



THE GROUNDHOG

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Volume 41, No. 6

"Neighborly News from the Heart of Lookout Mountain"

June 2022

Valley Head's Winston Place

by Doreen Crow Waters

A testament to days gone by, historic Winston Place sits majestically on 25 acres in Valley Head, with Lookout Mountain as a backdrop. Its Colonial Revival façade evokes romantic images of ladies in Victorian gowns with tiny, corseted waists and billowing hoop skirts, gentlemen in top hats and waistcoats, horse-drawn carriages, and a life of elegance and ease. The reality of its colorful history is less romantic, but nonetheless fascinating.

According to information recently acquired by Landmarks of DeKalb, the property originally belonged to Ellis Buffington, a Cherokee who left before the Removal around 1831. A log cabin was constructed on the site. Buffington operated a mill 300 yards from the property at the present location of Valley Head Park. The property then belonged to a Dr. Gardner who lived there for a few years before moving to the Head Springs area. The next owners were A.G. and Nancy Hale from Marion County, Tennessee, who were probably associated with William Overton Winston. It is believed that the Hales never lived there; according to the property deed, they sold the property to Winston in 1846.

William Overton Winston was born in 1804 in Fauquier County, Virginia. His lineage traces back to the minutemen who served General George Washington during the Revolutionary War and he was a distant cousin to Dolly Madison and Patrick Henry. He was an ambitious man with big dreams.

(continued on page 16)



Dick O'Ferrall, Founder of Alpine Camp for Boys, Passes Away



It is hard to say goodbye to an old and good friend. Many in Mentone join the O'Ferrell family and the Alpine Camp family in mourning the passing of Dick O'Ferrall—Mr. O. The Mentone camp directors considered Mr. O our leader and friend. He offered us all counsel and encouragement. All of us became better camp professionals and better people through his words and example. He set the professional bar high for the Mentone camps and was greatly respected nationally by his colleagues in the camping industry. He was a man of great faith and lived it everyday. Everyone in Mentone who knew him will remember his kindness, thoughtfulness, and generosity. Mr. O loved his family, Alpine Camp, and his friends. He loved Ole Miss. He enjoyed good food (and always ice cream). He knew every good spot to eat in the South. He was always interested in everything and everybody Mentone. His legacy will live on through his family, Alpine Camp, and the many lives he touched. He is greatly missed. —Rob Hammond

Rob Hammond is the mayor of the Town of Mentone and the founder/director of Camp Laney. Please see page 3 for Mr. O'Ferrall's obituary.

Mentone's New Sidewalk Opens

Mentone's new pedestrian sidewalk has been completed and is open for public use. Residents seem to be pleased with its meandering design as it passes around trees and follows the slope of the land, maintaining a natural aesthetic. The sidewalk will allow pedestrians and bicycle riders to travel the 7/10s of a mile on the north side of AL Highway 117 between downtown Mentone and Dempsey Street, where Little River Hardware, Moon Lake Trading Co., and Seabolt's Tacos are located.

The sidewalk will be celebrated with a grand opening on Tuesday, June 14, at around 6 p.m., following the monthly meeting of Mentone's Town Council at 5 p.m. Everyone is invited to join Mayor Rob Hammond and town council members in front of the Mentone Market for the ceremony.

Mentone police chief Gene McKee would like to remind the public to be safe while walking along the highway, and for bicyclists to immediately give the right-of-way to pedestrians. Motorized vehicles will not be allowed on the sidewalk. AL-DOT is in the process of adding a pedestrian crosswalk on AL Highway 117 in front of Mentone Market.



THE GROUNDHOG

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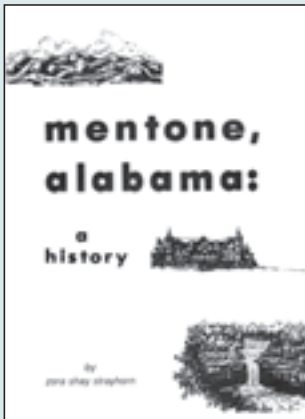
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The opinions, beliefs, and viewpoints expressed by the various authors in this publication do not necessarily reflect the opinions, beliefs, and viewpoints or policies of the Mentone Area Preservation Association.

Groundhog woodcut 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

Welcome to our summer visitors—campers, counselors, tourists, and those with second homes! The new sidewalk is open. It is gratifying to see people enjoying it! Lambert is finishing up some of the driveway aprons. The crosswalk at the Market will become operable after the state installs signage and markings on 117. As the summer crowds arrive we all need to be on the lookout for bicyclists and pedestrians.

The town has will apply in June for another TAP (Transportation Alternative Program) grant through ALDOT to extend the existing sidewalk from Dempsey Avenue across the old 117 bridge.



Our engineer at Ladd Environmental, Adam Lea, is working on the plans. TARCOG will submit the grant application on behalf of the town in June.



From the Editor

An abundance of foxgloves made a surprise appearance on our land this year. They're so gorgeous, I do believe they're as excited about this season as I am. We've all enjoyed a beautiful spring, and with the close of schools and the opening of camps, summer is almost upon us.

DeSoto Falls have reopened after being closed for several months while the state park implemented several changes, including dredging the shoreline of Little River and installing a swimming beach.

As always, we must remain mindful when swimming in the river or any of its tempting swimming holes. Weather upstream can change very quickly, bringing a rise in water levels and flow further downstream. It's easy to think of the calm sections as being safe and secure, but in reality, accidents do happen—sometimes fatal ones.

I know you'll all join me in wishing that there are no accidents of any kind on the river this summer. Please keep yourself and your family

and friends safe while enjoying the pleasantness of simply being near the water.
Hannah Leeper, our local bear researcher, will present programs in Mentone and at DeSoto State Park on June 4; see page 14 for details. This is a great opportunity for newcomers, visitors, and residents. She will talk about black bears, her research, and important tips for living with bears. I always enjoy hearing her speak. She's a bright and articulate young scientist, and if you have children, they may well be inspired by her.
If you've never attended the grand opening of a sidewalk, you'll have a chance on June 12! See page 1 for details. Mentone's landscape has changed with the addition of the sidewalk on the eastern side of town, and I think it's a great addition. It's something everyone can enjoy, from babies in strollers to elders on electric scooters.
I wish you all a happy summer season. May it be blessed with good food, fresh air, friendly companionship, healthy recreation, and rejuvenative relaxation.
Be well, everyone. —*Kelly*



Message from MAPA by Mark Hoffman

MAPA is already working hard to prepare for this year's Colorfest. Festival coordinators are being appointed, a potential location change is being explored, and a litany of other issues, logistical and otherwise, are being discussed.

All of the board members are stepping up with their time and efforts. We are reaching out to and will need the support and involvement of various other local organizations as well. We will keep you updated as our timeline and plans progress and fall into place. Please be thinking about ways that you may be able to contribute as a volunteer—we will need many! Meanwhile, with school now out and summer quickly approaching, please enjoy some quality outdoor time with your family—and give a warm and gracious welcome to all of the campers and their families that will soon be heading our way.

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

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.

Individuals
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Your membership includes a complimentary subscription to *The Groundhog*.

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Or mail your check to MAPA, P. O. Box 50, Mentone, AL 35984.

Be sure to include your name(s), address, phone, and email address.

RICHARD CARTER (DICK) O'FERRALL, JR. September 1, 1935— May 5, 2022

Richard Carter (Dick) O'Ferrall, Jr., went to be with his Lord on May 5, 2022.

He was born on September 1, 1935, to Dr. Richard Carter O'Ferrall and Bertha Hines O'Ferrall in Jackson, MS. He graduated from Central High School in 1953 and completed his Bachelor of Business Administration at the University of Mississippi in 1957. Dick was a member of Phi Delta Theta fraternity where he served as Rush Chairman and President. In 1993, he was selected by the Mississippi Alpha chapter as Alumnus of the Year. While in Oxford, he was in the Naval ROTC Unit and upon graduation was commissioned as an Ensign and began his two-year commitment of active duty.

At age 11, Dick boarded a train from Jackson, MS, and when he arrived in Valley Head, AL, he got his first glimpse of Lookout Mountain, and then rode in a cattle truck with a host of other boys up a dirt road to Lookout Mountain Camp. That summer would change the course of his life. He returned for three more summers as a camper, followed by four as a counselor. In January of 1959, he purchased Alpine Lodge Camp for Girls along with his mentor, Coach Rufus Hyde, of Dallas, TX, and the gates of Alpine Camp for Boys opened that following June. After the 1962 camping season, Hyde retired, and Dick, affectionately known to thousands of campers as "Mr. O," became the sole owner. In 1972, Dick married Alice Gandy from Jackson, MS, and together they dedicated their lives to helping young boys "grow in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man," a vision drawn from Luke 2:52 that he returned to again and again. Dick served as the Southeast Regional Director of Christian Camping International and was recognized in 2007 by the Association of Independent Camps as the recipient of the Honor Award for the Southern Region for his significant contribution to the betterment of independent camping for children. Dick was an active member of Lookout Mountain Presbyterian Church. And in 2021, he was inducted into the University of Mississippi Alumni Hall of Fame.

He obediently answered the call to serve others through a life marked by prayer. He loved people, and he loved connecting them to the Lord and to each other. God worked through Dick's amazing gifts to bind together countless families and generations, to point beyond one young man from Mississippi to the Lord he loved with all his heart.

Dick is survived by his wife of over 49 years, Alice O'Ferrall; daughters, Carter O'Ferrall Breazeale (Glenn) of Lookout Mountain, TN, and Toy O'Ferrall Harmon (Doug) of New Orleans, LA; grandchildren, Caroline and Virginia Breazeale and Jack and Sam Harmon; and many beloved nieces, nephews, and cousins. He was preceded in death by his parents; and his sisters, Alice O'Ferrall Reilly and Martha O'Ferrall Renegar.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be given to Third Millennium Ministries, 316 Live Oaks Boulevard, Casselberry, FL 32707, or to Reformed University Fellowship, P. O. Box 890004, Charlotte, NC 28289-0004.

There will be a private family burial in Mississippi. A public memorial service will be held on August 6, 2022, at Lookout Mountain Presbyterian Church in Lookout Mountain, TN. Visitation will be held on the afternoon of August 5 at the church. There will be an ice cream reception to follow the service, and boys, there will be peanut butter in the ice cream.



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A LOOK BACK...
The Groundhog | May 1983 | Page 1



Sammy Cash: Man of Many Hats

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.) We hope you enjoy this look back in time.

Sammy Cash has worn many hats in this community and he does credit to them all. Right now he is especially proud of the hat of fire chief of the North Lookout Mountain Fire Protective District. His mere presence gives us all a greater sense of security. In event of a conflagration he is the one you're most likely to see coordinating the activities.

Until he doffed his hat as a forest ranger in the early '70s, Sammy Cash presided over the planting of literally millions of seedlings, contributing to the abundance of the woodlands on the slopes of Lookout Mountain, Sand Mountain, and the valley between.

As a forester he marked timber for sale by the farmers, counselled about diseases that infect timber, and stood ready to deal with the ever-prevalent threat of forest fires. Although he dealt with many treacherous fires, including one which swept across some 1,100 acres along the Georgia line, he witnessed no fatalities until recently in his retirement when he was called to the scene of a Mentone citizen who was trapped while burning underbrush.

Sammy Cash and his wife, the former Clara Green, have no children. They are both from families who were pioneer settlers in the area. The Cashes helped settle and develop Lahusage. Sammy has lived here all his life, attending the Lahusage and Moon Lake schools.

In World War II he proudly wore the cap of a member of the 42nd Armored Division which under the leadership of General George Patton invaded North Africa, stormed Sicily and Italy then moved into the heart of Europe. "One of the most exciting moments of my life," says Cash, "was being at an airport when Patton got off a plane." To another question, he replied, "No, he never slapped me."

