Something for Everyone--Rhododendron Festival, May 20-22!

It's that time of year again--Rhododendrons are flourishing, and the festival is nearing! Lots of wonderful things are lined up for the 34th annual Rhododendron Festival including music at the Mentone Inn Pavilion from the "Best Local Band in DeKalb County" and the Fort Payne High School Group that has stolen the talent show most of their high school years along with local acts on the Brow Park Pavilion for two days. Boat rides and the Miss Rhododendron Beauty Pageant are back along with lots of vendors, activities, and delicious festival food--as well as the Friday night fish fry and Saturday night chicken wings. Though there won't be a "Children's Festival," there will be plenty of activities for all the kids to enjoy. New this year is the Rhododendron 5K Dash from Mason Park to the Brow presented by One World Adventure.

Harvest Roots Takes Root in Mentone

By Holley Midgley

Mentone’s newest business, Harvest Roots, is a dream becoming a reality for Lindsay Whiteaker and Pete Halupka, two young plant enthusiasts- "orchardists"- on a mission.

The couple produces a wide range of food items using the ancient process of fermentation, history's oldest form of food preservation. Containing no alcohol, their product line includes several sauerkrauts; a light, slightly effervescent drink called Kombucha; pickles; and kimchees made from nettle and horseradish. Fermentation is becoming something of a trend in the food world, and Harvest Roots intends on riding that rising wave of interest.

The name of their company was inspired by the little town where the couple grew up: Harvest, Alabama. Much larger now, it's...
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 501(c)3 non-profit corporation.

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Contact The Groundhog
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MENTONE

Mentone Matters
By Mayor Rob Hammond

Thank you to the many volunteers for another successful spring cleanup. Lyle Nicely again organized the event. Over 130 bags of litter were collected on our roadsides. Bobby Hamby of Word Perfect collected electronics for recycling. Cynthia Stinson made the Mentone Inn pavilion available for the community lunch following pick up, and local guitarist/singer Larry Joe Hall entertained during lunch.

On behalf of the water board, the Town of Mentone is applying for a Community Development Block Grant to replace the water line on Cutler Avenue. The numerous breaks on this line have inconvenienced individual customers and have had a negative effect on local businesses. The breaks have, at times, jeopardized the ability of the entire system to supply water and have cost the water department a lot of money. We are seeking letters of support for this project from both businesses and individuals. If you would like to write a letter of support for the application, please send it to Mentone Water Works, P.O. Box 235, Mentone, AL 35984. Please describe the impact these breaks have had on your household or business.

At the April meeting, the town council approved the paving of South and Pine Streets (connecting N. Cool St. to DeKalb 89). Work should be completed by the Rhododendron Festival.

From The Editor

What an exciting month... festival time! Looking forward to all the beautiful items, delicious food, and wonderful sounds. I dare say the founding fathers of Mentone would be proud that we are sharing our fine town. Alice Mason would be very excited with all the activities going on. No doubt they would all be impressed by the handmade wares that will be available.

In my own opinion, when you make handmade items, serve homemade dishes, share an inspired song, or play your heart out with your favorite instrument, it’s like you are sharing a piece of yourself with your neighbors of the world. You are passing down traditions and values from the past. I can just imagine when Mentone was first being settled. If they had jewelry, they probably made it. If they gave it as a gift, it was treasured for the thoughtfulness, time, and work that went into the handmade item. Today, we do invest time and money into gifts, but most of us purchase them from an assembly line where workers thoughtlessly labored to earn a wage, and the money we bought the item with was usually earned the same way. Of course, thought is put into picking it out. Each time I give a gift or wear an item purchased from a crafts-person, I feel special knowing that it was made with care and pride. I also feel secure in the knowledge that when I walk into that special event, no one will be wearing an identical piece of jewelry or apparel!

See you at the festival!

~Anna Mae

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

Thank you for your support of Mentone Area Preservation Association (MAPA). You make the difference. Thank you to the many volunteers that picked up trash along the road side on Saturday April 2, 2016 !! You make our community great!!!

Many thanks to our great Sponsors:
Camp Laney
Boy Scout Troop 106
Town of Mentone
BJ Foodmart
Wildflower Restaurant
Mountain Top Store
Mentone Inn
Little River Hardware
One World Adventure
Mentone Market
Ecological Designs
Kamama Cafe
House Music in Mentone
Rhododendron Garden Club
Mentone Police for blue light assistance
Dekalb Co Sheriff for cleaning Hwy. 117 up the Mountain
Special thanks to David Mays for smoking the meat for the picnic
By Ray Padgett

The last five months of MAPA News recapped the first thirty-four (34) years of MAPA and The Groundhog – it was a long journey of remembering the dozens of volunteers who spent countless hours helping to make our community a better, more fun place to live and visit. They even created some history in the process. Thanks to all of them and the many more who did just as much but were missed in the original articles or in our research.

During this time, MAPA and The Groundhog continued to seek out and record pieces of Mentone history. We completed our support of the new Overlook down the mountain on Hwy 117 and are once again focusing on work needed for Mentone’s Rhododendron Festival. MAPA participation in the Mentone Arts and Cultural Center fund raising effort is just beginning. Community volunteers make it all happen; there are many different ways to be a part of this new adventure.

Working together for the good of Mentone is also good for the soul. New friendships are formed and new things about the history of Mentone are learned. Fresh faces at organizational meetings also means fresh ideas. MAPA is always looking for new ways to preserve the treasured heritage of Mentone and new ideas to continue making Mentone a great destination for visitors as well as locals.

While new members of our community step up and help with Mentone events, MAPA needs new faces to become members, serve on our board, and bring new dreams to life. Working as a volunteer for your community is an emotionally rewarding experience and a great way to meet your neighbors and give back to the community. Please join us. We welcome anyone who is interested in the preservation of our area to come to a meeting.

Once again, the MAPA Board thanks everyone for their long-term support of MAPA, its events and its publication of The Groundhog. Our MAPA Board meets the second Wednesday of every month, 6:00 P.M. at Kamama Gallery. Visitors and members are encouraged to attend. MAPA is a community organization and needs everyone’s ideas, energy and input.

Happy Mother’s Day

Sacred Harp singing is held the week BEFORE the festival this year!!

By Susan Cherones

Sacred Harp singing has many charming traditions. The song book, The Sacred Harp, was published in 1844 and has been in publication ever since. DeKalb County, Alabama is known for having preserved this very special, a capella, shape note singing. Folks from all over the world find their way here to experience singing with 6th and 7th generation singing families in our area.

One of traditions of Sacred Harp singing is that Singings are recorded in the Minute Book and published in the Singing Directory in relation to which Sunday they precede.

The official Mentone Rhododendron Festival Sacred Harp Singing is recorded for all posterity as THE SATURDAY BEFORE THE THIRD SUNDAY IN MAY. The benefit to it being an actual singing is that actual singers come to actually sing! The downside is- we’re going to miss being a part of the actual festival itself this year! Because May 1st falls on a Sunday this year, it creates an atypical situation. Since we elected to host an actual Sacred Harp singing for festival goers to participate in, rather than an artificial “demonstration” singing, it seems that once every seven years or so, we will be out of pace with the festival when this happens.

We can’t change our appointed time slot; other singings, some of which may have been going on for more than 150 years on the same weekend, have singers obligated for other dates. Also, because the information is broadcast to singers with no attempt at collecting an RSVP, we don’t know who might come to a singing. Singers may be planning a special trip just to sing with us, or may happen to be travelling through and stop in. We have had three singers from ENGLAND come sing with us over the last three years!!

This year affords a different opportunity. My hope is that everyone who is interested in Sacred Harp singing, but is usually too busy during the festival to join us, will be able to come and sing or listen! There will be loaner books if you’d like to sing along, and people are welcome to come and go at will, even just to listen. It is not a performance, so there’s nothing to disturb-just come in when you can. The singers are once again grateful to hold the singing at St. Joseph’s-on-the-Mountain Episcopal Church in downtown on Saturday, May 14th from 9:30 til about 2:00. The singers will take a short break every hour and will break for an hour at noon for lunch. For more information, please contact this year’s chairwoman, Elizabeth Gentry at 251-301-1098.

Mentone Realty

“The Natural Choice”

You’ve Seen It; Admired It; Wondered About It. Now’s your chance to own it. The Biddle Farm. The land grant goes back to 1910, when the roof cellar & log cabin were built. The charming English cottage main house was built in 1921. The 23.5 acres are beautiful, approx 13 acres of pasture, the rest wooded, except for the land across the road with 180’ frontage on W Fork Little River (navigable from Mentone to DeSoto Falls), New pine floors in Kit and “Apple Room” BR. Exterior restoration work is complete, inside still needs some TLC. This is the place to start your own Mentone history. Just 5 minutes from downtown Mentone shops and dining on quiet East River Road. Yours for only $375,000 (1027046)
Rhododendron Festival, May 20-22

By Anna Mae Horn

Friday

This year’s Rhododendron Festival starts with vendor check-in around Noon at MAPA’s booth at the entrance to Brow Park. Relaxing boat tours up Little River will be launching from the beautiful DeSoto Falls throughout the weekend, and sounds of the Porch Pickin’ will be resonating from Mentone Realty. Mentone Community Church Family Life Center host Miss Rhododendron.

