COLORFEST

By Kayla Worthey

For more than 30 years, Colorfest has drawn thousands of visitors to our little village town to drink in the cool, crisp mountain air, admire the glory of our fall foliage, and enjoy the festivities of this festival. Colorfest 2015 is well on its way with lots of new ideas and volunteers who are busy at work with festival details, defining events, arranging schedules, soliciting sponsors and who are committed to making this year’s festival a fun-filled event for the entire family.

The Mentone Inn has once again graciously contributed their pavilion and grounds for the Friday Night Fish Fry. Billy and Angie Shugart of One World Adventure are hosting the Fish Fry from 4pm to 7pm for $10 a plate. Beginning around 6pm, we will also have some live music by Zen Dogs to keep you entertained for the rest of the evening.

On Saturday night, MAPA will host a Chili Cookout with Uncle Shuffelo & His Haint Hollow Hootenanny! You will be able to choose from a selection of chili, add your choice of "fixins" and then pair it with some good ole’ fashioned cornbread, homemade dessert and, of course, sweet tea, all while they perform acoustic music from the old time string band genre with unique amusing fashion. Uncle Shuffelo & His Haint Hollow Hootenanny are the “Old Time String Band” Champions of the DeKalb County Fiddler’s Convention 2015 as well as the Champion of the Great Southern Fiddler’s Convention. Their fiddler player is Champion of Old Time Fiddle and their banjo player is Champion of Old Time Banjo. Their awards list goes on and on!

Saturday morning, the festival gates open at 9am to a beautiful display of arts and crafts with a breathtaking autumn view at the Mentone Brow Park.

The Mentone Business Association will again be hosting the Scavenger Hunt around town at some of the local businesses. Packets will be available at the festival entrance.

Tony Hendon will again provide boat ride tours of the Little River. Boat rides are always a favorite in the fall when red and gold leaves shower the river banks and waters edge. Boats will leave from DeSoto Falls on Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

We also have Scarecrow Holler and the 5K Color Run returning. Scarecrow Holler is a scarecrow-building competition for businesses, organizations and individuals. If you are interested in participating in Scarecrow Holler,

FREE OUTDOOR MOVIE NIGHT THIS MONTH!

By Charlotte Gentry, MBA President

Did you know there was a movie filmed in Mentone during the 90s? Most folks have never heard of it and of those who have, many haven’t seen it. Filmed at several locations in and around Mentone, Southern Heart is a glimpse into the way things looked around downtown in the mid to late 90s. The film stars Peter DeLuise (yep, Dom DeLuise’s son) and Jamie Hendrix Collins Doss, and features many local folks as extras.

The idea for the movie was a long-term project of Jamie Hendrix Collins Doss and friend Emily Carpenter. They wrote and produced the movie, and also star in it. We won’t give away the plot, but it’s a sweet romantic comedy that will make you smile. It’s worth watching for the scenery alone!

Some of the locations you may recognize in the movie include the Mentone Inn, Mentone Springs Hotel (which most folks know burned March 1, 2014), Nippersink Lodge, Log Cabin Deli (now Moonlight Bistro), Lookout Mountain Preferred Realty, Camp Riverview and the old rock gas station in Valley Head (which is now covered with stucco and painted).

Well, now you have a chance to see this “feel good” movie right where it was filmed. The Mentone Business Association is sponsoring a free outdoor movie night on Saturday, September 12, 2015. It will be shown at the
Mentone native Ernest Smith died February 15, 2015. He was buried at Arlington National Cemetery with military honors on August 9, 2015. I was privileged to attend the service with members of the Smith family. The service was both moving and impressive. A Navy chaplain officiated the service. A Navy honor guard presented the American flag to Ernest’s brother Squeak. Next, the honor guard fired a 21-gun salute. The service concluded with a Navy bugler playing taps.

To my knowledge, Ernest is the only person with a Navy bugler playing taps. He served as Master Chief and a total of 14 awarded medals. Ernest retired with the rank of Master Chief and a total of 14 awarded medals. He received Commendation for Outstanding Service three times and was chosen from 8,000 men as Outstanding Sailor. He also served several years as Navy ROTC instructor at Princeton University.

Upon retirement, he returned home to Mentone. He devoted a lot of time to studying and writing Mentone and Smith family history. Ernest wrote the text for the Mentone historical marker in Mason Park. We are thankful for his service to his country and his contributions to the community of Mentone.
Colorfest (cont’d from page 1)

complete the application included in this issue of The Groundhog. The SK Color Run is being organized by One World Adventure and will take place on Saturday morning. Registration will begin at 7am. There is a registration form in this issue of The Groundhog as well. For more information, go to www.oneworldadventureco.org.

Last year’s Pumpkin Patch Jubilee, a decorating competition for Mentone businesses and residents using fall elements such as pumpkins, hay, cornstalks, old bicycles, vehicles, and assorted caricatures of people and animals, adorned Mentone in a beautiful fall display. The Pumpkin Patch Jubilee will be held again this year, and local businesses are encouraged to decorate their buildings and grounds for the fall festivities. Prizes will be given to 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners.

Colorfest sponsors are the lifeblood of our festival. They provide financial assistance that allows the festival committee to purchase signs, marketing materials, advertising, festival supplies and great musicians throughout the festival. If you are interested in becoming a sponsor, please contact us at MentoneColorfest@gmail.com.

If you have questions and/or suggestions concerning Colorfest or if you would like to volunteer for any of the activities before or during Colorfest, please contact the festival committee at MentoneColorfest@gmail.com. If you would like to be a festival exhibitor, please complete the application included in this issue of The Groundhog, or complete one online at www.mapamentone.com and send it to MentoneColorfest@gmail.com. You can also find us on Facebook at “Mentone Alabama Festivals”. Like our page to keep up with festival events and get the most up-to-date details as they are scheduled!

As always, Colorfest is held the third weekend in October, which is October 17 & 18. Mark it on your calendar! And please consider being a volunteer, a sponsor, or both!

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**2015 COLORFEST SHOW APPLICATION**

**OCTOBER 16-18**

**$75 FOR A 12’ X 12’ SPACE**

**APPLICATION DEADLINE IS OCTOBER 2**

Name___________________________________________

Address__________________________________________

City, State, Zip___________________ Cell Phone ______

E-mail__________________________________________

Website Address________________________________

Description of Art Work____________________________

Circle if needed: Electricity Water ($25 additional charge for either or both)

Other Special Needs________________________________

Number of Spaces_________________ Amount enclosed_____

This year’s Colorfest Festival will be held all over Mentone, but the artists will be located primarily at Brow Park. Show hours will be 9am-5pm Saturday and 11am-4pm Sunday. You may set up your space on Friday, October 16, 12-5pm or Saturday, October 17, 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. You may break down beginning at 4pm on Sunday. Cars should be moved to the parking area after unloading.

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 outages, electricity is reserved for food vendors and artists who require it to show and demonstrate their art or craft. (i.e. not for lighting or fans). No generators will be allowed.

You will be notified of your acceptance no later than October 5. Spaces will be assigned the week prior to the show, but please check in with the information tent when you arrive as space numbers can change. All spaces will be on a first come, first served basis, and no spaces can be reserved from show to show.

If you are an artist and this is the first time you have applied for Colorfest, please provide a photo of your work or a website or Facebook address. All art should be handmade by the artist. No ready-made merchandise is allowed. Colorfest is strictly an arts, crafts, music and children’s festival; therefore, no political or religious organizations will be accepted. Please contact Beverly Bates at bjbates@bellsouth.net if you have any questions.

Thank you.

Send completed application form to:

MAPA

P. O. Box 50, Mentone, AL 35984

Make Checks payable to MAPA

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Sometimes it is difficult to talk or write about MAPA projects or events without including other Mentone volunteer organizations like MAAC, MERF, MBA, MACC, NLMFD, Boy Scouts or even the town council, because members and functions of these organizations overlap. Many Mentonians belong to multiple organizations and lend a helping hand on each organization's activities. Mentone is blessed because individually and collectively, these groups work tirelessly to make Mentone a better place for citizens and visitors.

Currently, volunteers are planning for Mentone’s annual Colorfest festival. A separate article in this month’s Groundhog describes the status of our Colorfest planning. Once again, many of Mentone’s volunteer organizations and Moon Lake Elementary School are working with MAPA to create another great festival.

Most of you are probably unaware that our MAPA Secretary, Jerome Stephens, is working tirelessly to make digital copies of our old Groundhog newspapers. This is a multi-year project and we thank Jerome for doing it. We hope to one day soon offer digital copies of our thirty-five year archives of The Groundhog newspaper. We believe this will be an interesting history of Mentone’s citizens and events.

Once again, the MAPA Board thanks everyone for their long-term support of MAPA, its events and its publication of The Groundhog. Indeed, Groundhog writers, photographers, advertisers and especially our readers, keep our little community newspaper alive and well to write another day. Thank you!

Our MAPA Board meets the first Tuesday of every month, 6:00 P.M. at the MERF House. Visitors and members are welcome to attend.