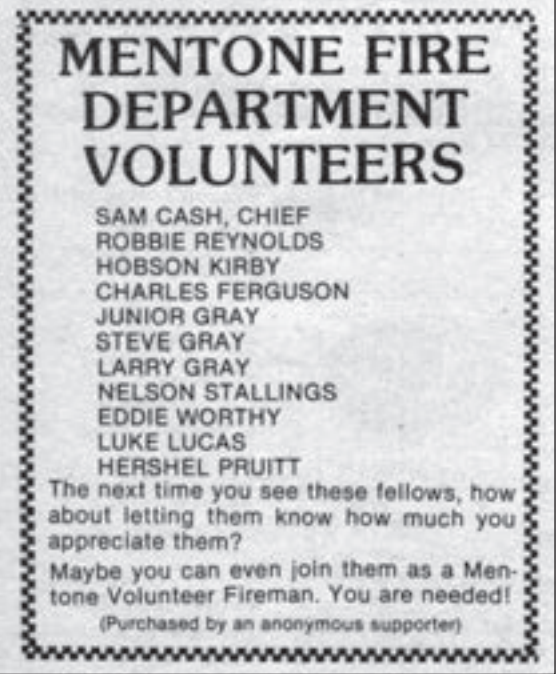
Returning to the mountain from the army he received what he calls "four years education in farming." When this failed to provide sufficient



challenge, he went to work for the State Forestry Department for 62 cents an hour. By the time he worked to the status as chief ranger in DeKalb County, he had become one of the best in the business.

The Mentone fire tower which was the center of so much of Sammy Cash's activities now stands deserted, probably never to be used again. By the time of his retirement, helicopters and planes were being utilized for spotting and directing the fighting of fires.

While he was county forester there was a definite arrangement whereby the Fort Payne Fire Department



handled residence fires and the Forestry Department controlled woodland fires.

It was this interactivity which made it natural for him when the occasion arose to lend his talents toward organizing the North Lookout Mountain Fire Protective District. He has been its only chief, assisted by a loyal crew of volunteer firemen who meet at the fire house twice monthly.

Sammy and Clara Cash are ardent collectors of antiques—glass, furniture, iron objects. Ever looking forward to new hats to wear, Sammy Cash might just go into the antique business.

His name is Sam W. Cash, Jr. When asked what the "W" stands for, he replied, "Wallace" and I'm proud of it.

Sammy Cash is a gentle, loving man. He's the one in a crowd who usually comes up to you and engages in conversation. He has done his part in preserving and expanding a heritage that is deserving of his warmth and our gratitude.

Next time you see Sammy Cash, tip your hat to him.



North Lookout Mountain Fire Protection District Volunteer Roster 2022

Joseph Lee, Chief	David Tucker
Chuck McMunn, Assistant Chief	Gary Smith
Will Blackburn	Dustin Burt
Gene McKee	Eli Durham
Mitch Gregory	John Chambers
Ken Trowbridge	Dan Green
Wes Pullen	Toby Manifold

SUMMER BURNING RESTRICTIONS

Under Alabama Department of Environmental Management regulations, non-agricultural burns in DeKalb County are not allowed during the months of May, June, July, August, September, and October. Unless prohibited for drought and safety reasons, the burn ban does not prohibit the use of outdoor fireplaces and campfires. For more information, visit forestry.alabama.gov or adem.alabama.gov.

MAPA's Spring Charity Golf Tournament

Thanks to the golfers who played in MAPA's Charity Golf Tournament on April 29 in Mentone.

Thank you to Lil Mole Run for being gracious and helpful hosts and to DeSoto Rescue Squad members for providing lunch and being our on-site medical support.

Thank you to Charla Hermann for donating a lovely gift basket and to L.L. Long for donating a unique print which were given away as raffle prizes.

MAPA is grateful to the following volunteers who helped the event run smoothly: Sharon, Douglas, Tracey, Abby, Jacqui, Lesli, Mark, Susan, Abby, Sandy, Jane, Beverly, and Dom.

MAPA raised over \$3,000 from the tournament that will help fund financial grants to local non-profit organizations.

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The Town of Valley Head will host a blood drive on Thursday, June 30, from 12 p.m. until 4 p.m. at the Valley Head Town Hall, 41 Anderson Street. To schedule an appointment, visit bloodassurance.org/town0630.

Left: Sweet Home Alabama celebrated National Tourism Month on May 26 at the I-59 Alabama Welcome Center at the Georgia state line. Representing Valley Head and Hammondville were (L to R): Pictured (L to R) are Adele Phillips, Miss Alabama's Teen, Wesley Rhodes, Debra Rhodes, and Miss Alabama

The Town of Valley Head
Invites the Community to Its
Centennial Celebration
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*Ryleigh's Closet has run out of storage space
and is not currently accepting donations.*

Vann McCary Scholarship Winners Announced

by Kat Griffith

St. Joseph's Episcopal Church is proud to announce the 2022 Vann McCary Scholarship winners! A wonderful group of deserving young scholars continues their quest for higher education.

We are very proud of our fourth-year recipient, Julie Smith, who we first met at the top of her graduating class at Valley Head High School. She continues at UAB in Health Care Management with aspirations of entering an Occupational Therapy Master's program.

Daisy Hernandez will be a third-year recipient who began college at NACC and transferred to UAH in Business Marketing. She is a top student who aspires to have a career in digital marketing.

Celeny Hernandez is a second-year applicant who is interested in becoming a biology teacher. She continues to work towards her degree in Biology at UAH.

Jacie Otinger is a graduating senior at Valley Head High School. She has managed to maintain a 4.0 grade point average in her high school dual enrollment classes and plans to begin her college career at JSU.

Conner Cash lives in Mentone and graduated from Fort Payne High School in May. He has been an avid athlete and is interested in being a coach/teacher. Connor has been accepted to both Huntingdon College and Berry College.

Cheryl Wynn, who is also known in Mentone as Willow, is an artistic soul interested in pursuing a career in Psychology. She is a first-year applicant but has been no stranger to hard work and we are honored to be a part of her career journey.

Avery Phillips graduated from Fort Payne High School and plans to start college at JSU in the fall. She has been an honor student with varied interests including Brazilian Jiu Jitsu and free-lance photography.

These are our seven Van McCary Scholarship recipients and St. Joseph's encourages you to join us in support of their success.

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River Voice by Angie Shugart

"We must begin thinking like a river if we are to leave a legacy of beauty and life for future generations."

-David Brower

The summer is coming on strong with consistent days of dry and hot weather that will make you want to head for the river after a hard day's work. Little River definitely has the best swimming, kayaking and skinny water fishing around! Dotted about this plateau mountain, there are secret swimming holes that only locals know, summer camp waterfronts that host thousands of youth and nationally acclaimed swimming holes!

Clean water is essential for these activities and Little River WATERKEEPER has SwimGuide to keep you up on the latest water quality results. The summer program monitors the water quality at popular swimming holes and on major tributaries throughout Little River every week, from Memorial Day to Labor Day. Test results are posted each Friday on theSwimGuide.org, littleriverwaterkeeper.org and our social media outlets, Facebook and Instagram.

2022 SwimGuide Season (May 26–September 1)

Weekly Checks will be done at the following Swimming Holes. Check out theSwimGuide.org to get more details about each site.

- Taylor's Ford
- DeSoto Falls
- Indian Falls
- Little Falls (Martha's Falls or Hippie Hole)
- Blue Hole
- Little River Canyon Mouth Park
- Johnny's Creek

Random checks will be done at these additional locations:

- Below Skyline Dam (West Fork LR)
- Alpine Bridge (West Fork LR)
- East Fork Little River @ GA Hwy. 48
- East Fork @ Chappaquiddick Bridge (Lake Lahusage)
- Middle Fork @ AL Hwy. 117 (Lake Lahusage)
- Yellow Creek (Tributary)
- Blue Hole (LR)
- Little River Canyon Mouth Park (LR)
- Johnny's Creek (Tributary)

What we test for

E Coli is a fecal coliform bacteria found in the feces of warm blooded animals, including humans. These levels increase after heavy rains due to runoff. It can be picked up through swimming and other water contact sports if water enters the mouth. E Coli can cause stomach irritation and, in extreme cases, hospitalization. The Alabama Dept of Environmental Management has a threshold of water quality standards of 235 cfu/100 mL which translates into if there are more than 235 Colony Forming Units per 100 mL water sample bottle, the water exceeds the state threshold and you should not swim. LRWK will have exact data each week.

Did you know? Septic systems are the largest of all contributors of wastewater to the ground and are the most frequently reported sources of groundwater contamination in the US. Older homes on Lookout Mountain could have a failing septic or in some cases, no septic system at all! This causes a big problem when polluted water runs into nearby creeks and eventually to Little River.

You can ensure your septic system is working properly by conducting a dye test.

Sources to purchase a home dye kit.
inspectoroutlet.com/products/septic-dye-test-kit
toolexperts.com/en/plumbing-tools-septic-leak-dye-testing/trace-a-leak-septic-dye-test-tablets



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Mentone Ukes

by Jodi Rhodes

For each of us, certain songs define a moment in time, but learning, practicing, and playing music can be like a train that carries you through a changing landscape. In 2021, I was drained—Covid refused to quit, I was recovering from a bad leg injury, and my job was all-consuming. My (also over-worked) therapist mentioned Brené Brown, and I picked up her book, *The Gifts of Imperfection*, which identifies guideposts that help us cultivate wholehearted living and ultimately led me to the Mentone area and the Mentone Ukes.

In her book, one of Brown's guideposts recommends cultivating laughter, song, and dance, and letting go of "being cool" and "always in control." Brown concludes: "Laughter, song, and dance create emotional and spiritual connection; they remind us of the one thing that truly matters when we are searching for comfort, celebration, inspiration, or healing: we are not alone." [Note, I highly recommend this book!]

I can say that joining the Mentone Ukes group in August 2021 was cheaper than therapy (the lessons are free and there are loaner ukuleles available!) and has been equally rewarding. I can also say that being a member of the Mentone Ukes has connected me to a great, supportive community.

I love that the group members share songs that have special meaning in our lives (and also songs we just think are awesome!). I love that we are a generationally diverse group who are influenced by different musical genres. I love that we challenge each other to expand and grow. I love that we push each other to perform and teach, and that we keep a



certain amount of levity to our practice—my favorite lessons are those that are one part challenge and one part laughter.

The Mentone Ukes have unknowingly carried me over a good bit of life's rough terrain—through a downsizing and relocation, a career change, and a million other highs and lows in between. I'm so glad that I didn't tell myself I was too busy (or too scared/untalented/old/young/cool) to join the Mentone Ukes, and I hope you'll join us, too!

Join the Mentone Ukes at Moon Lake Library on Saturdays, June 1 and 25, at 1 p.m. for free ukulele lessons. Players of all levels of experience are welcome—even beginners.

Bring your own uke or borrow one. Contact Debra Fey (debrajfe@gmail.com) for more information.

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SENIOR SERVICES

Medicare Savings Programs 2022
by Lynn Hixon

Medicare Savings Programs (MSPs), also known as Medicare Buy-In programs or Medicare Premium Payment Programs, help pay your Medicare costs if you have limited income and savings. There are three main programs, each with different benefits and eligibility requirements.

- 1. **Qualified Medicare Beneficiary (QMB):** Pays for Medicare Parts A and B premiums. If you have QMB, typically you should not be billed for Medicare-covered services when seeing Medicare providers or providers in your Medicare Advantage Plan's network.
- 2. **Specified Low-Income Medicare Beneficiary (SLMB):** Pays for Medicare Part B premium.
- 3. **Qualified Individual (QI) Program:** Pays for Medicare Part B premium.

To qualify for an Medicare Savings Program, you must have Medicare A and meet income and asset guidelines. These guidelines vary by state, and some states do not count assets when determining MSP eligibility. If you do not have Part A but meet QMB eligibility guidelines, your state may have a process to allow you to enroll in Part A and QMB.

Many states allow this throughout the year, but others limit when you can enroll in Part A.