Miss Rhododendron is part of the annual Rhododendron Festival May 20th, 21st & 22nd.

Six Age Divisions for girls ages 0 to 18

Miss Rhododendron (Senior Division) will win a One Year Scholarship to NACC.

(NACC Admission Requirements apply)

For more information and entry packets, please contact rhododendronfestival@gmail.com

Rhododendron Festival

Miss Rhododendron Pageant Information and Call for Vendors Application

CALL FOR VENDORS

RHODODENDRON FESTIVAL 2016
MAY 21 & 22

$75 FOR A 12' X 12' SPACE
APPLICATION DEADLINE IS MAY 6

Name__________________________
Address__________________________
City, State, Zip__________________________
Phone_______ 2nd Phone _______ E-mail__________________________
Website Address__________________________

Category (please circle): Artist Crafter Retailer Business Food
Please provide a complete list and description of art, craft, products, food

Circle if needed: Electricity Water ($25 extra)

Other Special Needs__________________________

Number of Spaces__________________________ Amount enclosed__________________________

All vendors MUST fill out an application to be considered for the festival. Please don’t assume an email or prior participation secures your space. You will be notified of your acceptance no later than May 9. You will be notified of your space assignment the week prior to the show, but please check in with the information tent when you arrive as space numbers can change. All spaces will be on a first come, first served basis, and no spaces can be reserved from show to show.

If you require water or electricity, please indicate on the application. There is an additional charge for electricity and/or water in the amount of $25. To avoid outrageous electricity is reserved for food vendors and artists who require it to show and demonstrate their art or craft. (I.e. not for personal lighting or fans). No generators will be allowed.

If you are an artist/crafter and this is the first time you have applied for the Rhododendron Festival, please provide photos of your work or a website or Facebook address. All art/crafts should be handmade by the artist. No ready-made merchandise is allowed. The Rhododendron Festival is strictly an arts, crafts, music and children’s festival; therefore, no political or religious organizations will be accepted. Please contact RhododendronFestival@gmail.com if you have any questions.

This year’s Rhododendron Festival will be held all over Mentone, but the vendors 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 21, 12-6pm, or Saturday, May 22, 6:30-8:30am. Please be ready for the show to start at 9am. If you participate in the show, please plan to be set up for both days unless prior arrangements have been made. Please unload your vehicle and move to the parking area prior to setting up your space. You may break down beginning at 4pm on Sunday. Please clean up around your area prior to leaving. Also, if you are a food vendor, please do not dispose of grease on the ground at Brow Park.

Send completed application form along with payment to:
MAPA, P. O. Box 50, Mentone, AL 35984
Make Checks payable to MAPA
May 2016                                       The Groundhog                                Page 5

sound effects. Tony’s wife, Stacey Rivera, adds an incredibly strong and amazing female voice to this terrific group. She previously sang and danced in shows in the Smoky Mountains, with full costume attire. This group is not only talented but fun, don’t miss out!

SUNDAY

Sunday starts early on the brow with vendor check in between 6:30 and 8:30 at the MAPA booth at the Brow Park entrance. This year’s newest activity is the Rhododendron Dash 5K Run. You can walk, jog, bike or race along County Routes 648 and 89 with your end destination being Brow Park. This event is being presented by One World Adventure. They love the natural beauty of this area and encourage everyone to take advantage of the opportunities this presents. One World Programs focus on skill based outdoor learning and discovery which empower participants to explore the great outdoors with confidence.

Brow Park will get busy around 9. Moon Lake Community Library will be having a book sale only a couple of miles from the Brow on Hwy 117. Be sure to look for “Taste of Mentone” signs to enjoy local cuisine or get lost of festival food on the Brow. Mentone Farmer’s Market will be open during the festival with foods, bakery items, soaps, veggies, crafts, jams, etc from local farmers and artisans.

Saturday evening at 5, MAPA will be at the Mentone Inn Lot to serve up chicken wings and veggie sticks with dressing, and a drink. Get ‘em while they last or until 8pm. Take your food to the pavilion to hear Fort Payne High School’s hottest young group--The Inputs! Joshua Johnston, Regan Anderson, Cody Noles, and Dallas Dotson are getting ready to graduate, but already have made a name for themselves. In eighth grade Chris Roberts asked them to be part of a fabulous event known as Discover DeKalb--and this band has been discovered! This was the inspiration they needed and the start of this band that has placed well in several high school talent shows. You also might have heard them at Colorfest in 2014. They have also played at local venues like the DeKalb Theater, Third Saturday Drive-In Car Shows, The Spot, Kamama, and The Vintage 1889--including a concert series after each ball game this past fall (what a way to spend your senior year!). The Inputs have been influenced by the sounds of John Lennon, Paul McCartney, Eric Clapton and the like. They do They know covers of classic and modern rock as well as their own original songs. No telling what the future holds for these young adults, so be sure to catch them at the Rhododendron Festival!

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Sign Up for the Rhododendron Dash 5K Run
Presented by One World Adventure

Rhododendron Dash 5K Run
Saturday, May 21, 2016  8:30am
Mason Park - Mentone

REGISTRATION FORM

- Hosted by: One World Adventure - a community based outdoor education program, connecting participants to the outdoors through adventure programs and eco-tourism. Find out more by visiting our website: www.oneworldadventureco.org. Thank you for attending our fun - raiser! 256-634-8370

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- Forms must be received by Friday May 13th for T-shirt order deadline.
- * Only limited number of T-shirts on Race Day.
- Race Details: The Race is a 5K course along county road 648 and county road 89 in Mentone. Sign in & Race Day Registration begins @ 7:30am Saturday morning at Mason Park, adjacent to Mentone Town Hall. Registration Closes @ 8:00am Race begins at 8:30am.
- Race Map: http://www.mapmyrun.com/events/596666/
- First wave of 20 begins @ 8:30, second wave ~ 8:32, third wave ~ 8:35
- Race ends at Brow Park with awards immediately following race under music pavilion

REGISTRATION FEES
- $25 Adult & Teen 5K
- $20 Child 5K (5-12) & Senior 5K (65 - older)
- $30 Day of Race 5K – Everyone

Please make check payable to One World Adventure and mail form to: PO Box 106 Mentone, AL 35984 or email to angie@oneworldadventureco.org

Questions: 256-634-8370

- bustling with activity, boat rides will be cruising the river, the library will be open, and you can have a “Taste of Mentone” for lunch. We look forward to seeing you!
Hello everyone, don't you just love spring. It is ripe with possibilities and loads of festivals. Our own Rhododendron Festival will be here on May 21st; what a great event!

Just so you know, your local community library will be open during the festival with extended hours for you to enjoy. We will have our book sale in full swing with lots of new books for sale at our usual low prices, and remember all proceeds go to support the Moon Lake Community Library.

We have a couple of new books and a new DVD to review this month that you are sure to enjoy, so let's get to it.

**Rogue Lawyer:** John Grisham has done it again with another great bestseller. Sebastian Rudd is not your typical street lawyer. He works out of a customized bulletproof van, complete with WiFi, a bar, a small fridge, fine leather chairs, a hidden gun compartment, and a heavily armed driver. He has no firm, no partners, no associates and only one employee—his driver, who's also his bodyguard, law clerk, confidant, and golf caddie. Sebastian defends people that other lawyers won't go near. Why these clients? Because he believes everyone is entitled to a fair trial, even if he, Sebastian, has to cheat to secure one. Sebastian Rudd is one of John Grisham's most colorful, outrageous, and vividly drawn characters yet. Gritty, witty, and impossible to put down, *Rogue Lawyer* showcases the master of the legal thriller at his very best.

**The Steel Kiss:** Forensic detective Lincoln Rhyme returns in *New York Times* bestselling author Jeffery Deaver’s new blockbuster thriller. Amelia Sachs is hot on the trail of a killer. She’s chasing him through a department store in Brooklyn when an escalator malfunctions. The stairs give way, with one man horribly mangled by the gears. She and famed forensic detective Lincoln Rhymes soon learn, however, that the incident may not have been an accident at all, but the first in a series of intentional attacks. They find themselves up against one of their most formidable opponents ever: a brilliant killer who turns common products into murder weapons.

**DVD - Star Wars: The Force Awakens** - Yup, we have it here in the library. Hey, it's *Star Wars*; how could we not have it! Do I really need to do a review? I didn't think so. You know what it is all about, although I will say they did a great job. Visionary director J.J. Abrams brings to life the motion picture event of a generation, and does it beautifully. We also have a bonus disc with all kinds of goodies on it, so make sure you get both discs when you check it out, and “May the force be with you.”

That is just a couple of the great bestsellers you will find at your community library, so stop in during the festival and check some out. Also remember, we have loads of books for sale just waiting for you to take them home. We will be open extended hours, and we look forward to seeing you. Have fun at the festival!
MBA News: Mentone is OUR Business!

By Charlotte Gentry
President

The month of May will be a very busy one, with Mother’s Day weekend and Rhododendron Festival weekend bringing scores of visitors to the area. Rhododendron activities start on Friday night, May 20, and wind down on Sunday afternoon, May 22. Mentone saw large crowds at our Colorfest in October, and we’re hoping for an even bigger, better event for our spring festival weekend.