**COLORFEST 2015**

**SCARECROW HOLLER DISPLAY**

Official Application/Entry Form Please Print Clearly

Applicant Contact Name ___________________________________________

Address ________________________________________________________

City __________________________ State ____ Zip _______________

Phone ___________________ Email __________________________________

Application/Entry Cost: $5
Deadline for entry and fees is October 2, 2015. Entry fees must be by check or money order. Do not send cash! Please mail this form with your entry fee to:

MAPA
PO Box 387
Mentone, AL 35984

Email: MentoneColorfest@gmail.com

Thank you for your participation in MAPA’s Scarecrow Holler Display during Colorfest 2015. Your participation and support will help make this annual event successful. We want to showcase Mentone and make 2015 Colorfest a success; Scarecrow Holler will be an important part of that. Please see attached contest rules for official rules and regulations.

**CONTEST RULES**

Our theme for the Colorfest is “Celebrating the Fall Season on the Mountain,” focusing on old time traditions. Please keep this in mind when creating your Scarecrow. Entry fee is $5 per entry. The application and entry fee must be received no later than October 2nd. Set up will be on Friday, October 9th. Scarecrows will remain up through the end of October and must be removed by Saturday, November 7th. Any display that is not removed by that time will be discarded. Areas will be assigned for each Scarecrow measuring 5 feet square. Scarecrows should be in good taste, family friendly and keeping in the theme of the festival. They should not reflect controversial, social or political situations. The Scarecrows must be constructed to withstand weather conditions. Tips for constructing Scarecrows will be available via email or the Colorfest website for additional information. MAPA and the Scarecrow Committee reserve the right to remove any Scarecrow that does not meet these standards. No handouts, promotional materials or free giveaways can be associated with any entry. Additionally, we may remove a display at any time due to its condition if it does not hold up to weather or other factors. It is suggested that entrants check on their display periodically.

Judging/Prizes: Prizes will be awarded to winners as follows: 1st place will receive $50 and 2nd Place will receive $25. Additionally, a People’s Choice Award will be given to the fan favorite, receiving $50. Judging criteria will be determined by the Scarecrow Committee, to include originality, theme, content, etc. Judges will be provided by sponsoring organization(s). Winners will be featured in the next issue of The Groundhog publication. MAPA and the Colorfest Committee reserve the right to use photographs for future publicity.
**Color Craze Run**

By Angie Shugart

Fall is once again upon us, and I reflect on the summer that flew by - too fast! This summer, we have seen visitors meander into this place in search of a scenic overlook, wanting to watch the sunset, or jump into one of our popular swimming holes.

Your local Outdoor Education and Conservation organization, One World Adventure, completed our eighth season of operation. This year, local youth swam and kayaked in Little River, hiked the nearby trails, climbed and rappelled its sandstone cliffs, and discovered just how awesome the area in which they live is. Having these positive experiences endears us to the land. We believe the children came away with a sense of stewardship for Little River.

Then we blinked, and here we are in September. This time of year, One World begins fundraising efforts for 2016 programs and projects. One of our most popular fundraisers is during the Mentone festivals. Our famous fish fry will be held on Friday night October 16th at the Mentone Inn. Ms. Cynthia Stinson has graciously donated the pavilion since we started the fundraiser in 2011. People who have been to the annual fry-downs have gotten “hooked” on our hand breaded catfish, homemade pups, slaw and desserts and look forward each year to letting their dinner settle during the live music under the pavilion and bonfire afterwards.

We are at it again bright and early on Saturday morning, October 17th, to host our third annual Color Craze 5K and 1 Mile Fun Run. The race begins at Mason Park where participants come ready to get doused in bright powder while in route to Brow Park. It is a spinoff of the popular Color Run but on a smaller scale and silly attire is optional, however, encouraged. Prizes are given to the winners of each age division and snacks are provided for all runners. This fun event is great for the entire family and any age.

Fall is such a fun time of year to be in Mentone! We are excited to be a part of Colorfest weekend and hope you enjoy the festival. For more updates, visit our site at www.oneworldadventureco.org or find us on facebook.

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**The Citizens Bank of Valley Head**

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

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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Member FDIC
A Universe of Things

Twice a year I go through a “sort and toss” frenzy—first, at New Year’s, then for the many-mile yard sale in August. Each time, I always think I’ve gotten things down to the nub, to stuff I just have to keep. Months pass, and I realize that no, I really don’t need that extra quilt, and the cute candleholder hasn’t held a candle in years. I try to follow the de-cluttering guru’s advice: love it, use it, or lose it. But that doesn’t always work. What I loved last year is something I rarely think about this year— the salad spinner, that seemed useful when I bought it, hasn’t spun lettuce in months. Maybe I’ll love that picture frame when I find the right photo to insert, or, maybe, I’ll become more rigorous about cleaning produce because I know I “should.” Maybe not.

We live in a Universe of Things. When I look at the tables of the yard sale vendors, I’m amazed at the variety of things for purchase, the “stuff” of our lives. And every single one of those items was once deemed useful, or loved, or needed by someone. Each item was once selected, paid for (or received as a present), used, and enjoyed by a person for a time; then, it was put away, hidden, forgotten, till that time of de-cluttering strikes again, and off it goes to a garage sale, a charity, or the landfill. That set of pink crystal was probably used with considerable pleasure by a family at special occasions. The egg basket may have actually held eggs at some point. The outdoor pillows served a purpose until they became too faded even for outdoor use. Those toys — oh, the toys. We know what happens to toys an hour after opening gifts on Christmas morning. Off they go into the toy box, the corner, the closet. So much ephemera—all transitory, on a journey somewhere else.

Ok. So what do we really need? Well. Air, for one. Food. Water. Shelter is nice, but not really necessary except in extreme weather conditions. A nice cave would probably do. Transportation? Feet work. So do horses, mules, and camels. But civilized as we now are, a car is deemed necessary by most folks (jeep? Miata? SUV? Truck?). Clothes are needed for protection from the elements, unless we live in a tropical zone. After these supposed necessities, we start getting picky. What kind of shelter do we want? How big? How many rooms? And what will we put inside the shelter? From brooms to appliances, we gradually discover that what we need is not always what we want, and advertisers are happy to tell us exactly what to want. As for clothes, we start thinking about “seasonal” attire (mustn’t wear fall colors in spring), various kinds of “bling,” and, of course, items that are an expression of our personal sense of “style,” from body art to baseball caps. Back up a bit — to food and water. How many freezers do you need? What kind of water do you want – bottled, tap, stream?

By Jane Faille
The halls have been quiet at Moon Lake Elementary school during the summer, but learning was still taking place. Many believe that teachers have a full summer of relaxing, eating bon bons and no work. Yet, most teachers use this valuable time to refresh, to dream and to prepare for the upcoming school year. MERF had the pleasure of granting Teacher Scholarships this summer to Paula Easter, Lea Long, Jennifer Gorham and Sloan Pope.

The three classroom teachers attended the North Alabama Early Education Conference. Behavior specialist, Dan St. Romain, along with Shaun Brown, from Role Model Productions, taught great behavior techniques and snappy tunes to bring back and use with the children in their classrooms. They also had the opportunity to visit a local teacher’s classroom and to receive hands-on science activities to use this year. Each teacher was pleased to learn and to see experts in action in early education that will help foster great learning environments in the kindergarten, first grade and second grade classrooms.

During the first week of June, the Moon Lake Arts program teacher, Paula Easter, had the opportunity to attend and participate in the Woodruff Arts Center Educator Conference called “Reinvigorating Teaching!” She says “It was a wonderful week-long conference that definitely lived up to its name, as I came back ready to teach. While there, I participated in several wonderful classes, including Let Them Sing, Let Them Paint, and Active Learning through Art, Music and Movement. One of my favorite things was seeing the musical, Knufflebunny, based on the book by Mo Willems, and directed by my friend, Rosemary Newcott. Thank you again MERF for such a great opportunity.”

MERF is thankful for a community that enables great experiences for teachers and students. September has arrived, so afternoon tutoring will begin near the end of the month. If anyone is interested in working with a Moon Lake student once a week in the tutoring program, please contact Sarah at merf.mentone@gmail.com.

September also means the weekly senior lunch bunch crew will be gathering again at the MERF house. The first senior lunch for the fall will be at 11:30 a.m. on Wednesday, September 23rd. It will be great to be gathering again, seeing each other and singing. Anyone interested in supplying the meal or in helping to serve and to clean up, contact Sarah. We enjoyed a great BYOL at Kamama on Monday July 27th. Thanks to Jimmy Rogers for wonderful fried chicken and fresh vegetables. Looking forward to cooler weather and beautiful foliage.

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.
Remember When . . .

The Groundhog did a cover story titled “Mentone’s Log Cabin Restaurant and Deli” in the September, 2008 edition. For those of us who have lived here our entire lives, “the log cabin” has been a very special home away from home. The food and atmosphere have always been so inviting, especially in the cold seasons. Of course, we all know it now as “The Moonlight Bistro”, but, I confess, the atmosphere and food are still just as inviting! And in my opinion, highly recommended.

