



THE GROUNDHOG

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Volume 41, No. 4

"Neighborly News from the Heart of Lookout Mountain"

April 2022

THE HISTORIC NIPPERSINK LODGE

by Doreen Crow Waters

I was recently asked by *The Groundhog's* editor if I would be interested in writing articles about some of the older homes and buildings in Mentone, particularly the stone structures. I quickly said I would. My grandfather, Lee Crow, was a master stonemason who was responsible for much of the stonework on the older homes in Mentone. Many of them I have only seen at a distance, so having the opportunity to see his work up close was a thrilling prospect.

A few weeks ago, I had the pleasure of meeting Therese Cox, one of the Disney family members who now own the historic Nippersink Lodge. Although I had been inside the lodge many years ago with my mother, my only clear memory was of the massive fireplace in the main gathering room of the lodge.

Nippersink was built in 1934 for Mrs. Eugene Taylor of Murfreesboro, Tennessee, as a summer gathering place for her friends and family. Designed by a Birmingham architect, a Mr. Weldon, it was the second home to be built in "DeSoto Falls Park," a 300-acre upscale subdivision proposed by ambitious



land developers in the 1920s.

Entering the lodge and the other buildings on the grounds is like walking into a time capsule. Inside and out, very little has been altered since the buildings were constructed. In the lodge, the walls, ceilings, and floors are pine. A wagon wheel chandelier hangs in the great room, which features many small, handmade side tables made of twigs and half-logs, lots of cozy rockers and chairs, and an old upright piano in a

corner by the staircase, waiting to be played. The check-in desk just inside the entrance is composed of rustic half-logs. Overseeing the great room is a large deer head, also original to the building. Attached to the great room are two ample dining areas with picnic tables and rustic benches made of half-logs and twigs.

The second floor of the lodge holds nine guest rooms with baths, with lovely views of the river from the abundant windows. Simple beds, tables, and chests fill each room. The bathrooms still retain the original little ceramic wall sinks.

A large back porch, supported by huge log pillars and furnished with more rustic furniture, overlooks the gentle waters of Little River a short way upstream from DeSoto Falls.

The two-story lodge measures 66 feet wide and 33 feet deep and is similar in architecture to the Adirondack-style summer homes built in the Adirondack Mountains during the same period. The

(continued on page 14)

A treasured local landmark is drawing closer to its rebirth...



• moonlakecampus.us •

The former Moon Lake School campus has officially been deeded to the Town of Mentone. You are invited to take a short online survey at moonlakecampus.us to signify your interest in potential classes and activities on campus and ideas about how to make the project financially viable.

The Town wishes to:

- respect and preserve the school's historical heritage
- protect and promote its reputation as a beacon of learning
- nurture and ensure its future role as a vibrant part of the community.

If you do not have internet access, you may complete the survey on the public computers at Moon Lake Library in Mentone

during open hours. Seniors who attend MERF's Senior Lunches each Wednesday will have the opportunity to complete the survey at that time.

If you have never visited the campus, former Moon Lake School principal Dr. Bill Berry will offer tours of the former school buildings and grounds on Thursday, April 7, at 5:30 p.m. Meet on the front steps of Moon Lake School (5866 East River Road). Volunteers will be at the MERF House after the tour with their laptops to help anyone who would like to complete the survey.

Community feedback is a vital component of this project. Feel free to email moonlakecampus@gmail.com with any questions or comments.



THE GROUNDHOG

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MAPA was first conceived on Groundhog Day, 1982, and then organized on April 5, 1982. *The Groundhog* has been in publication for 39 years.

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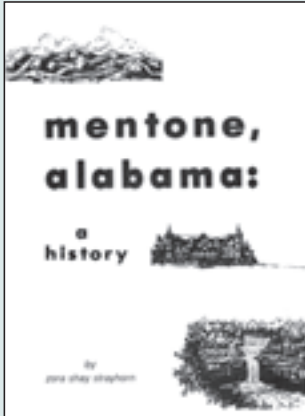
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The opinions, beliefs, and viewpoints expressed by the various authors in this publication do not necessarily reflect the opinions, beliefs, and viewpoints or policies of the Mentone Area Preservation Association.

Groundhog wood cut courtesy of Meg Justice

Do you have a story idea?
We welcome contributions!
Email groundhognews@yahoo.com



Learn about the History of Mentone
Zora Strayhorn's book, *Mentone, Alabama: A History*, is for sale at Mentone Market and DeSoto State Park. \$15; proceeds benefit MAPA.

Mentone Matters • by Mayor Rob Hammond

By now, Mentone area residents should have received a mailer concerning the future use of the Moon Lake School campus. Your input is important and will help guide the advisory committee in making recommendations to the town council.

Thanks in advance to all who are volunteering for the community cleanup April 2. The DeKalb County Sheriff's Department work crew has picked up the side of the mountain along AL 117. Lyle Nicely is again coordinating the event and directing the volunteer effort to clean up from town center to the state line. Cynthia Stinson, Mentone Inn, is hosting the community lunch for the volunteers. Thanks to all who provide



food. Bobby Hamby, DeKalb Computers, will be at Town Hall to collect electronics for recycling. Joseph Lee provides the truck to haul the litter to the landfill. Thanks to Chief Gene McKee and officer Mike Langston for patrolling and giving blue light assistance during the pick-up.



Letter from the Editor

With the spring renewal that surrounds us everywhere we look, our roads are looking renewed, as well. Community efforts make such a difference. It's a shame there's so much litter to be cleaned up, but thankfully there are caring people who give their time to pick it up. Thank you to all who keep our roads free of litter!

The Groundhog and MAPA strongly encourage everyone to go to moonlakecampus.us to take a survey regarding the future of the former Moon Lake School campus. Thanks to the team members who have come together under Dr. Bill Berry's leadership to help the Town of Mentone decide how to best use the property, hopefully for generations to come. Dr. Berry will be giving a tour of the campus on April 7 for those who aren't familiar with it. Details are on page 1.

This month's "Look Back" at the *Groundhog's* archives features Alice Mason O'Rear, perhaps best known for giving Mentone its name in the late 19th century. If you've been reading her daughter Ruby's diaries each month, it will likely interest you to learn more about Alice.

I enjoyed working with Doreen Crow Waters as she developed this month's feature story about Nippersink Lodge. I enjoyed, as well, working with Kathie Disney to compile the historic photographs that accompany the article. It's an impressive structure, particularly the stonework crafted by Lee Crow. The fireplace is astounding, in itself. Doreen will continue writing in future issues about other historic homes in the area.

In April's community calendar on page 18, you'll find a variety of programs being offered by DeSoto State Park. Due to space limitations, other events were not included, including some at the Little River Canyon Center. Check with the Center for their schedule of programs and events. We're all so fortunate to have these two extraordinary natural preserves so nearby. Don't forget to take advantage of them!

I wish you all a beautiful month. I haven't seen a hummingbird yet, but we did have a Luna moth on the front porch yesterday, and its vivid green coloring was happily a sign of things to come.

Be well, everyone. —*Kelly*



President's Message by Mark Hoffman

Wow, Spring has really sprung! I hope everyone is enjoying the new season and taking advantage of the nice weather to get outdoors and walk some of the wintertime rust off. One excellent way to do that is to participate in MAPA's charity golf tournament being held at Lil Mole Run on Friday, April 29. Put together a team (foursome) and come on out for a great day on the links with your buddies. More specific information and sign up materials can be found on our website at mapamentone.com. I hope to see you there. Meanwhile, please stay safe and help take care of your friends and neighbors.

Mark Hoffman is the president of the Mentone Area Preservation Association.

Mayor Rob Hammond Writes About John Kennedy and George Wallace

by Kelly Leavitt

As a young boy, Rob Hammond had the privilege to see Senator John F. Kennedy when his motorcade passed through Rob's hometown of LaGrange, Georgia. The date was October 10, 1960, and the presidential candidate had just given a speech at FDR's Little White House in Warm Springs, Georgia.

"It was a big day for all of us schoolchildren," said Rob. "We walked from the school up to Vernon Road, where we lined up on the sidewalk to view the motorcade. Kennedy was sitting on the back of a yellow convertible with a white interior, wearing a blue suit and a deep tan.

It seemed like he had a special wave and a smile for all the teachers. He was definitely connected to everybody; you could tell that."

"As a 6th grader," Rob continued, "watching his inauguration on a black and white television in the library was a big deal. It was so interesting to us because we'd seen him. I was aware of his being a war hero, and that helped make him more of a historical figure to me. Listening to him speak, I remember having the

feeling that we could overcome the problems the nation was facing at the time. He encouraged people to pursue public service. He was articulate, and he was funny."

The excitement of the day has followed Rob throughout his life.

His enduring enthusiasm about Kennedy has led him to write two articles for *Vanderbilt Magazine*, published by Rob's alma mater, Vanderbilt University, where he earned his B.A. in political science with a minor in history. The articles discussed, respectively, the 30th



Senator John F. Kennedy on campaign trail in LaGrange, Georgia, October 10, 1960

and 50th anniversaries of Kennedy's visit to Vanderbilt on May 18, 1963.

"For the second article, the editor wanted something different, so that led me on a search for photos," Rob said.

Rob and his wife San visited the JFK Presidential Library in Boston. He had written ahead of time to make an appointment and to request any photographs of Kennedy taken on May 18, 1963. "The photos weren't yet digitized," said Rob, "so

they brought me a folder which included all the photographs they had from that day. A lot of them had never been seen before. That was a pretty good find. Once I selected the photos I wanted, the library digitized them and sent them to me on a disc."

Some of the photos were of Kennedy and George Wallace.

Rob is the owner/director of Camp Laney in Mentone, and when camp was closed in the summer of 2020 due to the pandemic, he decided to use his unexpected free time to write more specifically about Kennedy's visit to Alabama and his interaction with George Wallace.

"I had all this good material, especially the pictures which had never been published before, and during the pandemic I had a little time to put something together," said Rob. "I wrote it as an article, but I never found a home for it, so I decided to publish it as a short book.

"For this one day in history, I've probably spent 50 hours researching, maybe more," he said.

After the president's visit to Vanderbilt, he flew by Army helicopter to Muscle Shoals, where he was greeted by Wallace as he debarked. Wallace joined Kennedy on the platform as the president gave a speech recognizing the 30th anniversary of the signing of the bill that created the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA). Wallace then accompanied the president on the helicopter ride to Redstone Arsenal in Huntsville, where he again shared the platform during the president's brief remarks to members of the armed services and their families and to those working in the space program.

On November 17, 1963, the day before Wallace and Kennedy first met in Muscle Shoals, Wallace had referred to Kennedy's "military dictatorship," referring to the president's potential use of federal troops to quell any civil unrest arising from the upcoming integration of the University of Alabama.

Pierre Salinger, Kennedy's press secretary, kept detailed notes about the brief discussion between Kennedy and Wallace which took place on the helicopter ride to Huntsville. Rob was fortunate to find a copy of Salinger's notes at the JFK Library.

Rob Hammond's recently published book, *Kennedy and Wallace—May 18, 1963*, reveals details about the conversation. It is an interesting glimpse into a unique day that few journalists have written about.

He has graciously donated a copy of the book to Moon Lake Library, where it is available to borrow.

Help us preserve Mentone's history
and impact its future.

Join MAPA Today

The Mentone Area Preservation Association (MAPA) is dedicated to preserving and protecting the heritage, natural environment and other unique qualities of life in the Mentone area.

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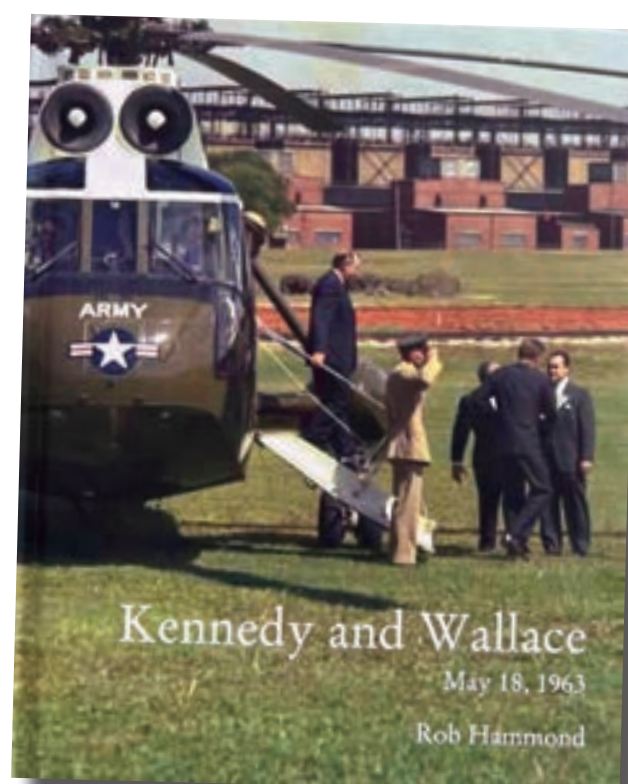
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address, phone, and email address.



This year, in celebration of the 40th anniversary of the founding of the Mentone Area Preservation Association (MAPA), THE GROUNDHOG will reprint a selection of articles from years past. (Archives of issues are available to read online at mapamentone.com/groundhog-past-issues.)

This month, we feature an article written by Ernest Smith about Alice Mason O'Rear. Those who have been following

the daily diary entries of Alice's daughter, Winifred "Ruby" O'Rear, may find this of particular interest, as Ruby refers often to her mother. Alice was in poor health in the late 1930s and Ruby cared for her (notably, with no complaints). Alice passed away in 1939 at the age of 80; Ruby was 38.

We hope you enjoy this look back in time.

A LOOK BACK...

The Groundhog | August 1998 | Page 1



Remembering Alice Mason O'Rear—Namer of Our Town

by Ernest Smith

Although Alice Mason O'Rear died when I was barely a teenager, I do feel that I knew her personally. Her three daughters, Ethel, Jessie, and Ruby, and three grandchildren, Hope, Alice Jane, and James, often told me stories about her that I remember to this day. While it is all second-hand information, it is nevertheless good information for I have no reason to question the facts as recounted by these members of her immediate family.

John Mason with daughter Alice, age 14, arrived on Lookout Mountain in the winter of 1872. They had left their farm in Iowa a few years after a typhoid epidemic had claimed the life of Mrs. Mason and two of the children.