Most shops in Mentone’s downtown area are open on weekends only. We’re hoping to have a “Daily Openings” list prepared and online soon so that visitors to our area can see which shops are open, the days they are open, and their hours of operation. We are seeing an increase in the numbers of folks walking around the downtown area throughout the week, not just on weekends, so maybe the list will help them decide to stay or come back and shop locally.

The Mentone Business Association held election of officers at our April meeting, which was hosted by Ray and Martha Sprayberry, Creo, Nightingale Pottery, Shannon McMichael Goshorn pottery, and Rita Winter’s handwovens, Thank you to Riverview Camp, Mentone Community Church, Anna Mae Horn at the Groundhog, Fort Payne Times-Journal and Camp DeSoto for providing tablecloths, tables, chairs, the stage, PR and programs. Thanks to Brooke Moore, Leslie Bunch and Karen Prestwood for registering everyone. And the evening would not have been fun without all of you that purchased tickets or tables. Thank you to everyone that supports MERF!

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.

Valley Head Drugs
114 Commerce Avenue
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256-635-6812
Cynthia and Wayne Wooten, Owners
“We appreciate your business”
May 5 - RadioVizions with Blues & Rock by Chris Simmons. RadioVisions is a series of musical “House Concerts” that are produced before a live audience for syndication to radio networks. Artist reception 6 p.m., concert at 7 p.m. The Fort Payne Coal and Iron Building, 501 N. Gault Ave. $10 donation, includes an artist reception at 6 p.m. Due to limited seating, reservations are suggested: 256-979-1910 or 256-845-0203.

May 6 - Wildflower Saturday. Springtime at DeSoto State Park is truly beautiful, with wildflowers & trees blooming around every corner. Join DeSoto State Park staff & guest speakers for a wonderful weekend of learning about the many species of blooming plants found on Lookout Mountain. Choose to stay the whole weekend, or just come for the day to enjoy the hikes and programs. Weekend starts off with a welcome social and guest speaker program on Friday night, a day full of hikes to choose from and a guest speaker on Saturday night. More information on speakers and schedule of programs will be added closer to time. DeSoto State Park Lodge. Free & open to everyone, no pre-registration required (groups over 10 please RSVP). For info, call 256-997-5025.

May 6 - 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 adventure. 11am-3pm. 256-997-9577.

May 9, 13, 14, 31 - Rock Climbing/ Rappelling Adventure Combo. Come experience firsthand what rock climbing and rappelling is all about with guides who are fun, safe and energetic. This trip includes all the gear plus basic instruction. No prior climbing experience is needed. True Adventure Sports. 10am-2pm. 256-997-9577.

May 9 - Drawing Landscape Miniatures at Miracle Pottery. Drawing from Miracle Pottery’s Tree House overlooking the mountainside. Max Mitchell will share techniques to bring to life the impressions of the Look Out Mountains woods in small form. Supplies included. 1pm. $60 per person. 256-635-6863.

May 10, 21, 28 - Rappelling Adventure. Come experience the thrill of rappelling down the sheer sandstone gems of NE Alabama. Each trip includes all the gear plus basic instruction. True Adventure Sports. 10am-2pm. 256-997-9577.

May 12 - 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. True Adventure Sports. 10am-2pm. 256-997-9577.

May 11, 24 - Treasure Hunt Adventure. Do you enjoy trying to solve riddles and clues? This 5-hour adventure will take you deep into the heart of a cave. You will have to solve and follow each clue in order to find the next one, and ultimately the Treasure! True Adventure Sports. 3-8pm. 256-997-9577.


May 13, 14, 27, 31 - Wild Cave Tour. Go beyond where the average tourist explores! This 2.5 hour adventure is for those of you ready to explore on your knees, on your belly, in the mud and through tight tunnels. Adventure includes helmet, cave lamps plus a fun informative guide. True Adventure Sports. 5-7:30pm. 256-997-9577.

May 14 - Relay for Life 5K Fun Walk/ Run. Join the team at GH Metal Solutions for a Relay For Life fun run and walk. All proceeds go to the American Cancer Society. All ages are welcome. 8am. GH Metal Solutions. 256-273-0263 or 256-273-0096.

May 14 - 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). 9am-4pm. Cost is $38 per ornament. 256-525-3188.

May 14 - DeKalb County Genealogical Society. Mr. James Douthat, publisher of the Genealogy Gazette, Signal Mountain, TN. His topic will be: “The Use of Family Bibles in Genealogical Research.” DeKalb County Public Library, 10am.

May 14 - 8th 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. 4-8pm. 256-659-8352 or 256-302-3637.

May 15 - 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. 10:00-2:30pm. Reserve by noon on Sat the 14th. Cost is $5. To learn more or reserve a spot send an email to cottagepaper@bellsouth.net or call 205-349-4026.

May 16 - Orienteering Class. This 3-hour adventure to ford a gorge or cross from one high point to another. Pre-registration required at True Adventure Sports by 6pm the day before adventure. 10am-2pm. 256-997-9577.

May 17 - 14th Annual Cody Renfroe Rod Run/Poker Run. Join the team at GH Metal Solutions for a Relay For Life fun run and walk. All proceeds go to the American Cancer Society. All ages are welcome. 8am. GH Metal Solutions. 256-273-0263 or 256-273-0096.

May 17 thru 19 - 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. 256-997-9577.

May 17 - 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 6pm the day before adventure. 10am-2pm. 256-997-9577.

May 19 - 11th Annual Rhododendron Pageant. Mentone Area Preservation Association presents the Miss Rhododendron Pageant 2016. 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 and Miss 12th grade. (Receives a scholarship from NACC) The Pageant will take place at the Mentone Community Church Family Life Center at 6pm. Email rhododendronfestival@gmail.com or come by Dekalb Tourism office to get an application.

May 20 - Miss Rhododendron Pageant. Mentone Area Preservation Association presents the Miss Rhododendron Pageant 2016. 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 and Miss 12th grade. (Receives a scholarship from NACC) The Pageant will take place at the Mentone Community Church Family Life Center at 6pm. Email rhododendronfestival@gmail.com or come by Dekalb Tourism office to get an application.

May 20 thru 22 - Mentone Rhododendron Festival. A bonfire and delicious local food always get this event off to a great start. Enjoy an event that highlights the best of Mentone! Local musicians, artists of all mediums, and a “Taste of Mentone” are some of the things you can expect for this year’s festival. rhododendronfestival@gmail.com.

May 21 - 1st Annual Rhododendron Dash. Walk, jog, run or race! All ages are invited to participate. Pre-registration is encouraged. Forms must be received by Friday May 13th for T-shirt order deadline. The Race is a 5K course along county road 648 and county road 89 in Mentone. Sign in & Race Day Registration begins @ 7:30am Saturday morning at Mountain Park adjacent to Mentone Town Hall. Registration closes @ 8am and race begins at 8:30am. Pre Registration fees are $30 Adult & Teen; $15 Child. Mentone Volunteer Fire Department will be providing water stations at 2.5 mile markers along the course.
May 21 & 22 - Book Sale Drive. Moon Lake Community Library will be open special hours for the Rhododendron Festival. Stop by and purchase books and DVDs from our sale selection. Prices $2 and under. Proceeds go directly to the library. Saturday hours: 9am-4pm. Sunday hours: 12-4pm.

May 21 & 22 - Wildcrafting Weekend. Explore the fields, forests, rivers & streams of our beautiful county to discover wild foods and medicines growing everywhere. You will work with the top 10 most important plants of their area, cooking with them, making natural products and be able to identify their look-alikes. $325 per person. Pre-registration before April 8th – $275.00 per person. Please contact Angie Shugart to register by email angie@oneworldadventureco.com or by calling 256-634-8370.

May 21 - 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 you own design. It is ultimately about the experience, some experimentation and a couple of nice paperweights to take home or to the office to show your friends. Please join us for some in-depth discovery. Reservations required $135 per person. 9am-1pm. 256-523-3188.

May 21 - Medicinal Plants and Alternative Medicines. This workshop is designed for the adult homesteader/prepper to make alternative medicinal salves, tinctures and liniments. This program will be presented by Darryl Patton, well-known herbalist and author of “The Southern Herbalist” JSU Field Schools at the Little River Canyon Center. 9am-4pm. $20 per person; pre-registration required. 256-845-3548.


May 21 - Third Saturday Downtown Cruise-In. Come out and enjoy an afternoon of family fun activities in downtown Fort Payne. This public event will include food, live music, a car show, and more from 5-9pm. 256-996-3857.

May 21 - Southern Gospel Concert featuring The Anchormen and The Sharps. A great night of music. Tom Bevill Enrichment Center in Rainsville. 6pm. 256-638-7800.

May 21, 30 - 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 6pm the day before the adventure. 7:30-9:30pm. 256-997-9577.

May 22 - Serious Skills Series: Drawing for the Absolute Beginner. Join artist Starr Weems for a one-day class to get you started. Learn some basics and get some tips on creating engaging drawings... even if you think you can’t draw a stick person! Participants will need to bring a sketchbook, pencil, portable camp chair (optional) other supplies will be provided. DeSoto State Park Nature Center, next to the Country Store. 9am-4pm. $15 per person. Class is for teens to adult. Space is limited. Pre-registration required by Friday, May 13th. Call Brittnay Hughes at 256-997-5025.