Here’s how the article read:

“According to the Alabama Bureau of Tourism and Travel, this State’s restaurants prepare ‘100 dishes to eat before you die’. One of those dishes is Chili Corn Pone, and it is created and served Tuesday through Sunday in Mentone’s Log Cabin Restaurant and Deli. Owner Collette Kerby, her son, smile with pride when they talk about this and other items on their extensive menu served in a rustic 1800’s log cabin on Mentone’s Historic Hotel Square located on Alabama Highway 117.

...”It is not surprising to learn that when the Alabama Mountain Lakes Tourist Association recently searched for “Hidden Treasures in Northeast Alabama,” its travel writers found The Log Cabin and awarded its highest rating of 5. National Geographic, Country Living, Southern Living, The Atlanta Journal and CNN News are among a number of media giants who have celebrated the great food, the mountain décor and the welcoming atmosphere found at The Log Cabin.

The casual warmth of The Log Cabin setting is created by a roaring fireplace in winter and the soft glow of apple basket light fixtures year ‘round. Original, well-worn pine flooring and bright plaid on a screened porch large enough for a great family reunion reflect the menu’s greeting—“Welcome Friends.” Friends include bikers, campers, church groups and more. And great stories around. Just ask Collette to tell you about getting a call from “The Big Apple” for the recipe for her Cabin Cooler. This spicy specialty drink was to be served at the NYC opening of a movie made in Mentone. But, just ask her for the details because you want to be rocking by the Log Cabin fireplace, seeing her big smile—drinking a Cabin Cooler— as you hear the story firsthand in Mentone’s Log Cabin Restaurant and Deli.

I found this to be a very heart warming article that brought back tons of my own Log Cabin memories. The Log Cabin was always warm with mysterious nostalgia, whether you were there for your first or hundredth time. Something about it made me ready for Autumn!
I realize that this recipe may be just a little late for September, but at this moment, I am dehydrating tomatoes and all I can think about is homemade sundried tomato pesto. I love this stuff and it is so versatile. And my house smells so good right now with the scent of drying tomatoes in the air! I really am getting hungry! Alright, recipe first, and then suggestions.

**Sundried Tomato Pesto**

This one makes a small amount, but is very easily doubled. And if you know pesto, a little goes a long way! To a food processor (or blender: with a blender try not to overblend! You want some chunks.) add the following:

½ c of sundried tomatoes; 2 tbsp fresh basil leaves, chopped (my estimation and standard, 3-5 large leaves); 2 tbsp toasted pine nuts (you can toast them in a dry, non stick skillet on the stove top very quickly or, of course, in the oven); 1 garlic glove (2 if small); 2 tbsp grated parmesan or parmigiano reggiano; 3 tbsp extra virgin olive oil; and salt and pepper to your liking. Now, simply blend until combined! You can keep this pesto in a jar in the fridge for quite awhile, but I can’t seem to keep it around very long!

How we like it:
As a sandwich spread, especially when I make chicken or turkey paninis; stirred into smashed potatoes; added into meatballs and meatloaf; mixed into pasta salads. It’s also great as a salad dressing. It’s great with chicken, pork and beef. It’s really a fantastic, all-around wonderful addition to just about anything or as a simple condiment!

Wishing you a great September and upcoming Fall! Happy Cooking!

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**September Birthdays**

- Sept 1 – Connie Bell
- Sept 1 – Yvonne Brock
- Sept 1 – Dustin Burt
- Sept 2 – Grace Tucker
- Sept 2 – Lincoln Carden
- Sept 3 – Callie Ann Shoults
- Sept 3 – Stella Mae Akins
- Sept 4 – Vance Carden
- Sept 4 – Marketta Crane
- Sept 4 – Karen Smith
- Sept 4 – Cloyce Allen
- Sept 5 – Evelyn Jensen
- Sept 6 – Craig Stanfill
- Sept 6 – Terri Gilreath
- Sept 7 – Amelia Saferite
- Sept 8 – Van Freeman
- Sept 8 – Adele Phillips
- Sept 8 – In Memory of Melba Fuller
- Sept 8 – Anastasia Kelley
- Sept 9 – Ashley Harrison
- Sept 9 – Emma Harrison
- Sept 9 – Dillon Kirby
- Sept 10 – Morgan Gregory
- Sept 10 – Angela Downer
- Sept 10 – Sam Langston
- Sept 10 – Anna Lee
- Sept 10 – Jake Easler
- Sept 10 – Paul Miller
- Sept 10 – Chasity Smith
- Sept 11 – Amanda Collins
- Sept 11 – Robert Johnson
- Sept 11 – Brittney Johnson
- Sept 11 – Chandler Johnson
- Sept 12 – Shane Burt
- Sept 12 – Wyatt Spencer
- Sept 12 – Cynthia Stinson
- Sept 13 – Macy Hirst
- Sept 14 – Jacob Rosson
- Sept 14 – Pat Hunter
- Sept 14 – Benjie Crabtree
- Sept 14 – In Memory of Judy Brown Gorman & Naomi Potts
- Sept 15 – Betty Blalock
- Sept 15 – Mikhaila Potts Watkis
- Sept 15 – Tina Cooksey
- Sept 16 – Haley Saferite
- Sept 16 – Kathy Casler
- Sept 17 – Sam Easler
- Sept 17 – Angie Carden
- Sept 17 – Matt Chesser
- Sept 17 – Brittany Villarreal
- Sept 18 – Connie McElhaney
- Sept 18 – Stacey Brown
- Sept 18 – Ann Kelley
- Sept 19 – Taylor Chaparro
- Sept 22 – Addison Shoults
- Sept 22 – Cade Henderson
- Sept 22 – Cody Tedder
- Sept 24 – Darrel Clark
- Sept 25 – Nicole Stott
- Sept 25 – Gavin Bain
- Sept 26 – Amy Henderson
- Sept 26 – Kenneth Busby
- Sept 27 – Alvie Chambers
- Sept 27 – Libby Tuberville
- Sept 27 – Adam Hilliard
- Sept 27 – John Meadows
- Sept 27 – Jacob Meadows
- Sept 27 – Edris Gardner
- Sept 27 – Allen Wheat
- Sept 28 – Bailey Kirby
- Sept 28 – Alley Hatfield
- Sept 28 – Tommy Langston
- Sept 22 – Shane & Ashley Ingram
- Sept 4 – Carl & Katy Tuberville
- Sept 6 – Jeff & Melissa Couch
- Sept 13 – Zach & Ashley Jones
- Sept 19 – Joseph & Crystal Lee
- Sept 20 – Caleb & Megan White
- Sept 23 – Kevin & Kayla Worthey
- Sept 23 – Casey & Kayla Hellums
- Sept 24 – Tom & Kristen Emory
- Sept 26 – Josh & Melissa Shoults

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**September Anniversaries**

- Sept 2 – Shane & Ashley Ingram
- Sept 4 – Carl & Katy Tuberville
- Sept 6 – Jeff & Melissa Couch
- Sept 13 – Zach & Ashley Jones
- Sept 19 – Joseph & Crystal Lee
- Sept 20 – Caleb & Megan White
- Sept 23 – Kevin & Kayla Worthey
- Sept 23 – Casey & Kayla Hellums
- Sept 24 – Tom & Kristen Emory
- Sept 26 – Josh & Melissa Shoults

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*We Hope To Build Where You Hope To Live!*
Sept 1 - State of the City Forum. Free. The City of Fort Payne will be hosting a City Forum to discuss the future of and to brainstorm how to make our city even better. Everyone is invited to attend. Fort Payne City Hall. 6 p.m.

Sept 1 - Celestial Navigation. This two-hour class is a basic introduction to navigation by the stars. Learn how to navigate without the use of a compass or GPS with the same rules used for almost six thousand years. Meet at True Adventure Sports. 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. 256-997-9577.

Sept 2, 3, 14, 18, 29 - Wild Cave Tour. Go beyond where the average tourist explores! This 2.5 hour adventure is for those of you ready to explore on your knees, on your belly, in the mud and through tight tunnels. Adventure includes helmet and cave lamps plus a fun informative guide. True Adventure Sports. 5 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. 256-997-9577.

Sept 3 - Sky Swing Adventure. This is an adventure of a lifetime. Enjoy the thrill of the swing. Pre-registration required at True Adventure Sports by 6 p.m the day before the adventure. Meet at TAS. 12 p.m. to 2 p.m. 256-997-9577.

Sept 4, 22 - Extreme Night Hike. This end-of-day adventure does not slow down just because it’s dark. Intended for a large group team-building exercise, this hike has a bit of bouldering, some scrambling, some spelunking, and a whole lot of required working together. True Adventure Sports. 7:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. 256-997-9577.

Sept 5 - “Exploring Martha Berry’s Connection with Lookout Mountain and Her Legacy at the Berry School.” Free. Historian Michael O’Malley from Berry College will present this amazing story. Martha Berry was an American educator and the founder of Berry College in nearby Rome, Georgia. Martha Berry once had a summer home in Mentone, and she worked to preserve the sheer sandstone gems of NE Alabama.

Storytelling, hiking, and a special lecture by Chef Jimmy Rogers. Advance reservations required. 6-8 p.m. $25 includes dinner and the show. 256-634-3001.

