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THE GROUNDHOG

“Neighborly News from the Heart of Lookout Mountain”

October 2022

Colorfest ‘22



October 15 & 16, 2022

Moon Lake Village, Mentone
Arts & Crafts | Live Music | Food & More!
mentonecolorfest.com

Presented by the Mentone Area Preservation Association • Art courtesy of Lydia Adele Randolph | lydiarandolphfineart.com

The official 2022 Colorfest poster features the art of Mentone artist Lydia Randolph. Posters will be for sale for \$10/unframed and \$20/framed at the festival, and are available in the the MAPA office at Moon Lake Village.



See pages 12–13
for full Colorfest information,
including vendors and
a schedule of live music.

Community Workday!

Saturday, October 8 @ 8 a.m.

The Rhododendren Garden Club and Master Gardeners are gearing up to tend to the garden beds and other areas at Moon Lake Village on Saturday, October 8, from 8 a.m. until noon. The landscaping at the campus has been minimally been tended to since Moon Lake School closed, and there’s a lot of work to be done! If you enjoy getting your hands dirty, folks with shovels, clippers, trowels, wheelbarrows, wagons, strong arms, good backs, and a willingness to “dig in” are needed. Thank you!

Kick Off Colorfest Weekend with Music Under the Stars



Photo by Mark Wallheiser

Will Dooley & Friends

Friday, October 14, 7 p.m.

Linger Longer Pavilion at the Mentone Inn

FREE & Open to Everyone!

**Presented by Little River Arts Council
& Mentone Area Preservation Association**

A limited number of chairs are available, so come early or bring a chair or blanket and enjoy a night under the stars!

The Mentone Croquet Wicketeers Are Back...

**Bigger and Better and in a
New Location**

by Barry Morton

After taking almost a year off, especially a hot summer, the Wicketeers are back, playing with new equipment (gifted by Chuck Peters) at the Moon Lake Village. We play every Wednesday on the field in front of the gym. It will be the first time we’ve been on a level ground with no roots or rocks...the way croquet is meant to be played. By the time we start at 3 p.m. the sun is low, providing plenty of shade.

Everyone is invited to play, as well as the tenants of Moon Lake Village after their workday is completed. We will have chairs, coolers with water, and plenty of beverages and snacks. Look for more of what’s happening at our Mentone Croquet Facebook Group.



The new set gifted by Chuck Peters will be used for the first time at our new home. We make three awards: gold for first, silver for second and bronze for third.

mentonecolorfest.com

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at the Hitching Post Fall 2022

The Groundhog

Published monthly
by the Mentone Area
Preservation Association

MAPA was first conceived on Groundhog Day, 1982, and then organized on April 5, 1982. *The Groundhog* has been in publication for 40 years.

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*Birthday calendar maintained by
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*Groundhog woodcut courtesy of
Meg Justice/Bee Spring Studio*

Do you like to write?

We welcome contributions!

Local stories, recipes,
poetry, history, interviews . . .

Email
groundhognews@yahoo.com

Mentone Matters

by Mayor Rob Hammond

In September, Representative Nathaniel Ledbetter and Senator Steve Livingston visited Moon Lake Village. They presented the Town of Mentone a check from the DeKalb Community Development Commission for \$10,000 for the amphitheater. They also presented a check to Gwen Stone for the DeSoto Rescue Squad and left a check for me to present to the Mentone American Legion. The town is grateful for their continuing support.

Kelly Leavitt and MAPA hosted the first in a series of oral history interviews at the Bill Berry Community Room. Bill himself was the first to be interviewed. The event was well attended. Bill did a great job. He spoke and answered questions about his family and Moon Lake School for an hour and a half. It was an enjoyable event and a great way to kick off the Mentone oral history series.



The Alabama Historical Association chose Mentone for their fall pilgrimage. Historians from all over the state attended this event. St. Joseph-on-the-Mountain hosted. Keynote speakers were Kelly Leavitt (discussing Colonel Milford Howard), Marcus Thomas (discussing his book *Witch of the Mountain: The Real Story of Granny Dollar*) and Hannah Leeper (discussing her current research on black bears in DeKalb County). It was a privilege to welcome AHA to Mentone and we hope they return!



The sunset during MAPA's Sunset Social at Brow Park on the autumnal equinox, September 22, 2022

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A Look Back...

The Groundhog | January, 1992 | Page 1

Battelle by Emily C. Smith

This year, in celebration of the 40th anniversary of the founding of the Mentone Area Preservation Association (MAPA), *The Groundhog* is reprinting a selection of articles from years past. (Archived issues are available to read at mapamentone.com/groundhog-past-issues.) This month’s selection is particularly poignant because John Baty



passed away on July 29. When Evelyn Graves wrote this article in 1993, she predicted that John’s book on fox hunting would be “just the beginning.” She was right. He went on to write and self-publish 11 more books which capture the old days on the mountain. They are all available at Moon Lake Library. We hope you enjoy this look back in time.

Everyone in DeKalb County in 1904 knew about Battelle. The town of Battelle had nearly 300 homes all with running water, a post office, a commissary and the furnaces of the Lookout Mountain Iron Company. The town and the iron company were founded by Col. John Gordon Battelle about five miles north of Valley Head, Alabama.

Today, no structure remains at the site of this once thriving community, only a few scattered bricks and some stone work and occasionally a brambly rose bush or a patch of jonquils tell that people once lived here. Even ghost towns with their still standing empty buildings show more evidence of life than Battelle.

At the turn of the century, the deposits of iron ore and coal in DeKalb County attracted the interest of investors from the northern United States. Col. Battelle, along with J. H. Frantz organized the Lookout Mountain Iron Company with \$1 million in capital stock mostly raised in Ohio. Col. Battelle was a successful businessman with interests in several mining operations.

The location seemed ideal. The raw material for iron could be hauled to the factory from the shortest distance possible in Alabama. Battelle lies in a valley between the coal outcroppings of Lookout Mountain and the iron deposits of Ore Ridge. On paper, it was the most economical iron plant in the South.