May 23 - 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. True Adventure Sports. 2-6pm. 256-997-9577.

May 24 - National Tourism Day Celebration. We invite you as a business or an individual to join us for our celebration or just a visit. 10am-5pm. 256-635-6522.

May 25 - Sky Swing Adventure. This is an adventure of a lifetime. Enjoy the thrill of the swing. Pre-registration required at True Adventure Sports by 6pm the day before the adventure. Meet at True Adventure Sports 2-4pm. 256-997-9577.

May 27 - The Steeldrivers in Concert. Grammy Award winning bluegrass group The Steeldrivers will grace the stage at the historic Dekalb Theatre in Fort Payne. Show at 7pm. Reserved seating is available. eventbrite.com.

May 28 & 29 - Northeast Alabama Cutting Horse Association Competition. Enjoy the team cutting competition at the Northeast Alabama Agri-Business Center in Rainsville. 256-638-1650.

Friday Front Porch Pickin’ Friday, May 20
3:00 til about 5:00
Mentone Realty front porch
Fair weather finds pickin’ on the porch; inclement weather brings the music indoors.
Anyone of any skill level is welcome to join in. Extra instruments are on hand such as ukelele, mandolin, and mountain dulcimer.
Everyone is welcome to stop by and enjoy the sounds.

Mentone Farmers Market
Saturday & Sunday
May 21 & 22
during festival hours
featuring
Back Forty Farm and Orchard
The Cobb Farm
Mildred’s Meadows
Old West Farm
Roger’s Real Homemade
Your Mystic Delights
Zenflower Organics
Locally-designed t-shirts for sale

The Little River group of Alcoholics Anonymous is adding another meeting. They will meet every Saturday and every Tuesday night at 6pm 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 MRF house in Mentone.

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

May 26-638-2780.

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: Wednesdays, 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.

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 the second Tuesday of each month at 10 AM at the MERF house in Mentone. (No meetings in June and July) For more information, call 256-634-4403.

Valley Head Band meets on Tuesdays 4-6 pm at Smith Nursery at the top of Sand Mountain off of Hwy 117. 256-605-5404.

Scrabble club will meet the first Monday of the month from 11-1 at Kamama Gallery and Cafe. Call Kaye Kiler 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.
More Than 50 Arts and Crafts Vendors

By Anna Mae Horn

This year, we have more than 50 vendors that will be on the brow with a wide variety of handmade objects—from earrings to canoes and plenty in between. There should be something for everyone. Many of these artists/craftspersons have touching stories about how/why they started their hobbies that now bring in some income. Every purchase I make from talented folks at our festivals makes me feel like I have shared a little piece of their soul, along with the time and energy they have poured into each customized item.

Plate Breaker Jewelry began as a kind gesture. Trisha Kennaamer, from Henagar, helped many people clean up their treasures after the 2011 tornadoes that ripped across Sand Mountain. From the rubble in one woman’s home, Trisha salvaged a piece of the tile from the family’s fireplace and handcrafted her first necklace. This gave her a new perspective. Over the last few years, she has learned the trade. Now, she picks up pretty pieces at yard sales and thrift stores to break for her jewelry, but Plate Breaker still exists in order to bring out the beauty in a broken object.

There will be several jewelry vendors, each with a unique twist on fashion. Stephanie Wingard fell in love with Mentone, and Brow Park in particular, as a child and was very excited to be able to participate in the festival last fall and again this spring. She has worked all winter on fabulous vintage themed jewelry to display. She uses high quality supplies such as fresh water pearls and aged antique brass to produce pieces that shoppers fall in love with and will last. Be sure to stop by The Vintage Clover and see for yourself! Rustic Denim Barn will return again this year with their denim cuffs. Other vendors will have various bracelets and unique rings as well as crochet and knitted items: something for every style. Rita Winters, a local favorite, will be at Rhododendron Festival with her fine, hand-woven apparel.

Nancy Sutton of Blue Universe Designs previously did jewelry (in fact she started when she was about ten) using wire, beads, glass, and even Scraffle tiles. She has quilting and fabric experience, but glass is her “true love.” She now primarily uses a process called kiln-fused glass to make wind chimes, sun catchers, ornaments, or whatever she is inspired to do. Nancy also uses recycled bottles for cheese plates and ornaments. She has also made glass quilt blocks and plant stakes. Makes me wonder just what she will be bringing to Brow Park! Nancy, from Acworth, GA, is excited about the festival and says Mentone is one of her favorite places to do a show. She says, “I love the cool, artsy vibe I always feel in Mentone! Everyone is so nice and I’ve met some great artists there, too.” Nancy takes her work personally and believes that a work of art is infused with the emotions within the artist who created it which are transmitted through it. “Artwork is personal, and must resonate with the person who chooses to buy it, so I feel that when you choose something of mine, you and I have a connection through that piece of art.” Nothing makes her happier than creating one-of-a-kind works of art in hopes that others will love to have them in their homes as much as she enjoys making them.

Of course, if none of her pieces speak to you, there will be plenty of variety. Others will have wind chimes, ornaments, and the like made from various mediums. That’s the beauty of hand-made festivals. Even when people make the same thing, they are wonderfully unique.

Sweet Tea Pottery will be returning this year with her handmade. Celia Waters combines clear glazes and underglazes to give her wood fired porcelain a beautiful look. Her kitty, Sweet Tea, uses her “throw” pots on her screen porch and inspired the name of her business. There will be a few vendors on the Brow this year with custom knives. Oden Knives, out of Fort Payne will return with knives made from D2 Steel or Damascus that have custom handles made from elk or deer horns or stabilized woods. Also, Randy Yates from Little Cove Creek Knives in Glenco makes hand made, bone-bladed knives. Handles are made of deer antler or leg bone with genuine leather sheaths are, handmade and hand sewn and some are even decorated.

Once again, we will have several talented woodcrafters joining us at the Rhododendron festival. Great Meadows Canoes & Kayaks will be returning with custom, hand crafted wooden canoes and kayaks. Ken Kocienski uses traditional construction methods to produce a premium ultralite product. He is very kind to explain a lot of his process when you stop by his tent. We are also looking forward to seeing Richard Schrei again with some of his bamboo flutes. He also has some CD’s with both inspiring and relaxing flute music. Daniel Kandasammy’s booth will have a variety of items—wooden chairs and wind chimes... He has also been known to have rain sticks and hummingbird feeders as well as a variety of pickles, salsa and chow chow from time to time. You know you can’t have a festival without homemade edible goodies—like nice honey. The Eastaboga Bee Company will be at the Festival with quality honey and beeswax products such as lip balm, soap, lotion, and furniture and boot polish. Be sure to ask about the origins of their unique logo. Hint: It pays homage to the family history and legacy. Other folks will have some homemade health, beauty, and bath products as well. For example, Spicy Kidzu makes Chocolate Espresso Caffeinated Luxury Soap. That just sounds delightful! Their products are truly a labor of love for us and an outlet for artistic expression.

Brow Park Musical Line Up

By Anna Mae Horn

Lisa Crow inherited musical talents from both of her grandmothers who were musicians and sang beautifully. She has been singing most of her life and started playing the guitar at 24. She enjoys singing the songs that touch her heart and moves her listeners.

Jared Cushen is a regular on the stages of Fort Payne singing local favorites, his own original music, and special renditions of his favorites. Music has always been in his life. Songs flow from him as easy as conversation, and it’s easy listening as well. Jared is the perfect beginning for our music at Brow Park.

Dr. Rob & Curtis Strange are taking the stage to perform all your favorites—old and new! Together, they cover one of the largest varieties of genres and sounds for music lovers.

Kenny Finlayson is from Valley Head and has enjoyed singing since he was barely able to talk. He started playing the guitar when he was around 16 and started writing original songs within a few weeks of playing. He writes songs about personal experiences that made an impact on him or that brought out an intense emotion.

Jess Goggans plays a little of everything—funk, country, alternative, reggae— but always in a style that is completely her own. She has a powerful voice that reaches the heart of the audience. Jess puts her soul in every performance and wants every listener to feel it.

Chris Hale stumps his feet and picks his banjo to bring back the spirit of old time Appalachian mountain music from the 1920's era. His vocals are timeless. His performances are simply captivating.

Larry Joe Hall inherited musical talents from his mother who would sing with her sister on a local Atlanta radio station. Family members would gather frequently to sing. He became involved

Trey Headrick focuses primarily on original music. He plays both the guitar and the harmonica. Sure to be an entertaining performance.

David Lusk 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.
Dana Owens enjoys playing folk, folk rock, and Americana—either cover music or his own original songs. He also has a long standing love affair with a magical little instrument known as the Ukulele.

Amy Snider has enjoyed playing folk, rock, acoustic and reggae music for over 20 years. She is a singer, songwriter, and guitarist with her own wonderfully unique stage presence. Amy even operates a studio from her home (Hippie Hilton Studios) and is getting ready to release a new album.

Marc Womack from Collinsville, 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 recognizable classics, but perhaps not typically heard in local venues. Marc is always a wonderful addition to our brow stage.