On their arrival on Lookout Mountain, the Masons found lodging while searching out a suitable place to build a house. They were soon joined by sons Ed and Henry from someplace in New York. The family first settled at a place later known as Lahusage. While living there, they had several stones cut by an English stonecutter. These would later be incorporated in the building of the Moon Lake House. Then, they lived for a time at Holly Springs on the Alpine Road. Finally, John Mason found his perfect spot which he named Moon Lake. Here he built a substantial house which was to become his place of residence for the rest of his life.

Although the Masons were not the first settlers on Lookout Mountain (Mentone area), no other family was to leave its mark as did the Masons. They were instrumental in building a solid community of dedicated pioneer settlers.

In time, Alice grew up to become quite an accomplished young lady. She was an avid reader (often at the expense of her domestic duties), a musician, self-schooled in the arts, and trained in outdoor activities suitable for a young lady. One might think that she would've been better suited for the drawing rooms of Baltimore and Philadelphia. But, I never heard it said

that she regretted spending her life in a wilderness on Lookout Mountain. She loved the mountain and all its natural beauty.

Apparently, her first romantic involvement was her engagement to a Charles Noyes of Boston. I've heard him referred to as the "Boston Dude"—Frontier Greenhorn. Although a young man, he suddenly died from some illness. His remains now lie in a small wayside cemetery in Mentone, long



Wedding picture of Samuel O'Rear and Alice Mason, 1885

(Photo provided by Ernest Smith)

since forgotten.

Sometime after the death of Noyes, Alice married Samuel O'Rear. The wedding took place on October 15, 1885. He was descended from two of the earliest Lookout Mountain families, O'Rear/Force. They were married at the Moon Lake home of her father, John Mason. Following the wedding, a grand ball was given in their honor by a Dr. Caldwell at his new Mentone Springs Hotel. Alice had just the previous year named the town for a place she had read about located in France. She thought the description given for the French town was very much like this

place on Lookout Mountain. Thus, the town of Mentone came into being.

After the grand ball, the honeymoon was spent in Mobile, where their official wedding picture was made by the Reed and Wallace Studio. Her wedding dress, so carefully kept for all these many years, is now in the possession of the Mentone Heritage Foundation. Many other mementos are now owned by private collectors.

Samuel and Alice settled in the Bankhead Community on land given to them by John Mason as a wedding present. The home they built was a Victorian frame with bay windows. I remember that the house was near an artesian well. In the 1980s, their daughter, Jessie, gave me a few of the cut stones from the old house place which I still have.

While this article is focused on Alice, her husband, Samuel, is certainly worthy of more than a passing mention. By all accounts, he was a kind and gentle man who lived his life pretty much in the shadow of his wife. His daughters always spoke of Papa with great affection, but knowing full well that it was Mama who ruled the roost. He was a skilled carpenter descended from a long line of O'Rear carpenters. He was well respected in the Bankhead community.

Samuel and Alice maintained a second home in Menlo, Georgia. They would move there during the school year in order that their daughters could attend Menlo High. I remember hearing my Grandfather Smith tell about how smart Jessie O'Rear was. He said that Alice Mason (he always used her maiden name) told him that her daughter, Jessie, graduated from Menlo High at the top of the class and was given a medal. I saw this medal at the Whitehead estate sale. I wonder if the person who bought it will ever know anything about the remarkable young lady who earned it and that she spent most of her life teaching. All three daughters were a credit to Samuel and Alice and to the town of Mentone.



Alice Mason O'Rear in her declining years and daughter Winifred (Ruby) O'Rear

In my opinion, Alice should be remembered not only as the namer of Mentone, but as its greatest booster. According to her daughters and others, she was forever extolling the great beauty of Lookout Mountain and Mentone in particular. It was said that she always wondered why so many Lookout Mountain settlers traveled so far in search of beauty and wonders when they had one of God's greatest creations of beauty at their own doorstep. Her daughters would go on to quote her as saying that she would much prefer to walk along the rocky bluffs of Lookout Mountain and be in awe of the grand vistas that lifts one's soul than to gaze on the Taj Mahal or enter the palace of Versailles.

In closing, I feel that it is fitting to say that, although Alice Mason O'Rear has no living descendants*, she has to a great extent gained immortality by the act of naming the town of Mentone. And by the same token, we, of the town of Mentone, are honored to have the name of this great lady forever a part of the history of our town.

*There are some step-connections.

Footnote: There was one thing I learned early about this family. If you showed them any kindness, consideration, or expressed any interest in their family, it was always returned in kind, if possible. They treasured their friends and never forgot them. Sadly, J. B. Whitehead was the last of the family line. I remember that he came to my house with a step-cousin, Walter (Sonny) White the day after he buried his mother, Jessie. He seemed to be concerned about the family history being lost. He said that someone should write a book about his grandmother, Alice. Unfortunately, that will probably never happen, even though she is worthy of so much recognition. I'm afraid that this little *Groundhog* article is about the best I can do.

Some Vital Records and Burial Places of the Mason/O'Rear Family

John Mason

Jan. 10, 1820—Nov 18, 1911. Buried at Bankhead Cemetery near Mentone. The name of his first wife (mother of his children) is unknown; she was buried in Iowa. He later married Caroline Gillette of Mentone.

Alice Mason O'Rear, daughter of John Mason and 1st wife

July 12, 1858—Feb. 11, 1939. Buried at Bankhead Cemetery. Married on Oct. 15, 1885 to Samuel O'Rear (Dec. 15, 1852—Sep. 16, 1911), buried at Bankhead Cemetery.

Edward Mason, son of John Mason and 1st wife

1848—1920. Some unidentified bones buried at Bankhead Cemetery. Married Delia Christopher.

Henry Mason, son of John Mason and 1st wife

Jan. 22, 1852—Nov. 19, 1934. Buried at Little River Cemetery near Mentone. Married on Oct. 11, 1877 to Revena (Rena) Crow (Mar. 13, 1847—Aug. 20, 1936), buried at Little River Cemetery.

Ethel O'Rear Davenport, daughter of Samuel O'Rear and Alice Mason

1886—1974. Buried at Valley Head Cemetery. Married on Apr. 25, 1909 to Seaborn Davenport (1876—1931), buried at Valley Head Cemetery.

Jessie O'Rear Whitehead, daughter of Samuel O'Rear and Alice Mason

Sep. 18, 1894—Feb 6, 1989. Buried at Bankhead Cemetery. Married on Sep. 18, 1922 to Paul Whitehead (Feb. 7, 1895—July 8, 1952), buried at Bankhead Cemetery.

Winifred ("Ruby") O'Rear, daughter of Samuel O'Rear and Alice Mason

Feb. 23, 1900—Sep. 1, 1984. Buried at Bankhead Cemetery. Never married.

Hope Davenport, son of Seaborn Davenport and Ethel O'Rear

Apr. 15, 1910—May 10, 1977. Buried at Valley Head Cemetery, Valley Head. Married three times.

Alice Jane Davenport, daughter of Seaborn Davenport and Ethel O'Rear

June 25, 1914—Apr. 16, 1987. Buried at Valley Head Cemetery. Married Walter P. White, Sr. (Oct 12, 1893—Dec 14, 1970), buried at Valley Head Cemetery.

James Beverly Whitehead, son of Paul Whitehead and Jessie O'Rear

Nov 5, 1924—Nov 11, 1991. Buried at Bankhead Cemetery. Never married. Served as paratrooper in WWII. Awarded Purple Heart. His death marked the end of the family line.

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Four-Man Scramble • Shotgun Start • Tee Off 8AM CDT

Door prizes + raffle

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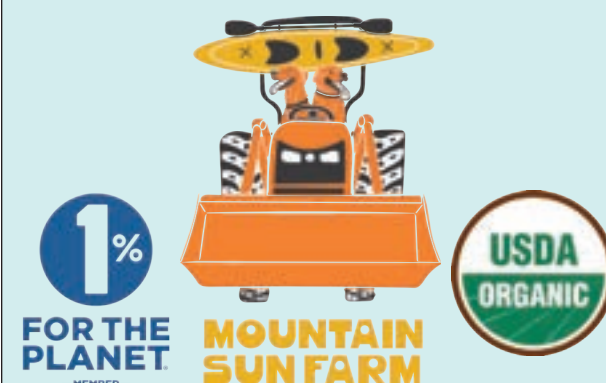
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Miss Rhododendron Pageant

High School Senior Division only

Presented by
Mentone Area Preservation Association
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Thursday, May 5, 2022 - 5 p.m. CDT
Entries due April 28

The Miss Rhododendron winner is awarded a
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Northeast Alabama Community College
(NACC Admission Requirements apply)

Information and Entry Online at
mapamentone.com/miss-rhododendron

Questions? Email: rhodopageant@gmail.com

In-state as well as contestants who are residents of the Georgia counties of Bartow, Catoosa, Chattooga, Dade, Floyd, Gordon, Hardison, Polk, Walker, and Whitfield, and Tennessee counties of Franklin, Hamilton, Lincoln, and Marion are eligible.

Honoring Moon Lake School Nurse Cheryl Wilborn

1957–2022

Cheryl Wilborn was Moon Lake School's devoted nurse for four years (2017–2021). After the school closed, she was transferred to another school but soon learned she had an aggressive cancer. She passed away on March 26, 2022. Students, teachers, parents, and friends have mourned the passing of a woman who was as dedicated to the children she cared for as she was to two of her favorite hobbies—quilting and gardening.

In 2018 and 2019, Cheryl worked with students to create striking quilts which were auctioned off at MERF's annual art auction to raise funds for the arts program provided by MERF to Moon Lake School. She also worked with the students, L.A. Smith, and the Rhododendron Garden Club to grow plants in the school's greenhouse that were sold to raise funds for the school. Cheryl was featured in the March 2021 *Groundhog*.

Born on January 12, 1957, Cheryl Teresa Wilborn is survived by her husband Bonard "Bunky" Wilborn; daughters Jana (Trampas) Shankles and Andrea (Vance) Stevens; son Michael (MyCale) Wilborn; sisters Tonda (Tommy) Wright and Monica (Phil) Hicks; and seven grandchildren, Ky Shankles, Creed Shankles, Craten Shankles, Alexis Stevens, Abby Stevens, MyCaiden Wilborn, and MaKenna Wilborn. She was preceded in death by a daughter, Renae Baugh; her mother Evelyn Graben and grandparents Milford & Elosie Wells.

She will be deeply missed by all who knew her.



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Easter Cantata to Be Performed in Mentone

Sylvia Wolcott will direct the Moon Lake Messengers in performing an Easter cantata on Palm Sunday, April 10, at 6 p.m. at Moon Lake Baptist Church in Mentone.

The cantata, called "Easter Celebration," is comprised of pieces from four different cantatas and another piece Sylvia wrote long ago. A cantata is a group of songs that tell a story.

Sylvia has been musical her whole life. She studied music in school and has directed church choirs for many years. Robert is a "Berry" cousin; the couple purchased Marjorie Berry's home at the Berry Patch after her death in 2020. They have been splitting their time between their homes in Kansas and Mentone.

Last year, they arrived in Mentone three weeks before Easter. "I sent a
(continued on page 18)

Rhododendron Garden Club by Alyce Kenney

"Every day is a renewal, every morning the daily miracle. This joy you feel is life." —Gertrude Stein

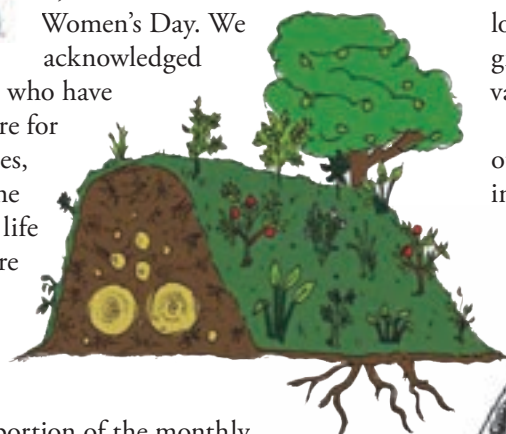


March came in like a lamb and that gave all of us a false start to spring with hopeful wishes for the gardens we will plant and tend in 2022. As I write this article I'm looking at the forecast of snow on the mountain in two days! The Rhododendron Garden Club held their monthly meeting on Tuesday March 8, also known as International Women's Day. We acknowledged

Rachel Carson and other courageous women who have impacted the ways we all think about and care for the natural environment, the birds in our skies, and the treasure of the sea. This is a good time of year to consider the promise of renewal as life returns to the natural world all around us here on the mountain, and how we can be good stewards of our Mother Earth.

In keeping with this theme, vice president of the Rhododendron Garden Club, Rhea Pirch presented the educational portion of the monthly meeting on "Hügelkultur."

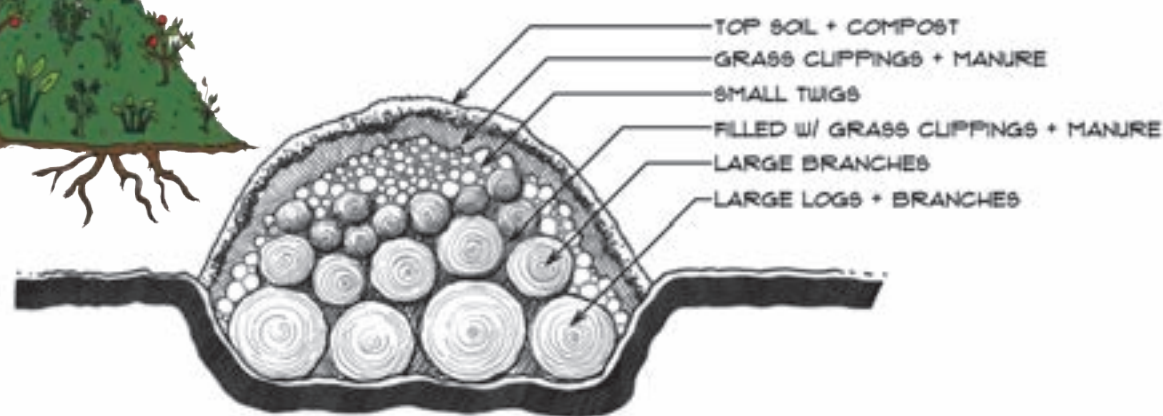
Hügelkultur is a gardening technique that originated in Germany in the 1960s that means "hill culture." Woody debris from one's property is used up (without burning it) to build up soil fertility and enhance growing. These "mounds," or raised beds, are made of compostable materials heaped atop large logs. After time the organic materials of branches, twigs, grass clippings, leaves, and composted kitchen scraps break down into nutrient-rich humus ideal for planting. The roots



of plants will reach down further into the soil, anchoring themselves with strong bases, allowing for more productive growth above ground. The heat produced by the decomposition process warms the soil and enhances and extends the growing season of the plants. The spongy composition of the humus retains and stores water and so reduces the incidence of water evaporation by the sun. Over time, the need for watering is reduced as this eco-system you have created maintains itself.