QMB - Income limit for an individual is **\$1,153/ Couple \$1,546. Asset limit is \$8,400 Individual/ \$12,600 Couple.**

SLMB - Income limit for an individual is **\$1,379/Couple \$1,851. Asset limit is \$8,400 Individual/\$12,600 Couple.**

QI – Income limit for an individual is **\$1,549/ Couple \$2,080. Asset limit is \$8,400 individual/\$12,600 Couple.**

Assets are resources such as savings and checking accounts, stocks, bonds, mutual funds, retirement accounts, and real estate. Remember, these amounts must be gross and not net.

If you have any questions on Medicare Saving Programs, please call the DeKalb County Council on Aging and talk to Lynn Hixon in your local State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) at 256-845-8590.

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

SenioRx Program
by DiAnne Callahan

In today's economy every dollar is precious. With gas prices and food prices going higher each day we are all looking for ways to make every cent count.

The SenioRx Program may be the solution to the high cost of medicine. We work directly with your doctor and the drug companies to get you free or low cost brand name medicines. To be eligible you must be at least 55 years old or disabled of any age, taking long term medications like insulin, heart medications, or COPD medications and do not receive any extra help from Social Security or Medicaid.

Last year we helped the citizens of DeKalb County save over \$2,000.000 on medication costs.

This year we would like to have that dollar amount even higher. Drug costs are not going down but going even higher in today's market. Even with the latest Social Security raise, it was gobbled up with higher costs for Medicare and other coverages. The big name drug companies are still working with you even if you have a Medicare Part D Drug card. There are some eligibility requirements from some companies but most are willing to give free products even if you have a drug card.

To see if we can help you, call DiAnne Callahan at 256-845-8590 and let us work with you and your doctor to put money back into your pocket today!

DiAnne Callahan is the SenioRx Coordinator for the the DeKalb County Council on Aging.



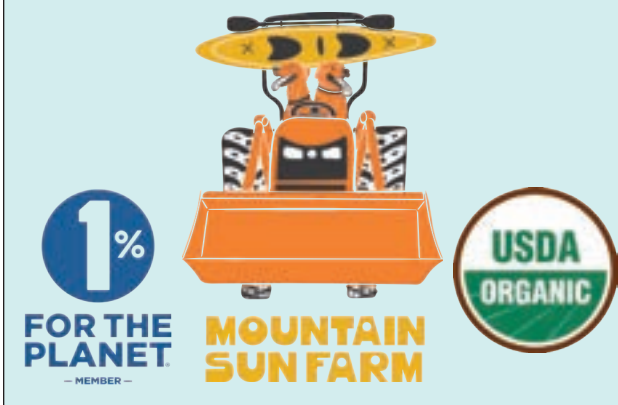
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You are invited to
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
at Moon Lake Baptist Church
June 12 – 17 from 6–8:30 p.m.
For Pre-K through Youth
Registration Sunday, June 12, 5–6 pm
Contact Jill Crow at 256-899-7403
for more information.

Ongoing Community Calendar

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 May 14 & 28 (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. Scrabble players meet and compete on Wednesdays at 12pm. Crochet Group for all experience levels on Thursdays at 3pm. 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.

Al-Anon meets at St. Joseph's Church on Saturdays at 4pm. 21145 Scenic Drive, Mentone.

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After 3PM CDT • Twilight Rate \$25/18 holes
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No rain check

EVERY SATURDAY AFTER 2pm CDT
\$25/unlimited play
No rain check

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2-man scramble (age 50+) • Tee off @ 9AM CDT
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\$30 fee • Lunch included

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BarBQ plates with fixings | Additional plate \$12 | Live Music begins at 4 pm

Call or stop by to register.



(256) 634-2104 741 COUNTY ROAD 647, MENTONE, AL 35984

Summer Fun Begins with a Beach Party by Juli Jordan



Mentone Inn's Linger Longer Pavilion.

On **Saturday, June 19**, kick off your boots for some flip-flops and celebrate summer with a **BEACH PARTY!** Jimmy Buffett cover band, **Parrot Tales**, will get us all in the summer spirit with beach ball giveaways, a limbo contest, and island sounds.

Parrot Tales covers Buffett songs from the early years to the most recent releases and they play favorites from Hank, Jr., David Alan Coe, songs from the

LRAC's annual Summer Music Series, **MUSIC FOR THE PEOPLE**, is a community favorite. This year's music line-up may be the best yet. As always, the bands will play from 7–10 p.m. at

FloraBama, and other fun beach and luau music. Put on your favorite Hawaiian shirt, bring your beach chair, and don't forget your 'lost shaker of salt'!

LRAC's Music for the People is free to all and is made possible by LRAC members and a grant from Alabama State Council on the Arts and National Endowment for the Arts.

ART TALKS at Moon Lake Library

Every third Wednesday, local photographer Mikel Yeakle leads a lively, 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.



Brad McElhane presents his painting at April's Art Talk

The next Art Talk is June 15, 6–8 p.m., at Moon Lake Library in Mentone.

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

Music for the People
Linger Longer Pavilion
Mentone Inn, 7-10 PM
6/18 Parrot Tales
7/9 Black Sedan Band
8/20 Natti Love Joys
9/10 Lon Eldridge



Thank you, LRAC Members

Little River Arts Council is excited about our upcoming events. We hope you can get in on at least some of the fun in the next few weeks.

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.

Show your Art of Appreciation by renewing your membership or becoming a new member.

To become a member simply visit our website at littleriverartscouncil.org. There is a level for every budget.

Little River Arts Council: We believe the arts are for everyone!

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

Annual Membership Levels:
Student \$10 • Individual \$25 • Family \$40
Supporter \$100+ • Patron \$500+



CONTACT
LAURA OR JEFF NOBLES
251-605-1582



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Enjoy the sunset while relaxing in the hot tub at "Breathless," a brow cabin that sleeps up to 6 guests.



"Beaulah," a cabin that sleeps up to 18, features the sounds of running water as it spills into a small lake. Enjoy air hockey, outdoor ping pong, foosball and more. Great for large family gatherings or retreats.





"Dumpy," Raymond and Shannon Beasley's antique dump truck



The Tatum Family AKA "The Darlin's"

Memories
of
Mayberry
Downtown Valley Head
May 1, 2022



Aunt Bee's Homemade Pickle Contest judges, L to R: Valley Head Police Chief Jimmy Phillips, DeKalb County Sheriff's Office SRO Lamar Bray, Mentone Police Chief Gene McKee



Homemade Pie Contest judges, L to R: DeKalb County Sheriff's Deputy Brad Gregg, Judge Shaunthan Bell, Judge Andrew Hairston



Congratulations to pie contest winners (L to R): Dan Green, 3rd place; Eleanor Findlay, 2nd place; Jessica Harper Brown, 1st place



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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 #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 #1798542, #1798643, #1798655, #1798657—Build your new home with BREATHTAKING VIEWS year round! Brow property located in Lake on the	 GREAT LOCATION! This 3 bedroom 2 bath is located on county road 89 south of Mentone just minutes from downtown, DeSoto Falls, DeSoto State Park, Little River Canyon, Fort Payne and all area attractions. Featuring a front open and back screened porch, eat in kitchen with island, wood floors and wood burning fireplace. Make this your weekend retreat or permanent residence. Appointment only. \$375,000. #1800590 Brow on Lookout Mountain near Little River Canyon and the falls. \$55,000. #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	 LOCATED IN SCENIC MENTONE less than 1 block from downtown and Brow Park, this lovely 2BR/2BA log cabin features open living, dining and kitchen on main level plus a full bath, large stone wood burning fireplace, and vaulted ceiling. Loft bedroom w/2 walk-in closets. Cozy screen porch with sunset views plus an outdoor grill area. Spiral staircase from living area to private basement suite w/bedroom, sitting area, large closet, bath and covered patio. \$399,000. #1808178 #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.	 THE HITCHING POST, built around 1900, was originally known as "The Mentone Store"—a general store, post office and shoe cobbler. Later a drug store, with a soda fountain. The old marble top and meat cooler are still there today. In 1930 the upstairs portion was added for a dance hall. What will its next story be? With 6400 sq. ft. sitting at the corner of AL Hwy. 117 and Cutler Ave., the possibilities are exciting!!! \$459,000. #1808563 #1807457—AMAZING VIEWS! YES, VIEWS!!! Enjoy the scenery that ONLY Mother Nature provides! Live in PARADISE with your 2nd or retirement home located on the brow of Lookout Mountain, Mentone Bluffs in Mentone. Call for an appointment today! \$85,000	 LOCATED ON THE PARKWAY CLOSE TO EVERYTHING! PERSONAL RESIDENCE, BED & BREAKFAST, RENTAL... you decide! Offering independent entrances to private bedrooms/bath for multiple guests in the main house AND a detached 1 BR/ 1BA Cottage (772 +/- sq ft) for privacy, this property has unlimited potential! The main home has a main level owner's suite w/vaulted ceiling, loft office/study/ flexible space, wood burning stove, walk-in closet & private bath w/ shower & jetted tub. Other amenities include hardwood floors, vaulted ceilings in many areas & privacy fenced yard. The guest cottage boasts a wood burning stove, utility, hardwood floors, covered porches & a privacy fenced yard for outdoor enjoyment. \$749,000. #1808445
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Black bears have been slowly returning to our area over recent years, and in the past three years, personal sightings have dramatically increased. Many residents have seen bears on their property and on wildlife cameras. Even more residents have seen the aftermath of the presence of bears in the form of trash cans which have been knocked over or bird and deer feeders which have been destroyed.

Hannah Leeper is a bear researcher conducting a cub survival study which focuses on whether cubs are surviving long enough to become part of the local bear population. As it turns out, they are.

She has collared more cubs this year than the last two years combined. As of late April, she had collared 19 cubs; in 2021 she had collared eight.

With this rapid growth comes more responsibility on the part of humans. For the last several years, Hannah has been educating area residents through public talks, social media, and *The Groundhog*. She stresses the importance of eliminating any possible food sources, which she considers “rewards.” She suggests that bird feeders be taken down and brought inside at night, outdoor pet food bowls be empty and clean, and trash cans be secured or stored in a garage or shed until trash pick-up day.

Some residents have had luck with creatively fashioning ways to secure the lids of their trash cans. Many have found that bears can be dextrous enough to outsmart bungee cords. Some have purchased bear-proof trash cans, which seem to be effective (although pricey).

The reason Hannah considers these food sources to be “rewards” is that there is plenty of food in the wild, but bears are quick learners, and once they find an easy food source, they are likely to return to it. Mama bears are teaching their cubs how to feed off these easy sources, quickly making this a generational problem.

To learn more about black bears in general, and about how to help keep them wild and prevent them from becoming “nuisance bears,” DeSoto State Park is hosting a discussion with Hannah on June 4 at 8 p.m. Earlier that day, Moon Lake Library will host two children's programs with Hannah. Details on each event are in the community calendar on page 20.

Let’s all do our part in being “bear aware.”