Kamama is the Cherokee word for “Butterfly”

Restaurant open 7 days a week

Kamama

Original art, live music, classes, massage and spa services. Check our website for schedule of classes and musical performances.

www.kamamamentone.com

Coca-Cola Bottling Company United

Welcome to Rhododendron Festival

Times-Journal

Welcome to Rhododendron Festival

Stainless Braids

Sweet Tea Pottery

Riverview Camp

Welcome to Riverview Camp for Girls! Your Award Winning Camp Experience! Confidence, Character, Adventure, Inspirational!

When you attend our summer camp or our mother-daughter weekend, you will have an amazing time on a mountain top, sharing moments of fun, faith, and adventure. Recognized as one of the South’s favorite private summer camp for girls, Riverview’s exciting programs are appreciated by both campers and parents. Girls from the South and International campers as well are among our camp families.

www.riverviewcamp.com

Kamama

Restaurant open 7 days a week

Cultural Hub of Mentone

5951 Alabama Highway 117

256-634-3001

Kamama is the Cherokee word for “Butterfly”
Schedule of Events

**Friday, May 20**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1pm</td>
<td>Boat Rides - $10 (til 6pm)</td>
<td>DeSoto Falls</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5pm</td>
<td>Fish Fry by Fontana Stinson -</td>
<td>Mentone Inn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>till 8pm ($10)</td>
<td>Mentone Community Church</td>
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<tr>
<td>6pm</td>
<td>Miss Rhododendron Pageant ($5)</td>
<td>Mentone Community Church</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6pm</td>
<td>Concert - <em>Still Kickin</em> (til 9pm)</td>
<td>Mentone Inn Pavilion</td>
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**Saturday, May 21**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7:30am</td>
<td>Rhododendron Dash 5K Run Registration</td>
<td>Mason Park</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Race starts at 8:30am</td>
<td>Brow Park</td>
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<tr>
<td>9am</td>
<td>Festival opens for the day</td>
<td>DeSoto Falls</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9am</td>
<td>Boat Rides - $10 (til 6pm)</td>
<td>Brow Park Stage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10am</td>
<td>Jared Cushen</td>
<td>Brow Park Stage</td>
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<tr>
<td>11am</td>
<td>Marc Womack</td>
<td>Brow Park Stage</td>
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<tr>
<td>12pm</td>
<td>Dana Owens</td>
<td>Brow Park Stage</td>
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<tr>
<td>1pm</td>
<td>Amy Snider</td>
<td>Brow Park Stage</td>
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<tr>
<td>2pm</td>
<td>Larry Jo Hall</td>
<td>Brow Park Stage</td>
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<tr>
<td>3pm</td>
<td>Lisa Crow</td>
<td>Brow Park Stage</td>
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<tr>
<td>4pm</td>
<td>Dr. Rob and Curtis Strange</td>
<td>Brow Park Stage</td>
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<tr>
<td>5pm</td>
<td>Wings Dinner ($10) by MAPA (til 8pm)</td>
<td>Mentone Inn Pavilion</td>
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<tr>
<td>6pm</td>
<td>Concert: The Inputs (til 9pm)</td>
<td>Mentone Inn Pavilion</td>
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**Sunday, May 22**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11am</td>
<td>Festival opens for the day</td>
<td>Brow Park Pavilion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11am</td>
<td>David Lusk</td>
<td>Brow Park Stage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12pm</td>
<td>Chris Hale</td>
<td>Brow Park Stage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1pm</td>
<td>Boat Rides - $10 (til 5)</td>
<td>Brow Park Pavilion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1pm</td>
<td>Trey Headrick</td>
<td>Brow Park Stage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2pm</td>
<td>Jess Goggans</td>
<td>Brow Park Stage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3pm</td>
<td>Kenny Finlayson</td>
<td>Brow Park Stage</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Other Events:**

- Taste of Mentone
- Arts and Crafts Show
- Library Book Sale
- Farmers Market
- Front Porch Pickin'
- Front Porch Pickin’
- Taste of Mentone
- Individual Restaurants
- Brow Park
- Moon Lake Library, Sat 9-4, Sun 12-4
- Mentone Inn, Festival Hours
- Mentone Realty Porch Pickin’, Friday, 3-5pm
Nestled in the woods atop Lookout Mountain, near Mentone, Alabama, this quaint little chapel is surrounded by ferns, forest and flowers. The chapel is a scaled version of traditional Appalachian churches of days gone by. Stained glass windows filtering soft forest sunrays and soft organ music accent an ambience fitting the wedding ceremony. Inside, wooden pews will seat approximately 60 guests.

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

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

Mentone Wedding Chapel
Candle Lite Ceremonies
Music - Photographs
Flowers - Receptions
Lodging
Limousine

This is not intended to be a complete map of the Town of Mentone. It only highlights venues for events, food, music, and arts/crafts vendors during the Rhododendron Festival.

Skelton Orthodontics
Welcome You To the Miss Rhododendron Pageant

Wildflower Cafe
& Country Store
mentonewildflower.com

Kamama
Fine Art - Antiques - Coffee Drinks

Mentone Rhododendron Festival
Welcome You To the

Amy Snider
The Ultimate Bundle from AT&T! 3 great services for the same price, every month for 2 years. Guaranteed!

Everything you need for your whole home from one provider.

**The ultimate TV entertainment experience:**
With DIRECTV, you'll get 99% worry-free signal reliability* and access to the top sports packages. Plus, you can get a free Genie® HD DVR upgrade and HBO® STARZ®, SHOWTIME®, and CINEMAX® for 3 months at no extra cost! Based on a Nielsen Study of representative cities.

**High-Speed Internet:**
99.9% Internet connection reliability. Consistently fast speeds.

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Crystal-clear digital home phone.

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New approved residential customers only (equiement lease req’d). Credit card req’d (except MA & PA). Pre-rated ETF fees (up to $480 for TV, up to $180 for internet) and Equipment Non-Return fees apply.

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DIRECTV OFFERS REQUIRE 24-MO. AGREEMENT. ADD’L FEES APPLY.

*Based on a Nielsen Study of representative cities.
The Sunday morning services at the Winston Memorial Presbyterian Church are held at 9AM each Sunday, except on services at 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 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.

Wheaton 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 Holliman 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.


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

Cloudland Presbyterian Church welcomes everyone to come join us for services, with Pastor Roger Kvam. Bible Study Sunday at 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 off DeSoto Parkway, would like to invite you to their services. Sunday School for all ages 9:45AM; Traditional Worship Service 11AM. Sunday evening youth activities 5:30PM. Evening Worship 6PM. We have a variety of activities for all ages including Wednesday evening youth activities; knitting ministry for ladies each Tuesday at 9AM. Pastor Jeff Davis. Address: 1203 New Oregon Dr., Ft. 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.


Send any changes to The Groundhog at groundhognews@aal.com or P.O. Box 387, Mentone, AL 35984.
RUSTIC CABIN near Mentone. 1-1/2 story, 2BR/2BA home, open floor plan, large vaulted ceilings. Large first floor bedroom overlooking living areas. Lge screened in porch. $139,900. MLS #1031671.

TWO CABINS minutes from DeSoto State Park and Mentone Cabins. 1 has approx 460 sq ft. Cabin has 1 BR/1BA and is fully furnished with all appliances. $150,000. MLS #1036664.

TWO FURNISHED CABINS on 6.4 ACRES. New! Fresh! Minutes from DeSoto State Park and Downtown Mentone. DeSoto Home offers 6BR/6BA. Southern Charm offers LBR and its own screen porch, lge space for apparel, 7 additional cabins. $79,900. MLS #1026481.

REAL BARGAIN. Lge 3BR/2BA home blocks from downtown Mentone. Screened porch, open floor plan, garage, bonus room, workshop plus storage, lge deck, fire pit, and more. $224,900. MLS #1031675.

West Brow of Lookout Mountain. 3BR/2BA, 2,500+/- sq. ft. main house, rock walls on 2.9+/- Acres. $329,000. MLS #815366.

BEAUTIFUL Mountain Get-Away with gorgeous view year round. 3 bedrooms, 2 bath, side-deck, outside w/low maintenance metal roof. Deck. $139,900. MLS #1010069.

Lake New near DSP & Mentone. Lg. w/vaulted ceiling, half bath, exterior cabin. Custom kit w/stainless appliances (includes w/). Covered front porch, lge back deck, 122 acres. $163,000. MLS #1012143.

SECLUDED, Custom log cabin, 2BR/2BA, wooded lot, 2+ acres, security system, privacy gate, detached storage. $279,900. MLS #1013535.

LAKE HOUSE on 6.4 ACRES.....

Custom Heritage log home, 2BR/2BA, open floor plan. Stone FP, vaulted ceilings, bonus room, 2-car garage, outdoor fireplace, and more. Located in gated Northbend Subdivision. $379,000. MLS #1005834.

Owl’s Roost! Adorable cabin on wooded lot, furnished with brass bed and country antiques. $115,000. MLS #1005124.

Little Lagoon/Lake Langanrice/Mentone... East Fork of Little River, cottage has FP, wood floors, P&B ceiling in living area, wrap-around porch, deck, and rock walls. Built to preserve the property’s natural beauty. $49,900. MLS #1012386.