The best trees to create the base of the mounds are hardwoods because they break down more slowly and provide nutrients over a longer period. These include maple, oak, birch, alder, and beech, to name a few. Firs and pines are not recommended due to the tannins they release causing acidic soil. Black walnut, cedar, and black cherry are allelopathic, which means they may inhibit the growth of other plants. Finding logs that are already starting to rot will accelerate the growing process. Plants that grow well using Hügelkultur are tomatoes, peppers, brassicas, leafy greens, and various culinary and medicinal herbs.

In a time when recycling and sustainability are much more than buzz words in our daily lives and on our planet, Hügelkultur makes a lot of sense. Much more information can be found on these web sites:



newlifeandhomestead.com/hugelkultur
morningchores.com/gardeningmethods
permaculture.co.uk/many-benefits-hugelkultur

Upcoming April activities :

April 2, Saturday - Mentone Clean-Up Day. Meet at the MERF House
 April 3-5, Sunday-Tuesday - Garden Club of Alabama Convention, Huntsville, AL
 April 9, Saturday - Dekalb Co. Master Gardeners Spring Plant Sale, Fort Payne
 April 12, Tuesday - Shirley Miller Wildflower walk - "The Pocket"
 April 21, Thursday - Earth-Day celebration Valley Head
 April 23, Saturday - Federation Plant Sale, Henegar
 April 29, Friday - Arbor Day - Tree planting outside Secret Garden at MERF House

April is a busy month, as you can see. We welcome everyone who has an interest in all things gardening. Come join us to learn, participate, and enjoy! Follow us on Facebook or send any questions to rhododendrongardenclub@gmail.com.

Alyce Kenney is the secretary for the Rhododendron Garden Club.



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SENIOR SERVICES by Lynn Hixon

Medicare Appeals

There are two types of Original Medicare health appeals. The first type is a post-service standard appeal. This is an appeal you file if you already received a health care service or item and your Medicare Summary Notices (MSN) indicates that Medicare did not pay for the service you received.

The second type of appeal is an ending care expedited appeal. This is filed if your care from a hospital, skilled nursing facility (SNF), comprehensive outpatient rehabilitation facility (CORF), hospice, or home health agency is about to end.

There is also a Medicare Advantage appeal. If your Medicare Advantage plan denies a health service or item before or after you received it, you can appeal to ask your plan to reconsider its decision. If you need care right away, you can file a fast-track (expedited) request. If your plan approves your request to expedite, it should issue a decision within 72 hours.

You can also file an appeal if you receive care from a hospital, skilled nursing facility (SNF), comprehensive outpatient rehabilitation facility (CORF), hospice, or

home health agency and are told that your Medicare Advantage plan will no longer pay for your care.

If your Medicare Part D prescription drug plan won't cover a drug you need, you should file an appeal to ask your Part D plan to reconsider its coverage decision. Common reasons for appealing are:

- The drug you need is not on your plan's list of covered drugs (formulary).
- Your drug plan only covers a limited amount of the drug you need (quantity limits).
- Your plan wants you to try other drugs first (Step therapy).
- You must get special permission from the plan in advance before it will cover your drug (prior authorization).
- Your plan is charging more for your drug than for similar drugs on its formulary.

For more information, please call your SHIP coordinator, Lynn Hixon, at the DeKalb County Council on Aging at 256-845-8590.

Lynn Hixon is the SHIP coordinator for the DeKalb County Council on Aging.



Saturday, April 2
Community Clean-up - 9 a.m.
Town Square
Community Potluck - Noon
Mentone Inn Pavilion

Electronics recycling at
Mentone Town Hall 9-11

Ongoing Community Calendar

All times are Central unless otherwise noted.
Calendar entries are subject to change.

Mentone Town Council meets the 2nd Tuesday every month at 5pm at Mentone Town Hall.

Valley Head Town Council meets monthly on the 1st Monday at 6pm at Valley Head Town Hall.

Hammondville Town Council meets monthly on the 1st Tuesday at 6pm at Hammondville Town Hall.

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

The North Lookout Mountain Fire Protection District Board meets the 3rd Monday of every month at 7pm.

Mentone Farmers Market is open year-round on Saturdays from 10am-1pm in the Town Square.

FREE FOOD for eligible persons and families. Wednesdays, 9-11am. New applicants are welcome. Joint effort between St. Joseph's-on-the-Mountain Episcopal Church (Community Outreach Ministry) and the Food Bank of North AL.

The Lookout Mountain Knitters meet each Tuesday at 3pm at the MERF House.

All are welcome.

Ryleigh's Closet is a clothing closet that provides men's, women's, and children's clothing to those in need on 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month from 4-6pm. Mentone Community Church, 90 Summerville Rd. 256-364-0150.

Moon Lake Community Library is open on Saturdays from 10am-1pm, and Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 12-4:30pm. Visit moonlakelibrary.org.

The Rhododendron Garden Club meets each month on the 2nd Tuesday at 10am. 'Green thumbs' and 'brown thumbs' are welcome! 256-634-4403.

Ukulele Sessions Continue. Bring your uke to the Moon Lake Community Library at 1 pm on March 5 and 19. Follow on Facebook (Mentone Ukes) or contact Debra Fey (debrajfe@gmail.com) for more info. Beginners of all ages are invited to join in. Strum and be happy!

Interested in playing or learning Mah Jongg? The Mentone Mah Jongg players would love for you to join us at the MERF House! Contact Lynn Vanderhoff at 404-783-6771 for more details about lessons and meeting times.

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MERF News

[Mentone Educational Resources Foundation]

by Sarah Wilcox



Spring to winter and back again, March brought all sorts of weather and many fun MERF days. A short recap, as many received MERF's newsletter recently. Send me an email if you want to be on MERF's contact list.

Did you hear the joy and laughter on the Mountain? As of March 2, senior lunches are back in action! The lunch bunch is being served at the Moon Lake Baptist Fellowship Hall until the weather allows us to be on the grounds of the MERF house. The kitchen elves are working hard, and the crew is so happy to be back together. The first lunch was provided by the Mentone Market (pulled pork, potato salad, fresh bread, and baked beans) and the New Tiger's Inn (banana pudding). We also have four seven-layer cakes from the Market for a later date! Bingo and lunch from the Rhododendron Garden club was fabulous too with fun flower arrangements and delicious lasagna, salad, and homemade cakes. Another Bingo Day is planned for March 30th at 10:30 a.m. before lunch. I stopped by the Council on Aging in February and received great information to share with the group such as farmer's market vouchers, free regular line dancing, exercise classes, a Parkinson's support group and much more. Stop by or call their office at 256-845-8590 for great information. So far, all the lunches have been claimed except for April 20, if you or your group wants to provide the meal on that day, give me a call at 256-635-8193.

As May graduation day nears, it's award time. In 2021, the Carter Holland Memorial Scholarship and Mountain Spirit Awards were established in memory of Carter, the 24-year-old son of Lucie and Steve Holland, who lost his life to cardiac arrest in 2020. The Holland and Stephens families have spent many seasons at their Mentone home and Alpine Camp for Boys and Camp DeSoto, so the mountain and people are dear to them. Carter was known for his strong character, leadership, musical talents, and friendship. Applications for the Carter Holland Memorial scholarship for Mentone or Valley Head graduating seniors are available by email merf.mentone@gmail.com or from their school counselors. The due date is May 2, 2022. The Mountain Spirit Awards go to a 6th, 8th, and 12th grader, who exemplify Carter's characteristics the most and will be determined by the Valley Head teachers.

Look what's happening with Ms. Paula's students as she teaches the elements of art to the K-6th graders at Valley Head School. She introduces them to the style and works of famous artists. Recently, I dropped in on a class with all the 5th graders. Don't you love their rendition of a Georgia O'Keefe style of flower. I loved hearing them talk about warm and cool colors as they used pastels and watercolors to make their masterpieces. Can't you see the pride in their eyes and smiles! Paula is working on a family art night for the whole community to come down to Valley Head School and be amazed at the work created by the students this year. The tentative date and time are May 9 at 5 p.m.

I think I can... I think I can... I know I can! Just had the most fun enjoying "The Little Train That Could" touring performance brought to the



Birmingham Children's Theater comes to Valley Head School to encourage the K-2nd graders to always believe in themselves.



Thanks to Paula and their teachers, kindergartners show perfect theater etiquette and enjoyment of the "Little Engine That Could."



Georgia O'Keefe would be impressed with the Valley Head 5th graders using watercolors and pastels to produce these fab flowers.

Valley Head K through 2nd graders. Thanks to your support, MERF can bring great experiences like this to the local students. The Birmingham Children's Theatre did a fabulous job of teaching perseverance and a belief in their abilities. It was so entertaining and well done. Before the play, the students painted and learned about trains as they prepared for the play. Hope they come away with a little persistence and belief in their abilities after being exposed to the professional play. The 5th and 6th graders are preparing for their Space Camp coming up this spring and the lunch bunch crew enjoyed some of the strawberries that they sold as a fundraiser. Don't miss this delicious opportunity to support our students next year when they are selling strawberries again. The kindergartners want to encourage the 5th and 6th grades on their adventures, so they have prepared



Luck of the Irish and flower centerpieces brought smiles at MERF's senior lunch provided by the Rhododendron Garden Club. The flower arrangements went home with lucky diners.

a song about space to be performed at the April PTO meeting.

As you may have heard, there will not be a Rhododendron Festival this spring. For MERF this means that we don't have an easy spot for purchase of "Leave Me in Mentone" items. But no fear, shirts, hats, sweatshirts, and car tags are available at Little River Hardware, the Country Store at DeSoto State Park, and the Mentone Arts Center. You'll be styling in your Mentone Merch!

The Moon Lake School Advisory Board has been meeting and researching the best way to utilize the town owned property for education and for its financial sustainability of our beloved school. A survey will be available soon to help determine the best way to meet the desires of the community. Please participate and share your desires.

MERF and Moon Lake School have many wonderful memories. MERF has been especially grateful for the staff at MLES. March 23 brought a final goodbye to the most considerate, creative, energetic, and giving nurse at Moon Lake. Cheryl Wilborn lost her battle with cancer. She touched everyone she met with her care and warm smile. MERF is especially grateful for her creative ability to piece together two fabulous quilts produced by the students in art class. Both quilts were auctioned off at MERF's Taste of the Mountain and Art Auction and now reside in two different Mentone homes. Hope you have many flowers and children to love on in heaven, Nurse Cheryl. Thank you for your friendship.

MERF is saying goodbye to another fun and fabulous friend from the lunch bunch crew. Martha Sprayberry had an abundance of joy and jubilation that she shared with us in her piano playing, laughter, and creative gifts. She tried to gift us with possum in a can one Christmas! And she graciously stitched a quilt for two different years of the Art Auction. Heaven's piano is rocking with her playing "She'll be coming round the Mountain" and "I'll Fly Away"! May we all know the joy and love that she exuded. Thank you Martha, for sharing your gifts with everyone. We love and miss you.

Sarah Wilcox is the executive director of MERF, the Mentone Educational Resources Foundation, a non-profit organization whose mission is "To enrich the learning and living of the community by identifying needs and coordinating resources." If you would like to support MERF's programs, tax-deductible donations can be mailed to P.O. Box 107, Mentone, AL 35984 or contribute online at merfhouse.org. Contact Sarah at merf.mentone@gmail.com or 256-635-8193.



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NEW LISTING!
SIMPLY PERFECT: ALL-BRICK, ONE-LEVEL HOME on 1.06 well-kept acres; Rainsville. Beautiful HW floors; 3BR/2BA; open-concept w/sunny bifast area leading to beautiful level, fenced yard. Great side-entrance. Energy efficient w/extra insulation added at the time it was built. If you're looking for a brick home, in a great area, this one should be on your "must see list!" \$250,000 (1804245)



WATERFRONT
MEMORIES OF LAZY DAYS FULL OF FUN ON THE LAKE permeate this one-owner property located on the private side of Mentone's Lake Lahusage. Filled with one family's nostalgia, waiting for the next family to bring it back to life & fill it with their own memories of good times on the lake. One of those rare places with easy walk down to the water; swim & fish from your dock; put in a boat at the public ramp just a short distance away. 4BR/2BA; wood floors; wood beams; mtn stone fireplace; vaulted LR/KI/DR. Screened porch on back leading to huge deck overlooking the lake. Yes, it needs A LOT of work, but it is a rare gem awaiting the right person to make it shine! \$375,000 (1786628)



LOOKOUT MTN.
LOOKING TO SIMPLIFY & OWN SOME WOODED LAND? This little ranch-style home doesn't look very pretty on the outside, that's true. But it has 10 acres of gorgeous woods; we're told it has good bones; it's on the mountain & it's close to DeSoto St Park. Fix it up, live in it while you build the woodland cabin of your dreams (or several of them) on the rest of the land. 2BR/1BA house needs work, but the price is hard to beat. \$150,000 (agent owned) (1804122)

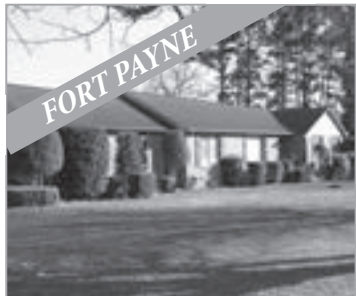
LOTS and LAND

GORGEOUS VIEWS & 2.2 ACRES, on the brow with sunrise & sunset views possible. All the site prep has been done for you: cleared & leveled, for a personal getaway cabin or residence, and for you to build a detached workshop when you're ready! There is even a septic tank already in place! The best price for a brow-front property in the Mentone area, and the only one on the market with all this prep work already done. \$80,000 (1804042)