The location showed promise when during the Civil War, John Levi Barnard of Valley Head operated a foundry at the site of Battelle for the Confederate government.

Col. Battelle began building the foundry and started mining operations. Houses for the workers and



PAYDAY AT BATTELLE-Coal miners and foundry workers line up to receive their wages.

their families were built. Spring water was pumped into a large wooden tank and piped to the houses. A depot was built for the trains that brought people to Battelle and took away the iron they made. A commissary supplied the residents with all they needed.

There was one problem. Though the locally available raw materials appeared to be abundant on the surface, the supply proved to be insufficient for a long term operation. After producing between 80,000 and 85,000 tons of pig iron, the blast furnace shut down and Col. Battelle’s company filed for receivership in 1906.

The iron plant was dismantled in 1917 and sold to the British government. They shipped the parts to the Tata Iron Works in Calcutta, India, making it the only furnace to operate on two different continents. It took two years to move the furnace to its new location.

The Fort Payne Journal ran a news article on

February 26, 1919 reporting that 40 to 50 houses at Battelle were bought by Fort Payne residents. The houses were torn down and rebuilt to help meet the demands of a housing shortage in the neighboring town.

“Tear down one city to build up another – such is the situation with reference to the sale of a vast number of deserted houses which are being sold to the public and salvaged at Battelle, which in the hey day of its glory seemed destined to become one of the larger boom cities in this part of the country until the collapse of the boom there some years ago,” the article said.

Although the Lookout Mountain Iron Company failed, Col. Battelle’s other successful investments enabled him to leave a sizable inheritance to his son Gordon. When Gordon died in 1923, the Battelle Memorial Institute was founded in Columbus, Ohio. The Institute is considered the world’s largest

independent, charitable, nonprofit, tax-paying research and development organization. They have offices and research facilities all over the world.

The Institute played a role in developing xerography in the 1940s. They worked on the atomic bomb in World War II and continue to work in the area of nuclear power and several other fields of research.

Today, the Battelle property is owned by R.B. “Bear” Brown of Valley Head. Brown runs a hunting and fishing club on 2,500 acres of land. He says that during hunting season this year, hunters bagged 25 deer. There are five lakes at Battelle stocked with large and small mouth bass, bream, catfish and trout.

In recent years, the Pepsi Cola Company explored the possibility of selling bottled water and considered the spring at Battelle. Brown says they sent a research scientist from the Battelle Foundation to test the spring.

The scientist found the water in the spring pure and of good quality but Pepsi abandoned plans to sell bottled water.

Brown said that although the scientist had worked for the Battelle Institute for several years, he was unaware of the connection between Col. Battelle and the Lookout Mountain Iron Company in Alabama. Landmarks of Fort Payne has preserved the late

Robert N. Mann’s photographic collection of Battelle. Mann was the first child born at Battelle and was county historian of Cherokee County and a past president of the Cherokee County Historical Society.

The photographs show the people and life of this big iron operation at the turn of the century.

A Letter of Gratitude

One of the things that drew many of us to Mentone and Lookout Mountain is the quiet and the solitude. As a long time city boy, I felt I had arrived in another world when we found a cabin here many years ago. As my wife and I got older, we sometimes wondered if this rural location could provide prompt emergency services, should the need arise. On August 14 this year, I learned the answer.

It was early Sunday morning when I experienced a medical emergency that required immediate attention. My wife dialed 911, and within minutes members of the DeSoto Rescue Squad and the DeKalb Ambulance Service, Medic Three (Hammondville) were at our home and providing assistance. Throughout the entire episode, team members of the DeSoto Rescue Squad (John Fischer and Michael Chambers) and the Ambulance Service (Travis Peek and Robert Edgar) were prompt, knowledgeable, and professional.

Three of the men accompanied me in the ambulance to Erlanger Hospital in Chattanooga, TN. My wife, understandably rattled, asked if

someone could drive her in our car so she would have transportation while I was hospitalized. We owe a special thank you to John Fischer who stepped up and drove the 50 miles to the hospital, and, along with the members of both teams, remained on site until I was wheeled into surgery.

Although we are certainly indebted to the doctors, nurses, and staff at Erlanger Hospital, as well as many other good people in Chattanooga whose names we never learned, I wanted our community to be aware of the quality first responders who stood by then—and who stand by now—ready to assist in an emergency. The DeSoto Rescue Squad is an all-volunteer organization that does not charge for its services and relies on donations and fundraisers for much of the funds required to continue operations. Please consider them when gift-giving to worthy local groups.

My wife and I are forever grateful for all that the members of these two fine organizations did for us on that difficult day. It reminded us, once again, how lucky we all are to live here.

—Dennis and Kea Hessler

Message from MAPA

by Mark Hoffman



Calling for volunteers! Hey everyone, Colorfest is fast approaching, and many more volunteers are needed to help us perform all the duties necessary to make it happen as smoothly as possible. Volunteers are needed for a broad variety of functions, pre-festival, during the festival and after the festival. Please go to mentonecolorfest.com to sign up and be a part of the team!

Many folks have been working their tail off to make Colorfest happen. Special thanks go out to the following people who have spent inordinate amounts of time, and lent their experience and expertise to the effort: Chris Davenport, Beverly Haynes, Jody Rhodes, Dana Lockhart and Kelly Leavitt. Also, many thanks to the Town of Mentone, Paul Nail, and Chief Gene McKee for all of the hard work to make Moon Lake

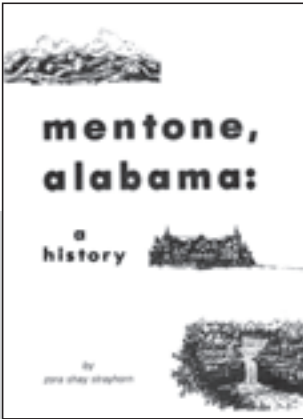
Village ready for safely accommodating literally thousands of visitors. Parking for the festival has graciously been provided by Mentone Arts Center and Mentone Community Church in the fields near the the festival site.