Sept 7 - Ider Mule Days. Free. This annual event showcases Sand Mountain’s rich agricultural heritage. Enjoy a parade of mules, horses, carriages, antique tractors and more. A horse pull, mule pull, antique tractors and cars, arts and crafts, food, children’s games, and so much more make this day one you don’t want to miss. Event takes place in the town of Ider and begins at 9:30 a.m. 256-657-4184.

Sept 7 - Afternoon Rock Climb. Come experience first-hand what rock climbing is all about in the afternoon with guides who are fun, safe and energetic. This trip includes all the gear plus basic instruction. No prior climbing experience is needed. TAS 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. 256-997-9577.

Sept 9, 22, 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. TAS 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. 256-997-9577.

Sept 10 - GPS Basic Training and Navigation Class Part 1. Learn how to use a map, compass, and a handheld GPS. Learn basic navigation and how to pinpoint a location for quick return, or quick rescue. Also, learn how to search by waypoints or coordinates. True Adventure Sports. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. 256-997-9577.

Sept 10 - Movie Night “Southern Heart.” Free. Come see the movie made in Mentone in the 1990s! It stars Peter Deluise and Jamie Hendrix Collins and is a “feel good” movie the whole family can enjoy. This will be an outdoor movie event sponsored by MBA at the Mentone Inn Pavilion around 7:30-ish (after dark). There will be live music featuring Curtis Strange from about 5:30-7:15 (sponsored by Mentone Area Arts Council as part of their Summer Music Series). Movie and music are both free events with food and drinks available for purchase. Limited seating available, so bring your lawn chairs or blankets.

Sept 12 - Soul Collage® Workshop with Lisa Schad, LMT. Free. Soul Collage is a unique card system used for deep personal exploration. Sessions are open to everyone. TAS 9:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. 256-997-9577.

Sept 12 - Second Saturday Art Market. Free. Second Saturday Art Market and MAAC are making it possible for our local artists and musicians to have a place to showcase their talents that is absolutely free to them. Located in the empty lot across from The Mentone Market. Plan now to attend! 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Sept 12 - Blow Your Own Ornament. Free. This class is a basic introduction to basic glassblowing. We will teach you how to blow a fixed blade knife. DeSoto State Park at the Campfire Ring in the Improved Campground. (Gate will open 30 minutes before class). Free. Ages 10 to adult; minors to be accompanied by an adult. 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. 256-997-5025.

Sept 17 - Soul Collage® Workshop with Lisa Schad, LMT. Free. Soul Collage is a unique card system used for deep personal exploration. Sessions are open to everyone. TAS 9:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. 256-997-9577.

Sept 17 - Basic Survival Trapping Class. Free. Join Robert Wilson from Seven Pines Survival in this basic survival trapping class you will learn how to make a few common traps that are found in many survival manuals. You will get a chance to make these traps yourself. There will be a knife safety course along with this class. Supplies limited -if possible bring a fixed blade knife. DeSoto State Park at the Campfire Ring in the Improved Campground. (Gate will open 30 minutes before class). Free. Ages 10 to adult; minors to be accompanied by an adult. 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. 256-997-5025.

Sept 18 - Campfire Talk: Butterflies of Alabama with Vitaly Charny. Join Vitaly Charny and photographer, Vitaly Charny, to learn more about the fascinating life-cycle of Alabama’s Butterflies. Presented at 6pm. Meet at the Canyon Center, 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. Free to the Public. Great for all ages! For details. Call 256-997-5025.

Sept 19 - Campfire Talk: Dragonflies & Damselflies with Vitaly Charny. Join Vitaly Charny and photographer, Vitaly Charny, to learn more about the fascinating life-cycle of Alabama’s Dragonflies and Damselflies. Presented at 6pm. Meet at the Canyon Center, 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. Free to the Public. Great for all ages! For details. Call 256-997-5025.

Sept 19 - The 6th Annual Haulin’ for Hannah 5k Run/Walk. Come enjoy a Saturday filled with fun! Our 5k will begin at 8 a.m. The course is through the City of Fort Payne and down several side streets. Your family can cheer you on and then enjoy our annual Boom Days celebration. Various art vendors, pet parade (10 a.m.) and lots of fun for kids. The Lion’s Club will host a barbecue fundraiser and the Methodist Men’s Group will host a Pintos and Cornbread fundraising event along with the usual Pancake Breakfast hosted by the Fort Payne Kiwanis. This year we will give $100 prizes to the overall 5k winners Male and female. Go Online and Register Now for the Annual Haulin’ for Hannah 5k Race & Fun Run on Sept 19, 2015. www.haulinforhannahraceonline.com.

Sept 19 - Humane Society 8th Annual Pet Pawrade. Come and show off your pet in the HS/AR DeKalb Pet Pawrade. This is an Annual event of the Boom Days Celebration. The Pet Pawrade will begin at the HS/AR DeKalb tent located in the Alabama Walking Park (5th St SW Fort Payne, AL). We will have pets available for adoption! Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. & the parade kicks off at 10 a.m. 256-997-9180.

Sept 19 - Boom Days Heritage Celebration. This annual art and musical event displays citizens of Fort Payne taking a second look at their past and the heritage passed down to them through the arts and crafts of our area. The Boom Days Heritage Celebration will feature many of these facets in the presentation of musical performances as well as art displays in City Park. Downtown merchants operate sidewalk sales. Cultural and historical displays are mounted at the Fort Payne Culture & Heritage Center and the Depot Museum. Many events will also take place the week prior to the celebration on Saturday. Celebration starts at 10 a.m. www.Boomdays.org. 256-845-1524.

Sept 19 - The 15th Annual John Benge Commemorative Motorcycle Ride. We welcome you to join us as we ride in commemoration of DeKalb County’s Cherokee Indian Heritage and all Indian Nations who were forced to walk on the Infamous Trail of Tears. The ride is strictly voluntary, and you Ride at Your Own Risk. The John Benge Ride is in remembrance of those who walked this trail and brings awareness to this tragedy. 256-845-3957 or 888-805-4740.

Sept 19 - Steel Quilt Workshop with Nathan Winkler. Make your own steel quilt, using material from salvaged barns. Limited space; reservations recommended. $50 includes all materials. Kamama Gallery 9am-1pm. 256-634-3001.

Sept 19 - Blacksmith Forging and Appalachian Broom-Making Demonstrations. Free. Locally & nationally-known blacksmith Walter Howell will demonstrate blacksmith forging. See raw materials become works of art using this age-old method of heating & shaping metal known as forging. Locally & nationally-known craftsman Lenton Williams will demonstrate the interesting art form of making hand-tied brooms & brushes in the Appalachian style. Lenton uses raw materials such as natural broom corn and handles to fashion useful & beautiful pieces of art. Finished pieces of art from each artist will be available for purchase. (Please note: demo may be postponed due to wet conditions). DeSoto State Park - Country Store & Information Center. Free & open to everyone. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. 256-997-5025.

Sept 19 - Night Sky Swing Adventure. This is an adventure of a lifetime. Enjoy the thrill of the swing at night. Pre-registration required at True Adventure Sports by 6 pm the day before the adventure. Meet at True Adventure Sports. 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. 256-997-9577.

Sept 20 - 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 100-2:30. Reserve by noon Sat the 19th. Cost is $5. To learn more or reserve a spot send an email to cottagepaper@bellsouth.net or call 205-349-4026.

Sept 21, 23 - Rock Climbing Adventure. Come experience first-hand what rock climbing is all about with guides who are fun, safe and energetic. This trip includes all the gear plus basic instruction. No prior climbing experience is needed. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. 256-997-9577.

Sept 22 - Kamama Book Club. Free. Do you love to read? Our newly formed Book Club will meet monthly and discuss books which have art or music as their theme. This will be an introductory meeting. Free. 7pm. 256-634-3001.

Sept 24 - Steel Quilt Workshop with Nathan Winkler. Make your own steel quilt, using material from salvaged barns. Limited space; reservations recommended. $60 includes lunch, drink, and all materials. Kamama Gallery. 10am-3pm. 256-634-3001.

Sept 24 - Movie Night At Vintage 1889. Come join vintage movie night in the boardroom at Vintage 1889. 7 p.m. 256-845-3380.

Sept 25 - Campfire Talk: Geocaching 101. Free. Do you want to learn more about Geocaching? Geocaching is a real-world, outdoor treasure hunting game using GPS-enabled devices. Participants navigate to a specific set of GPS coordinates and then attempt to find the geocache (container) hidden at that location. This campfire talk will include a lesson on what geocaching is and how you do it. There will be a live demonstration of geocaching and geocaching supplies will be on display. Seating is limited, so bring your own chair if you wish. DeSoto State Park’s Campfire Ring in the Improved Campground. (In case of inclement weather will be located in Nature Center.) Free & open to the Public & Great for all ages! 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. 256-997-5025.

Sept 25, 26 - Collinsville Annual Quilt Walk. Stroll through the beautiful historic Victorian homes of downtown Collinsville and view some of the most wonderfully handcrafted quilts you have ever seen. All Proceeds Go To The Collinsville Library Building Fund. Tickets are $10.00 and will be available at the Collinsville Public Library the day of the Quilt Walk. Hours are Friday Noon to 5 p.m. and Saturday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. 256-524-2323.