JUST LISTED! 3.18 WOODED ACRES, JUST ABOUT A MILE FROM DOWNTOWN MENTONE - perfect for a cabin & pin oak. Public water. A perfectly-sized piece of land for your own private cabin in the woods! \$27,000 (1801518)



MENTONE
HOUSE & 2.5-ACRES DOWNTOWN MENTONE. This is one of those places with almost unlimited possibilities! Almost as many uses as duct tape! Frontage on 3 streets (Douglas, Cutler Ave & Shady Ave), this simple little house could open the door to BIG things! Spacious front sunporch built in 2012; house was pretty much completely gutted & rebuilt in 2014. It's a great start to even greater things! Property was once a motor court with rustic cabins back in the 1930s, and had at least 3 other cabins on it. Future for Rental cabins? Restaurant? Shopping plaza? Offices? Dream! High-speed internet. The land is level, features 2 small streams, nice woods w/ huge white oaks & other hardwoods. \$300,000 (1804144)



FORT PAYNE
THIS ONE YOU GOTTA SEE! One-level, immaculately-kept, brick rancher; on 0.89 acre (just over a 1/4 city block) in historic district of Forest Ave NW; corner property; walking distance to downtown/city park. 3BR (hardwood floors)/2BA; den w/fireplace & wood floors; formal LR; DR; spacious country kitchen w/tons of cabinets; multiple pantry areas; 2-car, 24x24 attached garage; large, floored, attic storage. \$290,000 (1802373)



MENTONE
BEAUTIFUL CEDAR-SIDED CABIN WITH FRONT & BACK PORCHES; 2.91 acres, Huge, screened back porch set up for relaxing & pretty much living "almost outdoors" 3 if you want. 2nd floor w/ master bedroom & shower. Beautiful hardwood floors throughout. Vaulted living w/ gas-log fireplace & built-in bookshelves. Spacious kitchen w/fab storage. Large laundry w/ sewing or office space. \$375,000



MENTONE
SOMETHING SPECIAL IN MENTONE! One-level home & approx 19 acres (some cleared, mostly wooded w/small stream); old barn; smokehouse; poultry barn; garden shed; 52'x52' fenced garden w/raised beds & power. Home features mtn stone fireplace in LR; 4 or 5 BR; 3BA; huge deck w/ grill & deck off kitchen. Beautiful old shade trees; grape vines; figs; blueberries; chestnut trees. This property has been in the same family since the Crowes came to Mentone in the 1800s. AND, there is another old home, built circa 1915, up in the woods, surrounded by ancient trees & huge boulders. This unique property is less than a half mile from downtown. \$499,900 (1801038)



NEW LISTING!
LOOKOUT MTN LOG CABIN ON 9.25 ACRES WITH SUNSET BROW VIEWS; lovely woodlands; unrestricted, mostly-level land behind existing cabin on which to build whatever suits your fancy (underground power & water already present). This one-owner cabin was built utilizing native woods, milled by the builder himself. Stone from the property was used to build the fireplace. Wraparound porch includes a screened section with all the comforts you'd want for a lazy afternoon; a swing, and views galore! Ruggedly-handsome interior is mostly poplar; handy kitchen w/large window over the sink to enjoy sunsets; vaulted LR accented by beams & mtn stone, gas-log fireplace. Just listed for \$375,000 (1802206)



COME BUILD YOUR DREAM HOME IN A PEACEFUL VALLEY! Here are 19+ acres of beautiful vistas that would be perfect for horses, or whatever strikes your fancy. The property is part of a large family farm which has a major portion in a permanent farmland conservancy. The interstate is 5 minutes away, convenient to Chattanooga, Fort Payne and Mentone. \$164,050 (1790823)

1.47 PARK-LIKE ACRES ON LIBBY LANE; inside Mentone Town Limits; on a quiet, dead-end paved road; with water, power, septic tank and circle drive already in place. Ready to build. Zoned R-1. \$64,900 (1795866)

52 ACRES, WITH LAND ON BOTH SIDES OF PAVED COUNTY ROAD. This old home place offers so many options & some of the best Sand Mtn sandy loam soil there is; Shankles Branch running through the property on one side of road, serving the property line on the other. Let us show you. Approx. 22 acres. Rescue hay in woods. Old home site w/remains of the farm house that is falling in. Well house is still intact & the ancient pear tree still bears fruit. Public water meter in place; 3 wells are known to exist on property. Beautiful land with deer & turkey often seen enjoying fields & woodland. Agent owned. \$350,000 (1790110)

happy
EASTER

April

Birthdays

- 1

Michele Kincer
Angie Miller
Calvin Lanier
Kayla Cronnon
Cayson Hughes
Stan Dowiat
- 2

Milton Chambers
Ellie Cox
Jayken Lawton
Nancy Lawton
Amanda Patrick
Dee Dee Hendricks
Marcus Ledford
Riley Shae Burt
- 3

Ray Padgett
Jessica Battles
Jalen Gregory
- 4

Jamie Vest
Mina Blalock
Sherry Barkley
Coty Powell
Cameron Thompson
Lindsay Thompson
- 5

Kaitlyn Tedder
Jana Sharp
Kenny Chamlee
Steve Rhodes
Chris Black
Andi Runnels
Donna Busby
Jamie Pannell
Gene Justice
- 6

Felicia Harrison
Jazz Hazelton
John Chambers
Jazz Chambers
Ethel Manifold
- 7

Sydney Ingram
Jennifer Cruse
- 7

Shannon Chappell
Kansas Lee
Kyle Miller
Dori Reed
- 8

Angie Wright
Jackson Eli Rosson
Sharon Coots
Madissen Chitwood
Hayden Knowles
Robert Williamson
Jedidiah Lawton, Jr.
- 9

Josh Goss
Justin Kahler
Mickey Smith
Cody West
- 10

Brittany McAdams
Newly Ingram
Paul Ethan Blackwell
Lindsey Webb
Lisa Moore
Emily McElhane
Debra Rhodes
Stanford Carson
Conner Barkley
Robert Tillman
- 11

Jorden Beasley
Joey Garrett
Josie Crider Goss
Jerri Ann Tidmore
Austin Simpson
Ashton Simpson
- 12

Corey Davis
Kyle Coots
Tiffany Baker
Jeff Stephenson
- 13

Liam Cooper
Mary Shurett
- 13

Brian Blalock
Tessa Gravitt
- 14

Zoey Chambers
Carl Tubberville
Jason Baber
Tucker Wayne Smith
Austin Frost
Cooper Hill
- 15

Barbara Busby Rape
Craig Hendricks
Kailee Johnson
- 16

Preston Kirby
Danny Hopper
Al Blackburn
Sandy Johnson
Waker Moore
Shelley Williams
Abigail Yerke
Gail West
- 17

Ann Cash Harrell
Scott Guinn
Hannah Drain
- 18

Taylor Verdon
Shan Smith
- 19

Butch Manifold
- 20

Lane Ingram
Brenda Clinton
- 21

Charlene Smith
- 22

Thelma Coots
John Paul Verdon
Daxson Crow
Nolan Fowler
- 23

Lauren McGee
Philip Cash
John P. Smith Jr.
Coleton Phillips
KareyAnn Garner
Mindy Chadwick
- 24

Courtney Meadows
Taylee Keith
Adam Dupree
Mariah Shannon
Kinsley Brown
- 25

Cooper Kirby
Jennifer Hamilton
- 26

Molly Manifold
Eloise Lance
John Moore
Phyllis James
Cindy Carden
Zack Payne
Wesley Flarity
Karson London
- 27

Kaden Brody Johnson
Emily Miller
Kaylee Cartwright
Tommy Stephens
Ben Shurett
- 28

Stacey Bowman
Austin Reed
Vaelyn Heinrich
Maria Moreno
- 29

Linda Stephenson
Katie Hester
Dawson Kincer
John Kincer
Ezra Underwood

Anniversaries

- 1

Raymond & Sharon Coots
- 3

Chris & Jennifer Collins
Steve & Sandy Tate
- 4

Tim & Allie Cowart
- 7

Milton & Gail Chambers
- 10

Nathan & Lacie Keith
- 14

Ronnie & Leslie Bowman
- 16

Nick & Shinice Stout
- 19

Corey & Abby Davis
- 20

Josh & Brandi Rosson
- 25

Don & Dena McKee
- 26

Ross & Jessica VanPelt
- 28

Todd & Angie Godwin



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Special Events This Spring at Moon Lake Library

by Anne McLeod

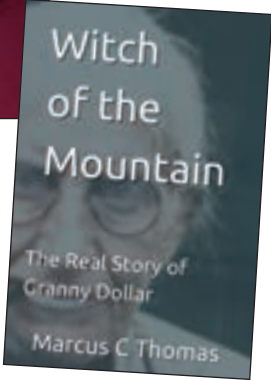
OPEN HOURS
Tues., Wed., Thur. 12–4:30 • Saturday 10–1
moonlakelibrary.org

Marcus C. Thomas, author of *Witch of the Mountain: The Real Story of Granny Dollar*, will be at the library April 25 at 6:30 p.m. to share his historical research into this legendary mountain woman. Last April he participated in a Zoom session sponsored by the library, so we



Marcus Thomas

are delighted to bring him back in person this time. A veteran of the FBI originally from Sand Mountain with a strong interest in history, Thomas decided to turn his investigative skills to searching for the facts behind Granny Dollar and her stories. This is



a great chance to find out more about a woman who has been part of mountain lore for generations.

Thomas will have copies of *Witch of the Mountain* for sale and will be glad to autograph them after the discussion.

Elizabeth Dulemba, author/illustrator of children's books, will kick off Moon Lake Library's summer reading program, "Wild about Reading," when she visits Mentone May 21–22 for "A Weekend with Dr. E" and presents three different sessions, all at Moon Lake Library. These sessions are free and open to the public. The first is aimed at children and the second two are for adults. Thanks to Little River Arts Council for collaborating with the library on this visit.

May 21, 10 a.m. Dulemba will offer an educational presentation for children 3–10 based on a picture book she illustrated, *Crow Not Crow*,



Elizabeth Dulemba



written by award-winning author Jane Yolen. *Crow Not Crow* is a gentle story of a father introducing his young daughter to the hobby of birding. The book was published by Cornell Lab Publishing Group, which is part of Cornell Lab of Ornithology, a premier research lab in the study, appreciation, and conservation of birds.

May 21, 1 p.m. Find out about the art of children's book illustration in this session aimed at adults. Dulemba will share her art in a slideshow and describe the process of working to create a picture book for children. Artists, teachers, parents, and fans of children's books will enjoy this behind the scenes look at the creation of picture books.

May 22, 2 p.m. Dulemba will share the story of her TED Talk "Is Your

Stuff Stopping You?" which has been viewed over one million times. She will describe how she sold her house and most of her possessions to follow her dream of moving to Scotland for graduate school. This session will appeal to anyone interested in examining the role our possessions play in our lives.

Dulemba is an Associate Professor and Program Director of Illustration at Winthrop University in Rock Hill, South Carolina. She was named Georgia Author of the Year for her middle grade novel *A Bird on Water Street*. She served for years as Illustrator Coordinator for the U.S. southern region of the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators.

Look for more details about her visit (including her personal connection to Mentone!) and our summer reading program on the library's website, moonlakelibrary.org, our Facebook page, and the May issue of *The Groundhog*.

For more information, please contact the library at 256-634-2127 or moonlakecommunitylibrary@yahoo.com.



Check It Out! by Lynn Vanderhoff

The Moon Lake Community Library has Little Library Learners hour-long programs for children ages 3–7 on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of the month at 10:30 a.m. Program topics range from science and nature, to history and fantasy, and more. We'll have stories and activities geared towards your child's age and skill level so they can comfortably participate. We look forward to learning with you!

Where In the World Are You From? Saturday, April 9

We'll be exploring where we live and where we are from. We'll "travel" from Mentone, to DeKalb County, to Alabama, to the United States, to North America, to the whole wide world using maps and globes.



It IS Easy Being Green! Thursday, April 23

We'll be celebrating with stories and games to learn how being good to the Earth is good for us, too! So come wearing green and we'll show you how to BE green!

Come check it out at Little Library Learners!

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Nippersink Lodge (cont'd from page 1)

foundation and living room walls are made of mountain stone and the rest of the structure is made from wood, cut and milled on the mountain.

Fred Jones of Mentone was hired as contractor for the construction. The lodge's interior stone walls, exterior foundation, and the incredible stone fireplace were all built from mountain stone by Lee Crow. Robert Pullen of Mentone crafted much of the hickory furniture in the guest rooms. Huge cedar posts in the front of the lodge were shipped by flatcar from Lebanon, Tennessee.

Cherokee Cottage was the first structure completed on the property and was used as temporary housing for the architect while he supervised construction of the lodge. A second story was added onto the cottage in 1984.

Tuclo Cottage (named after the owners Ms. Tucker and Ms. Lowe) was built in 1952. Sadly, an electrical storm caused it to burn down in 2017.



Hope Cottage (the owners hoped they could pay for it) was added to the property in 1960, providing four additional rooms for guests.

There's a tiny building sitting behind the lodge, close to the river. Therese told me it contained a water filtration system for the property, since water was drawn out of Little River. City water was finally installed sometime in the 1970s, thanks to the efforts of Therese's father, Ed Disney.

All the buildings are full of original furnishings, including handmade furniture from the Rustic Hickory Furniture Company of LaPorte, Indiana.

After Mrs. Taylor's death, her daughter Mildred inherited Nippersink. In 1944, Mildred sold the property to Annelise Tucker and Elizabeth Lowe, friends and teachers from Thomasville, Alabama, who taught school in Valley Head and Fort Payne.

Ms. Tucker and Ms. Lowe had supervised a girls' camp for several years and had been searching for property for another camp. After the purchase of Nippersink, they decided instead to establish a summer resort. They converted two sleeping porches on the second floor of the lodge into additional guest rooms, installed additional bathrooms, and extended the dining room.