June

Birthdays

- 1 Sible Hopper
Kayla Hellums
Rebecca Guinn
Braden Busby
Madie Durham
Josh Williamson
Chad King
Lizzie Kate Williams
Jacob Lee
Blade Cowart
Andrea Stephens
Dolas Bain
- 2 Skylar Venable
Steve Tate
Glen Black
John David Tedder
- 3 Brittney Coleman
Donald Stephens
Byron Haynes
Jack Johnston, Jr.
Missy Wooten
- 4 Lisa Crowder
Cecily Knowles
- 5 Doris Chamlee
Hannah Filmore
Hadley Gregory
Haley Hilliard
Aileen Robinson
Micah Wooten
Finley Isbell
Kenneth Aiden Busby
- 6 Angela Valentine
Keegan Johnson
Christy Harrison
Brayden Harrison
Caitlyn Collins
Nick Brown
David Dean

- 7 Luke Johnson
Donnie Goodman
Austin Cox
Nicole Phillips
Brantley Hawkins
Tony Garner
Camille King
- 8 Ally Chadwick
Ethan Harrison
Gail Smalley
Rachel Lusk
Vince Wright
Carter Blalock
- 9 Sydney Vest
Denita Manifold
Brandon Collins
David Hatfield
Lori Walters
- 10 Amanda Gray
Michelle Chappell
Patty Tucker
Joyce Wright
Rebekah Weldon
Lisa Black Smith
Caitie Belle Jennings
Brayden Williams
- 11 Dylan Ledford
- 12 Jim Connor
Emie Sanderson
Rooke Abernathy
- 13 Kristi Chambers
Taylor Gardner
Thomas Sudberry
- 14 Luke Harrison
Braxton Pridmore

- 15 Brad Wright
Barnabas Bettis
Hernan Cruz
- 16 Sara Langston
Kayla Crow
Mason Vest
Emily Hulgán
Ruby Smith
- 17 Hope Turner
Andy Beason
Megan Gilreath
Annie Gilbert
Kindal Hamilton
Karmen Smith
Charlotte Bender
- 18 Ashley Ingram
Ozell Thornberry
Josh Smith
Carlotta McGee
- 19 Sierra Chambers
Ashley Wooten
Reid Hendon
- 20 Keri Miller
Brandy Rosson
Wendy Holloway
Megan Bain
- 21 Katherine McDorman
Nick Langston
Hannah Stinson
Betty Morrison
Trey Kincer
- 22 Judy Smith
Zachary Potts
Nathan Keith
David Meja
Ellie O’Daniel

- 23 Benny Goss
Violet Carden
Evy Baber
- 24 Brenda Goss
Kenneth Chambers
Cecily Goza
Patti Watkins
Ethan Black
- 25 Briley Harrison
Stephanie Poe
Jerelyn Turner
- 26 Andrew Crowe
Paige Simpson
Bryson Williams
Kirk Watkis
- 27 Ashtynn Carden
Christine Scott
- 28 Josh Baggett
Chris Stokes
Shea Noles
Connor Hill
Everly Nicole Wheat
- 29 Jacob Bain
JoAnn Bain
Jean Crabtree
Jacqueline Tipton
- 30 Cooper Hilyer
Rebecca Crawford
Levi Hulgán
Naomi Garcia
Roy Stalvey
Gavin Gatlin

Anniversaries

- 1 Wink & Stacie Painter
- 2 Lawrence & Felicia Harrison
- 5 Alfie & Kristi Chambers
- 6 Jo Peterson & Cindy Jackson
Tom & Joyce Tate
- 11 Ralph & Carolyn Baine
- 12 Steve & Debra Rhodes
Tom & Jacqueline Tipton
Levi & Jordan Hulgán
Dale & Crystal Padgett
- 14 Josh & Angel Baggett
- 15 Michael & Jennifer Owen
- 18 Phil & Krissy Harris
Benjie & Pam Mason
- 19 Josh & Emmy Smith
John & Trish Sprague
Matt & Traci Hulgán
- 20 Brandon & Sherinda Hawkins
- 22 Andy & Jimmie Sue Beason
- 23 Rusty & Angela Chambers
Andrew & Olivia Isbell
- 26 Jim & Darlene Rotch
- 30 Dwight & Jean Powell
Michael & Patty Tucker
Donald & Margie Daniel





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- 10

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- 8

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- 7

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- 6

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- 5

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- 4

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- 2

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Winston Place (cont'd from page 1)

After becoming a lawyer in Tennessee, he moved with his wife, Maria Louise Beene Winston, to southern DeKalb County in the 1830s. By 1840, Winston had been appointed as a representative in the Alabama state legislature.

Upon relocating to Valley Head, the family constructed a two-story pioneer farmhouse which incorporated the original log cabin. They began their farming operation in earnest, with the primary crops being corn, oats, and potatoes. Sixteen outbuildings were eventually added to the property, including a kitchen, barns, corn crib, smokehouse, carriage house, and cabins for the family's 42 slaves. Of the 16 outbuildings, four remain today. Over the years the house was expanded and extensively renovated as the Winstons prospered.

In the late 1850s, Mr. Winston developed and expanded a railway system through northeast Alabama, allowing access and transport of valuable coal deposits as well as other minerals native to the area. He also became actively interested in the development and promotion of the use of railway systems throughout the state. He was involved in the incorporation of several railroad companies but is primarily known for being the driving force of the development of Wills Valley Railroad servicing northeast Alabama, for which he served as its first president.

The Civil War dumped its own reality on Winston Place in 1863, when the property was commandeered by General Jefferson C. Davis (who shared his name with the Confederate president) for Union headquarters during the Chattanooga campaign. More than 30,000 Union soldiers were encamped on Winston Place with an additional 30,000 soldiers setting up camp throughout DeKalb County. The main house was occupied by General Davis and other officers who frequently held important meetings with other officers there, presumably to formulate plans of attack for the Chattanooga area.

According to a 1931 brochure written by Jesse Winston Turnipseed, granddaughter of the Winstons, "One hectic day, Eliza—or was it Jinny?—who presided over the Winston kitchen, discovered an invader confiscating some of her cooking utensils. She gave chase through the denuded peach orchard, shrieking protest. Gen. Davis heard the disturbance, and, with his invariable courtesy, had the utensils restored, the offender punished, and an apology made to Mrs. Winston.

"In the middle of September, the troops broke camp to join in the battle of Chickamauga, the guns of which were distinctly heard in Wills Valley. Old settlers around Valley Head marvel to this day as to how those sixty thousand men, with all the impediments of war, passed safely over the wild defiles of Lookout Mountain – scarcely more than Indian trails – to the east side of the mountain in McLemore's cove, from whence they proceeded to Chickamauga."

The war took a very personal toll on the Winston family. Even though Mr. Winston had voted not to secede from the Union, two of his sons, Will and George, joined the Confederacy and were killed in battle.



William Overton Winston, 1837



Winston Place, circa 1900—Family and servants



Original furnishings grace the formal dining room.

By all accounts, Mr. and Mrs. Winston were gracious, kind, and compassionate to those who served them. Mrs. Turnipseed wrote, "Mrs. Winston instructed the slaves from the Scriptures and helped tend their sick. Some of them were drawn away during the Civil War, only to return."

After the Civil War ended, Mr. Winston served two terms in the state senate, representing DeKalb and Marshall counties. He originated legislation providing state aid to the Alabama railway systems, enabling further development of the Wills Valley Railroad.

In the late 1800s, Winston Place began to be transformed into the grand home it is today, with its two sweeping verandas and massive Doric columns. Mr. Winston was responsible for the first major renovation. Subsequent owners conducted two additional renovations, including the addition of two large wings for



The smokehouse has been renovated to a playhouse.



The original corn crib



Servants' quarters and w



The expansive and welcoming veranda was added in the late 1800s.



The parlor's ornate Carrara marble fireplace was imported from Italy.

additional bedrooms on each end of the house (later removed). The interior retains much of its original design, including beautiful wide-plank floors of cherry and pine, six fireplaces, carbide lamps, and many of the architectural details. The windows in the home are original and were handmade on site. Cut lumber for the house was brought in by wagon from Chattanooga, since there were no closer lumber yards.

After completion of the Wills Valley railroad and renovations to the house, the Winstons began to host large, lavish parties. Guests often stayed for weeks at a time. The railroad track runs adjacent to the property and with the old Valley Head Depot just a hundred yards away, visitors could easily ride a passenger



The spacious parlor has seen discussions about railroad development, Union military strategies, and church sermons.



The grand staircase features original architectural details.

to the Register, The Winston home remained in family ownership until 1945 when it was purchased by Mr. and Mrs. Harry Haralson Hammond. Their daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Welborn L. Matthews, later took ownership. It is now in the care of their daughter Leslie Bunch and her husband Jim.

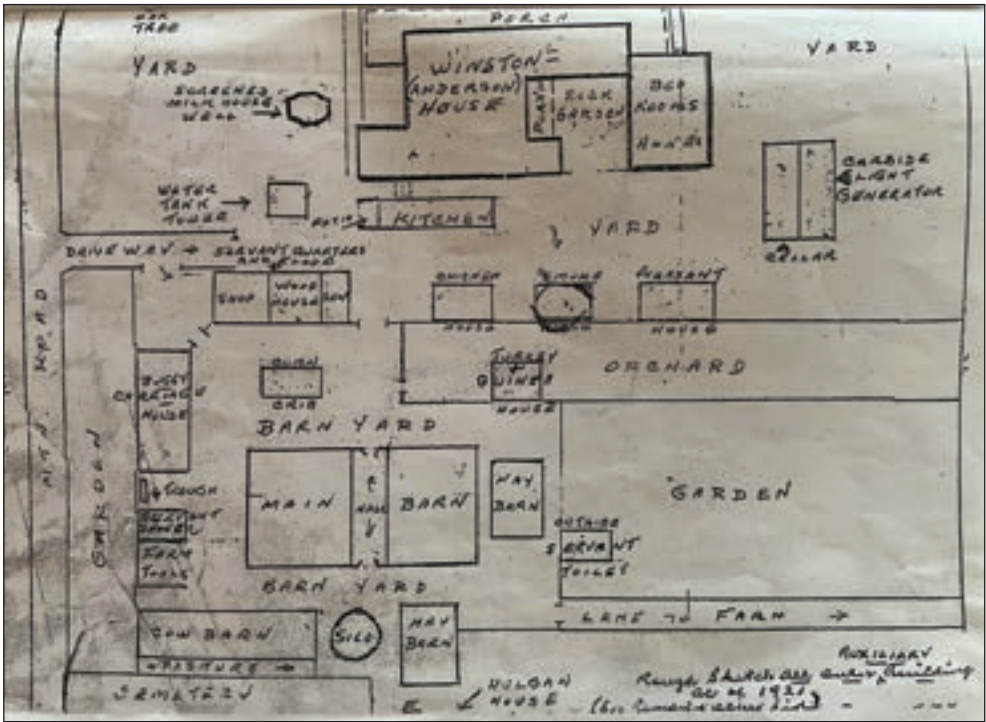
Leslie's great-uncle, Ralph Hammond, said of Winston Place in his book *Antebellum Mansions of Alabama* (1951): "The sprawling veranda is the crowning motif of beautiful Winston Place...this impressive lavishness of the veranda, both upstairs and down, is undoubtedly one of the state's finest examples of how the master builders planned for the luxurious and open-air living made possible in ante-bellum days."

train and disembark practically at the front gate. Governors, railroad barons, and politicians visited frequently, as well as friends and extended family.

The Winstons had 14 children, although only four survived to adulthood. In addition to raising their children, acting as property manager of the huge farming operation, and caring for the staff, Maria Louise Winston had multiple interests to occupy her time during her husband's frequent absences. "A devout Christian, she saw that

the children of her servants, along with her own children, were taught the Bible. The First Presbyterian Church of Valley Head was organized in the parlor of her home." [The Montgomery Advertiser, 1970] She often preached sermons to the congregation when no one else was available. She was an avid gardener and managed to create a large garden with plants supplied by her husband, who frequently brought plants to her when he returned from his frequent business trips.

Winston Place is one of few structures in DeKalb County to be accepted into the National Register of Historic Places. According to the nomination form submitted



A rough sketch of outer auxiliary buildings as of 1921: screened milk house and well; water tank tower, kitchen, carbide light generator and celler; servant quarters, shops and wood house; chicken house; smoke house; pheasant house; turkey and guinea house; orchard; garden; buggy and carriage house; corn crib; trough; servant shower and farm tools; main barn; hay barns, outside servant toilet, cow barn; silo; cemetery



workshop



The original main barn was destroyed by fire and replaced in the 1940s.

Mentone Arts & Cultural Center Update by Randy Grider

Plein Air Is in the Air



Plein Air event starts at the sculpture garden and ends with reception in the gallery



complimentary gift bag before they fan across the Mentone area to create original works. When finished, all participating painters are encouraged to bring their finished work by our gallery to display for the rest of the day.

At 5:30 p.m., we will reopen the gallery for a casual reception for all artists (across all media) and art lovers. The main emphasis will be on allowing artists to network and the public to meet and chat with artists.

Speaking of painting, our June 4 "Paint Like Bob Ross" workshop is almost full. We have three spots available at press time. The 4-1/2-hour class, taught by certified Bob Ross Institute instructor Gary Grider, is \$100. All supplies are included to create your own 16" x 20" Bob Ross Technique painting. We will also provide light snacks and drinks.