Please join MAPA if you are not already a member. We really want and need a broad spectrum of the community to be involved in all of our activities. Thanks to those of you

who have attended MAPA sponsored functions this September—there will be many more to come and which are noted in this issue of *The Groundhog*.

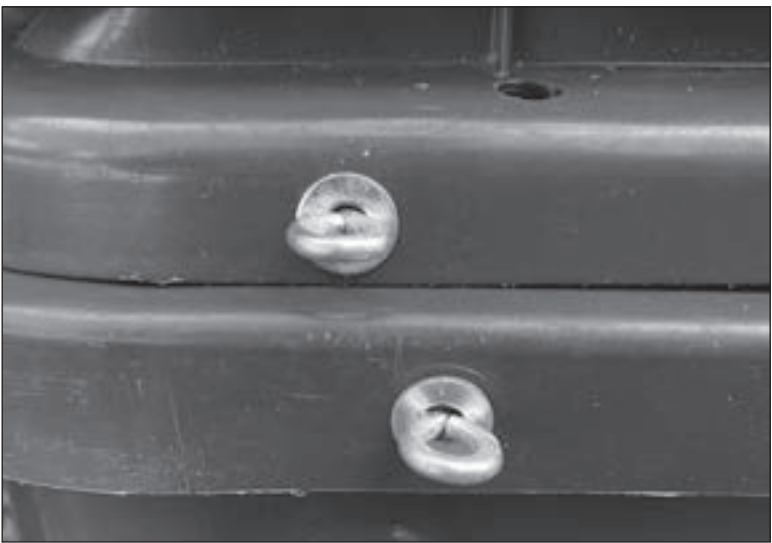
Stay safe, and we’ll see you the weekend of October 15 at Colorfest.

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



Learn about the History of Mentone

Zora Strayhorn’s book, ***Mentone, Alabama: A History***, is for sale in the MAPA office, at Mentone Market and at DeSoto State Park. \$15; proceeds benefit MAPA. Shipping is available for \$3. Email mapamentone@gmail.com.



Trash Can Bear Guard

Like many others who live on County Road 89 in Mentone, Carl Ferguson was experiencing bears getting into his trash, so he got crafty and found a mehtod of secutring the lid which has worked (so far!).

Here are his directions:
“Put a pair of eyebolts on the rim of the lid and container—a pair on each side; 1/4” bolts should be sufficient. Use washers on the outside and inside to prevent the eyebolt on the outside and the nut on the inside from working into the plastic container. On the inside, use lock washers to minimize the risk of the nut working loose. I have used both snap links and and quick links to attach the pairs. The pictures show quick links. I suspect the snap links would be just fine. However, I decided the quick links would be more secure; less likely to open up if subjected to serious shaking.”

Senior Health: Medicare Open Enrollment for 2023

by Lynn Hixon

Medicare Open Enrollment is upon us again. Every year from October 15 to December 7, Medicare beneficiaries have the opportunity to make changes to their Medicare Part D Prescription Drug plan or Medicare Advantage Plan.

As the Medicare Open Enrollment approaches, you will notice an increase in mail from insurance companies offering a variety of plans. Beware of possible scams. It is important to remember the following facts:

- No one should knock on your door to sell you a policy. They should only come to your home if you have made an appointment.
- Never sign paperwork unless you are 100% sure that is the plan you want.

- Never give out your Medicare number unless it is a Medicare provider. Protect your Medicare number as you protect your Visa, Mastercard, debit, and/or Social Security cards.
 - Medicare will NEVER call you on the phone. They will always send a letter requesting that you call them.
- If you have any questions or concerns regarding open enrollment and would like to make an appointment for open enrollment or other Medicare-related issues, please contact us at the DeKalb County Council on Aging—256-845-8590 —and ask for Lynn for assistance. We are making appointments now for October 15 through December 7.

Mentone's
Boy Scout Troop 106
Annual Fundraiser
Chicken & Dressing Dinner
October 30 • 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Boy Scout House
Dempsey Ave., Mentone
(behind Little River Hardware)
Donations Accepted

This annual fundraiser helps pay
the insurance and provide
upkeep on the
scout van.

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Hamburger Steak w/ 2 sides, Texas Toast & Drink

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Mentone Ukes

by Patricia McNutt



Patricia McNutt

I’ve always been one who loves to learn new and interesting things. In 2019 I heard that free ukulele classes were being held at the Moon Lake Community Library. Awesome I said to myself and off to the library I went.

It was love at first strum. There’s nothing more stimulating than building my inner strength and working together with others as a team player. It boosted my self-confidence, I never thought I could play on stage in front of an audience.

We’re a group of people who love to get together and have fun. Our group has an expansive range of ages and we have fun playing, laughing, encouraging each other and learning new chords and songs with every session. It’s wonderful that every member can suggest a new song and be able to teach a class or have input of some sort.

The ukulele is lightweight and small with four strings and is easy to play. I just sit it beside my favorite chair, pick it up and play until my fingers get tired. If you like having fun and laughing, come and join our playful group of ukers. Together we can strum those four strings, smile and be happy!!

Thank you to our fearless leaders Mickey, Jerry and Debra for the time and love they put into teaching the community.

Strum and
Be Happy!

The Mentone Ukes are excited to be performing at Colorfest on Sunday, October 16 at 3 p.m. We’ve got a great song set, so come on out and join in the fun!

And as always, everyone is invited to attend our FREE ukulele sessions at the Moon Lake Community Library on Saturdays, October 8 and 22, at 1 p.m. CDT. Beginners and newcomers of all ages are always welcomed and loaner ukuleles are available. For more information, contact Debra Fey (debrajfe@gmail.com) or Jody Rhodes (jodyrhodesy@gmail.com). Visit us on Facebook: Mentone Ukes or on the Web: ukes.dekalbal.com.