In 1945, Nippersink Lodge opened its doors to the public. The first guests, a Sunday School class from Birmingham, booked their lodging in May and returned every year at the same time for 55 years. The



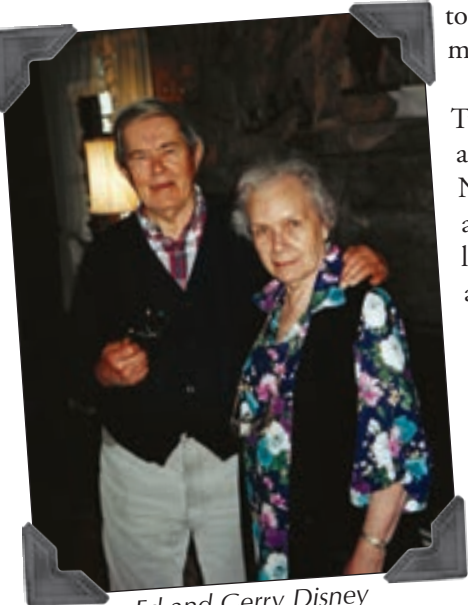


lodge became well known for its wonderful meals, ping pong games, and square dances on the huge back porch, and lunches on the dock or at Brow Park. Later, a small putting green was installed in the middle of the circular driveway.

For many years, staffing at Nippersink was comprised of Berry College students from Rome, Georgia, as well as young women from Valley Head. Mentone residents were hired to supervise the staff. The lodge opened to the public each year in May, when the native rhododendrons were blooming, and remained open all summer through Labor Day weekend. In later years, the lodge would reopen for the month of October to allow guests to enjoy the fall foliage on the mountain.

After operating Nippersink for 38 years, Ms. Tucker and Ms. Lowe sold the property to George and Osceola Hauge in 1973. George, a retired Navy captain, and Osceola, a friend of Ms. Tucker and Ms. Lowe from Thomasville, operated the lodge from 1974 to 1979, when it was sold to Ed and Gerry Disney.

The Disneys were originally from Atlanta and had been guests of Nippersink many times before purchasing a cottage upstream from the lodge in 1977. With help from their family, they operated the lodge for 40 years. Today the property is owned and managed by Disney family members, who often host large gatherings for their extended family. Therese told me that when the extended family comes to visit, which can be as



Ed and Gerry Disney



many as 75 to 100 people, they pitch in to repair and/or renovate the buildings as needed.

My sincere thanks to Therese Disney Cox for allowing me to explore the Nippersink property, and for sharing her memories. Thanks to Desmond and Kathleen Disney for supplying extensive historical information and wonderful photos.



JUST BETWEEN US
A Curious Q & A by Rebecca Henderson

On a raw, rainy afternoon in March, I couldn't have received a warmer welcome than when I walked into the Valley Head Town Hall. Before I could sit down and pick up my pen, Valley Head Mayor Mike Key offered a tour of the building. So much history. Massive wood beams above each room were hewn locally, Mike estimates nearly 100 years ago. Photos of earlier times show cars lining the curbs and signs from businesses of yesteryear. A case in Mike's office holds a strip of film from the old movie house, as well as other memorabilia. Judging from the stacks of colorful t-shirts in the conference room, preparations are well underway for this year's Memories of Mayberry, the annual event benefitting Valley Head's fire department. I was touched by Mike's enthusiasm for the

town and its history, fitting for a man who has served in just about every public capacity since moving here.

A U.S. Marine, Mike served from 1969 to 1973. During that time, he met his wife of nearly 50 years, Eiko, in Japan. They married at the U.S. Consulate in Fukaoka. The couple has two sons: Thomas, 49, and Tony, 45; and three grandchildren. The family of four moved to Valley Head in 1978, where Mike worked some tough jobs, from a coal mine to the steel industry to a sock mill and finally Keystone Foods in Gadsden. Then he decided it was retirement time. But lucky for the town, he wasn't ready to sit on the sofa in his golden years. Both he and Eiko stay as busy as ever. "I don't try to keep up with her. I couldn't do it," he said. "She's always doing something for people."



Mike Key

Q Where were you born?

A I was born in Garden City, Michigan, but raised near a beach in Monroe, Michigan, called Detroit Beach, right on Lake Eerie. We were like tadpoles; when we hit the ground, we were into the water. My parents moved to Michigan in late '47 to find work. Dad was a machine repairman at Ford Motor Company.

Q How long have you served as mayor here?

A Since November 2021. But before that I'd been on the zoning committee, the water board, and the city council. In a small town, you just help where you can.

Q What is special about Valley Head?

A It's just a quiet community. A quaint little town. If you spend much time here, you'll understand what I'm talking about. I'm proud to be here.

Q Do you think Valley Head will change in the future?

A I see a lot of improvements coming in the next year or so. If all goes well.

Q What's the best part of serving as town mayor?

A Interacting with the people in the area. I appreciate them coming in and giving me their ideas and making suggestions, getting things on the agenda. You can learn a lot

from talking to people. This job isn't about what the mayor and the council want. It's about what the citizens want.

Q What's your favorite meal?

A I'll probably get in trouble for this, but I think back to some fried potatoes, pinto beans, and pork chops. Not necessarily good for you, but tastes so good.

Q Favorite movie?

A That's gotta be "Bullitt" with Steve McQueen. I didn't know until this morning that he was also a Marine.

Q First car?

A A 1964 Corvair Monza

convertible. What Ralph Nader called "a death trap." There was nothing up front to protect you. I had it about a year.

Q How're your cooking skills?

A I do pretty well with simple things but as far as a complete meal from scratch, no good! I do grill. I've got a pellet smoker. I love that thing. You can fire it up and put a piece of meat in and you don't have to touch it. Turns out perfect.

Q What's your dream vacation?

A Well, I'm not sure. Twelve years ago, we took our oldest grandson to Japan and stayed a month. We

went everywhere, rode the bullet train, and did all there was to do. He loved it. That's a tough question, my dream vacation. Yeah, I'm going to say I'd like to go back to Japan, but not for a whole month.

Q When you retire from the mayor's office, will you stay in Valley Head?

A Oh yes.

Q Words of advice you'd give your 18-year-old self?

A Work hard to become the man you think you can be. If you can do that, you've done well.

Thank you, Mike!



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LOTS & LAND

#1034997—Approx. 6 acres on Middle Fork of Little River. \$48,900.

#1781133—200 acres located near historic Mentone! Mature trees, creek, paved road frontage, minutes from Interstate 59. Land like this doesn't become available very often. \$1,000,000.

#1788540—40 acres of prime Mentone land. Beautiful tract with about a 5-acre lake. Flat open land with an old well on the property. Mostly fenced all the way around. good road through it. Over a half of a mile of county road frontage with power and water available. \$400,000

#1791030—13 acres on East Fork Little River in Mentone. Privacy awaits you on this heavily wooded lot. \$175,000

#1792283—Beautiful brow property located in Lake of the Brow. Just minutes from Little River Canyon and the falls. Enjoy beautiful views of Shinbone Valley below. \$79,900

#1776065—Lot 59 in Crestline Park Subdivision in Mentone. This location is just off of scenic County Road 89. Subdivision offers light restrictions including no mobile homes, no commercial buildings or temporary structures, insuring permanent or vacation living only for you and your neighboring properties. Property is owned by a licensed home builder offering "will build to suit". \$39,900

#1796363—Beautiful building site on Libby Lane in Mentone. Seller has all the groundwork ready, septic installed, water and power on the property! Bring your house plans to this level lot and let the dreams begin!! This 1.47 acre parcel is located near the end of a dead-end street inside Mentone city limits!! No mobile homes, no campers, and no tiny homes allowed. \$79,900.

#1798542, #1798643, #1798655, #1798657—Build your new home with BREATHTAKING VIEWS year round! Brow property located in Lake on the Brow on Lookout Mountain near Little River Canyon and the falls. \$55,000.

#1798938—10+ acre parcel of mostly wooded acreage! Great location just minutes from downtown, but with a country vibe. Owner has surveyed into 3 lots, but is selling as a whole. You can build and subdivide if you desire or simply hold onto this beautiful property as an investment. City water and electricity available on CR 106. \$91,500

#1799385—1.07 acre lot is slightly sloped to provide a beautiful location to perch your new home/second home. Located on Lookout Mountain near Little River Falls, Mentone and Fort Payne, "Hidden Lake" offers a shared community gated entrance, underground power and access to the common areas such as lake, gazebo and picnic area. \$29,950

#1801221—This Mentone property offers road frontage on Hwy 117 in the business/alcohol district. One of very few available vacant lots in this area! \$75,000

#1801378—Mentone property offers road frontage on Cove Road in the business/alcohol district. One of very few available vacant lots in this area! Adjoins a lot that fronts AL Hwy 117. \$75,000

#1803015—2.85 +/- acre parcel of mostly wooded acreage! Great location just minutes from downtown, but with a country vibe. City water and electricity available on CR 106. \$27,900

#1803016—3.33 +/- acre parcel of mostly wooded acreage! City water and electricity available on CR 106. \$29,900

#1803012—4.37 +/- acre parcel of mostly wooded acreage! City water and electricity available on CR 106. \$39,900

April Community Calendar

April 1—Yoga on the Mountain. Join us for a fun yoga class in DeSoto State Park! Instructor Destin Padgett will guide participants with relaxing, alignment-based poses. Perfect for those beginning their yoga practice or for those wanting to try something new! No pre-registration required. 6pm. DeSoto State Park—Benefield Interpretive Center (Nature Center) next to the Country Store on Co. Rd. 89. Fee \$5 (cash or checks). Bring mat or towel.

April 2—Mentone Community Clean-up & Cookout. Meet at the Town Square at 9 a.m. to pick up a safety vest, a litter grabber and a bag. Lyle Nicely will match individuals and groups with locations he's identified that need to be cleaned up. Afterwards, a barbecue lunch will be served at Mentone Inn Pavilion. Please bring a covered dish to share. (The food can be dropped off at the Mentone Inn pavilion.) Enjoy live music and camaraderie. This has been an important (and fun!) tradition since 2002. If you have any questions, contact Lyle Nicely at 256-996-0169.

April 9—Master Gardeners Annual Plant Sale. DeKalb Master Gardeners host their Annual Spring Plant and Vegetable Plant Sale at the VFW Fairgrounds in Fort Payne. 7-11am.

April 9—2nd Annual Blooms and Bunnies Spring Market. Several vendors, food trucks & vendors, Easter Bunny, giveaways & more! Fort Payne Rotary Pavilion. 10am-4pm.

April 9—Early Spring Hike in DeSoto State Park. One of the most beautiful times of the year at DeSoto State Park! Join DSP Staff on a moderate meandering hike along the Little River trail to see what species of plants is

starting to grow and bloom after a long winter season. We will learn some natural history of the plants, and some medicinal and historical uses as well. Wonderful views of the West Fork of Little River, Indian Falls, and Lodge Falls along the route. Will stop and eat at the Mountain Inn Restaurant in the park to eat lunch (outside seating, bring your own or order), then head back towards the Country Store. Approx. 2 miles round trip, moderate along rocky terrain.: 10am. DeSoto State Park—Meet at the Benefield Interpretive Center (Next to DeSoto's Country Store): Free and open to everyone. Pre-registration required. Ages 8-adult. Email Brittney.Hughes@dcnr.alabama.gov for more info or to pre-register.

April 16—Serious Skills Series: Art of Woodburning- Door Signs. Hosted by DeSoto State Park. Participants in this class will learn the basic techniques of decorative wood burning and painting designs from artist April Blanks, and will work on a 10-inch circle piece with wording of their choice. Ages 14-adult. 9-11:30am OR 12:30-3pm. \$25.00 includes supplies. Class space is limited, Pre-registration required. Email Brittney.Hughes@dcnr.alabama.gov to sign up or for more info.

April 16—Third Saturday Sunset Cruise-In. Music across the street from DeKalb Theatre and food vendors. 5-9pm. Downtown Fort Payne. Free & open to everyone. For current info see facebook.com/3rdSaturdayFortPayneAL.

APRIL 17 Happy Easter!

April 21—Yoga on the Mountain: Neverland Trail Yoga Hike. Join instructor Destin

Padgett for a great outdoor experience of strengthening yoga poses AND hiking along beautiful trails at DeSoto State Park. This hike will be a mix of trail hiking with an outdoor yoga session. Wear closed-toe shoes & weather appropriate clothes; bring a hike-friendly yoga mat or towel if you wish, water and a snack. Hike approx. 3-1/2 miles round trip, moderate. 4pm. Meet at DeSoto's Country Store on Co. Rd. 89—will caravan to Lost Falls Trailhead. \$10. Pre-registration required. Ages 8-adult. Email Brittney.Hughes@dcnr.alabama.gov for more info or to pre-register. alapark.com/DSP-Yoga.

APRIL 22 Earth Day

April 22—Serious Skills Series: Leaf Pounding Class. Hosted by DeSoto State Park. Leaf pounding is a simple, stunning technique, historically used by Cherokee women to decorate fabric. Pounding with a rock or a hammer transfers the natural dyes of a leaf to fabric while retaining the design of the original leaf. Join DeSoto State Park Naturalist Brittney Hughes on a quick walk to ID leaves that can be used for leaf pounding, then get a chance to unleash your creativity to make a beautiful and unique piece of fabric to take home. Participants can also bring their own fabric like t-shirts, handkerchiefs, pillowcases, etc. as long as it is 100% cotton. Ages 8-adult. 1-3pm. \$10 includes supplies. Pre-registration required. Email Brittney.Hughes@dcnr.alabama.gov to sign up. Class will be held outside under a covered pavilion; be prepared for whatever weather conditions are present.

April 23—Adventure Hike-DeSoto Falls Basin. Set out on an adventure hike with DeSoto State Park staff to the bottom of one

of Alabama's tallest waterfalls, DeSoto Falls! Learn about Little River, an outstanding water source with its clear water & plant & animal life. Discover the history of the area around DeSoto Falls. Hike is approx. 1.5 miles total but considered moderate to strenuous due to the mountainous terrain and elevation. 9-11:30am. Free. Pre-registration required. Ages 8-adult. Email Brittney.Hughes@dcnr.alabama.gov for more info or to pre-register.

April 23-24—NACC Foundation Home & Garden Tour. Self-guided tour featuring homes and/or gardens in Jackson and DeKalb counties. Visit nacchomegardentour.square.site.