The late Bob Ross was the creator and host of "The Joy of Painting," a PBS instructional television program that aired from 1983 to 1994. Thanks to the internet, there has been a renewed interest in Ross and his painting technique among younger generations.



Bob Ross painting class is Saturday, June 4.

Gary Grider, completed his CRI in 2019 and began his Happy Little Paint Brushes classes at his studio in Chattanooga. He currently teaches at 12 venues across Alabama, Georgia, Tennessee and North Carolina.

Also, our monthly songwriters round will take place on Tuesday, June 7, starting at 6:30 p.m. The event, which features local and regional songwriters performing their original works, is free to the public. The round is hosted by award-winning singer/songwriter and Mentone resident Craig Hendricks.

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

Grab your easel and brushes for a little "tour de Mentone" on Saturday, June 11, as we host Plein Air at the Garden.

The two-part event is about spotlighting plein air art and bringing artists and the public together for a meet-and-greet in a casual setting. The event is made possible through an Open Spaces Sacred Places grant from the Community Foundation of Northeast Alabama.

We are inviting all plein air painters—experienced and first-timers—to meet at the Dr. Stephen Brewer Sculpture Garden next to the Chuck Sennett Center for the Arts at 9:30 a.m. Artists must furnish their own art supplies, but participants will be given a

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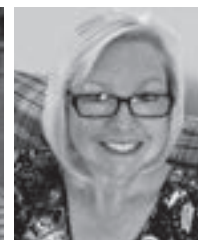




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NEW LISTING!



OPPORTUNITY TO CLAIM YOUR OWN SPECIAL PLACE ON LOOKOUT MTN in this Charming little Bungalow in the heart of Historic Old Cloudland. 2BR/2BA; one-level; with warm, heart pine floors in much of the home; stone fireplace (gas logs); original bead board walls & ceilings in BRs; all wood interior; bright, efficient kitchen; front & back sunporches; back deck. 2-car carport w/10x20 storage room attached. Cute little red shed at the edge of the small woodland that is a part of the property. Furnishings & decor stay; just bring the groceries & start enjoying your mountain retreat. Easy access (10 min) to Mentone; less than 10 to Menlo. Co-brokered w/GA-licensed Lookout Mtn Preferred Realty. \$235,000 (1807522)



MENTONE



RARE FIND IN MENTONE: 3BR/2BA, RANCH-STYLE HOME, 56X40 SHOP & 22 ACRES W/SMALL POND. Home was built for current owner, has been immaculately kept, & is only 5 years old. Land is beautifully wooded, with a gracefully-curving, nearly 1/4 mile driveway, lined w/dogwoods, leading up to the picturesque pond, shop & residence. Young fruit trees, including apple, pear, peach & fig. 3BR/2BA; one-level home w/rocking-chair front porch; hardwood floors; free-standing, wood-burning fireplace in LR; spacious kitchen with oak cabinetry & hardwood floor; large MABR suite; dining area leading out to covered back grilling porch & fenced back yard. Attached 2-car garage. 4-door workshop w/storage. \$525,000 (1806766)



MENTONE



MENTONE

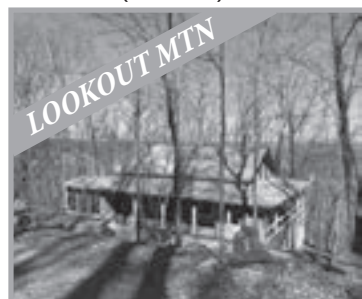


FORT PAYNE

HOUSE & 2.5-ACRES DOWNTOWN MENTONE. This is one of those places with almost unlimited possibilities! Almost as many uses as duct tape! 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! 2BR/1BA (space for 2nd bath). High-speed internet available. The land is level, features 2 small streams. \$300,000 (1804144)

WHIMSICAL, TINY, & TRULY SPECIAL GETAWAY. This place speaks the language of Mentone: artsy, woodsy, boulder-strewn, and unforgettable. Not quite "on" the brow, but situated strategically to enjoy it from the "rocking deck" with its tiny "serving shed" (that looks like a dollhouse & where one would keep sunset-viewing sustenance) The woodland cottage was built with an artist's eye, great imagination, & surprising economy of space. Wood-burning, stone fplce; stained glass windows; nooks for books & objets d'art; compact kitchen w/ingenious pullouts; loft bedroom; shower bath; vaulted ceiling w/sunlit cupola. Then there are the HUGE boulders; the flower beds; the fanciful garden art. It is quite magical, really. Lovingly built & enjoyed. Offered for \$295,000

ONE-LEVEL, IMMACULATELY-KEPT, brick rancher; on 0.89 acre in historic district of Forest Ave NW; corner property; walking distance to downtown/city park. 3BR/2BA; den w/fireplace; HW floors; formal LR; DR; spacious country kitchen w/tons of cabinets; multiple pantry areas; 2-car, 24x24 attached garage; large, floored, attic storage; garden shed; concrete parking area & driveway. Park-like yard w/mature, bearing fig bush; room for a garden spot. \$280,000 (1802373)



LOOKOUT MTN



WATERFRONT



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. Now \$365,000 (1802206)

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)

..... LOTS and LAND

2 ACRES IN MENTONE, on East River Road, where property seldom comes up for sale. Beautifully-wooded land is level, unrestricted (zoned Rural Farm), paved road frontage, power and water available at the road. High-speed internet available. \$55,000. (1795866)

WOW! GREAT PRICE & 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. Now \$75,000 (1804042)

1.47 ACRES, ON LIBBY LANE. Inside Mentone Town Limits, off East River Road. Trees are mostly hardwood, just enough clearing to get out the undergrowth and to create a circle drive, as well as a proposed building area. Quiet dead-end paved road, with river-front homes across the road from this property. Public water, power and septic tank in place (installed July 2021). If you've been considering a cabin getaway in Mentone, and you're finding not much is available, why not build the one you want? \$64,900 (1795866)

COMING SOON! 3+ ACRE LOT ON LITTLE RIVER at Mentone's own Lake Lahusage; with great frontage on year-round deep water. You can hear the water flowing at the dam from this lot. Beautiful rhododendron, mountain laurel, wild blueberries, native holly, and stately hardwoods. Build now, or just enjoy the river this summer by using the woodland path that has just been cut, giving easy access to the river. Great site for a dock, too. Call Charlotte for more details!

COME BUILD YOUR DREAM HOME IN A PEACEFUL VALLEY! Here are 19+ acres of beautiful vistas that would be perfect for horses, or just a quiet place to enjoy nature. Part of a permanent farm and conservancy. The interstate is 5 minutes away, convenient to Chattanooga, Fort Payne and Mentone. \$164,050 (1790823)

PENDING



June Community Events

June 4—"The Art of Woodburning." Pyrography is the art of decorating wood or other materials. The term means "writing with fire" and dates to the 17th century. Participants in this class will learn the basic techniques of decorative wood burning from artist April Blanks and will work on their own souvenir magnet designs using a pen-like burning tool & acrylic paint. The designs for this class features beautiful stonework by the builders of DeSoto State Park, the Civilian Conservation Corps (late 1930s-early 1940s). This class is for ages 10 to adult. For any details about the talk, email Brittney.Hughes@dcnr.alabama.gov.

June 4—Hammondville's Hamfest. Car Show, vendors, BBQ contest, music, and family fun. Hammondville Park. 10am–2pm. Proceeds go to Hammondville's Parks and Recreation. 256-635-6374.

June 4—110th DeKalb County Fiddlers' Convention. Landmarks of DeKalb County is reviving this time-honored folk tradition in the 133-year-old Fort Payne Opera House. Featuring 12 categories for competition and over \$5,600 in prizes, contestants can register for a single category for \$10 and \$5 for each additional category. 10am. Visit landmarksdekalbal.org to register or for more information.

June 4—Paint Like Bob Ross. Back by popular demand, Mentone Arts Center is hosting another Painting Like Bob Ross Workshop. The workshop is being taught by visiting Certified Bob Ross Instructor (CRI) Gary Grider and takes about four hours. Limited to 10 people (ages 13 and up) and costs \$100. All supplies are included to create your own 16 x20 Bob Ross Technique painting. Light snacks and drinks will be provided. To register, email Randy Grider at mentoneartscenter@gmail.com or call 256-674-3366.

June 4—Senior Sock Hop. DeKalb residents aged 55 and older are invited to join a Sock Hop hosted by the DeKalb Council on Aging! Dress casual or 50s style with poodle skirts, saddle shoes, etc. Dance the day away, or just eat, fellowship, and listen to the amazing music provided by "Still kickin'!" 256-845-8590. Wills Valley Recreation Center 12pm.

June 4—Summer Reading Program: "Good News! Bears!" Black bears are making a comeback in Alabama. We'll get the latest news from Hannah Leeper, the researcher studying our local bears. Ages 3–7: 10:30am. Ages 8–13: 11:30am. Moon Lake Library, Mentone.

June 4—Black Bears in Alabama Campfire Talk. Did you know Black Bears are Alabama's state mammal? Black bears are native to Alabama and their population is on the rise. Historically found in the southwest area of the state, bears have also been migrating into northeast Alabama from northwest Georgia over recent years. Following in their wake are myths, tall tales, and misconceptions. Join Auburn University Researcher Hannah Leeper to learn more about bears, what we can do to prevent bears from becoming a nuisance and hear about current black bear research happening in Alabama. Seating is limited, so bring your own comfortable camp chair if you wish. 8pm. DeSoto State Park Campfire Ring in the Improved Campground. (In case of inclement weather, event will be located in the CCC Pavilion in picnic area.) Campground gates open at 7:30. Free and open to everyone. For any details about the talk, email Brittney.Hughes@dcnr.alabama.gov.

June 4—Yoga at Mentone's Brow Park. Instructor Jamie Hale of Soul Shine Yoga. 10am. Weather permitting.

June 8–10—Grand Camp at Little River Canyon Center. Calling all 5–8 years old accompanied by their trusted adult! You are invited to join in grand adventure at the JSU Canyon Center in Fort Payne. Enjoy hands-on environmental education, outdoor fun, arts and guided exploration of the natural world. The half-day programs will run from 9am–12pm.

June 10—Wildflower Folklore Campfire Talk. Without plants, humanity could not exist; they have always played an essential role in our survival. Plants provide food, clothing, medicines, and, in fact, the very air we breathe—plants are the source of our atmosphere's life-giving oxygen. Since the beginning of time, humankind has gathered and cultivated plants for these reasons and catalogued their benefits. Since humankind

emerged from the cave, they have been working with plants and flowers, and have built up an enormous amount of fact and fiction about them. How did flowers get their names? What myths, histories, wild superstitions, and legends are associated with flowers? Find out at a fascinating campfire talk by interpretive naturalist, artist and wildcrafter Ila Hatter. Seating is limited, so bring your own comfortable camp chair if you wish. 8pm. DeSoto State Park Campfire Ring in the Improved Campground. (In case of inclement weather, event will be in the CCC Pavilion in picnic area.) Campground gates open at 7:30. Free and open to everyone. For any details about the talk, email Brittney.Hughes@dcnr.alabama.gov.

June 11—Plein Air at the Garden. Calling all Plein Air artists! Join other Plein Air artists (and those who want to give it a try) for a quick meet-and-greet at the Dr. Stephen Brewer Sculpture Garden before fanning across the Mentone area to paint your own creations. Please bring your own painting supplies. After an afternoon break, participants are invited back to Mentone Arts Center at 5:30pm. for a casual reception and selection of People's Choice award from the day's creations. Artists of all media and art lovers are invited to attend. For more information, email mentoneartscenter@gmail.com.

June 11—Summer Reading Program: "Flutter By, Butterflies." Learn about the life cycle and migration of and pollination by our flying friends. Ages 3–7: 10:30. Ages 8–13: 11:30. Moon Lake Library, Mentone.

June 11—Mentone Ukuleles. Strum and be happy! Free ukulele lessons for all experience levels. 1pm. Follow on Facebook (Mentone Ukuleles) or contact Debra Fey (debrafey@gmail.com) for more info. Moon Lake Library, Mentone.