Sept 28 - October 3 - The 60th Annual DeKalb County VFW Agricultural Fair. Rides on the midway, great food, live entertainment, livestock exhibits, agricultural displays, awards, and so much more. Held at the VFW Fairgrounds. Gates open at Monday - Friday at 5 p.m. and Saturday at 10 a.m. www.dekalbcountyvfwfair.com 256-845-4752.

Ongoing Calendar

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

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

Gluten Free/Diabetic All Natural Cooking classes with Brenda Trace will be held at Little River Hardware at 6pm on Wednesdays. Classes $10.

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

DeKalb Quilters meet every 4th Tuesday, 9:30am, Second Baptist Church in Fort Payne.

DeSoto Rescue Squad meets the 1st Saturday of the month at 9am at the MERF house in Mentone.

Free Square Dance Lessons offered most Thursdays, 6:30pm, at Tom Bevill Center in Rainsville by Duos and Solos Dance Club. 256-639-2780.

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.

MAAC 2nd Saturday Art Market, second Saturday of every month from May-October except for August during the Longest Yard Sale.

Valley Head Band meets on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays, 4-6 pm at Smith Nursery at the top of Sand Mountain off of Hwy 117.
Moon Lake Elementary Gets Off to a Great Start!

Moon Lake Elementary School has had a fabulous start to a wonderful new year. We are very excited to welcome all the new personnel that have joined the educational team this year—principal Mary Lance, counselor Vanessa Henderson, librarian Rex Harrison, and fourth grade teacher Elizabeth Higgins— as well as welcoming back all of our returning staff. August was a time of settling in and beginning to plan events for the school year ahead. The students will have their first holiday on Monday, September 7, for Labor Day. Grandparent’s Day falls on a Sunday (the thirteenth) but will be observed at the school on Friday, September 11, and all grandparents are encouraged to come enjoy lunch with the students. Forms will be sent home with more details and should be returned so there will be a good estimate of attendance. We appreciate all the parents who joined us for open house as well as the youth group at Greater Vision Ministries, “Focus Students”, for providing refreshments.

Gifts of Love for Valley Head School

Lookout Mountain Wholistic Center distributed backpacks, supplies, and fees to Valley Head classrooms for two students per grade K-6th.
FILMED RIGHT HERE IN SCENIC MENTONE, ALABAMA, SOUTHERN HEART IS A SWEET, “FEEL-GOOD” MOVIE that is sure to make you smile. Join us and see a few old friends who are no longer with us (the Mentone Springs Hotel and Jack Jones, to name a couple) and a few who were just children back in the 90s when this film was shot using local folks as extras. We’re inviting any of those who were in the film to join us for the event. Shoot, you or someone you know may have been in it! The clock gets turned back for the night.

Local filming locations include Mentone Springs Hotel, Mentone Inn, Nippersink Lodge, Log Cabin Deli (now Moonlite Bistro), Cragsmere Manna & many more.

SATURDAY, SEPT 12, 2015
MENTONE INN PAVILION
FREE MUSIC 5:30-7:30 central time
MOVIE STARTS AFTER DARK (AROUND 7:30-ISH)
Limited seating available. Bring your lawn chairs or blankets.

Have dinner with us! Hot dogs, chips & a drink for only $5
Free popcorn! Sodas/water $1.00 *

PRESENTED BY MENTONE BUSINESS ASSOCIATION
*Drink sales proceeds and donations will be accepted to support the “Mentone Relief Fund” to build public restroom facilities at Mentone.
Worship

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

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

Lea’s Chapel Baptist Church invites you to worship with us. 10AM Sunday Bible Study, 11AM Morning Worship, 6PM Evening Worship. Wednesday 6-8PM Awana (ages 4 to 18); 6:30pm Praise and Prayer time. Located at 4212 County Road 751, Valley Head. 635-1001. Visitors are always welcome at the Valley Head United Methodist Church. Please join us each Sunday morning for a traditional worship service at 9:30AM. Tony Gunter is the Pastor. All are welcome.

Wildwood Seventh Day Adventist Church, Mentone Chapter, is currently holding services in the Woodmen of the World Hall in Valley Head. All are invited to attend! Sabbath School and Song Service: 9:30-10:45AM; Worship Service 11:00-12:15. Pastor - Wilbur Atwood; Lay Pastors - James Hartley and Ryan Bunnel.

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

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 1519 Smith Gap Road (County Road 85), Fort Payne. Regular Worship Services are at 10AM Sunday. Bible class or Lent/Advent services every Wednesday at 6:30PM. Steve Schrader, Pastor - 845-4314. Everyone welcome.

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

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

Grace Presbyterian Church (PCA), 5760 Gautl 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, Menlo, GA. Pastor and Rev. Tommy Pledger welcome each and everyone to worship service Sunday morning at 11AM GA time; Sunday School 10AM GA time; Wednesday night Bible Study 7PM GA time.

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

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

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

Mentone Community Church, 90 Summerville Rd, Mentone, AL 35984. Pastor Tim Miller; Crosswalk Sunday School K through Adult - 9:15am; Traditional Worship Service 11AM. Sunday evening youth activities; knitting ministry for ladies each Tuesday at 9AM. Pastor Jeff Davis, Associate Pastor Keith Davis. Address: 1203 New Oregan 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 11AM each Sunday. All welcome! Wednesdays at 6PM we have supper and a brief devotional time together. Pastor George Moses.


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

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, Associate Pastor Keith Davis. Address: 1203 New Oregon Dr., Ft. Payne, AL 35967. Phone 256-845-7446.

Cloudland Presbyterian Church welcomes everyone to come join us for services, with Pastor Roger Kvarn. 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.


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 11AM each Sunday. All welcome! Wednesdays at 6PM we have supper and a brief devotional time together. Pastor George Moses.


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

Happy Labor Day!
DeKalb County VFW Agricultural Fair

This year will mark the 60th Annual DeKalb VFW Agricultural Fair. It will take place September 28-October 3. Each day is filled with good, clean fun for the entire family. The fair brings the community together by displaying local talents and providing a fun filled environment to make life-long memories. The fair has something for every member of the family. There is an assortment of exhibits displaying community talent. These exhibits feature photography, sketches, paintings, canned goods, quilts, and so much more. The fair also features live music, live animals, and an impressive display of agricultural supremacy. There are several rides that are enjoyed by all ages, as well as games of chance. Vendors sell delightful treats each day. A trip to the fair is never complete without a homemade funnel cake or classic corn dog!

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<tr>
<th>DAY</th>
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<tr>
<td>MONDAY</td>
<td>Fun Night (tickets only)</td>
<td>Southern Bound (country, light rock)</td>
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<td>TUESDAY</td>
<td>Armband $20 Rida-A-Thon</td>
<td>WQSB Country Music Night</td>
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<td>WEDNESDAY</td>
<td>Dollar Night</td>
<td>WZCT Gospel Night</td>
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<td>THURSDAY</td>
<td>2-for-1 Night</td>
<td>Big Wills Art Council - Arts in Education ALL STARS</td>
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<tr>
<td>FRIDAY</td>
<td>Fun Night (tickets only)</td>
<td>Huntsville Army Band - Sonic Fusion</td>
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<td>SATURDAY</td>
<td>$18 Ride-A-Thon 10am-3pm</td>
<td>Sharps and Jay Parrack and the Vocal Event</td>
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Kids’ Korner

Fun at the Fair

Across
1. Most of these go round and round
2. Listen to this while you ride
3. Don’t let these float away
4. These come on at night
5. Frozen treat
6. What you try to win playing a game
7. Light and fluffy and sweet
8. What you try to win playing a game

Down
1. Most of these go round and round
3. Don’t let these float away
5. Frozen treat
6. Play these to win a prize
7. Light and fluffy and sweet
8. What you try to win playing a game

Valley Head Pee Wee Football Schedule

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Valley Head Junior Varsity Football Schedule

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<td>SEP 14</td>
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<td>OCT 5</td>
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Valley Head Varsity Football Schedule

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<td>Coosa Christian</td>
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<td>SEP 11</td>
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<td>Cedar Bluff</td>
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<td>SEP 18</td>
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<td>Gaylesville</td>
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<td>SEP 25</td>
<td>OPEN</td>
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<td>OCT 9</td>
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<td>Jacksonville Christian</td>
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<td>OCT 30</td>
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<td>Senior Night</td>
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*SEP 11 Senior Night
**OCT 16 Homecoming
YOU’VE SEEN IT; ADMIRE IT; WONDERED ABOUT IT. Now’s your chance to own it. The Biddle Farm. The land grant goes back to 1910 when the very first log cabin was 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). Other delights include large, fenced back yard; restored original wrought-iron gated entrance; 2-car attached garage; new clothesline; much more! Exterior restoration work is complete, inside still needs some TLC. Yours for only $375,000 (1027046)