NEAR LITTLE RIVER CANYON. 3BR/3BA log cabin w/lake, wood floors/wood ceilings, open living/dining/kitchen, rock woodburning FP, screened porch, deck, Lg. basement. $250,000. MLS #1022450.

ANDCRAFTED WOODWORK throughout this 3BR/2BA mountain home. Great room w/ cathedral ceiling, front & back porches, lge utility room all on one level. Located in Laurel Creek Lakes! w/ access to 3 lakes & walking trails. $274,900. MLS #1012760.

GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY! Let tenants pay your mortgage, 2-3 apt, lge retail space & storage building on Hwy 177 minutes from Mentone. 1.5 acres. Fenced. Appr $187,500. MLS #1013519.

BEAUTIFUL 3BR/2BA, rock floors, some carpet, all appliances, WB fireplace, & lake privileges. $209,000. MLS #1015755.

BROW PROPERTY! 2BR/2BA home on 2.3+/- acres. Lots of wood features inside the house, enclosed porch and more. $209,000. MLS #1015755.

LAKESIDE Home on 2.20 +/- acres. $329,000. MLS#1035859

Love! 6+ acres in Mentone (1.7 acre building area). $299,900. MLS #902940.

LUXURY CABIN overlooking the view. 2BR/2BA, facing the lake w/ a 360° view of Lake on the Brow Subdivision. $499,900. MLS #1010120.

LOW MAINTENANCE! Home is a 3BR/2BA on 1.37 acres. community lake. $499,900. MLS#332033

LIVE & PLAY ON THE WATER! 300 feet from East Fork of Little River featuring 1BR, 2BA, rock floors, some carpet, all appliances, WB fireplace, & storage building. Call for more details. $199,995. MLS #9402940.

ONE bedroom, one bath cottage on DeSoto Parkw Way on 2.7+/- acres AND A BRW VIEW! Surrounded by mature landscaping and rock walls. $299,900. MLS #1010162.

CUSTOM HOME. 4500+/- sq ft. w/6BR/6BA, brick, 3 fireplaces. Kitchen features custom cabinets, walk-in pantry, lge atrium, etc., 2 tile baths, and lge laundry room. $995,000. MLS #1018158.

WASP POPOFF WILLY FARM. 2BR/2BA, rock/br/brick home w/screened in FP. Updated kitchen. Kitchen also features a stall barn, 2 car garage w/BR & BA. Balcony, gallery w/storage, lge finished basement. $279,500 MLS #1022310

ONE ACRE RETREAT in Mentone. Vaulted ceiling great room, 2-3 BR (or 2 BR w/office), 2 tile baths, and lge laundry room. Wood walls & floors, fireplace, wrap-around porch, garage/workshop. Convenient to downtown. $219,900.

1/2 ACRE retreat in Mentone. 40X20 Metal building on 1/4 acre. $19,900.

Cabin overlooking the water features pine walls & floors, vaulted ceilings and fireplaces. Enjoy your own relaxing paradise w/ views of Mountain Laurens and rocks. Built to preserve the property’s natural beauty. $49,900. MLS #1012592

LUXURY CABIN overlooking the view. 2BR/2BA, facing the lake with a 360° view of Lake on the Brow Subdivision. $499,900. MLS #1010120.

BRICK HOME with hardwood floors and tile floors. Kitchen w/granite, sleeping room, two private porches, master suite, master bath w/jacuzzi tub, double vanity and tile frosting. $285,000. MLS #1014482.

THE LAKE ON THE BROW - one level w/ FP in kitchen/dining area, 2BR/2BA, office, laundry room, kitchen/wetbar. Living area w/stone gas FP. Master walk-in-jacuzzi bath & double closets. Screened porch, covered deck, rock patio. $299,900. MLS #1019193.

BROW PROPERTY! 2BR/2BA on 1.2+/- Acres. Home, Boathouse and approx. 1.37 acres, overlooking lake. $499,900. MLS #1011120.

CABIN retreat on Lake on the Brow Subdivision. Waterfront cabin, fireplace, screened in front porch, stone deck, garage, storage. Truly a gem. $179,000. MLS #1026581.

RUSTIC CABIN with gas fireplace, kitchen, and sleeping room, private porch downstairs. Lge BR/BA and sitting area upstairs. Laurel Creek Lakes! w/access to lake & walking trails. $139,900. MLS #1014147.

BRICK HOME with hardwood and tile floors. Kitchen w/granite, sleeping room, two private porches, master suite, master bath w/jacuzzi tub, double vanity and tile flooring. $285,000. MLS #1014482.

BRICK HOME w/hardwood and tile floors. Kitchen w/granite, sleeping room, two private porches, master suite, master bath w/jacuzzi tub, double vanity and tile flooring. $285,000. MLS #1014482.

LAKE ON THE BROW - one level w/ FP in kitchen/dining area, 2BR/2BA, office, laundry room, kitchen/wetbar. Living area w/stone gas FP. Master walk-in-jacuzzi bath & double closets. Screened porch, covered deck, rock patio. $299,900. MLS #1019193.

BRICK HOME w/hardwood floors and tile floors. Kitchen w/granite, sleeping room, two private porches, master suite, master bath w/jacuzzi tub, double vanity and tile flooring. $285,000. MLS #1014482.

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May 2016

[The Groundhog]

May Birthdays

May 1 – Junior Bell
May 1 – Kathleen Johnson
May 1 – Jennifer Owen
May 2 – Morgan Blalock
May 2 – Ella Voils
May 2 – Cory Dobkins
May 2 – Isaac Vaughan
May 3 – Abel James Baggett
May 3 – Paula Coots
May 3 – Steven Barkley
May 3 – Annabelle Gifford
May 4 – Kathy Clure
May 5 – Alex Blackburn
May 5 – Bobby Browder
May 5 – Emily Hilliard
May 5 – Jessie Baggett
May 5 – Jeffrey Bain
May 5 – Kathy Clure
May 6 – LA Smith
May 6 – Lee Worthey
May 6 – Phil Harris
May 6 – Laurelle Brooke Miles
May 6 – Carlie Kirby
May 6 – Cody Hodge
May 6 – Taylor Williams
May 6 – Dewayne Grisham
May 7 – John Johnson
May 7 – Tracy Coots
May 7 – Jessie Baggett
May 7 – Carl Griffith
May 7 – Kelly Blansit
May 8 – Connie Clark
May 8 – Ella Kate Wagner
May 8 – Sherry Durham
May 10 – Gail Jones
May 10 – Angela Flanagan
May 11 – Jessie Coots
May 11 – Ricky Barkley
May 11 – Merle Stokes
May 12 – Hubert Blalock
May 12 – Allison Kirby
May 13 – Andrea O’Tinger
May 14 – Ann Nelson
May 14 – Madi Owen
May 14 – Logan McGee
May 14 – Raymond Evans
May 14 – Christy Miller Evans
May 15 – Shirley Zange
May 16 – Amy Kirby
May 16 – Riley Mae Owen
May 16 – Kaylynn Hulgan
May 17 – Shuan Flannigan
May 17 – Melinda Miller
May 18 – Chad Smith
May 18 – Nelson Kerby
May 19 – Dillon Brown
May 20 – Alexis Manifold
May 20 – Jessica McKenzie
May 20 – Susan Elliott
May 20 – Elli Stone
May 20 – Joyce Tate
May 20 – Kenzlee Callahan
May 21 – Lisa Crow
May 21 – Katie Villarreal
May 21 – Desiree Cash
May 21 – Jackson Mann
May 22 – Sandy Blalock
May 22 – Caitlin Kirby
May 23 – Terry Pangle
May 23 – Adrienne Guice
May 23 – Nathan Baggett
May 23 – Ronald “Cotton” Baggett
May 23 – Jackson Mann
May 23 – Amelia Stott
May 24 – Joe Elrod
May 24 – Amber Hilliard Parker
May 24 – Adam Miller
May 24 – Sadie Durham
May 26 – Paige Smith
May 26 – Rodney Mitchell
May 27 – Keila Hammon
May 27 – Amanda Smith
May 27 – Christy Voils
May 27 – Hunter Villarreal
May 27 – Crystal Gravitt
May 27 – Labron Poe
May 28 – James Cox
May 28 – Mikayla Owen
May 29 – Mackenzie Willingham
May 29 – Justin Blansit
May 30 – Patti Carden
May 30 – James Tubberville
May 30 – Ethan Webb
May 31 – Richard Barkley
May 31 – Tracy Cartwright

[The Citizens Bank of Valley Head]

Large Enough To Serve You...
Small Enough To Know You

Valley Head
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657-5122
Mentone
634-4744

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• Renovations
• Additions

Tony Shrader
(423) 637-5177

“Designs in harmony with nature and your needs.”