Ryleigh's Closet

Free clothes closet
Children & Adults
Open 3rd Monday, October 17
4–6 p.m.
Mentone Community Church
256-364-0150



Update on Mentone Volunteer Fire Department

by Vicky Patrick

North Lookout Mountain Fire Protection District is preparing for Colorfest weekend. The fund raiser will be the pork butt and sandwich sale at Station 1 (next to Elevation).

The butts, typically 6 to 8 pounds, sell for \$50. Beef hot dogs and BBQ sandwiches/combo will also be available.

We are looking for volunteers to help with the department. If you have an interest in joining the department, please call Chief Joseph Lee at 256-899-4027. The volunteers meet on Monday night at 6 p.m. We have a training for those unfamiliar with being a fire department volunteer.

The new station plans have been temporarily halted due to the high cost of construction. A retaining wall will need to be in place prior to construction of the new station.

The department has surplus fire hoses that no longer fit our trucks. One way to repurpose them is

as bumpers on boat docks. Please call the Chief or reach out to a volunteer if interested.

In keeping with the maintenance of our vehicles, we are awaiting new tires to replace those on several vehicles. Each year we have our hoses tested, as well as having pump tests for the tankers and engines. This ensures that our equipment is ready for use.

The department received a grant of \$10,000 due to COVID.

Please remember to have your address visible from the road so that emergency personnel can easily locate you and not waste valuable time searching for your address. Many weekend and rental units do not have mailboxes; a simple post with reflective 4” numbers is all that is needed.

Keep the leaves away from propane tanks and your home for fire prevention. It’s always good to have up-to-date fire extinguishers handy.

Blessing OF THE Animals

Saturday, October 1
2 pm
with
The Reverend Ethan Ferguson
St. Joseph’s on-the-Mountain
Episcopal Church
Front Lawn
ALL PETS WELCOMED!
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For more details:
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A Postcard to Dr. Bill Berry

by Holley Midgley, Moon Lake Library Chair

Editor's Note: Dr. Bill Berry will soon realize a long-time dream. He has sold his home at the Berry Patch to a family member and bought a new home on Mexico's Yucatan coast. He hopes to be able to teach English to non-speakers, something he has dreamed of doing since he was a young man. Happily, he will return to Mentone from time to time.

POSTCARD

PLACE
STAMP
HERE

Dear Dr. Berry Bill:
Well, now you've gone and done it! We still can't believe you're pulling up stakes and leaving Mentone. But we know you're eager to get on with your life's next great adventure, and we wish you all the best. No one doubts the contributions you have made to our little town. As a student you became the valedictorian at Moon Lake School. After earning your doctorate, you returned to the school and served for decades as a teacher and then principal. Dozens of Boy Scouts benefited from your mentoring over the years when you served as a scout master. Countless students will remember your kind and caring approach to ensuring they received a top flight elementary education. During your years of involvement, the school's academic performance consistently placed it at the very top of all the elementary schools in the county. What a legacy!
And then there is the Moon Lake Library. For many years, you had a dream that the school deserved a first-class library to replace the janitor's closet where the school's few books were kept. You led the movement to make that happen, resulting in the founding of what is now, more than 20 years later, a modern, full-service facility that serves both area students and adults. That never would have happened if you hadn't stepped forward with your creative and inspired leadership.
We know it wasn't easy, but you successfully motivated the whole community to respond to your fund raising efforts. Once the funding and a cooperative operational agreement with the county board of education were in place, the library became a reality in 2002. You continued your in-volvement as our board chairman, and then our secretary, until you resigned last month. It's not an overstatement to say that you were more critical to the creation and continuation of the library than any other individual. Your dream of all those years ago still lives, and we all thank you from the bottom of our well-read hearts.
As you head out of town, drop by the library for a final visit to your legacy. And accept the grateful thanks of a community that is infinitely better for your having lived among us.
Sincerely,
The Board of the Moon Lake Library

October @ Moon Lake Library

- October 1 • 10:30am**
Little Library Learners—Storytime and crafts for children ages 3–7
- October 3 • 6:30pm**
Featured speaker Sallie Brandon, an adoptee from the Tennessee orphanage depicted in Lisa Wingate's bestseller, *Before We Were Yours*
- October 8 • 10:30am**
Moon Lake Library book club monthly meeting with discussion of *Wild Card Quilt* by Janisse Ray
- October 8 • 1pm**
Mentone Ukcs offer free ukulele lessons for all experience levels.
- October 13 • 4pm**
Joint public meeting of municipal library board and Friends of the Library

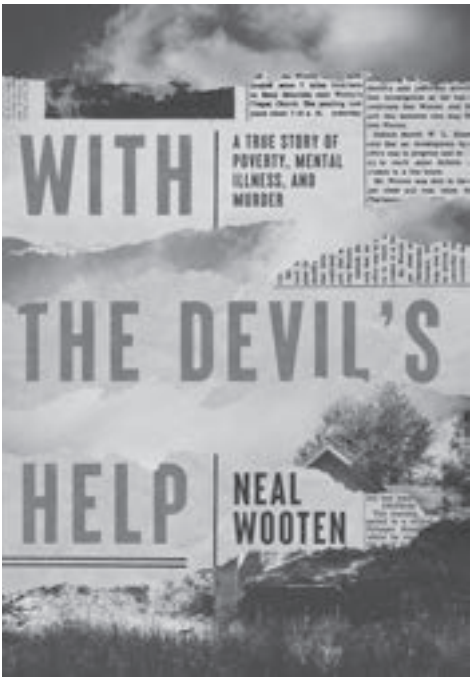
- October 15-16, Colorfest • 10-5 Saturday, 10-4 Sunday** -
Friends of the Library Book Sale. Please support our fundraiser!
- October 19 • 6pm**
Art Critique and Discussion Group with Mikel Yeakle, sponsored by Little River Arts Council. Artists, please bring a piece or two to share and discuss. Everyone is welcome.
- October 22 • 1pm**
Mentone Ukcs offer free ukulele lessons for all experience levels.
- October 29 • 10:30am**
Author Neal Wooten will discuss his latest book, *With the Devil's Help: A True Story of Poverty, Mental Illness, and Murder*, and will have copies for sale and for autographing.