April 24—Yoga on the Mountain: Restorative Yoga Walk. Walk along the park's boardwalk trail, following Laurel Creek. Listen to the sounds of Azalea Cascade as instructor Destin Padgett guides you in restorative yoga poses. Bring a yoga mat or towel, water & snack. 9am. DeSoto State Park-Fort Payne, Alabama. Meet at the Talmadge Butler Boardwalk Trailhead on Co. Rd. 89. \$5 (cash or check). Pre-registration required. Ages 8-adult. Email Brittney.Hughes@dcnr.alabama.gov to pre-register. If weather is questionable- check with DSP Lodge before coming: 256.845.5380. alapark.com/DSP-Yoga

April 29—MAPA's Spring Charity Golf Tournament. Four-person scramble format allows players of all abilities to participate. \$75/person or \$300/foursome until 4/14. \$85/person or \$340/foursome after 4/14. Includes green fee, shared 2-person cart, and lunch. 8am. Lil Mole Run Golf Course, Mentone. Visit mapamentone.com/golf.

Easter Cantata (cont'd from page 7)

message to Pastor Mike at Moon Lake Baptist," said Sylvia, "and asked if he'd like to have a choir for Easter Sunday." He said, 'Oh, that would be great!' The church had not had a choir for 20 years. So my mental picture was we'd have maybe eight people singing in unison. We ended up with a choir of 23 singing in four parts.

"When we got done with that, I said, 'Let's spend the summer working on an Easter cantata and when Robert and I come back next year, we'll finish it up.' Well, when Mike passed away [in January 2022], they called Robert and asked him to come pastor the church, so we came back in February, earlier than planned, and we renewed the choir.

The Moon Lake Messengers choir has now evolved to include singers from four different churches, including Devann Jackson from Scottsboro. "He's singing an amazing solo," said

Sylvia. Devann has been the director of cantatas presented at local churches in years past.

This Easter's cantata will be sung by 21 people who practiced every Sunday night in the summer of 2021 and in February and March of this year.

"They're a great group of dedicated singers," Sylvia said. "They have great diaphragms, because we spend just about as much time laughing as we do singing. That's really healthy! It's been a lot of fun."

Everyone is invited to a reception afterwards in the fellowship hall. Light snacks and refreshments will be served.

Moon Lake Baptist Church is located at 4671 AL Highway 117 in Mentone, near Moon Lake School.



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Mentone American Legion Observes 103rd Birthday

by Barry Morton



L to R: Newest member Judge David Rains, Terry Hutcheson, Barry Morton, Rich Pyell, and Lt. Gen. Joe Cosumano

The first meeting since July of last year was held in the Mentone American Legion (MAL) Post 215. The Post observed the 103rd birthday of the founding of the American Legion.

The March 15-17, 1919 Paris Caucus set in motion the American Legion. The American Legion was chartered by Congress in 1919 as a patriotic veterans organization. Focusing on service to veterans, service members, and communities, the Legion evolved from a group of war-weary veterans of World War I into one of the most influential non-profit groups in the United States. Membership swiftly grew to over 1 million, and local posts sprang up across the country. Today, membership stands at over 2.4 million in 14,000 posts worldwide. The posts are organized into 55 departments: one each for the 50 states, along with the District of Columbia; Puerto Rico; France; Mexico; and the Philippines.

The Mentone Post reviewed its 2022 goals:

1. Raise money for building refurbishment and include liability for a year to give us time to raise the money for additional years.
2. At least once per quarter have a fund raiser to fund more community events.
3. At least once per quarter have barbeques, lunches and dinners.
4. Have breakfast every Saturday morning.
5. Start a women's (partners) auxiliary.
6. Rent Post for events.
7. Improve member communication. The commander and adjutant will be using the Facebook group and emails to share information.
8. Have 50 members: Since our last meeting on July 20, we've signed up 11 new members. The new Commander reminded all, "We are all in the recruiting business."

For more information, please contact Barry Morton either by text or voice at 334-202-8396 or email at barrymorton74@gmail.com.

Barry Morton serves as the adjutant for the Mentone American Legion (MAL) Post 215.



Outgoing Commander Terry Hutcheson hands the gavel to incoming Commander Barry Morton

Mentone Ukes by Debra Fey



Ed Wofford

"The ukulele lessons started about the time I had finished making my first ukulele. I had no idea how to play it! The class schedule worked out perfectly and I have learned so much. Mickey, Debra, and Jerry, and indeed everyone involved made the learning easy. I enjoyed meeting everyone too! (And yes, Mickey, I practice at home!) I have gone on to make a few more string instruments so I'm going to need guitar and mandolin lessons soon!"

—Ed Wofford, group member

Free ukulele sessions continue and will be held at 1 p.m. on April 2, 16, and 30 at the Moon Lake Community Library in Mentone. In addition to the regular sessions the group is practicing for a live performance later this Spring at the Mentone Farmers Market. Newcomers of all ages are always welcomed! We provide a beginner's packet, an introduction to the ukulele class, and loaner instruments for use during the sessions. So plan to join us and bring a friend! Follow us on Facebook/MentoneUkes.



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— LAURA INGALLS WILDER



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mentonewildflower.com 256.634.0066

6007 AL Hwy. 117, Mentone

Mentone Area Church Directory

Mentone, Alabama

Cove Road Baptist Church invites everyone in the Mentone and Cloudland Communities to services—Sunday School 10am (GA time) Morning Worship 11am (GA time), Wednesday Prayer Meeting & Bible Study 5:30pm (GA time). Bro. Brian Keith is the pastor. 2415 County Road 631.

Howard’s Chapel (Church in the Rock) has regular services at 10am each Sunday. You are invited to attend these services or visit the church at other times. Casual dress is always acceptable. County Road 617.

Mentone Church of God of Prophecy has 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. AL Hwy 117 (across from Mentone Post Office).

Mentone Community Church invites you to Crosswalk Sunday School (K through Adult) 9:15am, Adult Worship Service 10:30am, JC Kids Worship Service 10:30am. Pastor Heath Croft, 334-315-3459. Van Ministry for Children pick-up/take home, ages K–12, for all surrounding areas 8:15am. Wednesday small group study 6:30pm. 90 Summerville Rd. 256-634-4210.

Mentone United Methodist Church invites you to come and worship with us. Each Sunday our worship service is held at 11am and is led by Rev. Robert (Bob) Reynolds. Sunday School is at 10am. The service of Holy Communion is held the first Sunday of each month and fifth Sundays are a service of music. 415 Cutler Avenue. 256-634-8006.

Moon Lake Baptist Church is a growing community of believers from various walks of life who endeavor to share the light, life, and love of Jesus with all we meet. We gather together for practical Bible study at 10am on Sunday. You can count on an encouraging and life-engaging message at 11am each Sunday. At 6pm, on Sunday, we enjoy a time of praying together. On Wednesdays at 6pm, we have groups for our children, students, and adults. 4671 AL Hwy. 117. 256-634-4568. Connect with us on Facebook at “Moon Lake”.

Mt. Calvary Baptist Church offers Worship Service at 10:30am (EDT). Interim Pastor Larry Elliott. 10090 County Road 103. 706-862-6221.

St. Joseph’s on-the-Mountain Episcopal Church and Sacred Garden is open daily for prayer and thanksgiving. Everyone is welcome to join us, in person or online, for Holy Eucharist each Sunday at 10:30am, and for online only services each Tuesday at 12 noon for Noonday Prayers and each Thursday at 8pm for Compline. Please visit our website at stjom.church for more information. We continue to support our community with outreach, so please call our church office at 256-634-4476 if you need assistance. 21145 Scenic Hwy, PO Box 161, Mentone, AL 35984.

Summit Church of God in Mentone invites you to Sunday School 10am, Sunday Worship 11am. Pastor Brian Hughes. 1792 AL Hwy. 117. 256-706-5705.

Hammondville, Alabama

The **Church of God 7th Day** invites you to Sabbath School classes at 9:30am and Worship Service at 11am. Visitors are always welcome. Located just off Hwy. 11 N. at corner of Hwy. 117 and Palmer Road. 256-717-5040.

Greater Vision Ministries Church of God invites you to Sunday School 10 am, Sunday Worship *10:45 am, (*Nursery & Kid’s

Church). MidWEEK re-charge Wednesday 6:30pm. Pastor Tim Coppock. 38623 US Hwy 11. 256-601-0679.

Valley Head, Alabama

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 4–18); 6:30pm Praise and Prayer time. 4212 County Road 751. 256-635-1001.

Valley Head Baptist Church invites you to come and worship with us. On Sunday, Bible Study is at 10am & Morning Worship is at 11am; Kidz Connection is at 5pm, Evening Worship at 6pm. Kidz Connection & Youth meet on Wednesday from 5–6pm & a snack supper is provided. On the second Wednesday of the month, there is a church-wide covered dish Fellowship Meal at 6pm. 265 Church Street. 256-465-1242.

Visitors are always welcome at **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. 146 Church St.



Wildwood Seventh Day Adventist Church, Mentone Chapter, holds services in Moon Lake Baptist Church’s dining hall. All are invited to attend. Sabbath School and Song Service 9:30–10:45am, Worship Service 11am–12:15pm. Pastor - Wilbur Atwood; Lay Pastors - James Hartley and Ryan Bunnel.

Fort Payne, Alabama

Since 1889, worshippers have gathered at the **Historic First Presbyterian Church PC (USA)** at 300 Grand Avenue North. We invite you to join us for worship this Sunday at 10:55am. 256-845-2915.

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. 3610 Grand Ave. SW. 256-997-0047.

First United Methodist Church offers a Contemporary Worship service at 8:30am and a traditional service at 11am on Sundays. 206 Grand Avenue North. 256-845-1141. fpfumc.org

Grace Presbyterian Church (PCA) invites you to Sunday School at 9:45am; Sunday Worship at 10:55am. 256-845-4756. 5760 Gault Ave. NE.

Gravel Hill Baptist Church welcomes you to Sunday School at 10am & Worship Service at 11am each Sunday. All are welcome. Wednesdays at 6pm, we have supper and a brief devotional time together. Pastor George Moses. 14701 Hwy 11 South.

Highland Baptist Church welcomes you to join us for Sunday Morning Worship Service and Youth Sunday School from 10am-11am. We are located at 2004 Clark Ave. Follow us on Facebook @highlandbaptistfp for updates and events!

New Oregon United Methodist Church is located just off DeSoto Parkway, 1/4 mile south of Fischer Crossroads. We invite you to worship with us on Sundays. Our worship services are at 11am and also on Sunday evenings in the Chapel 6pm. You can

also worship with us on-line @ facebook.com/neworegonumc. We have Wonderful Wednesdays during the school year with Bible studies for all ages meeting at 6pm in the Family Life Center. Pastor Ian Conerly. 1204 New Oregon Drive NE. 256-845-7446.

Our Lady of the Valley Catholic Church holds Sunday mass in English at 10am and 1pm in Spanish. Tuesday at 6pm in English, Wednesday at 5pm bilingual, Thursday at 6pm in English, Friday at 9am in English and Saturday at 6pm in bilingual. 2910 Gault Ave. N. 256-845-4774.

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church holds regular Worship Services at 10am Sunday. Clifford Herd, Pastor. Everyone is welcome. 1519 Smith Gap Road (County Road 85). 256-845-4842.

St. Stephen Anglican Church invites you to attend service on Sunday mornings at 1pm. Sunday School is at Noon. 1519 Smith Gap Road NW. Father Rodney Jackson, 205-405-0055; Deacon Jack Gilbreath, 256-845-2605.

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. 3606 Greenhill Blvd NW. 256-996-0929.

Cloudland, Georgia

Cloudland Presbyterian Church welcomes everyone to come join us for services, with Pastor Jan Warren-Taylor. Bible Study Sunday at 9am (EST) and Worship at 10am (EST). 150 Partain Road.

Menlo, Georgia

Alpine Community Church Pastor Jeremy Stroop welcomes each and everyone to worship service Sunday mornings at 11am GA time; Sunday School 10am (EST); and Wednesday night Bible Study at 7pm (EST). 1104 Hwy. 337, Menlo GA. 706-862-6641.

Menlo Church of Christ invites you to attend 10am (EST) and 11am (EST) Sunday services and evening services at 5pm (EST) on Sundays and Wednesdays. Visitors are always welcome.

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

Summerville, Georgia

Redemption Worship Center invites you to “Find Love, Encouragement, & Purpose!” Wednesdays: Hour of Power Bible Study 6:30pm (EST); Chosen Generation Youth 6:30pm (EST). Sundays: Sunday School 9:30am (EST); Morning Celebration 10:30am (EST). Pastors Dr. David & Penny Reeves. 174 West First Avenue. 706-808-0909.

Summerville Seventh Day Adventist Church invites you to worship with us. Saturday morning Sabbath School classes at 9:30am (EST) and Worship Service at 11am (EST). Everyone is welcome. Services are held at the First Presbyterian Church, 116 College Street. The Pastor is Dr. Edward Skoretz. summervillesda.com.

Please send any changes to
The Groundhog
at groundhognews@yahoo.com
or P.O. Box 387
Mentone, AL 35984

LITTLE RIVER
ARTS COUNCIL
N•E•W•S
by Juli Jordan

Music for the People
Summer Music Series
Begins June 19, 7-10pm
Linger Longer Pavilion
Behind the Mentone Inn

- June 19
Parrot Tales
Jimmy Buffett Covers
- July 9
Black Sedan Band
70s-90s Covers
- August 29
Natti Love Joys
Traditional Reggae
& Bob Marley Covers
- September 10
Lon Eldridge
Ragtime, Blues & Swing

Flipping through the Little River Arts Council scrapbook, some doodling caught my eye, particularly the phrase “Awakening Art Appreciation.” Spring is nature’s time of awakening and just as buds pop out on the trees, art events are popping out on the mountain, awakening us all to the art of appreciation.

LRAC’S upcoming community art events include Art Talks, Pop Up events, and music.

ART TALK at Moon Lake Library

On Wednesday, April 20, local photographer Mikel Yeakle leads another informal conversation about art, why we create it, and how it affects our lives. Mikel is an art history buff whose knowledge and enthusiasm for art is engaging and delightful. Having worked as a professional artist all his adult life, Mikel has useful tips for anyone new to selling their work. All are invited to bring their artwork and share their process and inspirations. The conversation is open to anyone who is drawn to art (pun intended) not just creators of art.

March’s Art Talk welcomed Peggy Pearson and Tim Wright, who recently moved to the Mentone area from

Albuquerque. Tim shared samples of his whimsical art, resulting in a lively discussion.