[State Farm]

May Anniversaries

May 3 – Corey & Amanda Blalock
May 4 – Donnie & Carlotta Sharpton
May 8 – Wayne & Angie Miller
May 15 – Doug & Karen Powell
May 15 – Keith & Dawn Langston
May 15 – Shane & Valerie Burt
May 16 – Preston & Amy Kirby
May 17 – Casey & Jessica Battles
May 18 – Chad & Amber Smith
May 20 – Jeramy & Lindsay Webb
May 20 – Doug & Judy McMahan
May 26 – Soni & Sheila Larock
May 28 – Adam & Wendy Haynes
May 28 – Easton & Anna Bailey
May 29 – Alfred & Eddie Langston
May 29 – Johnny & JoAnn Bain
May 30 – Tommy & Cindy Harrison
May 31 – Jimmy & Adele Phillips

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May 29 – Justin Blansit
May 30 – Patti Carden
May 30 – James Tubberville
May 30 – Ethan Webb
May 31 – Richard Barkley
May 31 – Tracy Cartwright

[State Farm]

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May 31 – Richard Barkley
May 31 – Tracy Cartwright
CECILIAN COTTAGE, 2 bdms, 2 bths, large living area, with Creek View Forest Subdivision in Cloudland, GA. 5.5 acres, pool, tennis, canoeing, fishing, stocked pond, swimming, volleyball court, tennis court. $107,900. (22866)

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

TUCKED AMONG THE RHODODENDRONS, Hemlocks, Oak trees is a rustic 1 1/2 story, 2 bdrm, 2bth home on 0.85 acres. Listen to the creek run over the rocks from the screened porch. Open floor plan, wood burning FP, Hot tub. Furnished. Located in Cloudland, GA. Seasonal views. $182,000.

7182 OLD STATE RD. What a view! 112 acres with over 600 ft. on brown with 2 rock bluffs. Power, water, septic installed. The mobile home with 2 BR, 1BA and covered deck is a bonus. Place to stay while building that dream home. Nicely wooded. $720,000. (18545)

SOUTHDOWN LOG HOME on the East fork little River. 5.5 acres. 2 bdrm, 2 bths. Loft. Vaulted ceiling with exposed beams. Fully equipped kitchen with granite countertops, stacked stone FP. 2 story with Basement. Separate 30x40 garage, large enough for motor home. Private but with all the comforts. Price reduction to $725,000. (19919)

8.75 ACRES with 200 ft. on West Fork Little River. Hardwoods, hollies, and easy access to river. Level to rolling terrain. $89,000. (23185).

CAMERIA BLEU compound California style in serene country setting. 2 story Herrington brick home complete with arched 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 room, dining with travertine FP. Gourmet 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 bdms, Den and bath. So many amenities and landscaped naturally with flora and fauna. The Guest Cottage is 2 bdrms, 1 bth, 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 geese stay and all the wildlife abound! Total of 90 acres. $189,000 (23143).

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

THE SHADOWS, A UNIQUE LOG CABIN. Sunroom, 2 bdrm, 1.5 baths. 2 fireplaces. Living Dining combo, sitting room. Native Landscaped yard. Covered porch. $189,000. (23143)

12.7 ACRES with 386 ft. on Little River. Beautiful lot for that dream home in serene Cloudland with a rustic feel. Price $114,900.

OWNER and AL/GA Broker
Chelsea Carrier Manning
AL/GA Realtor
6090 Highway 117 S.
Lookout Mountain, AL 35984
ChelseaCarrierManning@gmail.com
706-859-1227
662-727-2186
Fax: 256-634-4702

THE GROUNDHOG
May 2016
Page 18

AL/GA Realtor
864-263-1227

NYE HOME on Little River. A unique 2.6 acres, 2 bdrm, 2 bath Log Home on Brown with dramatic rock outcroppings & pastoral view of Shinbone Valley. Cathedral ceiling, solid wood fireplace. Covered deck overlooking river. Ceramic wood burning insert. Heart pine floors, ceilings, and walls. The old farm house place on property was built in 1895 when the land was homesteaded. Even the African geese stay and all the wildlife abound! Total of 90 acres. $189,000 (23143)

6 ACRE West Brow lot, 1 mile south of downtown Mentone. Wooded with rock formations. Great building lot. Prime location, great sunsets. 5 lots available. $90,000. (23045)

.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)

3 County Road 66. (23186)

LOTS AND ACREAGE

5.7 WOODED ACRES with a beautiful view across from Lake Luhajus. 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. $33,000. (23044)

Remember When...

The Groundhog ran a cover article in 1996 titled "J.R. Bain?" When I ran across this article, I sat in my office and cried. Mr. John Ranzy Bain was my Great-Grandfather. And Great he was! If any of you had the esteemed pleasure of knowing him, you will agree. And if you ever had the blessed honor of hearing him preach, you truly understand what I mean by "Great!"

This article was written by my Aunt Pat, the youngest of his children. I hope you all enjoy reading about my family. I have been blessed my entire life with a huge, loving extended family. And none that we have lost will ever be forgotten.

The story began; "Having careers in farming, lumbering, mining and railroading, John Ranzy Bain--better known as J.R.--is living a very full and rewarding life. Born eldest of 9 children (6 boys and 3 girls), to Ed and Lula Bain on March 22, 1914, in Cherokee County, Alabama, he remembers one of his earliest duties at age 4 was to remove insects from the cabbage and green beans and place them into a small can of kerosene. This simple skill of gardening was the beginning of his life long love of farming.

Along with his continuing aid to his father on the farm, at age twelve, he followed in his fathers footsteps to acquire the knowledge of the woods. The woods provided the habitat for the game he hunted for food and the resources of the products he could harvest as a lumberjack.

J.R. also worked at odd jobs to earn money and build character as a young boy. One of these jobs was yard keeper for a retired lawyer, Cebe Wright. Cebe and his wife developed a great affection for J.R. and other people. He also helped his father with the WPA building roads and side walks for Dade County, Georgia. This lasted just two years. Over the span of the next four years, from 1936 to 1939, J.R. and family would move several two years. Over the span of the next four years, from 1936 to 1939, J.R. and family would move several times between Rising Fawn and Mentone, doing whatever necessary to provide for his family, even making elderberry wine and home brew to sell.

In late 1939, J.R. took advantage of another job in Bluefield, West Virginia, to work for the Jacobs Fork Coal Co. He quickly advanced and was made foreman. When WWII broke out, J.R. was one of the first called, but the officials of the mine were successful in getting him deferred from the army twice. The production of coal was extremely important during the war.

Upon medical advice, in 1944, J.R. quit the coal mines and returned to Mentone and lumbering. While working in the woods one day in 1945, he survived being crushed under a load of green lumber. His recovery was slow and painful. This accident proved to be a major factor in his physical complications throughout his life.

Through the next few years, J.R. struggled, as many did at that time, to provide for his family, even for while receiving Government "relief." In 1949, he received religious salvation which changed his life. He began to dedicate his life to God. He fasted and prayed diligently. Upon receiving a sign from God, J.R. returned to the coal mines where he felt a job could be waiting. There, as God had promised him, a job just became available. He was a miner again from 1950 until 1953.

Seeing many friends and co-workers suffering and dying from black-lung disease caused by the coal dust in the mines, J.R., fearing for his own health, quit the mines and once more returned to his beloved Mentone. For the next three years, he worked for Chattanooga Boiler and Tank Company until his lay-off.

Then, in 1956, while visiting his daughter, Ethel Manifold and son-in-law, Jim, in Harvey, Illinois, he found the job of his life. He became a railroad switch-man for the Indiana Harbour Belt Railroad. It was hard, unreliable and, at times, very dangerous work. During his 21-year railroad career, he was arrested for tying up a major highway crossing with the train because he could not get the yardmaster's approval to move the train. He also suffered a traumatic head injury in an accident while riding in the caboose, but he loved trains and his work.

During his railroad career, he always managed to pursue his love of farming. If not a small garden in the back of the house, it was acres of land loaned to him by a couple of widows. He provided fresh vegetables to many church members, family and friends, and even sold produce to a large grocery.

They lived a very full and rewarding life in Harvey until a heart attack in 1977 caused J.R. to take early retirement. In 1978, J.R. and Evelyn retired to Mentone, where they still live. J.R.'s contributions to life are his six children by wife Kathryn; Bobbie Sue Smith, Ethel Manifold, Mary Porter, Charles Bain, Johnny Bain and Pat McKenzie; 19 grandchildren, 28 great-grandchildren and 3 great-great-grandchildren. Throughout his Christian life, he has been very active in the Church of God. J.R. attributes his richness of life to his faith in God, a loving family and hard work.”

Since this beautiful article was released, we have lost my pawpaw J.R., my Uncle Charlie and now my Aunt Bobbie. I consider myself extremely privileged to have known and loved all three.

By Angie Carden
Mentone Real Estate
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Welcome to Mentone
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STOP in and see us at our log cabin office in the heart of Mentone. Contact us today!

LOTS AND LAND

BEAUTIFULLY PREPARED, RARE DOWNTOWN MENTONE building lot. Ready for your sweet little cabin or cottage. Newly-landscaped fruit trees & bushes! Flat, level & solid foundation, set in place. Perfect place for a rental cabin! Easy walk to town, close to sidewalks, shops & dining.

New landscaping plus old, comfortable trees makes it pretty as a picture! Combined residential possibilities: $339,000 (765396)

HA VE YOU BEEN DREAMING of a place? A smaller home, perhaps, not giving the old house much

value. Best feature is the stone

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2 WOODED ACRES with a tiny little rustic cabin (no plumbing!) & a whole lot of potential!