Book Review: Neal Wooten's *With the Devil's Help* by Jay Robbins

DeKalb County's Lookout Mountain and Sand Mountain, separated by a narrow valley, are two quite different places. Lookout Mountain's Little River attracts thousands each year who enjoy its falls or visit DeSoto State Park and the Little River Canyon National Preserve. The mountain is also home to a dozen or so summer camps. Sand Mountain, on the other hand, is more rural, more agricultural. It is predominantly dry (alcohol-wise). It has a certain renown for its snake-handling churches (see Dennis Covington's 1995 book *Salvation on Sand Mountain*) and shape-note singing (the shape-note songs in the movie "Cold Mountain" were recorded at Liberty Baptist Church in Henager).

Sand Mountain native Neal Wooten's new book *With the Devil's Help* is the story of his hard-scrabble upbringing in the tiny community of Blake, not far from Sylvania. He has quite a story to tell, and he tells it well. It makes for gripping reading. The chapters alternate between his childhood in the 1960s and '70s and the life of his grandfather. In all of the chapters, though, lies the specter of sudden violence from the hair-trigger tempers of his grandfather, Pete Wooten, and his father, Travis Wooten.

Neal Wooten grew up in a home past where Jackson Road ends and where the school bus and mailman wouldn't or couldn't go. His father worked sporadically, always keeping an eye out for the next big thing that would make him rich. If Neal had money for school lunches, it came from his mother's job in a hosiery mill in Fort Payne. The house was unfinished, lacked insulation, had no running water, and was usually without electricity. If you grow up poor you don't realize you're poor, and much of the book is filled with events and stories as seen through the eyes of a child, many of which are funny and poignant. His father, Travis Wooten, while pretty much the villain of the story, was not all bad. He did not drink. He was a hugger and loved to tell and laugh at jokes and stories. But he was also physically intimidating and had a temper he could not control, which he expressed with his fist or belt. Everyone in the household—Neal, his sisters, his mother—walked on eggshells, wary of



saying or doing the wrong thing. (On top of all that, on family drives they are often trailed by a black car carrying men in black suits...)

The alternating chapters about Neal's grandfather are, at times, hard to read for their sudden violence (as are those about his father). There is a marriage, lots of children, the same volatile temper, beatings, a stabbing, and even a murder. It is the murder and its aftermath that eventually ties the two threads of the book together in a way that is both artful and moving and which this reader did not see coming.

With the Devil's Help makes for captivating reading. If you enjoy memoirs of unconventional childhoods like *The Glass Castle*, *The Liar's Club*, or *All Over But the Shoutin'*, you'll like this one too.

It might be pointed out that this is not Neal Wooten's first book. It is his first (and he says, only) memoir, but he has also written a biography of Lookout Mountain's Granny Dollar as well as a handful of novels for young adults. He is also an illustrator; he has an adult coloring book (*Famous Dogs of Facebook*) and is co-creator of the comic strip *Brad's Pit*, which apparently has quite a following in South America. Mr. Wooten has also been a standup comedian, and one of the pleasures of *With the Devil's Help* is the bon mots scattered throughout.

10/3/2022
6:30 PM
Moon Lake Library



Sallie Brandon, survivor of the Tennessee orphanage featured in Lisa Wingate's bestselling historical novel, *Before We Were Yours*, will share her story.

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River Voice

by Angie Shugart

“I’m so glad to live in a world where there are Octobers.” —L.M. Montgomery



October on Lookout Mountain is nothing short of a dream. Colors of Autumn begin seeping through the green leaves as the trees slowly become dormant. The mountain roads that are usually quiet, become lined with curious visitors hoping to catch the colors at their peak. They are escaping their busy lives and come to find solace on our mountain. Lookout Mountain and the town of Mentone are an easy one-day or weekend getaway for anyone within a two- or three-hour drive. There are amazing hiking trails along Little River within our state and national lands. I have bounced from one end of Lookout to the other all of my life and never once been bored with seeing the same places. I also love and appreciate what it offers our visitors. This month I want to give readers the opportunity to discover and explore areas, both locally and within a one-hour drive. I encourage you to get out there this fall and see these places!

LOCAL Hiking

DeSoto State Park has over 30 miles of hiking trails and are great for all ages and experience levels. My favorite trail in DSP is the Yellow Trail that runs alongside the West Fork of Little River. I highly recommend these well maintained trails. Stop in the Country Store and pick up a trail map.

DeSoto Falls Basin Hike—This hike is the pink trail and takes you to the bottom of DeSoto Falls. There is a ¼-mile descent, so coming out will be somewhat moderate. You can access the trail through the new trailhead and parking area on County Road 613, which is before you enter the DeSoto Falls picnic area.

Little River Canyon National Preserve—Beaver Pond trail is an easy 1.5-mile loop trail that is great for families to enjoy. Canyon Mouth Trail is two miles out and back located at Canyon Mouth Park and takes you to the point where Johnny’s Creek flows into the main channel. Powell Jeep Trail and Eberhart Point Trail are less than a mile in length and are steep but great out and back trails.

Canoeing/Kayaking

One of my favorite ways to experience fall colors is by canoe!

The West Fork above the A.A. Miller Dam at DeSoto Falls is a scenic flatwater section that is approximately four miles round trip. It is perfect for all ages and experience levels.

Lake Lahusage is a small lake east of Mentone

where the Middle and East Forks of Little River merge. There is a public launch on County Road 635.

Little River Canyon Wildlife Management Area can only be paddled under special conditions. The water level needs to be between 500 cfs and 1500 cfs to be paddled at a safe and fun level. It is a seven-mile stretch from Hartline Ford to Blue Hole with Class I, II and III rapids. Having a canoe with flotation is usually best. You will also need a shuttle for this experience.