June 11—Serious Skills Series: Cherokee Flower Printing Class. Learn 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 flower or leaf to fabric while retaining the design of the original material. In this class, join interpretive naturalist, artist and wildcrafter Ila Hatter to make a beautiful and unique piece of fabric to take home. Participants can also bring their own fabric, such as t-shirts, handkerchiefs, scarves, tea towels, pillowcases, etc., as long as it is 100% cotton. Ages 8 to adult. 2pm. DeSoto State Park (location disclosed at time of registration). \$10 includes all supplies. Class space is limited to 10; pre-registration is required. Email Brittney.Hughes@dcnr.alabama.gov to sign up or for more info. This class will be held outside under a covered pavilion, so be prepared for whatever weather conditions are present.

June 11—Bluegrass on the Rim. Doors open at 6pm. Music starts at 7pm. Kids 10 and under free. Little River Canyon Center. 256-845-3548.

June 14—Daybreak Flatwater Paddle Trip. DeSoto State Park staff offers this relaxing guided morning paddle trip on scenic Little River. Enjoy the peace and quiet of nature while paddling upstream on the 'coke bottle clear' waters of the West Fork of Little River. Learn about this outstanding water source with its clear water, plant, and animal life, and about the history

of the area around DeSoto Falls. This trip is approximately 4 miles round-trip on flatwater, spans a 3-to-3-1/2-hour period and includes kayak, paddle, and personal flotation device. Wear appropriate clothing and bring bug spray, snacks, and drinking water. 7–10am. Miller's Bend Paddle Shack at DeSoto Falls Picnic Area. \$30 single kayak rental (tandem kayaks are available on a limited basis for \$50). To register, email Paige. Norsworthy@dcnr.alabama.gov. Provide date of paddle and phone number; indicate number of boats and what type (single/tandem) requested for the trip. You will be contacted by phone and payment will be required at time of registration. Visit alapark.com/kayak-little-river for more information.

June 15—Art Critique and Discussion Group. Let's talk about art. Artists, please bring a piece or two to share. Hosted by Mikel Yeakle; sponsored by Little River Arts Council. 6pm. Moon Lake Library, Mentone.

June 18—Summer Reading Program: "Pollution Solutions." Why are clean water and air important to living things? Come learn what you can do to help all the wild creatures (and people, too)! 10:30am. All ages. Moon Lake Library, Mentone.

June 18—Book Club. Discussion of Sons and Soldiers by Bruce Henderson, a history of German-born Jewish soldiers recruited to fight the Germans in WWII. 10:30am. Moon Lake Library, Mentone.

June 18—Summer Music Series: "Parrot Tales". Sponsored by Little River Arts Council, made possible in part by the Alabama State Council on the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts. 7pm–10pm. Free & open to everyone! Mentone Inn's Linger Longer Pavilion. For any details, email info@littleriverartscouncil.org.

June 18—Third Saturday Sunset Cruise-In. The Third Saturday Sunset Cruise-In features 200+ classic vehicles on display in Fort Payne's historic downtown district. Music across the street from DeKalb Theatre and food vendors. 5–9pm. Free & open to everyone. For current info see facebook.com/3rdSaturdayFortPayneAL.

JUNE 19 Happy Father's Day!

JUNE 21 Happy Summer Solstice!

June 25—Yoga at Mentone's Brow Park. Instructor Jamie Hale of Soul Shine Yoga. 10am. Weather permitting.

June 25—Summer Reading Program: Toadtastic Time! Toads and frogs let us know if we have a healthy environment. Help keep them safe by building a Toad House. Ages 3–7: 10:30am. Ages 8–13: 11:30am. Moon Lake Library, Mentone.

June 25—Mentone Ukuleles. Strum and be happy! Free ukulele lessons for all experience levels. 1pm. Follow on Facebook (Mentone Ukuleles) or contact Debra Fey (debrafey@gmail.com) for more info. Moon Lake Library, Mentone.



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Rhododendron Garden Club

by Alyce Kenney

"What is a weed? A weed is a plant whose virtues have not yet been discovered." —Ralph Waldo Emerson

The May 10th meeting of the Rhododendron Garden Club was one of "work." Ten hardy members got together with tools in hand and gloves on hands to clean up the green spaces around the MERF house in Mentone. It became a labor of love as the sun warmed the morning and our bodies were put to the test bending, kneeling, lifting, hauling. (A conversation or two began about chiropractors....) Weeds were given the compulsory toss into the compost pile along with grass, twigs, and stranded bits of acorns, walnuts, and other debris. As every good gardener knows, composting is the way to sustain life for growth of future gardens. Delicate succulents and tender perennials were carefully and lovingly given new homes. Branches were trimmed, leaves collected, and fresh mulch was applied to beautify the entrance spaces where luminous and lovely rhododendron, hellebores, and azaleas bloom softly in their pockets of dappled sunlight. The secret garden was tidied, making it even more inviting to those who "discover" it while visiting the property to walk the path and commune with nature. When we stepped back to admire our efforts, we day-dreamed of adding a flagstone stepping path and perhaps a bird feeder or two to enhance the welcome feeling of these eco-friendly areas. Come sit on the garden bench and feel the peace with nature for a time.

The business of our meeting continued in the cool of the indoors of the MERF



dark green to a lighter blue-green color. False indigo usually blooms in June with its characteristic pea-like flowers that are typically blue but may range in color from white, yellow, lavender, purple, and shades of brown. The flowers are in a spike-like stem at the end of most of the young shoots. They can be used as a cut flower. Baptisia is generally free of pest problems and a long-lived plant that is a great addition to just about any garden that has the space for one (or more!) of these great additions.

Here are some of the future events the club will be participating in:

- Spring Tea at Grace Presbyterian Church, Fort Payne—June 8. The theme this year is "World Gardens." All ideas for flower arrangements are welcome!
- The flower show at Howard Finster's Paradise Garden, Summerville, GA—June 10. Members will be both clerking for the judges and entering items for showing. Sprucing up the small garden patch at the Mentone post office entrance.
- Preparing a hands-on workshop for Pollinator Day, June 20. Stay tuned for details!
- Making plans for the fall flower show held in DeKalb County, AL.

Be looking for our newly created informational brochure around town and share it with others who may be interested



Barbara Umland



The MERF House



Mary MacMichael



Dianne Kuehl & Donna Arnett

house, where we reviewed the past month's activities and learned about an ornamental perennial known as baptisia in a presentation by Martha Wood. Baptisia, or false indigo, is a hardy perennial that will look great from the time it emerges in the spring through the summer, and even into the winter. These fairly large plants can reach to 4 feet in height with about a 3-foot spread. They do best in full sun and will tolerate dry conditions after they are established. Early in the spring, Baptisia begins to grow, with the first signs of new shoots pushing up out of the soil. These new shoots are fun to watch because they grow quickly and often don't have any leaves until they get several inches tall—they almost look like small asparagus stems when they first start to grow. The young stems are smooth and may range in color from



False Indigo

in being a part of all the Rhododendron Garden Club fun! As we like to say, "We're not your granny's garden club."

Our next meeting will be Tuesday, June 14, at the MERF house. A program on "Sandstone Glades on Lookout Mountain" will be presented by DeSoto Park Naturalist Brittney Hughes. You don't have to be a member to attend this presentation!

The Rhododendron Garden Club meets the second Tuesday of each month at 10 a.m. CT in the MERF house. 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 serves as secretary for the Rhododendron Garden Club.

MERF News

[Mentone Educational Resources Foundation]

by Sarah Wilcox



Valley Head School’s first Family Art Night was an enormous success. Families and friends came out to enjoy the great artwork produced by the K-6th graders this year. Ms. Paula has done a wonderful job of introducing the students to the fundamentals of art and to the magnificent work of well-known artists such as Georgia O’Keefe. The students also performed with singing along to the Brown Bear Book; dancing, singing, and identifying colors to the Rainbow song; and playing “Ode to Joy” with the handbells. Thanks to Paula and students for sharing their gifts.

On May 18, a loyal, fun, always-willing-to-help MERF kitchen elf passed away. Carolyn Nail was always ready to support me in any crazy idea that I had about MERF, especially regarding senior lunches. I’ll miss her friendship, support, and superior dishwashing methods.



The third graders from Valley Head School went on a field trip to Rock City, which is located on Lookout Mountain. Before our trip, the students learned that Lookout Mountain is part of the Appalachian Mountain chain. While at Rock City, the students enjoyed viewing the beautiful High Falls on the way to Lover’s Leap and the Seven States Flag Court. Several students looked through the binoculars to see seven states. The students were fascinated with Mushroom Rock, and they remembered that sand erosion is what causes rocks to form into the shape of mushrooms. While touring Rock City, the students identified several trees and plants, including eastern redbud, American sweetgum, pagoda dogwood, Japanese painted fern, and resurrection fern. Two of their favorite highlights were walking through Fat Man’s Squeeze and gemstone panning. The gemstones were their treasures to take home with them. The third graders and their teachers would like to thank MERF for sponsoring this trip.

—Deborah Young, Valley Head School

Thank you friends and supporters of MERF and me for 25 years. I am so grateful for being involved in a fabulous community and an amazing non-profit. Thank you to Kelly Leavitt, who nominated me for the DeKalb County’s Top 20 Leaders that I received in May—what an honor. I have loved my time of being a board member, volunteer, president, and executive director of MERF. I hope that I have made a dent in enriching the learning and living in the community. I will resign as executive director of MERF on June 10, 2022. MERF is in great hands with a caring and intelligent board that will seek to find a new executive director to continue the work of MERF. Thank you all for your support throughout these years. It is time for George and me to go on some adventures, knowing that we can always come back to our friends on the mountaintop.

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.



Sydney Ingram was chosen by her teachers for the Mountain Spirit Award in memory of Carter Holland as the sixth grader with great character, leadership, and kindness.



Aunt Bee loves marble art with Ms. Paula. Thanks to everyone who stopped by the MERF booth at Memories of Mayberry.

*The Community is invited to an event
at the MERF house to honor and thank
Sarah Wilcox for her dedication
to the Mentone Educational Resources Foundation
these past 25 years, on Sunday afternoon,
June 5, from 4-6 p.m.
Let us give Sarah a big loving send-off.*



Carley Collins received the Mountain Spirit Award for an 8th grader exemplifying excellence in character, leadership, and kindness.



Connor Cash, a Mentone resident and Fort Payne High School graduate, received a \$750 Carter Holland Memorial Educational Scholarship to attend college this fall. His essay impressed the committee as he plans to impact young people's lives as a teacher and a coach in the future.



Valley Head senior Josue Sontay (L) was awarded MERF's Mountain Spirit Award of \$500. His teachers nominated him for having the excellent qualities of leadership, kindness, and character. Jacie O'Tinger (R) received MERF's \$750 Carter Holland Memorial Educational Scholarship to help with her studies at Northeast Alabama Community College.



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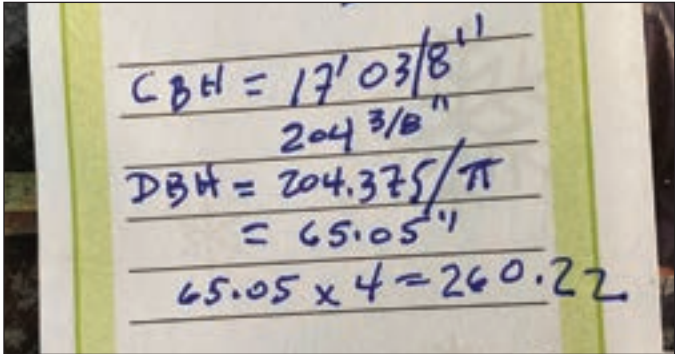


Valley Head 5th and 6th grade students had a blast at Space Camp! They had the opportunity to train like astronauts, fly a simulated mission to space, learn about the history of the Space Program and Alabama's contributions to the program, tour a model of the International Space Station, build and launch their own rockets, and much more. While there, they also learned about the future of the Space Program and Alabama's part in it moving forward. We are always proud of our group's participation and behavior while at camp, and this year was no exception! I feel that trips like this are extremely important to inspire the next generation. We have been taking students to camp for over 20 years, and it is interesting to look back at how many have pursued STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) related careers. The students we took this year were exposed to the wide variety of career opportunities that are available now and will be in the future. We are grateful to MERF for their part in making this trip possible for our students.