8 ACRES WITH APPROX 136 BROW FROST RD, on Cladel Rock Rd, near the back entrance of DeSoto State Park. Beautiful wooded land with large paved road frontage. $85,000. (892925)

FRONTAGE ON WEST FORK, Little River. 3.69 acres, lightly restricted, private, water & power available. The lot is available for your future mountain home site. Hardwoods, picturesque boulders, wild turkey, deer, etc. This location would be ideal for a vacation home on the West Fork. Unrestricted. $115,838. (1039175)

1 WOODED ACRES, 1/2 of a level yard & gorgeous, old manzanita, rhododendron, mountain laurel, sandy

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1034519


On April 12, members of The Rhododendron Garden Club met at the MERF House for a not-so-brief business meeting and then traveled to the Shirley Miller Wildflower Trail (The Pocket). We were excited to have two visitors come along - one even joined the club. We welcome Mary Shurett as our newest member!

Fog and misty weather did not deter our enthusiasm. Sharing the tales of eight women in one vehicle is an article that will remain unwritten. Driving along the Dougherty Gap; trillium, Wild Blue Phlox (Phlox divaricata), Dogwoods (Cornus florida) and ferns were spotted throughout the woods and along the roadside. After last year’s trek across the overflowing creek, the majority wore waterproof shoes in anticipation of another wet adventure, but the crossing was uneventful.

At the edge of the parking lot, the Crossvine (Bignonia capreolata) could not be missed - it looks like a Trumpet Vine (Campsis radicans) but has a rich maroon colored trumpet edged with yellow. The Wildflower Trail boardwalk allowed for easy walking and viewing and the Bent White Trillium (Trillium flexipes) showed off along the boardwalk and covered the hillside. Sweet Betsy’s (Trillium cuneatum) were dotted throughout and the Trailing Trillium (Trillium decumbens) hugged the ground. The abundance of trillium was amazing. Purple Phacelia (Phacelia bipinnatifida), Virginia Bluebells (Mertensia virginica), Wild Geranium (Geranium maculatum) and several violets all showed hues of purple. Solomon’s Seal, Solomon Plume (Maianthemum racemosum), Star Chickweed (Stellaria pubera), Sweet Anise (Osmorhiza longistylis) and Rue Anemone (Thalictrum thalictroides) sported lots of greenery and hints of white flowers as did the Heartleaf Foamflower (Tiarella cordifolia), The Wood Poppy (Stylophorum diphyllum) surprised with a pop of yellow. Bloodroot (Sanguinaria canadensis) and Hepatica leaves were noted but blossoming was over.

Gerry posted on the 14th his identification of 39 species blooming at The Pocket. We didn’t quite find that many on the 12th, but with the help of several wildflower books we did identify (or maybe misidentify) several species. Before next year’s trek, an investment in a wildflower leaf identification book would be helpful in matching the leaves with the withered, drooping blossoms so we’d know what we missed. Still, it was another great but chilly time of viewing wildflowers at The Pocket!

May 10th will be a day of clean up at the MERF House: leaves need to be raked, bushes trimmed, and flower beds weeded and replanted. Everyone is asked to bring tools (clippers, trowels, rakes, shovels), gloves, hat, a sack lunch and a good attitude. Drinks and dessert will be provided. 10:00 is dig in, dig up and pull out time.
Harvest Roots (cont’d from page 1)

part of greater Huntsville, but when they were young, Harvest provided enumerable opportunities for kids to get outside and get their hands dirty. In middle school, they shared the first kiss either had ever experienced, and they remained good friends through high school. Then they went their separate ways. Lindsay pursued a degree in cultural anthropology from UAB, and spent three months studying the subsistence farmers on the Fijian island of Nayau. Deeply impressed with their ability to survive solely on what they could grow or catch, she began thinking about getting involved in some way with agriculture.

Pete attended art school in New York, and became what Lindsay calls an “apple historian.” He then went west to learn about farming (particularly small, community based agriculture) and discovered the joys and rewards of foraging for the food he needed. Eventually, both came back to Alabama and, as Lindsay says, “We discovered we had a mutual interest in growing food, and a love of agriculture and plants.”

The couple first began growing organic foods and making fermented products for sale at farmer’s markets. Ultimately, the demand for their things began exceeding their capacity to produce them. So finding themselves at a transitional crossroads, they started looking around for a place to change gears and move in a new direction. One absolute requirement for establishing a fermentation business was a certified kitchen, a facility not easily found in Alabama. Coincidentally, in their childhood, Pete had attended nearby Camp Comer and Lindsay had once taken a hike with her dad around DeSoto Falls. They both remembered Mentone as a nice place with a higher altitude that might benefit the fruits they hoped to grow. They also liked the size of the community, the striking scenery, and the very evident southern Appalachian culture. Then by chance, as these things sometimes happen, a friend who knew of their special kitchen needs suggested they go to Mentone and ask the owner of Little River Hardware, Stan Lawton, if he knew of any such facility in the area that might be available. Then, a final twist of fate:

on the day of their visit, they learned that the certified kitchen at the cafe in Stan’s store had become vacant. Next stop for Mr. Halupka and Miss Whiteaker: Mentone.

First, their new facility had to meet the stringent requirements of the Alabama Department of Public Health and the Federal Department of Agriculture. Having successfully jumped those hurdles, Pete and Lindsay are now producing and selling a wide variety of fermented products. Lindsay says, “This is not canning, and it’s not vinegar based. It’s a live, fermented, raw product. We preserve food like your grandmother did. Our products have probiotic, beneficial bacteria, which many nutritionists recommend. It’s tasty and flavorful with a long shelf life that doesn’t require preservatives, and it has good nutritional density.”

Right now, Harvest Roots items can be found at small grocery stores in Birmingham and Chattanooga, as well as some farmer’s markets. Within a few months they hope to be in Whole Foods at several locations. But best of all, if you want to taste for yourself, you can just drop by the Little River Hardware store and check out the cold case, or look for it at the Wildflower Café’s gift shop.

Harvest Roots will be a boost to the area in several ways. The anticipated growth means the couple will have to hire some local folks to help them in the months ahead. Although they are planting a variety of perennial fruits, medicinal herbals, and berries to use in their product line, they are not much interested in growing their own veggies. So as they expand they will be looking for area suppliers as nearby as possible. “Right now,” says Pete, “we have contracts for at least 8,000 pounds of vegetables from the people at Mentone’s Farm at Windy Hill, which is an amazing resource for this town. They are only about a mile from us, and we joke they can just roll the cabbages downhill to us!”

Expansion also means Pete and Lindsay would like to find more land in the area on which to grow their cultivars (a combination of the words “cultivation” and “varieties”). Right now they are growing such things as elderberry, lemon grass, sage, basil, fennel and about 25 apple trees, Pete’s particular interest. And, they are growing a business with deep roots right here in Mentone. Want to know more about Harvest Roots? Go to their website at harvestrootsferments.com, find them on facebook, or stop by the hardware.
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Moon Lake Students go to the Theater

By Paula Easter
Moon Lake Fine Arts Teacher

What is the saying, “I love it when a plan comes together!” Well, plans for a field trip to Atlanta came together fantastically. Moon Lake Fifth and Sixth grade students, along with some faculty members, boarded a chartered bus on Saint Patrick’s Day bound for the Alliance Theater at Woodruff Arts Center in Atlanta, GA. This was the first time that many of these students had the opportunity to see a play performed, and they were looking forward to it.

Arriving with time to spare, students had time to enjoy exploring the architecture and exhibits on display at the High Museum of Art, a different area of the Woodruff Arts Center. Then, on to the Alliance Theater to see the play “The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe.” Having all read the book, both grades were anxious to see how the play would compare to the book. I’ll give you a hint—not a word was heard from a single student until the very end of the play when they cheered and applauded! After the play, I had the opportunity of introducing my friend and the director of the play, Rosemary Newcott, to Moon Lake students. The students had fun talking to Ms. Newcott, answering her questions, and voicing their thoughts about the play. As an added treat, Victor Smith, Director of Production at the Alliance Theater, came out to meet our Moon Lake students. He, along with Davorr Snipes, an associate, walked the students on a guided back stage tour of the Alliance Theater. (Moon Lake students were the only ones who were privileged to enjoy this special treat!)

After a great time at the Alliance, we were all ready for lunch and headed to the Varsity—another first for many students. Once we had finished lunch, it was on the bus and back home to Mentone.

A tremendous “THANK YOU!” to the Mentone Educational Resources Foundation and the Alabama Arts Council for making this memorable field trip possible.

What students had to say about the experience:

Shaq Hawkins—“Best field trip ever!”
Ian Thomas—“Hard to believe Ms. Newcott only used nine actors in the play. I loved how the battle scene was choreographed.”
Daniel Hawkins—“The play was very creative and I loved the backstage tour!”
Pacey Cooper—“I loved everything and the Varsity was awesome!”
Cameron Collins—“The play was awesome, and the actors were incredible!”
Emma Harrison—“I loved everything about the trip!”

Moon Lake Elementary School students wrote and illustrated a book focused on Mentone and its people. Each family has received a copy. The cover was created by the kindergarteners and the second graders. Each class has a chapter resulting from their classroom studies.

Extra copies are available for $20, but must be requested and paid for by May 2nd at the school or to Sarah.