WITHIN A ONE-HOUR DRIVE Hiking

Other areas to explore can be found within a short distance from Mentone. Hiking is my favorite outdoor activity so here are a few of my favorite hikes within 30–45 minutes.

Cloudland Canyon State Park in Trenton, GA, has several hiking trails for all ages and experience levels. My favorite trail is Sitton’s Gulch, a 6-mile strenuous trail that begins at the bottom of the Canyon and follows Daniel Creek, through a hemlock forest, and up to the rim of the Canyon. If you are looking for an easy trail that brings you to the impressive view of the Canyon, take the one-mile round trip Overlook Trail. You will not be disappointed! Other great hiking trails within Cloudland State Park are the Meadowlands trail (one- mile moderate), the two-mile Backcountry Loop (moderate) and the two-mile round trip Waterfall’s Trail which is moderate to strenuous.

The Pocket Loop Trail in Chickamauga, GA, sits at the base of Crockford Pigeon Mountain and is one of the most popular trails in the area during the spring. The wildflower blooms in early spring are like nothing you have ever seen and will likely never forget.

The Zahnd Wildlife Management Area is a beautiful place for hikers to explore geology and is an



easy woodsy stroll. Across the road from the main parking area, you can check out an amazing view of McLemore Cove.

Cherokee Rock Village overlooks Weiss Lake and is a great place to explore over two miles of sandstone cliffs. I grew up going here when it was nothing but a dirt trail and privately owned. Now the 200-acre park is owned and maintained by Cherokee County Parks and Recreation.

Canoeing/Kayaking

My love for paddling Little River is no secret. When I get a chance to canoe or kayak in a new place, the first thing I want to know is, “Is it as clear as Little River?” Usually the answer is a big no but I take the opportunity to learn about a new body of water. Here are a few of my favorite areas to paddle within 30–45 minutes of home.

Little River Mouth Channel to Spring Creek—Put in at Big Oak Campground in Leesburg/Cedar Bluff and explore where Little River flows into Weiss Lake and the cove at Spring Creek.

Chattooga River in Alabama—This is a fun little day trip that can be easily accessed from Hwy. 35 in Gaylesville. From the put in, you can go upstream or downstream and come back to the same place you launched. If you have a shuttle, turn left at the four-way stop in Gaylesville and then turn right on County Road 97 to access the put in location.

Morgans Cove—You will find Morgan’s Cove in Grove Oak at the base of Sand Mountain. The Cove is nestled in a quiet area below Buck’s State Park and Langston on the Tennessee River.

Local Hiking

Noccalula Falls Park—The park has created over 15 miles of scenic trails for Mountain Biking and hiking.

Ascalon Trail and 5 Points Trail—Located in Rising Fawn, GA, and near Cloudland Canyon, this area was a coal mine until the 1920s and has been restored into over 20 miles of trails.

Cloudland Connector—This beautiful trail falls under mountain biking interest for me but it is great for hiking also. It can be accessed in Cloudland Canyon State Park or Nickajack Road. The trail has a few different loop trails that make up 14 miles of wooded, scenic splendor.

Little River Watershed Tours

Little River Waterkeeper would like to take you on a tour of parts of the Little River Watershed that you normally don’t get to see! Meetup will be in Mentone and then we’ll spend the day exploring the river from its headwater to the mouth. The dates are October 22 and October 29. Cost is \$100 per person and is limited to 10 people per trip. Contact angie@littleriverwaterkeeper.org to sign up!

Colorfest

Visit the Little River Waterkeeper Booth at Colorfest on Saturday and Sunday, October 15 at Moon Lake Village.

Angie Shugart is a co-founder of Little River Waterkeeper.



SOUTHERN PROPERTIES

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THIS 3BR, 2.5BA HOME IS NESTLED IN MENTONE and sits on over an acre. Enjoy the covered front porch or enter the front door to be greeted by the two story stacked stone fireplace. Kitchen is equipped with custom cabinets and granite countertops. Master bedroom is located on main level and master bath includes a tub, separate shower and double vanities. Upstairs you will find a loft perfect for a game room, bunk room or a place where you can set up your own coffee bar and relax. Two additional bedrooms are located on the 2nd floor. Enjoy your screened back porch with family and friends. \$595,000. #1816166





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. \$595,000. #1808445



THE BEST OF BOTH WORLDS! Located in Mentone town limits. Well-maintained home built in 2003 offers 3 BR, 2 BA, living/dining combo, kitchen overlooking backyard, laundry room & office/flex room. Master is complete with vaulted ceiling, arched window, walk in closet & ensuite w/ jetted tub! Covered front porch looks on to front yard w/ large shade trees. Covered back porch faces wooded back yard. Workshop, brand new roof & HVAC. .52 acres. \$290,000. #1816692

LOTS & LAND
MIDDLE FORK of Little River, Approx. 6 acres. \$48,900. #103499
200 ACRES located near historic Mentone! Mature trees, creek, paved road frontage. \$1,000,000. #1781133
BEAUTIFUL BROW property located in Lake of the Brow. Enjoy



A RARE OPPORTUNITY TO PURCHASE YOUR OWN WEDDING VENUE! Fernwood of Mentone is fully operational with a lovely wedding chapel that has been the setting of many intimate weddings. It also has a premier reception venue w/ large entertaining area with vaulted ceilings. Equipped with full commercial kitchen, dressing room, bathrooms & spectacular wrap around porch perfect for entertaining. \$699,000. #1816321

beautiful views of Shinbone Valley below. \$79,900. #1792283
BUILD YOUR NEW HOME with BREATHTAKING VIEWS year round! Brow property in Lake on the Brow on Lookout Mountain. \$55,000. #1798542, #1798643, #1798655, #1798657
MENTONE PROPERTY offers road frontage on Hwy 117 in the business/

alcohol district. A rare opportunity as this is one of very few available vacant lots in this area! \$75,000. #1801221