POP UP ART Exhibits

Pop up art exhibits will be on display on Saturdays, 10 a.m.–1 p.m., at the Linger Longer Pavilion adjacent to the Mentone Farmer’s Market. April’s artists include Kevin Chitwood’s wood and resin cutting boards; Lisa Sulkosky’s still life and landscape paintings; Shannon Bullock’s fabric art; folk artist Lacy Dobbs; and

henna artist Ivy Nakhleh. If you are an artist looking for an opportunity to exhibit your work, please text pop-up coordinator Destin Padgett at 256-926-8375.

The BIG ART POP UP

LRAC partners with Mentone Inn to keep the festival spirit alive this May with The Big Art Pop Up. Will Dooley & Company kick off the event with a community concert

on Friday, May 20, 7–10 p.m. behind the Mentone Inn at the Linger Longer Pavilion. On Saturday, May 21, 10 a.m.–3 p.m., over a dozen artists will exhibit at the same location. Expect to find anything from watercolor to wood burning.



Pat Martin, Peggy Pearson, Tim Wright, and Mikel Yeakle at March’s Art Talk

Finster Pop Up

On May 14, LRAC and member artists Lacy Dobbs, Mikel Yeakle, and Destin Padgett will participate in Finster’s Pop Up Art at Howard Finster’s Paradise Garden in Summerville, GA. Become a member artist by joining our complimentary Artist Registry at littleriverartscouncil.org/registry and you can participate in invitation-only opportunities with LRAC.

Little River Arts Council relies on memberships, individual and corporate contributions, program revenues, fundraising, and grants to support our programs throughout the year. We appreciate the donors, supporters, and volunteers who make our work possible.

We are especially thankful to the Alabama State Council on the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts for the grants which help us bring the Summer Music Series, Follow Your Art, and Creative Spirit Market to Mentone and the Little River area each year.

Show your Art of Appreciation by renewing your membership or becoming a new member. Memberships are available at a variety of levels and are renewed annually. To become a member simply visit our website at littleriverartscouncil.org.

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram and check out our website for more information on our activities and a registry of area artists.

Juli Jordan serves as the secretary of the Little River Arts Council.

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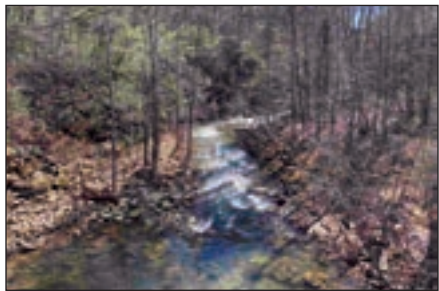
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River Voice by Angie Shugart

"When one tugs at a single thing in nature, he finds it attached to the rest of the world." —John Muir

April is Earth month and Little River Waterkeeper is one organization out of a few hundred throughout the state that are spreading a positive message about taking care of our water, air and land. This is a fun time of year, naturally, to celebrate the Earth since spring is bursting with fresh new colors and warmer temperatures draw us outside. We get in the mood to work in the yard to attract birds and bees and enjoy outdoor activities that are good for our mind, body, and spirit. Spring festivals pop up and on April 21, we attend to commemorate the modern environmental movement and make a pledge to reduce our impact on the Earth.

Alabama is a hotspot for biodiversity and is considered America's Amazon. It is vital that we maintain this title for numerous reasons but mainly to offset the effects of climate change. The soil, trees, air, water, and wildlife are all connected. Humans are also a part of this natural system. The famous Muir quote is simple and true, "When one tugs at a single thing in nature, he finds it attached to the rest of the world." No matter how modern humans become, we are still a part of a natural system. Alabama is number #1 in the nation for diversity of freshwater fish, mussels, snails, and crayfish, but at the same time we are losing these species at an alarming rate due to climate change.

Taking care of the Earth with daily intentional actions will indeed make a difference but we need to step up our game and join the conversation that encourages local and state policy makers to address climate-related impacts to communities. If we encourage our leaders to take the steps necessary to safeguard our natural resources, we have a better chance at reducing the negative impacts of climate change. By protecting our rivers and waterways, moving away from dirty fossil fuel infrastructure, and creating access to clean energy solutions, we create a better state for future generations.

Climate change in Alabama:

- By mid-century, the average temperature of Alabama will increase by 2–4 degrees and by the end of the century, 4–8 degrees.
- Seventy years from now, Alabama is likely to have 30 to 60 days with temperatures above 95°F, compared with about 15 days today.
- By 2050, Alabama's average number of days with high wildfire potential is projected to double from 25 to nearly 50 days a year.
- Although rainfall during spring is likely to increase during the next 40 to 50 years, the total amount of water running off into rivers or recharging groundwater is likely to decline 2.5 to 5 percent, as increased evaporation offsets the greater rainfall. Droughts are likely to be more severe, because periods without rain may be longer and very hot days will be more frequent.
- By 2050, the severity of widespread summer drought is projected to see an average increase of about 85 percent; Alabama's threat level is projected to remain average among the states assessed.

- Soybeans were Alabama's second most valuable crop in 2014, with \$193 million of production. Absent significant agricultural adaptation, soybean yields will likely decrease by up to 14% by 2020–2039. Alabama's fourth most valuable crop, corn, will likely experience even steeper production declines. Corn output will likely drop by as much as 22% by 2020–2039 and as much as 44% by 2040–2059.
- Some of Alabama's current ecoregions will shift northward or northeastward. Others, based on specific geological features, will constrict severely, or disappear entirely.
- Alabama currently has approximately 200 square miles in the 100-year coastal floodplain. By 2050, this is projected to double to nearly 400 square miles.
- Projection for sea level rise in Alabama based on data from Pensacola: "Our "slow" projection for Pensacola is 0.5' by 2050 and 1.6' by 2100. The full range of projections, slow to fast, was 0.3–1.6' by midcentury and 1.6–6.1' by 2100.

Statistics provided by the Sierra Club of Alabama, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the Alabama Climate Report

The saying, "We all live downstream," is a good way to remember to be mindful that what you do on your section of Little River matters.

Climate mitigation measures take more than scientists and environmental groups to initiate change. It takes citizens, governments, and communities coming together to implement solutions. Our biggest local issue—negative impacts of land development in the Little River Watershed—is mostly unrestricted, leaving the land and water vulnerable to irreversible damage. The saying, "We all live downstream," is a good way to remember to be mindful that what you do on your section of Little River matters. Smart growth practices such as low-impact development will not only protect native habitats but will protect you, the landowner, from climate change. Before building that dream home on Little River that removes trees and soil from the riverbanks, think about the sediment that will pollute the river and maintain a riparian buffer. This will provide shade for aquatic species and keep the bank from eroding. Seek a conscientious home builder who will keep in mind the surrounding landscape while preparing your home site and during the building process. Before hiring a logging company to extract timber from your land, make sure they take extra measures to keep sediment out of nearby waterways. Conservation, restoration, and improved land management are just a few ways

to lessen our carbon footprint and keep our natural areas protected. I encourage you to take action. Your life may not depend on it, but one day it will matter to someone you care about. I will end with a quote I heard Mentone local Nancy Smith use and I relate it to this subject: "It's a big hairy deal."

To learn more about environmental issues in Alabama that affect all of us, check out Southern Exposure Films (southernexposurefilms.org) by our partners at Alabama Rivers Alliance. These short films highlight Alabama's amazing biodiversity and the issues that threaten our state.

Angie Shugart is the executive director of Little River Waterkeeper, a 501(c)(3) water advocacy program and a member of the Waterkeeper Alliance, a global clean water movement. Learn more at littleriverwaterkeeper.org. Donations are tax-deductible. 215 Grand Ave. SW Fort Payne, AL 35967.



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Mentone Arts & Cultural Center Update by Randy Grider

Gwen Hughes and the Kats; 'Jason Adams in the round' make for a musical April

Spring means music is in the air—and onstage inside the gallery of the Chuck Sennett Center for the Arts. It kicks off with our monthly Songwriters Round on Tuesday, April 5, at 6:30 p.m. The round will spotlight Jason Adams as the featured artist and include additional songwriters Megan Kuehner, Troy Dewberry, and Roger Moore. Award-winning songwriter and Mentone resident Craig Hendricks serves as the round's host.

Adams is a traditional country music singer/songwriter who recently signed to Atlas Star Records. He won both the Horizon Male Vocalist and Rising Star Entertainer of the Year in Traditional Country Music for the North American Country Music Association International in March of 2013. His first single, "Can't Get No Ease," was released December 10, 2021 to all downloadable platforms. He has sung with legends like Ronnie McDowell, Dan Seals, and Lynn Anderson, and was twice the opening act for Bill Haley's Comets.

On Friday, April 15, at 7 p.m., Gwen Hughes and the Kats will perform for the first time ever in Mentone. Hughes is a popular American jazz singer, songwriter and actress based in Atlanta.

Hughes has released six albums on Fairfield Records, starting with "Torch Life" in the 1990s up until her newest album, "Dancing in the Moonlight," recorded with her European band, Mono, featuring the greatest hits of their 10 years of touring Eastern Europe. Gwen recently signed with Zoho Music for the album, "Native Land," a recording celebrated by JazzWeekly: "Gwen does it again!"

Always a musical explorer, her latest singles fuse jazz with EDM and hip-hop: "I'd Know Your Voice Anywhere (Mark Alston Deep House Remix)" and "You Make Me Feel Like Candy" (BELOW Remix)."

Along the way, she has crooned from Paris to Istanbul, collaborated on a film about Elvis impersonators ("We Three Kings"), and appeared as a character in a detective novel (Phillip DePoy's Dancing Made Easy, published by Dell.) In 2016, Gwen performed in Prague at the invitation of Emil Viklicky, the Czech Republic's national jazz legend. The former Ambassador to Slovenia, Joseph Mussomeli, proclaims: "As a performer and a person, Gwen is a delight, and the music that pours—actually, gushes—from her band is stirring and refreshing." The U. S. State Department sponsored two tours



Gwen Hughes



Jason Adams

of the band throughout Eastern Europe.

Hughes also has appeared on television, most recently on Donald Glover's "Atlanta," as well as appearances on "Stan Against Evil" (IFC), "Murder Comes to Town," and "Dead Silent" (both on Investigation ID).

Offstage, Hughes worked as a Board Governor with The Recording Academy, as well as Atlanta's Grammy Museum Ambassador (which preserves the American music heritage). She was also the Johnny Mercer "Artist in Residence" with the GA Music Hall of Fame and instructor for the Otis Redding Foundation Songwriter Camp. She is an advocate for music education all over the world, working with students of all ages in the U.S., Morocco, Kenya, Slovenia, and France.

In 2012, Gwen was cast in the world premiere of Stephen King and John Mellencamp's "Ghost Brothers of Darkland County," with music production by T-Bone Burnette.

The band was recently signed to the historic performing arts agency, Alkahest Artists, for their touring show, the 1920s-inspired "Gwen Hughes & The Retro Kats."

The songwriters round is free to the public, though we appreciate donations that are given to the volunteer songwriters to cover their travel expenses.

The Gwen Hughes & the Kats performance is \$25 per person. Purchasing tickets in advance is strongly recommended as seating is limited. For tickets or additional information, please see contact information below.

Randy Grider is executive director of the Mentone Arts & Cultural Center, Inc. He can be reached at mentoneartscenter@gmail.com or 256-674-3366.



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After Little River Escape Tiny Home Community was named one of the top six communities to downsize in by *U.S. News & World Report*, our community has become fully occupied and folks have come from 12 different states to live within our community.

With a successful year, Little River Escape has decided to embark on a new journey by creating River Ridge Escape Tiny Home Dealership. At the dealership, tiny homes are available to tour and purchase. RRE is now delivering across the nation and also developing other communities to bring more folks to Lookout Mountain.

River Ridge Escapes now has five tiny home communities and one down County Road 641 in Mentone, AL. There are several Airbnb Tiny Homes in our various locations to come experience a tiny home, downsizing, the community, and explore the surrounding areas.

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In Memoriam



BILLY D. CHADWICK
November 10, 1935 ~ March 16, 2022
Billy Donald Chadwick, age 86, of Cloudland, GA, died Wednesday, March 16, 2022. Mr. Chadwick was born November 10, 1935, in Trion, GA, son of the late Daniel Spencer Chadwick and Lillie Mae Simmons. Prior to his retirement, he owned and operated Chadwick Excavating. In addition to his parents, Mr. Chadwick was preceded in death by his wife of 53 ½ years, Shelby Jean Everette Chadwick; siblings, Virginia Jo Smith, Tommy Chadwick, and Jimmy Chadwick.

Survivors include his daughters, LaDonna Barton, Christi Stout, Zelma (Marcey) Yancey, and April (Bart) Bryant; a sister, Shirley Love; 9 grandchildren; 20 great-grandchildren; and 1 great-great-granddaughter.



MARTHA TOWNS SPRAYBERRY
November 28, 1932 - March 26, 2022
Martha Towns Sprayberry, age 89, of Mentone, passed away on March 26, 2022, at home in the loving company of family and friends. To all, she was known for her undeniable faith in the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and her incomparable love of music and children ministry. Whether you knew her as Martha, Mrs. Sprayberry, Aunt Martha, Mother, or Grandmother, made no difference in how she loved you - with her whole heart.

Martha was born in Kellyton, Alabama on November 28, 1932. She attended Kellyton Elementary School and Goodwater High School. She attended Judson

College, Singing Schools, and Bible College. She married her sweetheart Harold Sprayberry, in 1951 and resided in Goodwater, Alabama for 52 years. Martha was employed as a seamstress for Russell Mills Corporation and a certified dietitian for Goodwater Nursing Home. She was a faithful member of Goodwater Baptist Church and is remembered for playing the piano, Choir Director, Vacation Bible School director, Children's ministry director, teacher of all age groups from kindergarten through adult Sunday School and Training Union Classes, WMU director and Children's Drama Director.

After the death of her beloved husband in 2007, she moved to Mentone to live with her daughter, Gail and family. She became an active member of the Moon Lake Baptist Church helping with music ministry and Vacation Bible School.

We are thankful for her leading and loving us and for filling our lives with so much joy and music that still rings in our hearts. We are thankful for her prayers with such dedication and love in moments when we ourselves could not find strength.

Martha joins in heaven her husband, Harold Lanier Sprayberry; her parents, Ennis and Myrtle Towns; her sister Geraldine Forbus; and brother Milton Towns. She is survived by sister, Nell Humphries, (George); children, Marie (Totsy) Tidwell (Bill), Gail Jones (Ronnie), Tim Sprayberry (Leigh); grandchildren, Chad Tidwell (Stacia), Kristen Jones, Candace McKelvy (Chad), Jessica Jones, and Amber Sprayberry; great-grandchildren, Max and Mason Tidwell, and Clay and Parker McKelvy.



