaking stopped. Then we would return and do this again. It took several hours but eventually we had the window panes level and we replaced the rotted sill.

Although Ray and Sandra eventually sold the building each subsequent owner added their love to the building and by 2014 the “Grand Old Lady” had been restored to her former grandeur and stood proudly on the hill welcoming all to “come inside”, “look around”, “enjoy”. I am happy to say that in 2013 I was one of those lucky few who was able to do that when I stayed for the night in one of the restored turret bedrooms. Knowing that I had a small part in helping to save this old building it was probably the best sleep I ever had.

Sadly, on March 1, 2014 the Grand Old Lady passed into the collective memory of all those who worked to save her and loved her, as she and the White Elephant Antique Galleries next door burned to the ground. She may be gone but the memories and friendships developed there will remain in our minds and hearts forever.

In the next article:
The History of the Camps

You’ve Tried the Rest, Now Try the BEST!

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- Chow King
- Days Inn
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- First Federal
- Ft. Payne Chamber of Commerce
- Hampton Inn
- Holiday Inn
- Huddle House
- Priceless IGA
- Quality Inn
- Southern Properties
- The Healing Tree
- The Spot Coffee Shop
- The Strand
- The Wishing Well
- Waffle House
- Waffle King
- Wright Properties

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

**MENTONE**
- Art Gallery @ Mentone
- Body Maintenance
- Clip Joint
- Community Library
- Crow’s Nest
- Graceful Giraffe
- Gourdie Shop, The
- Helena’s
- Kamama’s
- Little River Hardware
- Lookout Mountain Realty
- Mentone Inn

- Mentone Market
- Mentone Realty
- Moon Lake Trading Company
- Moonlight Bistro
- Mountain Properties
- Southern Style Log Furniture
- Town Hall
- Wildflower Cafe

**GEORGIA**
- Auto Parts (Menlo)
- Cloudland Trade Center
- Menlo Lucky’s
- Mountain Top Country Store
- Restaurant (Menlo)
- State Line Store

**OTHER**
- 5 Points Handi-Mart
- Alabama Welcome Center
- DeSoto St. Park Lodge
- DeSoto State Park Store
- Fisher X-Roads Store
- Little River Canyon Center
- Ralph’s Grocery

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Tuesday, May 19 @ 11:00 EDT/10:00 CDT
(All Properties Sell From Tract 2)

AUCTION
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• Multi-parcel in tracts or whole
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• Beautiful streams and waterfalls
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• Hike a few feet to beautiful East Fork Little River deemed “The cleanest waters tested in North Georgia by DNR”
• Call your own home grown wild turkey to the back porch!

“We guarantee you a deal, but don’t promise you a steal!”

Inspection of house by appointment or Sunday, May 17, 1:00-5:00 EDT
Other tracts at your convenience

Tract 1
3 +/- acres with East Fork Little River tributary stream running through entire length of property. Steps from Little River where Brown Trout are abundant.

Tract 2
10 +/- acres with beautiful views of adjoining lake property. Property has former house location which has existing well, septic system, temporary pole, transformer, and driveway. Ready to build on as soon as closing day!

Tract 3
Not part of Auction (Previously sold in 2014)

Tract 4

Tract 5
8 +/- acres with stream on north side of HWY 48/117. Great building lot for that hideaway cabin. 4 wheeler trails and hikers must see. Potential Commercial.

Tract 6
4 +/- acres with stream on north side of Hwy 48/117. Potential Commercial.

Tract 7
2 +/- acres mostly cleared for immediate commercial. DSL, T1, Charter Cable line, and power all on site.

Tract 8
40 +/- acres with access from Atlanta Ave. Cloudland behind the former Lookout Restaurant. Stream runs length of the property with numerous waterfalls providing anytime hiking for those so inclined. Public water on site on Atlanta Ave. making for great subdivision potential.

Auctioneers note:
“No zoning restrictions on any of these properties.”
Announcements from the auction stand take precedence over printed materials.
All sales are subject to confirmation of owners
Properties auction from Tract 2, but watch our Facebook page for changes due to weather.

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