AMAZING VIEWS! Live in PARADISE with your 2nd or retirement home on the brow of Lookout Mountain at Mentone Bluffs in Mentone. \$85,000. #1807457

TAKE A LOOK at this 3 acre lot with gorgeous rock formations, view and a cave! \$59,900. #1810224

THREE ACRE lot in a natural setting. Enjoy listening to the sounds of the creek. Close to DeSoto State Park. \$59,900. #1810232

BROW LOT in Mentone! Watch the seasons change from your own paradise between DeSoto State Park and DeSoto Falls. \$149,000. #1815139

BROW VIEW in Mentone! You can see for miles from your 2.3 acres!! \$75,000. #1814577

ACREAGE IN MENTONE. 10-acre tract on one of the highest points in Mentone is wooded and secluded. Power & water available on the road. Property has had a perc test for septic tank and has a beautiful homesite. \$99,900. #1816638



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CUTE LITTLE COTTAGE, TUCKED IN THE WOODS, offers big possibilities for full-time, part-time, or even as a rental. And, it comes fully appointed with exquisite furnishings (YES, the dishes, linens, EVERYTHING stays!) Hardy plank exterior w/front & back composite porches. Interior features nice details like antique bead-board walls; crown molding; stone fireplace (gas logs); great kitchen w/top-of-the-line appliances (even the cookware is fabulous!!) & granite countertop. King-sized master BR suite w/huge, walk-in closet & wall of windows to give you that "tree house" feeling. Located just off the DeSoto Pkwy, adjoining state park ROW. Try it on for size...it may be the perfect fit! \$319,900 (1812980)



SOUTH COOL STREET COTTAGE. Just the right size for a cozy home, personal getaway or rental. 2BR/1BA, 600 sq ft. Low-maintenance exterior with metal roof & cement block construction. Interior is a "moment in time," with original, mid-60s simple-mountain-retreat vibe still intact. Reminiscent of the old Florida homes that have all but disappeared. The location is perfect for those who want to be in the heart of Mentone, but away from traffic. Farmers Market & downtown shops/eateries are only a pleasant walk away. Sit on the porch in late afternoon & watch the sunsets. Nice storage building w/electricity for handyman shop or craft room. It's a cute little package in a COOL location. \$229,900. (1818317)



LOTS and LAND

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

TALL HARDWOODS & PEACEFUL BROW SUNSETS. Build your special mountain dream home on one of these beautiful lots along the DeSoto Parkway. Property lines extend over the brow so that trees may be removed for a clear view; good setback from the road for quiet privacy. Three lots available @ \$175,000 each. (1811069)

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; site cleared for detached workshop, too! There is even a septic tank already in place! The best price for a brow-front property in the Mentone area. \$75,000 (1804042)

1.47 ACRES, ON LIBBY LANE. Inside Mentone Town Limits, off E River Road. Mostly hardwood, just enough clearing to see out the undergrowth. Circle driveway, paved, with river-front homes across the road from this property. Public water, power and septic tank in place (installed July 2021). \$64,900 (1795866)

LAKEFRONT LOT offers 150' waterfront! There's 3+ acres of beautiful woods, w/approx 1.5 acres on one side of the paved road on which to build your river-front home, approx 1.5 acres on the other side of the road so that you can be sure it will stay natural & wooded! This area of the lake has deep water & would be perfect for a dock. Enjoy your time on the mountain fishing, swimming, paddling or motoring on Mentone's Little River gem, Lake Lahusage. \$200,000 (1810186)

BEAUTIFUL HOMESITE IN A PEACEFUL VALLEY! Situated in a valley farm setting that has a large portion of the farmland in a permanent conservancy. This tract is not under the conservancy and is a home site that has beautiful sunset views across the valley. \$72,000 (1809242)

THIS BEAUTIFUL BIT OF EARTH HAS IT ALL! Start with the great view, then look at the rest of the package - septic installed; underground power; public water; 16x24 metal building - all on 4.74 acres! Here's a place where you can choose to build a new home, bring an existing home, or use it as a workshop to visit the mountains of Alabama. Convenient to I-59, so getting here is easy from Chattanooga, Birmingham, or wherever! Perfect spot for a mini-farm; make a garden spot; raise some animals. No restrictions. (There is a camper on the property right now that does not stay.) Priced very well at \$54,900 (1812118)

52 ACRES, WITH LAND ON BOTH SIDES OF PAVED COUNTY ROAD. This old home place offers so many options & some of the best Sand Mtn sandy loam soil there is; Shankles Branch running through the property on one side of road, serving as property line on other side of road. Level land. Current use is approx. 22 ac in orchard grass & fescue hay, 30 ac in woods. Old home site w/remains of the farm house that is falling in. Well house is still intact & the ancient pear tree still bears fruit. Public water meter in place; 3 wells are known to exist on property. Beautiful land with deer & turkey often seen enjoying fields & woodland. Agent owned. \$350,000 (1790110)



NESTLED IN THE BOULDERS & TREES, just a block from Mentone's Brow Park, this spacious cedar-sided cabin home offers privacy & seasonal views of sunsets from the front porch. The site is a quiet place to enjoy the outdoors (or a great income!) Totaling 2800+ sq ft; 3BR/3.5BA; plus a loft for add'l BR or studio. storage; att 2-car garage; backdeck & fenced back yard with intriguing boulder sentinels all around. \$425,000. (1812980)



PRIVATE RETIREMENT RETREAT: 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/dog-woods, 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. \$450,000 (1806766)



WHIMSICAL, TINY, & TRULY SPECIAL GETAWAY. Cabin was built w/an artist's eye, great imagination, & surprising economy of space. Wood-burning fireplace in LR; w/other bedrooms; loft BR; shower bath. Then there are the HUGE boulders; the flower beds; the fanciful garden art. It is quite magical, really. \$278,300 (1807189)