OWNERS FINANCING AVAILABLE! WALNUT COTTAGE. Downtown Mentone. 2BR/2BA. From the studs to the rafters & everything in between, this is a new house. Hardwood floors, stainless appliances, vaulted ceiling, quality fixtures, custom-designed interior & exterior. The perfect Mentone getaway or home. Beautiful landscaping, screen porch, fenced back yard & new deck w/pergola. $165,500 (1023749)

THE CHARM, THE SPACE, THE LOCATION! It’s all here. 1950s farm cottage on 3 acres w/reat additions & recent renovations. Spacious living/dining room w/wood burning fireplace; separate bedroom; 2nd floor w/3rd bedroom & outbuilding w/workshop/equipment shed. Fruit trees, grape vines, strawberry bed, garden spots. Mentone. $169,000 (1024663)

CUTE AND COMPACT little downtown Mentone cottage offers a variety of uses. Currently a residence & gallery, you could continue using it for this, or as a shop, or as a vacation rental... or all of the above! All the furnishings (including locally-crafted pieces) will remain. Move-in ready! Nice landscaping, artsy cedar railings on the porch (the rocking chairs go with it, too)! $147,000 (1022969)

I DIDN’T KNOW THERE WAS A CABIN THERE!!! A cute little board-n-batten cabin, so tucked away in the trees, most folks don’t even know it’s there. Owner has kept a few chickens. Public water & power already in place! Great place for RV or to build your getaway. $39,900. (311288)

LITTLE RIVER CANYON RIM PKWY. 6 acres; beautiful hardwoods; views & serenity. If you’re thinking of self-sufficiency, here’s the place to nestle down. The offerings of Little River Canyon are right there before you: Kayaking, swimming, mountain biking. No, it isn’t your typical residential area, so don’t expect it. Expect wildlife, creeks, beauty. $45,000 (1024070)

8.9 ACRES WITH APPROX 136' BROW FRONTAGE on Citadel Rock Rd, near the back entrance of DeSoto State Park. Beautiful wooded land with large paved road frontage. $89,000 (692525)

2.2 UNRESTRICTED, WOODED ACRES Mentone. Corner property; excellent areas to walk, bicycle or keep a few chickens. Public water & power at the road. Great building site for one or a couple of cabins. $25,000 (1011111)

1.66 ACRES, wooded. Private. Public water & underground power. Lightly restricted. Common access to E Fork Little River. Lot 19, Hunters Ridge. Phase III. Adjacent 2.06 acre lot also for sale. $15,000 (430891)
Kamama Offers the Community an Artistic Experience

By Kelly Leavitt

Over the last three years, Kamama Gallery has become known for its collection of original artwork from our region. “Kamama” means “butterfly” in the Cherokee language, and just as the butterfly grows to maturity through metamorphosis, so has Kamama grown.

My partner, Steve Lockhart, and I began managing the art gallery in early July. We’ve made a variety of changes and invite the community to come in and experience our new stage of growth.

We join owners Ray and Sandra Padgett in our vision for Kamama Gallery to be known as a destination for an “artistic experience” — whether it be the visual arts, musical arts, or the written and spoken word. Our aim is to represent some of the region’s finest professional artists, and also to offer our community (including children) a wide variety of classes, talks, groups and special events.

This month, we’ll host “Dinner and a Show,” an Open House/Artists’ Reception, live music in celebration of National Hispanic Heritage Month, and the new Kamama Book Club. We’re also in the process of scheduling: The Art of Flower Arranging; Beginning Watercolor; The Geometry of Nature; The Ancient Art of Henna Tattoo; poetry readings; a writers’ group; and a community knitting circle.

We invite you to regularly visit the “Community” page on our website at www.kamamamentone.com to keep abreast of our new events.

Kamama welcomes the following new artists to the gallery’s “stable.” Arthur Price is a respected Birmingham artist whose large-scale canvasses beautifully portray moments in time, often with ethereal, evocative and mystical overtones. Lisa Q. Caldwell, who resides near Summerville, GA, works with a variety of media, including a technique she calls “trompe loeil stained glass.” Her vivid canvasses portray a story for each viewer to determine. Birmingham artist Tracie Noles-Ross is well known for her prolific expression in a variety of media. Much of her work depicts a nature-based “spiritual surrealism.” Vickie Wheeler, of Springville, will be displaying a collection of sterling silver and copper jewelry, along with some unique and stylized clay pieces, both utilitarian and decorative. Rick Sanders is known for his highly realistic imagery, as well as his abstracts. Rick lives in Florida and plans to build soon on his land in Cloudland.

We sincerely hope our entire community will feel like they have a “place” at Kamama, whether it’s to purchase original art, to simply view and appreciate it, or to participate in any of our scheduled events. We look forward to getting to know you!

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FOR SALE

GET AWAY FROM IT ALL!

Newer home in Mentone
off County Road 106.
2BR/2BA, vaulted ceiling,
central heat/AC plus 2 gas fireplaces.
13+ wooded acres w/ hiking trails.
Large barn, screened in porch
w/beautiful year-round view
overlooking and including small lake.

$210,000
256-634-8017
Cozy Comfortable! Charming. Open great room w/built-in bookcases & stone fireplace w/ gas logs. Kitchen has Corian countertops and custom cabinets. Great room w/built-in bookcases & large vaulted ceilings. Loft guest bedroom on 2 acres! $239,000. MLS #1017671.

Cozy 1 Bedroom! 1 bath cabin in Laurel Creek Lakes Subdivision. Kitchen appliances, central heat and air, gas logs. $149,900. MLS #1002623.

Beautiful Log Home near Mentone. 1-1/2 story. 2BR/2.5BA home, open floor plan, large vaulted ceilings. Loft guest bedroom overlooking living areas. 1st screened in porch. $239,000. MLS #1015755.

Look Out at DeSoto Falls! Building lot with a darling 1 bedroom cottage ready for use. Plenty of room with 2BR/2.5BA, unfinished basement and large balcony. $465,000 #970196.

For Lots and Land Listings...

Owl's Roost! Adorable cabin on wooded lot, furnished with brass bed and country antiques. $118,000 MLS #690526.

Beautiful Log Home near Mentone & DeSoto State Park features vaulted ceilings and wood burning FP. Kitchen has all appliances. Main level Master BR/BA. 2BR/BA upstairs. Screened porch, deck and carport. $211,000. MLS #1018895.

Golden Opportunity! Last tenants pay your mortgage. 5 apt's! Large retail space & storage building. Call for more details. $230,000. MLS #1025640.

Handicapped Woodwork throughout this 2BR/2BA mountain home. Great room w/ cathedral ceiling, full front & back porches, large utility room all on a wooded lot. Located in Laurel Creek Lakes area access to 3 lakes & walking trails. $274,500. MLS #1017450.

NEAR LITTLE RIVER CANYON. 3BR/3BA log cabin w/ lake, wood floors/walls, ceilings, open living/dining/kitchen, rock woodburning FP, screened porch, deck, loft/basement/ gameroom. $449,500. MLS #1017450.

Rustic Cabin near Mentone. 1-1/2 story, 2BR/2.5BA home, open floor plan, large vaulted ceilings. Loft guest bedroom overlooking living areas. 1st screened in porch. $239,000. MLS #1015755.

Enjoy Life in this custom log get-a-way on 4 secluded acres. Loft bedroom and 1 bath with wood floors offering a cozy atmosphere and a front porch complete the picture. $110,000. MLS #1001478.

MANY POSSIBILITIES! This commercial building offers office space w/ restrooms, open warehouse space & covered back open area. 4.5 acres with plenty of parking. $185,000. MLS #1013566.

Bear's Lair – Adorable cabin currently in a rental program. 3BR/2BA with a brow view. $299,900 MLS #692795.

LIVING & PLAY ON THE WATER! 200+ ft of frontage on East Park of Little River featuring 3BR/2BA, rock floors, some carpet, all appliances, WB fireplace, & storage building. Call for more details. $239,900. MLS #P02940.

Brow Property! 3BR/1BA on 2.3 +/- acres. Lots of brow views. Master & guest BR's have own screened porches. Kit has custom cabinets, granite counter tops, a breakfast bar, all appliances! $199,000. MLS #104080.

Brow Property with spectacular views! 3 br/3 ba with finished basement. And Large bonus area with outdoor access to admiire the views. $249,900. MLS #1010897.

Cozy 1 Bedroom. 1 bath cabin in Laurel Creek Lakes Subdivision. Kitchen appliances, central heat and air, gas logs. $149,900. MLS #1002623.

Owl's Roost! Adorable cabin on wooded lot, furnished with brass bed and country antiques. $118,000 MLS #690526.

Little River/Lake Lushage/Mentone East Fork of Little River cottage has FP, wood floors, P&B ceiling in living area, NEW porch, deck, some doors & windows, covered front porch and rocks. Built to preserve the property’s atmosphere and a front porch complete the picture. $425,000. MLS #1019742.

Brow Property! 3BR/2BA overlooking the water features line walls & floors, vaulted 13 ceilings and fireplaces. Enjoy your own relaxing paradise w/patio of Mountain Laurels and rocks. Built to preserve the property’s natural beauty. $495,000. MLS #1019610.