—Tammy Cooper, Valley Head School



Roy Smith stands next to an ancient sycamore tree on his farm in Valley Head.



Notes calculating the estimated age of the sycamore

A recent *Groundhog* article which I wrote featured two majestic trees on East River Road in Mentone. I had mentioned to the property owners that I'd learned an easy way to estimate the age of various species of trees. We estimated a pine tree on the property to be 206 years old and a white oak to be 255 years old.

I invited readers to share news of any ancient trees on their property, and Mr. Roy Smith responded with photos of a magnificent sycamore on his farm in Valley Head. The Smith farm runs along Highway 137, bordered on the south by Wade Gap. The farm was established by his father in 1962 and Roy and his sister grew up on the land. "We moved there when I was about 10 years old or so," Roy said. "The reason those fields look so good is I spent a large part of my first couple of years there using a mattock to chop down sassafras bushes," he explained with a chuckle.

He and his sister now each own a part of the original 300-acre farm, whose focus is cattle and hay. Once this season's hay is cut, Roy plans to walk out into the field to measure some very large oak trees on the property.

If you know of a tree that's extraordinarily old, we'd love to hear about it. Email groundhognews@yahoo.com (and send a photo if you can!).

*"From a small seed,
a mighty trunk may grow."
-Aeschylus*

How Old Is That Tree?

by Kelly Leavitt



An Easy (Unscientific) Way to Estimate the Age of a Tree

To estimate a tree's estimated age, measure its diameter at a height of 45" and then multiply that number in inches by the species' growth factor. The growth factor for a sycamore is 4, so Roy has calculated:
204-3/8" (circumference) / π (3.14) = 65.05" (diameter)
65.04 x 4 (growth factor) = 260.22 years

- Growth Factors of Some Local Tree Species**
Tulip Tree 3 • Sycamore 4 • Red Oak 4 • Sweet Gum 4
Black Walnut 4.5 • Red Maple 4.5 • White Oak 5 • Red Pine 5.5
Redbud 7 • Dogwood 7 • Shagbark Hickory 7.5

Mentone American Legion Holds Its First Fundraiser of the Year

by Barry Morton

NAME _____

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No. 0001

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MENTONE, ALABAMA
 195 Cove Rd • Mentone, AL 35984

First Annual Building Fundraiser
June 4, 2022 • 11AM-2PM
 Adult \$10.00 ea | Child \$5.00 ea
 BBQ Lunch provided by **Mentone Market**
 your mountain grocery

The Mentone American Legion (MAL) will be having a BBQ on Saturday, June 4, 2022! Tickets can be bought beforehand at the Mentone Market and Little River Hardware.

The BBQ will have, of course, BBQ, baked beans, and cole slaw, with Misty making the homemade brownies which will be served by past Mentone Cub Scout Troop 106 members. Troop 106 is partnering with the MAL in this and future endeavors.

Our April meeting was very productive:

1. We approved our constitution and bylaws (C&B) which is now at the state for their approval. Although one is required and we've been in business for 74 years, we've never had a constitution.
2. An executive committee (EC) was approved. The EC consists of Mentone residents Bruce Van Apledoorn, Mike Norris, and Carter Morris. One out-of-state EC member is Rich Pyell. Misty Van Apledoorn, Bruce's wife, was elected as our auxiliary president. She will be an honorary EC member.
3. The meeting was attended by District Commander Alan Chambers, who helped by saying the prayer.
4. We put a lock box on the back door so now any member can get in anytime.
5. There's a library established (actually a three-ring binder) with all the key information associated with our Post such as the draft C&B, agenda, minutes, and projects or things that members can do around the Post.
6. We welcomed two new members in April...we are now at 40, with our goal of 50 by the end of the year in reach.

In next month's *Groundhog* article, since it will be halfway through the year, we will compare how we're doing with achieving our year 2022 MAL goals. To see our progress, go to our Mentone American Legion FB Group.

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 post commander for the Mentone American Legion (MAL) Post 215.



We always welcome our community's contributions to *The Groundhog*. If you enjoy writing or have ideas for stories that you think would interest our readers, let us know!

Do you enjoy talking to others about local history or memorable events? Do you recall with fondness certain people who made Mentone what it is today? Help us sustain *The Groundhog's* tradition of preserving Mentone's history and serving its current population.

The Groundhog staff and MAPA board are here to assist you if you will help us get these important stories and biographies written down to share and save for posterity. (If you are worried about your writing skills, everything is edited before print.)

Email us at groundhognews@yahoo.com or give us a call at 256-289-2002 to let us know how you would like to be a part of this great paper.



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Ruby O'Rear's Days Come to Life

JUNE, 1937

June 1, Tuesday, 1937

Cloudy most of day. Sprinkled. Cooler. Mother was restless last nite. Sat up quite a bit to-day. Drank about 2 cups lemonade. Jessie has been cleaning on back porch all day. J.B. churned, I put up curtains in their room. Quilted just a little.

June 2, Wednesday, 1937

Cool in morn, but warmed up later. Showers in P.M. Mother rested well last nite but kidneys acted in bed several times. J.B. & I went to Lilly Smith's & got gal. of cherries. Picked some for her. Limb broke with Jewel Emerson & she fell out but was not hurt. Came home by Clyde's to see about getting some wood on to Dan. Was in shower when pkg. from Sears came. Linen suit, hat, purse, etc. Cleaned Mother up. Canned pt. of cherries for fruit cake. I ate about ½ gal. of cherries.

June 3, Thursday, 1937

Cloudy most of day. Rained some, Rained some last nite. I ate some cherries after eating bread & milk last nite & my stomach was upset in nite. Didn't feel so well this morn. Paul stayed at home to-day. Mr. Yarbrough came to see about my getting fertilizer & seeds to plant new ground at spring. A.J. took me to Valley Head. I paid off all our bills & got 2 sacks of grain & some seeds. Something wrong with gears. Got in second & wouldn't come out. Jessie sent washing to Mrs. Yarbrough. Eula came over & brot some bread. Ethel working at Cloudland. Had cherry pie to-day.

June 4, Friday, 1937

Cool in morn but warm later on. Mother rested well again last nite. Gave her laxative last nite & this morn & bowles moved some. I quilted some. Wanted to get it out this week. Mother was up quite a bit to-day. A.J. & J.B. went for mail & on to Cash's. I killed hen to stew for Mother. Hoed cucumbers & okra. Something has broken up guinea nest. Had got 39 eggs out of it.

June 5, Saturday, 1937

Fair, warm last nite but moderate to-day. Good breeze. Mother rested well again last night but kidneys acted several times in bed. I started quilting first thing this morn. Lacked a little over ¼ being thru. Bathed Mother off good & changed her clothes & bed clothes & she slept all evening so I got to quilt a lot. Finished the quilting before 4:30. J.B. sick at stomach last nite. Paul gone this morn but back before dinner & they went



fishing this P.M. Jessie ironed & washed out Mother's clothes. Jodie & Eula came by.

June 6, Sunday, 1937

Cloudy, cool. Mother didn't rest well last night. I stayed at home all day. Mother awake more to-day than any day in long time. Didn't get her cleaned or cleaned up myself until after dinner. Jessie didn't get kitchen cleaned up until 4 or after.

June 7, Monday, 1937

Cloudy & cool in morn but cleared off later & warmer. Mother rested better last nite & slept quite a bit to-day. I went for mail & on to Kate's to get petunia plants. Ran out to see Mrs. Brown. Came back by Ethel's & Nettie's. Paul came in about 3 not feeling well. Had late dinner & sewed up 4 pillow cases but didn't hem them & started sheets. Washed linen suit & Mother's gowns & skirt. Set out plants.

June 8, Tuesday, 1937

Fair & warm. Mother rested about as usual last nite & slept lots to-day. Took syrup of pepsin last nite & salts this morn but didn't have much effect. Jessie washed. I finished skirt. Got dinner. Washed my hair. Eula came by. Paul & J.B. went fishing.

June 9, Wednesday, 1937

Fair & warm. Mother not resting so well at nite. I went to mail box to send off some mail. Sent bedroom slippers back. Stopped by spring. Mr. Yarbrough has set out several hundred tomato plants.

June 10, Thursday, 1937

Fair & warm. Mother didn't rest well last nite. Worked some on Hazel's blouse. Made

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 June, 1937.

pair of pillow cases.

June 11, Friday, 1937

Fair & warm. Mother didn't rest well last nite. I finished Hazel's organdie blouse. Want to get it to her before Sun. as she's going to Birmingham then. Jessie ironed.

June 12, Saturday, 1937

Fair & warm. Cool at nite. Gave Mother medicine last nite & she was up quite a bit to-day. Jessie washed some. I fixed Mother's toilet chair with new cretonne. Heard that Mrs. Adams little girl was sick. Jessie scrubbed. Ethel sick last nite.

June 13, Sunday, 1937

Children's Day at Wesleyan Fair & warm. Nearly 90. Mother rested better than usual last nite & slept quite a bit to-day. Jack Cash came over & he & J.B. & I went to church for Children's Day. Stayed until 2:00. Walked home & stopped by Clyde's a few min. On home by graveyard. Clyde had plowed our lot for me. Eula & kids came. Jack & Paul took boys to river then went on to see Kelly's & Thelma's baby. Hope & Faye & Paul Campbell & his wife came by. Mother stays hungry.

June 14, Monday, 1937

Clouded up & looked like it was going to storm but only rained a little A.J. went to Cloudland & got her mother & she went with Jack, Paul & J.B. to F.P. Took Lopo to have him "shot." Rebecca Adams just about the same as yesterday.

June 15, Tuesday, 1937

Partly cloudy. Mother took syrup of pepsin yesterday & salts this morn so she was up quite a bit to-day. I finished binding red quilt. Started to cut out feed sack dress but

had headache. Jewell E. came by.

June 16, Wednesday, 1937

Cloudy in morn but cleared up later. Temp nearly 90. Paul stayed at home & Jessie washed. Milt & Eva came over to have me call Mrs. Adams. Rebecca very low. Ethel going out there. Mother hasn't slept much to-day but has eaten lots. Paul & J.B. gone fishing.

June 17, Thursday, 1937

Rained a good shower in morn. Most we've had in some time, but sun soon shone out. Paul & J.B. went to F.P. & out on Sand Mt. A.J. went to Kelly's. They have named the baby Samuel Force. She came back by Culbertsons. I cut dress out of short sacks. Knitted a little. Mother stayed up 1-1/2 hrs. this morn. Has rested fairly well.

June 18, Friday, 1937

Fair. Temp 87. Mother rested well to-day. I sewed some. Knitted a little. Built a furnace in west side of rock pile. Jessie ironed with gasoline iron.

June 19, Saturday, 1937

Warm Mother rested fairly well. Had taken medicine & had to be up quite a bit. I finished my feed sack dress. Jessie finished ironing on stove. Paul & J.B. went fishing, got rained on.

June 20, Sunday, 1937

Warm. Temp above 90 Mother's bowels acted in bed last nite. First time in months. I went to S.S. Eunice & Clarence & kids there. First time they've been back in 3 yrs. Also saw Rona's baby. Rode to Dan's with Clara. Heat made Mother restless. Laura Margaret & Elizabeth Davenport & Mr. Allison came by & went to well.

June 21, Monday, 1937

Temp 94. Hottest day. I washed out Mother's things & a few others. Cut out gown for Mother out of thin cloth. She's been wearing outing gowns. This P.M. I went to Culbertsons & on to see Thelma's boy. Went by to see Aunt May a min. Also Mrs. Brown. Got 2 gal. of beans from Kate.