RICHARD OWEN TATUM
December 18, 1934—March 27, 2022
Richard Owen Tatum, age 87, died March 27, 2022 in Lawrenceville, Georgia. Formerly of Mentone, Mr. Tatum was born in Selma, Alabama, on December 18, 1934. He received a B.A. degree from Auburn University and a M.A. degree from the University of Alabama. Mr. Tatum served in leadership roles in multiple Episcopal churches and the Boy Scouts of America. He was a 66-year member of the Free and Accepted Masons of Alabama. He had a 30-year career in public education as a teacher and school administrator.

He will be remembered and honored by the many lives he touched. He is survived by his wife of 59 years, Darla; son, Bernard Tatum; son, Eric Tatum (Jennifer); daughter, Janelle Tatum; and grandchildren, Kate Tsoleas and Jake Tatum. He was predeceased by his parents, Mary and O.B. Tatum.

A memorial service will be held at St. Joseph's-on-the-Mountain Episcopal Church, 21145 Scenic Highway, Mentone, AL 35984 at 2 p.m. on April 2, 2022. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to St. Joseph's-on-the-Mountain Episcopal Church, P.O. Box 161, Mentone, AL 35984.



Join us for services at
St. Joseph's-on-the-Mountain

Palm Sunday Service April 10, 10:30 a.m.
Maundy Thursday Service April 14, 6 p.m.
Stations of the Cross in the Sacred Garden April 15, 11:30 a.m.
Good Friday Liturgy April 15, Noon
Easter Celebration in the Sacred Garden April 17, 10:30 a.m.

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Ruby O'Rear's Days Come to Life

APRIL, 1937

April 1, Thursday, 1937

Temp 29. Clear, warm during day.
Mother rested better to-day. Was able to lay on her right side a little. First time in several days. Takes no nourishment tho except juice & cream. I baked a lemon pie to take to pie supper. Finished remodeling blue dress, washed & ironed it. Jack made some divinity after school. Got Mother up first time to-day. I fixed her so I could go to pie supper. Hazel had to study so Paul, J.B., & I went.

April 2, Friday, 1937

Last Day of School
Frost. Clear, warm. Temp to above 60.
Mother's back didn't seem to hurt her so bad. Then had to get up again in about 2 hrs. I killed a guinea. Paul took Jack to school then went for her about 10:00. Paul took the little children who lived along the way from school home. Brod Jack home about 12:00. She worked on her report & sent it to Mr. Turner by A.J. & Paul. I started the arm holes on my sweater. Mother got up just before dark.

April 3, Saturday, 1937

Fair – warmer. Temp 70 or above.
Hazel washed. Bathed Mother off in bed then got her up—changed her clothes & the bed clothes. She was restless all day. Jack & Paul went to Mentone & to see Mr. Turner about her register. Billy & Jack spent day with J.B. Brandol came over hunting Billy. Paul fixed calf pasture I had started. Cow got out last nite. Something or some body got most of the milk. Jack, Paul & J.B. went to class of school exercises at Lake. A.J. also go. Put Hazel's skirt back on needles. Worked some on my sweater.

April 4, Sunday, 1937

Rainy. Temp 56
Stayed at home all day. None of us cleaned up except Hazel took bath & washed her hair last nite. Jessie didn't even dress all day. She & Paul worked & worked on her register. Billy spent P.M. with J.B. I wrote a letter. A.J. went to Paul's for dinner. Her mother is still over there. Mother rested fairly well today. Paul & A.J. went to May's Gulley.

April 5, Monday, 1937

Moderately warm & rainy
So rainy Paul had to take Hazel to Dan's. Missed bus there so he took her on to valley & got some things for Mother. I knitted some on sweater. Mother was restless all day. Paul to Jack to see Mr. Turner & they finished fixing her report & register. She cleaned up house in P.M. Paul & Ethel came over & stayed awhile & A.J. went back with them.



April 6, Tuesday, 1937

Temp 41–47. Cloudy.
Ethel & Paul came by & got A.J. & they went to Summerville for day. Paul started off to work to be gone all week but at F.P. found there was a mistake in Jessie's register so brot it back. Mother slept quite a bit to-day—more than usual. I went for mail. Knitted some on sweater. Wrote a letter to Mrs. Newtons. Took two doses of Swamp Root.

April 7, Wednesday, 1937

Temp 28 to above 60.
Mother had a bad night. Slept very little. Got some kidney medicine from Lee Martin like she's been taking & took it today. I bathed. Jack & J.B. ate picnic lunch. Mother's rested better today. I finished back of sweater and started front. J.B. & I went to store for sugar so Jack could make cake.

April 8, Thursday, 1937

Rainy in morn. Temp above 60 but cool
Eula & Jodie came by & gave J.B. a spring rabbit. Mother only got up twice. Rested real well today. Except her feet got tired & we rubbed them in alcohol. I knitted some on ribbing of front. Worked on flannel skirt. Fixed sleeves of organdie & washed & ironed it. Jewel came over for milk. Hazel went to Wallace's. Mr. Fowler called. Took off 8 chicks. My first to hatch.

April 9, Friday, 1937

Cold, rainy
Jessie intended to wash but it's too bad. I knitted some on ribbing. I went for mail. Went in time to send some mail toward Cloudland. Hazel came home. Mother very restless. Couldn't seem to be easy in any position. Thot she'd have to take an aspirin but didn't.

Editor's Note:

In our July 2021 issue, we introduced the diary entries of Miss Ruby O'Rear, granddaughter of John Mason, (the founder of Mentone) and daughter of Alice Mason (who named the town). You can read more about Ruby O'Rear at mapamentone.com/groundhog-archives (July 2021).

In 2015, the University of Alabama acquired her diaries from the years 1936 and 1937 from a bookseller in Brooklyn, NY. They are part of the University Libraries Special Collections (MSS4133). Many thanks to Chris Carmichael for sharing his copy of the diaries with *The Groundhog*.

We hope you will enjoy reading these entries of her daily diary for the month of April, 1937.

April 10, Saturday, 1937

Temp 30. Clear, cool.
Mother didn't go to sleep until late but rested fairly well after that. Jessie washed. Hazel got dinner then scrubbed. Mother seemed to be better to-day. Back didn't hurt so bad. Billy & J.B. put up tent in woods in front of house. Billy Smith came over in P.M. & stayed awhile. I knitted a little. Paul & I went to Mentone for cow feed & took Mrs. Nail a guinea rooster.

April 11, Sunday, 1937

Temp 28. Clear, cool, windy.
Billy & J.B. slept in tent last nite. I went to S.S. Something got wrong with car & it nearly ran off road. Walked home. Stopped at Clyde's a few min. Also at Dan's. Mother slept most of time I was gone. Ethel, Hope & Faye came out for a little while. Hope brot some kudzu vine out.

April 12, Monday, 1937

Temp 27. Clear, pleasant.
Hazel stayed at home to finish her brown suit. Paul took me to Cloudland to give in taxes. Mother rested fairly well. Beginning to enjoy her food more. Knitted a little. Heard that Ruth Kaguvelis was married or at least was to have married April 2. Miss Pearl Hudson is able to be back after an illness. Calf got to cow & got milk.

April 13, Tuesday, 1937

Temp just above freezing last nite. Went to 70 today.
Mother was restless last nite. Didn't sleep much but slept quite a bit today. Alice Jane & Paul went to C'nooga. Jessie & Paul had planned to go but Eula couldn't come & stay with Mother & me. I worked outdoors hr or so. Mr. Yates hauled 2 cords wood. Paul & J.B. went fishing. Calf got all the milk again. Two cords wood.

April 14, Wednesday, 1937

Clear. Pleasant. Went above 70.
Mother didn't sleep so well & had to get up at 3:00. I had headache most of day. Took nap in morn. Jack, Paul & J.B. went to C'nooga. I fixed a dress of Hazel's. We soaked Mother's feet when Hazel first got home. Miss Hurd & Miss Andrews came out. Mother slept some to-day. Set out 3 Picardy glads.

April 15, Thursday, 1937

Cloudy in morn. Windy.
Sun shone some. Temp above 70.
Hope's birthday
Mother rested well last nite. My head still feels unpleasant. I set out 5 Virginia glads. Red. Fixed Hazel's white crepe skirt & started making me an over blouse out of old blue dress. Mother got to where she could not talk plain to-day. Thot after she took a nap she might get all right but she didn't.

April 16, Friday, 1937

Clear, cooler. Temp 44 last nite.
We stayed up with Mother most of nite. She wanted the Dr. about 9:00 but he could not come. Gave her ½ opium tablet & she rested the rest of nite. Had Dr. come this morn. Said she had a light stroke. A.J. went to V.H. for her medicine but she won't take it or anything else except a swallow of juice & one of cream. I planted some tomato seed. Mother wanted Dr. Richey & was taking on so we sent for him & he gave hypodermic.

April 17, Saturday, 1937

Clear, cool. Temp 38 last nite. Temp went to 76 or above.
Mother slept all night from effects of hypodermic. She was better in some ways today but only talked in a whisper & said only a few words. Ethel came over about noon. A.J. stayed over at Paul's. Sonny was sick. Mrs. Emerson & Jewel came over. Eula stopped by late in p.m. Nettie & Clara came over. Ethel going to stay until midnite. Mother's throat seemed to hurt her to-nite. Paul & A.J. brot some dog. Got 11 of a setting.

April 18, Sunday, 1937

Warm last nite. Had only a little fire.
Temp. above 80 to-day
Mother rested except had a spell with throat hurting her after midnite. She's brighter this morn. Seems to want water & juice or cream or coffee but it seems to hurt her when she takes it & she won't take over one swallow. Eula & Jodie came by. Then Lonnie & Mr. Cash came by. Kelly O'Rear came over in P.M. Hope, Faye & Vera Mae came by. Mother noticed Faye & her dress & smiled at her & kissed them. First time
(continued on page 27)

Ruby O’Rear (cont’d from page 26)
she had smiled. Paul & A.J. got her some ice cream. Only took a bite or 2 but it seemed to help her throat.

April 19, Monday, 1937
Another warm day
Paul brot Ethel over & A.J. went back with him. Sonny sick. Mother took a few swallows of milk, also a few of thickening off asparagus & 2 bites egg custard. But she’s been very restless all evening. Slept very little to-day. I mopped floor of our room. Put window light in. We had first mess of poke greens to-day. Jessie & Hazel started work on yards.

April 20, Tuesday, 1937
Clear & warm. Temp. 83.
Mother didn’t rest at all well last nite but slept some this morn. So I took good nap while she did. Ethel Green & Mrs. Yarbrough came down. Jessie washed. Mother restless most of day. Mother took some cream & orange juice & seemed to enjoy it.

April 21, Wednesday, 1937
Cloudy in morn. Cooler. Rained hard shower then cleared off.
Mother had another bad nite. Arms & legs hurt her. Still drinking quite a bit of liquids. Had Paul & me to walk her into the living room to bay window. Sat down on sofa & then lay down on it. Went back to bed & rested fine.

Eula came by. Gave her Black Draught. Killed guinea.
April 22, Thursday, 1937
Clear, cooler.
Mother rested well last nite. Had us walk her in living room again. Then after she rested we changed her clothes & bed. Paul got nice mess of poke. Merlin brot Kate, Ed & Thelma down. Mother seemed glad to see them all. Went out into living room while they were here. Sat down on sofa. Paul, Jack & Hazel raked some more. I worked on flannel skirt.
April 23, Friday, 1937
Clear, warm.
Jessie washed again. Mother rested fine to-day & still eating hearty. Walked into living room but got pretty tired. I finished fixing white flannel skirt. Eula came by. Took off 2 hens. 22 chicks.
April 24, Saturday, 1937
Rained hard in morn then cleared off a little then rained real hard just before dark.
Mother rested well last nite & this morn. A.J. & I started to V.H. but Ethel called. Said Sonny had pneumonia in other lung & Paul was going to Rome for nurse & wanted A.J. to go & help drive. After dinner Paul took me to V.H. Had my hair cut. Mother’s back hurting her to-nite. Ethel came over here to-nite.
April 25, Sunday, 1937

Clear, cool. Temp 48.
From midnight on Mother took on with her back & only slept after giving her 1½ morphine tablets. Still taking on this morn. Put hot cloths on her back & she slept. A.J. went to Paul’s. Hope & Fay came. Brot some medicine from Menlo & hot water bottle. Mother slept several hrs. Her head is drawn back & muscles tense. Tho she don’t suffer so now. Didn’t pay any attention to anyone to-day.
April 26, Monday, 1937
Cloudy, cool. Temp 38 to in 60s.
Dust storm.
Mother slept quite a bit to-day. Lots better. Head not drawn & muscles less tense. Ate quite a bit. Cold enough to have fire in living room. I started sleeve for Annie F.’s dress. Mrs. Shigley, Will & Frank Warne came over. A.J. stayed at Paul’s all day. Washed my hair. Mother rested well last nite.
April 27, Tuesday, 1937
Still quite cool & partially cloudy.
Mother rested well last nite & ate several times during nite. Rested well to-day. Stomach griped her some. I crocheted some. Fixed blue silk blouse. A.J. & J.B. went to valley for Hazel as bus wasn’t coming up until to-nite after play.
April 28, Wednesday, 1937
Temp. about 45. Cloudy in morn but cleared off & warmed up.

Mother didn’t sleep much after midnite. Slept some this morn & I took several naps. I crocheted on sleeve to A.F.’s dress. Jessie, Paul & Hazel all raked some on yard. Sonny White lots better.
April 29, Thursday, 1937
Cool. Rained hard last night.
Mother rested well last nite, also to-day. I crocheted quite a bit on sleeves to dress for A.F. Paul & A.J. took nurse back home. Mother eating cream mainly. Mother said bed & pillows were uncomfortable. Hazel washed Mother’s clothes.
April 30, Friday, 1937
Still cool. Temp. 52. Rainy.
Mother rested well last nite for which I was very thankful as I felt bad. Back hurt last nite. Had to take tablet. Mother wanted to go into living room so Paul put cot in there & we put Mother on it & beat her mattress. I crocheted some. Bus left Hazel & Paul & J.B. went for her. Jessie washed out sheet. Hazel made her pajamas.



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