Bear's Lair – Adorable cabin currently in a rental program. 3BR/2BA with a brow view. $299,900 MLS #692795.
Boom Days: 10 Years of Celebrating Heritage

By Russell Gulley
Director, Big Wills Arts Council

From the beginning, The Boom Days Heritage Celebration in Fort Payne was designed to celebrate the heritage, culture, and traditions of Fort Payne and the surrounding area. With cultural tourism becoming quickly one of the fastest growing segments in travel around the country, Boom Days is focused on presenting the heritage of our area to the growing numbers of tourists that seek an enriching, cultural, weekend experience within a one to three hour drive from their homes. That trend is bringing more and more folks to DeKalb County for such an experience.

This year, not only has the festival grown significantly in the number of attendees, but has been named The Alabama Tourism Event of the Year, a distinction shared by some of the largest festivals in Alabama. In the past, events such as Bayfest in Mobile, the Talladega 500, and others have been awarded this title. These events are most often held in much larger communities than a town of 14,000; so, to receive the award and to be in such company is really a tremendous honor. According to the Al.com news service statement recently in a Mobile, Alabama newspaper, “Boom Days in ten short years has become one of the region’s premier venues for art, music, and heritage in the Southeast”.

Fort Payne and DeKalb County are known around the world for their tremendous musical heritage. From the singing of the Sacred Harp and the 107 year old tradition of the DeKalb County Fiddlers’ Convention, to the 50’s hillbilly and sacred music of Country Music Hall of Famers, The Louvin Brothers and right on down to the super group, “ALABAMA”, also in the Country Music Hall of Fame, the heritage runs deep. Boom Days has always presented not only the best regional, and even national, touring musical artists, but also local artists in all genres have been on its stages. Presenting musical performances on multiple stages allows the festival to devote one stage exclusively to traditional music. In the City Park downtown, along side nationally curated visual artists, such as The Gees Bend Quilters- recipients of our Nation’s Highest Honor for Traditional Arts - Potter Jerry Brown (also an NEA Fellowship recipient), and others - traditional music goes hand in hand. This year’s lineup features some of our area’s most acclaimed musical talents.

Norman Blake, Multi Grammy Winning Guitarist who has toured and recorded with some of the greatest musical luminaries in American music including Johnny Cash, June Carter, Bob Dylan, Steve Earle, Kris Kristofferson, Ralph Stanley, and Joan Baez will perform with his wife, Nancy and master fiddler, James Bryan. Blake also played on the Nitty Gritty Dirt Band album, Will the Circle Be Unbroken, garnering a Gold Record. He is well known for his work with John Hartford, Tony Rice, and his wife, Nancy Blake. From 1969 to 1971 he was a regular on ABC’s The Johnny Cash Show, supplementing Cash’s ‘Tennessee Three’ band.

Also the stage will feature Pierce Pettis, nationally acclaimed touring singer/songwriter whose songs have been recorded by Joan Boaz, Garth Brooks, and others. Pierce is a native of Fort Payne. Local singer/songwriter Dean Mitchell, who has traveled the world performing his tribute to Jimmie Rodgers, The Father of Country Music, will host the stage. The list of past and present musical artists, as well as visual artists and events, is really way too long to present here but be sure to look at the website www.boomdays.org, for complete lists, not only of past Boom Days, but for complete info on this year’s Boom Days, The Alabama Tourism Event of the Year.
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Lookout Mountain Parkway
Mentone, AL 35984
Chelsea Carrier Manning
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LOTs And Acreage

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

5.7 WOODED ACRES with a beautiful water view across from Lake Luhassage. 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)


NICELY WOODED 5 ACRES with stream located on Desoto Parkway, Mentone. Residential or commercial use. Old Homestee, large rock formations. Possibilities are endless. $90,000 (22824)

.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. $114,900. (23043)

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

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

SOUTHAND LOG HOME on the East fork Little River. 5.5 acres. Deck, lighted walkway to lower property, stone patio halfway to river steps and landing to river. 2 bdrm, 2 bths. loft. Vaulted ceiling with exposed beams. Fully equipped kitchen with granite counters, stacked stone FP, 2 story with Basement. Separate 30x40 garage, large enough for motor home/boat with all the comfort. Price reduction to $275,000

THE SHADOWS, A UNIQUE LOG CABIN. Sunroom, 2 bdrm, 1.5 baths. 2 fireplaces. Living Dining combo, sitting room. Native landscaped yard. Covered porch. $197,000. (23143)

CAMBRIA BLEU COMPOUND. California style in serene country setting. 2 story Herringbone brick home complete with archedway entrance. Porches overlooking lake, fields, old home place and the ridges beyond. Inside on main level, walk-in to the foyer that opens into the great room, dining with travertine F.P. 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 bdrms. 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. $194,900. (23094)

HISTORIC DINKY LINE Railway runs through the property. 3.8 acres on the East Fork Little river. 175 ft. on water with a deep swimming hole, and rapids. Lightly restricted. County water and power available. Located on Lookout Mt, Mentone area. $46,000

NICE LEVEL WOODED property with partial drive and homesite easy access to the middle fork of little river, restrictive covenants. Located Mountain River Estates. $57,000

ESTATE located in East fork little River Estates. Nicely wooded with a portion of the historic Dinky Line Railway. 175 ft. on river (Cherokee Co. Mentone). Restricted and county water and power available. $45,000

DIXIELAND DELIGHT Farm in Mentone, AL. Beautiful 19.3 acres with open pasture, 2 ponds, wooded area with trails for horseback or ATV. Barn with tack or equipment storage. Fenced for livestock. City water and paved road frontage. $169,000. (23036)

IDEAL HUNTING PRESERVE Feed plots already planted and creek runs through property. Hollows, a great spot to build a lake. Wildlife such as deer, turkey abundant. $1,650 an acre. 100-150 acres available. (23116)

COTTAGE ON LITTLE RIVER CANYON. What a peaceful setting and private. 2 bdrm with sleeping loft, 2 baths. Great room with Rock Fireplace. Covered front porch and grilling deck. Adjoins on the back side Wildlife management and in the front the canyon preserve. Private access. $135,000 (23096)

NESTLED AMONG LARGE ROCK FORMATIONS is a quaint 2 bdr. 2bth cottage with open living/dining room with gas fp. Sun-room/office off master suite. Screened front porch multi level decks, outdoor shower, garage workshop. Quiet and Serene this setting makes for a great get-away or home. (23164)

HIGH ROAD, Cloudland, GA. 5.5 acres with stream and small waterfall. 3bd, 2bth, ranch style home. Living room, new flooring, kitchen with built in pantry, CHA. Guest cabin with 1 bdrm, 1 bth. 3 bay garage/workspace. 2. wells. $148,000. (23152)

CHARMING LOG CABIN circa 1920s in Cloudland, GA. Renovated but kept with its original logs, windows, doors & doors. 4 bdrm, 2 bth. Living room with stone FP. 3 fench doors leading to the screened porch & large deck that overlooks stone picnic tables, stone FP. & BBQ chimney. Seasonal creek run over the rocks from 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. $183,000

$169,000 (23036)

APPT ONLY. $150k (22865)

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

$329,900

COTTAGE ON LITTLE RIVER CANYON. What a peaceful setting and private. 2 bdrm with sleeping loft, 2 baths. Great room with Rock Fireplace. Covered front porch and grilling deck. Adjoins on the back side Wildlife management and in the front the canyon preserve. Private access. $135,000 (23096)

5 ACRES with stream located on Desoto Parkway, Mentone. Wooded with rock, gas fireplace. Eat in kitchen/dining, full semi finished basement. Located on DeSoto Parkway, Mentone. $169,000. (23036)

$182,000

SOUTHERN LOG HOME on the East fork Little River. 5.5 acres. Deck, lighted walkway to lower property, stone patio halfway to river steps and landing to river. 2 bdrm, 2 bths. 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/boat with all the comforts. Price reduction to $275,000

$329,900

The Groundhog
September 2015

5.7 WOODED ACRES with a beautiful water view across from Lake Luhassage. 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)

 adorn! Total of 90 acres. $974,900 (23094)
The Rhododendron Garden Club met on August 11, at the MERF House. After calling the meeting to order, President Martha Wood led the members in the Pledge of Allegiance. Dee Kelly gave the devotional “The Optimistic Gardener” which encouraged us to sow seeds of optimism, enjoy each day as a gift, and that planting a garden is truly faith in action. Committee reports followed.

Marsha Merrell is spearheading the ban of neonicotinoid pesticides that directly threaten pollinators, but especially the bee population, and urges everyone to write to the EPA. Exposure to these pesticides contributes to the Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD) which means, in layman terms, the bees go crazy and don’t know how to get home. Letters were given and each member was urged to mail it to the EPA requesting an immediate ban of all uses of neonicotinoids. For an address for the EPA or copy of the letter, call Mellanie Tuttle (634-4403). As renowned entomologist, Marla Sparks puts it: “Anyone who cares about the health of the planet, for now and for generations to come, needs to answer this wake-up call.”