June 22, Tuesday, 1937

Cooler to-day. Temp 86. Very pleasant. Good breeze. Canned 7 qts of beans on new furnace I'd built on west side of rock pile. Mother rested well to-day. Miss Pearl, Mr. Thompson & young preacher from Cloudland came over for few min. Gave Mother syrup of pepsin this morn & it acted this A.M.

(continued on page 27)

Ruby O'Rear (cont'd from page 26)**June 23, Wednesday, 1937***Fair. Temp about 90*

Eugenia Brown came over to stay with us. Mother rested well. I cut out my dress that Jessie gave me last year. Paul didn't come home last nite. Calf got milk this morn. J. B. & I went to Gus Cole place to see about berries. Eugenia went home to-nite for clothes.

June 24, Thursday, 1937*Fair. Temp above 90*

Eugenia came back this morn. Jessie washed. I sewed some on dress. Paul & I picked a few berries in King field. A.J. cooked 3-1/2 gal. blueberries her mother had bought. We made freezer of cream.

June 25, Friday, 1937*Alice Jane's birthday**Temp 98*

Killed 2 fryers. My first this year. Jack spent day with J.B. I sewed some on

dress. Genia ironed. Paul & I walked to Lahusage. Picked about 1-1/2 gal dewberries. A.J. canned 6 qts dewberry juice. Bought 1/2 gal raspberries. Canned them. Billy E. spent nite with J.B. Slept in tent.

June 26, Saturday, 1937*Temp above 90. Cloud part of day. Looked like rain.*

James B. & Billy cleaned out cistern. Only 4 tubs of water in it. Mother restless because of heat. Canned 6 qts blueberries & 1 qt. rhubarb. Finished dress.

June 27, Sunday, 1937*Temp 96. Clouded up.*

Went to church. Frank preached. Genie went home before dinner. Alice Hammons came by. Paul & J.B. went to S'ville with him. Stayed at home all P.M.

June 28, Monday, 1937*Hot. Dark cloud in P.M. but only sprinkled.*

Planned to go to F.P. but Mother restless & Genie didn't come back this morn. Then Paul had to go to Menlo. Jessie washed this P.M. Vergie, Maud & Genie came over but Genie went back as Vergie said she couldn't get along without her. Turned bed around so Mother could get more air.

June 29, Tuesday, 1937*Rained last nite. Cooler to-day. About 7 in. of water in cistern. First good rain we've had in over a mo.*

Eula came over & Paul took me to F.P. A.J. went too. Mother rested better now it's cooler. Got 600 tomato & 700 cabbage plants for Mr. Yarbrough. Got 50 lbs. sugar to use in canning. Bought 1/2 gal. dewberries from Mrs. Clarence Johnson. Paul & Jack went for them.

J.B. went with Cash's to cut live trees. Cut out pajamas.

June 30, Wednesday, 1937*Clear, cool. Temp 80. Down in 60s at dark to-nite.*

Mother rested fine to-day but was restless last nite. Canned 15 qts. Dewberries. Paul went to Menlo & I was taking a nap when Mr. Yates came by wanting to sell some berries. I got 2 gal. dewberries & we canned 8 more qts. I ironed some.



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National Day of Prayer Recognized

A large group gathered in Mentone’s Mason Park on Thursday, May 5, to take part in the National Day of Prayer. The event was organized by Nora Gamble. A group sang hymns, accompanied by Sylvia Wolcott on the keyboard. Photos are courtesy of Sadler Emory.



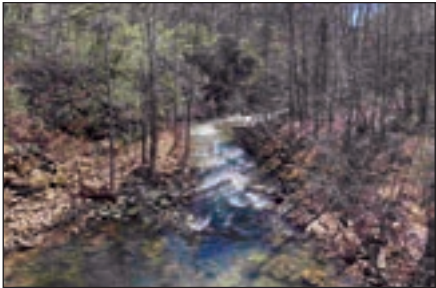
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Council to Consider Converting Library to Municipal Status

by Holley Midgley

At its May 10 meeting, the Mentone Town Council heard a presentation from representatives of the Moon Lake Community Library about the advantages to the town of seeking official municipal public library status, as granted by the Alabama Public Library Service. With the closing of Moon Lake Elementary School by the DeKalb County Board of Education following the end of the 2021 school year, the town was given possession of the school campus, which includes the library.

Following a discussion, the council voted to task the town’s attorney, Mr. Patrick Tate, with formulating an ordinance for consideration at its June 12 Meeting. Becoming a public library will make it possible for the town to access state, county, and federal funds, as well as certain grants which it does not now qualify for. Moon Lake would become a part of the DeKalb Library System, like the other town libraries in the county. Joining the DeKalb system means the library would remain under local control while still receiving support, including a local professional network.

If the town council approves seeking municipal public library status, the plan would be to create a five member board which would administer the library. That board would be made up of folks who live full time in the Mentone town limits. The current library board would then become the Friends of the Moon Lake Community Library. Its status as a 501(c)(3) non-profit would remain in place, and its mission would continue to be fund raising in support of the library.

Thanks to all who have asked about the library’s status. We will update you as we move further along in the process.

Library receives Dollar General summer reading program grant, expands children’s programs and resources

The library received notification in early May that it had been awarded a grant from the Dollar General Foundation. The grant will be used to support our 2022 Summer Reading Program series, with purchases of new nonfiction books for children and more books for teens and young adults.

The summer reading program for kids will take place every Saturday from June 4 until July 23, with the exception of the weekend of July 2. Ages 3-7 will continue to meet at 10:30, and we’ll offer a program for 8 to 12-year-olds at 11:30.

We invite teens to participate too, helping with the children’s programs and also with planning activities for their own age group. Adults can join the reading program too by picking up a Book Bingo card at the library. It’s a simple activity but one that will challenge you to read more and to perhaps broaden your horizons.

A special reading celebration for all ages will take place on July 30, with treats and games. Look for more details in next month’s Groundhog, the library’s Facebook pages, and at MoonLakeCommunityLibrary.org.



Wild about Reading!

Moon Lake Community Library Summer Reading Program

Visitors welcome

6/4	Good News! Bears! 10:30 Ages 3-7 11:30 Ages 8-13	Black bears are making a comeback in Alabama.. We'll get the latest news from Hannah Leeper, the researcher studying our local bears.
6/11	Flutter By, Butterflies 10:30 Ages 3-7 11:30 Ages 8-13	Learn about the life cycle and migration of and pollination by our flying friends.
6/18	Pollution Solutions All ages at 10:30 today	Why are clean water and air are important to living things? Come learn what you can do to help all the wild creatures (and people, too)!
6/25	Toadtastic Time! 10:30 Ages 3-7 11:30 Ages 8-13	Toads and frogs let us know if we have a healthy environment. Help keep them safe by building a Toad House.
7/2	No program today	Happy 4th of July Week!
7/9	Turtle Tales 10:30 Ages 3-7 11:30 Ages 8-13	On land, river or ocean, turtles have adapted to live all around us. Come meet a very special turtle, Bella.
7/16	Home, Sweet Home (Alabama habitats) 10:30 Ages 3-7 11:30 Ages 8-13	Why particular habitats are critical for each animal
7/23	What's All The BUZZ About?- 10:30 Ages 3-7 11:30 Ages 8-13	Bees provide us with fruits, vegetables and honey! Find out how they help us.
July 30	Summer Reading Celebration 10:30 All ages	Come to the library for treats and games! Free T-shirts for all who attended 4 or more summer sessions.

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Mountain Top Country Store
Paradise Garden

In Memoriam



ALBERT LEONARD FELLGER February 7, 1959—April 30, 2022

Albert Leonard "Al" Fellger, age 63 of Mentone, passed away on Saturday, April 30, 2022 at his residence. Mr. Fellger was born on February 7, 1959 in Illinois to the late Phillip & Grace Geppert Fellger. He worked for Children's Place and attended both Howard's Chapel and Hidden Manor. He served our country in the United States Army.

He is survived by his wife, Nena Fellger; children, Christina Wilbanks, Wendy

Fellger, Amy Fellger, Stacy Fellger, and A.J. Fellger (Carol); 17 grandchildren; aunt, Dagne Geppert; and several nieces, nephews and cousins.

He was preceded in death by his parents; brother, Butch Fellger, sisters, Susan Fellger and Linda Miller; and grandsons, Michael Bell and Chandler Russell.



TERRY SHIRLEY March 27, 1950—May 2, 2022

Ronald Terry Shirley, 72, of Valley Head, passed away Monday, May 2, 2022. He was born March 27, 1950 to the late Dalph and Flora Lacy Shirley. Terry retired from Heil, Inc. and enjoyed hunting with his grandchildren and Auburn football. He loved spending time with his family.

He is survived by his wife of 48 years, Anita Shirley; daughters Dawn McCord

(Jason) and Brandi Green (Farley); grandchildren Luke Posey (Kelsey), Jessica Parham (Alex), Will Green, and Baylee Green; great-grandson, Kase Parham; sister, Becky Proctor; and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his daughter Nichole Shirley and brother Larry Shirley.



HONEY TURLEY GLOVER

Honey Turley Glover aged 92 of Menlo, GA graduated to be with her Lord on Tuesday May 3, 2022 at Seven Hills Place in Rome, GA.

Honey was born in Lindale, GA to Comer and Martha Mathis Turley. She was a graduate of Rome High and a 1951 graduate of Shorter College (now Shorter University) where she earned a BA degree in Art. After graduation in 1951, she joined American Airlines as a flight attendant up until marriage in September of 1953 to a young US Air Force First Lieutenant, Alex Glover (married for 66 years). She later taught art at East Rome Junior High and was an accomplished photographer. She was an early pioneer of infra-red aerial photography to locate buried historical artifacts which was used to locate artifacts for the Chieftains Museum in Rome which was the home of Principle Cherokee Chief John Ross who signed the New Echota Agreement for the Cherokee removal "The Trail of Tears". She and her husband Alex, Sr. were members and Elders of the Cloudland Presbyterian Church in Cloudland, GA. She was also a member of the William Marsh Chapter (Lafayette, GA) of the Daughters of The American Revolution and the Junior Service League of Rome, GA.

She was preceded in death by a daughter Laura Glover Whitton, a sister Patty Turley Foxworth, and her husband Alexander S. Glover, Sr.

She is survived by sons Alex Glover, Jr. (Debbie) of Little Switzerland, NC, Sam Glover (Liz) of Menlo, GA; daughter Lynn Holloway (Mark) of Mentone; grandchildren Blake Glover of Charlotte, NC, Evan Holloway of Armuchee, GA, Allison Holloway of Mentone, Lainey Glover of Roswell, GA, and Kain Glover of Athens, GA; sister Joanne Bugg (Frank) of Big Canoe, GA; brother Comer Turley, Jr. (Hennie) of Dalton, GA; and many nieces and nephews.

ROBIN JANE WARD October 13, 1953—May 12, 2022

Robin Jane Ward, age 68, of Cloudland, GA, died Thursday, May 12, 2022, at her residence.

Miss Ward was born October 13, 1953, in Bergenfield, NJ, daughter of the late Everett Pierce Ward and Elizabeth Tobey Ward. She had been employed as a medical assistant with Harbin Clinic. The mountain was very important to her. She enjoyed reading, music and loved cats and horses.

Survivors include her sisters, Elizabeth (Albert) Chandler and Judy (Ray) Fisher; nephews, Charles (Misty) Chandler, Matthew (Michelle) Fisher; nieces, Patricia (Jay) Barras, and Tobey (Ed) Gray. Special friends, Sue Shipley and Peggy Young-Green.

The family respectfully requests donations be made in Robin's memory to ALS Tennessee Association at alstn.org.



CAROLYN SUE NAIL February 24, 1949—May 17, 2022

Carolyn Sue Nail, age 73 of Mentone, AL passed away on May 17, 2022. She was a nurse for over 40 years and she felt like taking care of her patients was her ministry. She loved to volunteer in the Mentone area after retirement. She loved her cats and especially her fur baby Annie. She is preceded in death by her parents, James Clinton and Susie Mae Nail and her sister, Jewel Marie Adams. She is survived by her brother, Charles Nail and numerous nephews and host of friends that she loved very much.



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