Martha Wood then challenged us to join the Million Garden Challenge - “a nationwide call to action to create gardens and landscapes that help revive the health of bees, butterflies, birds, bats and other pollinators across America.” For more information or to register your garden, go to millionpollinatorgardens.org or contact Mellanie Tuttle. Our club is committed 100% to: use plants that provide nectar and pollen sources; provide a water source; be situated in sunny places with wind breaks; use native and non-invasive plants; establish continual bloom throughout the season and eliminate or limit the use of pesticides.

In the first order of new business, the motion was made, moved and ayed by all seven members present to meet year round. Next year, summer folks can join us on the second Tuesday of June and July for field trips or scintillating and topical gardening issues. The Garden Club welcomes Rex Harrison, Jr. as the new Moon Lake Librarian, Mary Lance as the new principal, Vanessa Henderson as the new counselor, and Elizabeth Higgins as the new fourth grade teacher. We offer our expertise and would be delighted to join forces with the elementary students in fostering a love of gardening and related environmental concerns.

After the program presentation, “Design Types”, five members decided to enter designs in the Fall Flower Show at the VFW. “Fireworks on the Lake” is the title for club entry. Since the plans are hush, our efforts will just have to be viewed at the show. Decisions to be made - Which design type to choose? How to interpret the theme? Which container to use? Fresh or dried plant material? Traditional or creative? The Principals of Design by which all visual art forms are judged include balance, contrast, dominance, proportion, rhythm, and scale. How to organize the Elements of Design (line, form, color, texture, pattern, size, space, and light) so that the Principals are achieved is always challenging and excites the imagination and creativity of the designer. So much fun! Anyone who wishes to attend the District II Federation Meeting on October 28 at the VFW Hall in Fort Payne is welcome to attend. The cost is $15.00 and includes lunch, the program - “Water in NE AL” presented by Angie Shugart of One World Adventure and lots of door prizes. Our club’s educational exhibit, “Pollinators in the Garden” (Blue Ribbon winner from last year’s fall show), will also be on display.

Our next meeting will be Tuesday, September 8. We will meet at the MERF House and then carpool to Valley Head for a beekeeping encounter of the first kind. We are a small, but mighty, club and welcome all who hopefully become new members.

The Rhododendron Garden Club is a member of the NE Alabama Federation of Garden Clubs, The Garden Club of Alabama, Inc., District II Deep South Region and National Garden Club.
Sage Advice: Ah!! September

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

We have had a hot summer, but September is upon us with, hopefully, cooler days. I am ready to do some fall planting, and I hope you are, too. Did you know the fall season is really the best time to plant most trees, shrubs, and perennials? The cooling ground temperature helps the root system to establish itself better, and the moisture in the ground remains longer. The plants are not fighting the heat and the stress of trying to both bloom and get roots growing as they should.

Think back over the spring and summer blooming seasons of those plants you saw and want to grow in your landscape. They may not be blooming now, but by planting them now, they will be ready next year to “do their thing” in all their glory. And, most of them are available from your local garden center. Did you see a new color of crape myrtle or rose? Maybe you would like a nice evergreen shrub or tree to add some winter interest. How about some new perennials such as the winter blooming hellebores or some evergreen ferns? Even those perennials that go dormant can be planted now before all their foliage dies back (so you can mark their spot for spring).

By planting spring flowering shrubs and perennials now, in the spring you can concentrate on just cleaning your beds and watching your garden grow. There are many new varieties of perennials to include in your flower beds. I would suggest some columbines, astilbes, hellebores, heucheras, and hostas for the shade areas of your landscape. For those few sunny areas of your mountain land, try some new sedum, verbena, coneflowers, Shasta daisies, salvia, or daylilies. There are so many more new varieties. Again, contact your local garden shop for your needs.

The fall is also the time to plant spring blooming bulbs – daffodils, tulips, hyacinths, crocus, muscari, or alliums. They should be planted in October and November when the ground is cooler so they will not germinate too early. The bulbs should be planted three times their size in depth, i.e., a 2 inch bulb should be planted six inches deep. Most soil on the mountain will need some composted manure or other soil amendment to provide the nutrients needed for good growth. A bulb fertilizer may be added to the hole, also. The same soil amendment will be good for perennials and shrubs. If they are evergreens, a little time released fertilizer may be added to the hole as they will continue to grow through the fall and winter. For those perennials and shrubs that go dormant in the cold weather, wait until early spring to fertilize them.

I love planting in the fall, not just because it is a good time for the project, but I enjoy being able to get outside without sweating and dealing with mosquitoes and other critters. I hope you get as much pleasure from your gardening as I do from mine.

Please contact me at earthly_elements@aol.com with your gardening comments or questions.

DINNER INVITATION
By Doug Kiker

Eight young’ns running ‘round the yard,
From babies to half grown,
To the in-betweens.
Their daddy called, “frying size.”
Pot bellies stuck out—
Matching their pop-eyes.

The hot sandy yard was dotted with chicken droppings
And goat pills of different sizes.
Standing on the porch, I wondered
If coming to dinner was wise.
However, this thought was too late.
I had already come through ‘that’ gate.
Their mother hollered out the door…
While stooping to pick up ‘something’ on the floor.

“Y’ll come git it ‘fo it’s too late.”
There was the sound of bare feet
As they rushed to their plate.

A somewhat clean rag was passed around,
And from their hands they wiped the brown.
When it got to me…I just put it down.
Not that I was nitty, but by now it looked like the ground.

The table was bare, save for one big steaming bowl in the center…
When I saw what was in it,
I jumped, and quickly said that I had sat on a splinter.
For it was a big bowl of rice…
Now that alone would have been nice.
But, there in that bowl that seemed to be old,
Was something to behold.
Standing proud in that rice and steam,
Were parts of chickens that I had never seen—
On the table, in a bowl I mean.

Feet! All yellow and white—and maybe clean.
The bowl was passed around.
There were squeals of delight
As if a new toy had been found.
When it came to me, I tried to be nice…
And said, “I’ll just take a little rice.”
ATTENTION GROUNDHOG READERS!
Copies of The Groundhog are available at the following locations:

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BALANCE IN THE FALL
By Anna Mae Horn

This month brings some exciting celestial events as autumn arrives. According to "The Old Farmer's Almanac," the official beginning of the season is marked by the autumnal equinox which will be September 23rd at 4:21 a.m. this year. Location plays a factor, but sometime close to that date, we should have twelve hours each of daylight and darkness. The times of equinox are said to bring about balance in more ways than the hours of night and day. To see this in action, stand an egg on its end, preferably as close to the moment of equinox as possible. Place the egg on a hard, flat surface on its largest end. Carefully pull your hands away, and it should remain upright! Remember that due to location, the moment of equinox can vary, so try this at different times before and after the official date.

This September will flatter us with a Harvest 'Supermoon' on the 27th, but it will be completely shadowed by a full eclipse in our area from about 9:11 to 10:24 p.m., which is always nice to observe. The Harvest moon is the full moon nearest the occurrence of autumnal equinox and provides more light for harvesting crops; Supermoons are closer to the Earth than other full moons, and September’s will be the closest of the year--an interesting event for sure. For more fascinating facts, go to almanac.com and learn all the details behind the changes of the season. Be sure to watch the skies on the 27th and post the photo of your egg standing on end to our facebook page, The Groundhog.

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Neither scorching temperatures nor pouring rain could keep me from my mission during the World’s Longest Yard Sale--projects for The Groundhog. Starting a day early, I just knew I would beat the thousands of junkers to the best deals. Not so, as many of the vendors had not set up due to threat of rain. I did manage to find a couple of really great treasures that I just know would not have been there the next day. My favorite purchase of the yard sale by far were two old flour sifters which came out of old Hoosier cabinets. I plan to make two wall lamps out of them to hang over the beds in my guest bedroom. I also purchased a cute little iron table (see photo). As the rain came and vendors starting covering up, I gave up and headed home only to start another day.

On Day Two, my good friend Cindy Beard and I scoured the Mentone treasures. I spotted an iron table painted in “that perfect Martha Stewart turquoise” only to find out it sold 15 minutes prior to my arrival. As you will learn, that seemed to be the story of my life during this year’s yard sale. We did however purchase a few items... Cindy an old piece of Fiestaware and me a vintage embroidered pillow cover and what I thought was a vintage Ford Mustang ornament for $1 (only to find out it was a Ford Bronco ornament... but it was worth $35 on Ebay).

My husband Jim is always on the lookout for old radios, guitars, cameras and records. Of course nobody wants to plow through record albums in 100 degree heat! We did find a bunch of old drafting tools which I will put into a shadow box for his office.

On Day Four we went back to where we ended the day before and came the rest of the way back to Mentone. I bought a small wicker table plus a couple of coffee bean bags which I will make into pillows. It seems by this time we were mainly “window shopping”--perusing the vendors’ wares from the road--as burn-out set in.

On Day Five, we took it easy and went down Hwy. 117 to the state line and back. Our only purchase was an old gas can which we will put to good use--holding gas for the lawnmower. It will replace one of those new-fangled plastic gas cans that nobody can figure out. Back to basics, I say!

For the most part, it seemed that this year’s yard sale was down in vendor and shopper numbers. And, I didn’t find several items I was looking for; but, we still had a great time. I hope you enjoy my trash-to-treasure projects.