LOOKOUT MTN, JUST OUTSIDE MENTONE, you'll find this Charming little Bungalow in the heart of picturesque Old Cloudland. 2BR/2BA; one-level; 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; sitting room or 3rd BR; front & back sunporches (to enjoy any time); back deck. 2-car carport w/10x20 storage room & a cute little red shed at the edge of the small woodland part of the property. Lovely yard with something blooming most of the time. Furnishings & decor stay. Ready for your fall color vacation. Easy access (10 min) to Mentone; less than 5 minutes to Menlo. Co-broke with GA-licensed company. \$235,000 (1807522)



52 ACRES, WITH LAND ON BOTH SIDES OF PAVED COUNTY ROAD. This old home place offers so many options & some of the best Sand Mtn sandy loam soil there is; Shankles Branch running through the property on one side of road, serving as property line on other side of road. Level land. Current use is approx. 22 ac in orchard grass & fescue hay, 30 ac in woods. Old home site w/remains of the farm house that is falling in. Well house is still intact & the ancient pear tree still bears fruit. Public water meter in place; 3 wells are known to exist on property. Beautiful land with deer & turkey often seen enjoying fields & woodland. And with the land on both sides of the road, you have great privacy, no neighbors in sight. Agent owned. \$350,000



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; w/fireplace in LR; 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)



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)



4.74 BEAUTIFUL, UNRESTRICTED ACRES w/septic tank; underground power; public water; 16x24 metal building! A place where you can choose to build a new home, bring an existing home, or use it as a workshop to visit the mountains of Alabama. Convenient to I-59, so getting here is easy from Chattanooga, Birmingham, or wherever! Perfect spot for a mini-farm; make a garden spot; raise some animals. \$54,900 (1812118)

Do You Own Property in the Mentone Town Limits?

We encourage you to be at the Mentone Town Council's Public Hearing on Tuesday, Oct 11, 2022, at the Mentone Arts Center at 5:00 pm (CST). The town is considering adopting an ordinance that would directly impact property owners. In our opinion, a minimum square footage requirement is not in the best interest of property owners, most of whom live elsewhere and may not even be aware this is being proposed. Whether one desires a large home or small, it should not be up to the town to dictate this. Some may need or only be able to afford a small cottage or guest house on their property. Some may want a large home or second home. This is a personal decision and should remain so. Historically, small cottages/cabins have been the norm in the town limits of Mentone as it was primarily a second-home mountain resort area. Many of these original cottages were enlarged as needed by the families that own them, but some are still less than 800 square feet. The ordinances before the town council are of a sort that are generally part of subdivision and HOA restrictions. We do not feel Mentone needs these and that there are already zoning ordinances in place that, if enforced equitably, will provide for the future of Mentone to be a pleasant one without infringing on property owners' rights. —Charlotte





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October Programs

by Kelly Leavitt



MAPA/Groundhog Office
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Drop in to look through the 40-year archive of *The Groundhog*, purchase Zora Strayhorn’s book, *Mentone, Alabama: A History* (\$15), Colorfest festival posters (\$10 unframed/\$20 framed), raffle tickets (\$2 or 3/\$5), subscribe or place an ad in *The Groundhog*, or to sign up or renew a MAPA membership.

DeKalb County—On the Road to Chickamauga with Judge David Rains
Thursday, October 20, 6:30 p.m.

For approximately two weeks in August-September 1863, thousands of Union soldiers with artillery and armaments, supply wagons, and livestock moved through DeKalb County by way of Valley Head, DeSoto Falls, Little River, and beyond on the way to the Battle of Chickamauga. Using historical references including diaries, letters, regimental histories, and other materials, Judge David Rains will discuss the enormous logistical challenges, personal hardships, and war-time experiences of the soldiers, including their interaction with local citizens, as the soldiers moved through our county toward their fateful encounter with Confederate forces at the “River of Death.”

Join us on Thursday, October 20, at 6:30 in the Bill Berry Community Room at Moon Lake Village. The program is open to all and free of charge.

Sunset Social
Thursday, October 27, 5:30 p.m.

MAPA will host another Sunset Social on Thursday, October 27, when area residents are invited to socialize while enjoying the sunset from Mentone’s Brow Park. MAPA will provide plates, forks, cups, water, and name tags. Please feel free to share a dessert, snacks, or beverage.

Alabama Bears, Granny Dollar, and Colonel Milford Howard
Tuesday, October 11, 6:30 p.m.

In September, Hannah Leeper, Marcus Thomas, and I presented talks to the Alabama Historical Association

during their fall pilgrimage to Mentone. During lunch after the program, we all decided we’d like to present the talks again for our local neighbors. Come and join the conversation! We’ll meet in the Bill Berry Community Room at Moon Lake Village.
Email groundhognews@yahoo.com or call 256-289-2002 for more information.



Bill Berry, with the help of Rob Hammond, gave a wonderful oral history in September, filled with details about his years growing up in Mentone, his family’s history at the Berry Patch, and the history of Moon Lake School. Thank you, Dr. Berry!

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4619 East River Road, Mentone, AL 35984 — \$879,000

Very rarely do homes become available in this area especially on Little River. Well-kept and tastefully updated, the home offers 3 bedrooms & 3.5 baths.

- Known as “Hawthorn on River Road”
- Covered front porch
- Family room with stone fireplace
- Master bedroom features vaulted, beaded ceiling with exposed beams, with en-suite bath with soaker claw foot tub, double vanities, & shower
- Kitchen features alder wood cabinets, solid surface counters, island with bar & farm sink, gas range, stainless appliances and wine cooler
- Dining room perfect for large gatherings
- Detached garage with guest quarters & balcony
- Stairs gently lead you a deck and sitting area with 184’ on the water
- 20-minute boat ride in deep water to DeSoto Falls & the new beach area
- Two additional lots available — .5 acre with 104’ river front and .9 acre with 172’ river front. All 3 lots total 460’ on the river. The lots can be purchased with the home or can be bought separately after the home is sold.
- Don’t miss this truly one of kind place. Seller is accepting reasonable offers with plenty of time to be in it by Thanksgiving. Call today for a private showing!

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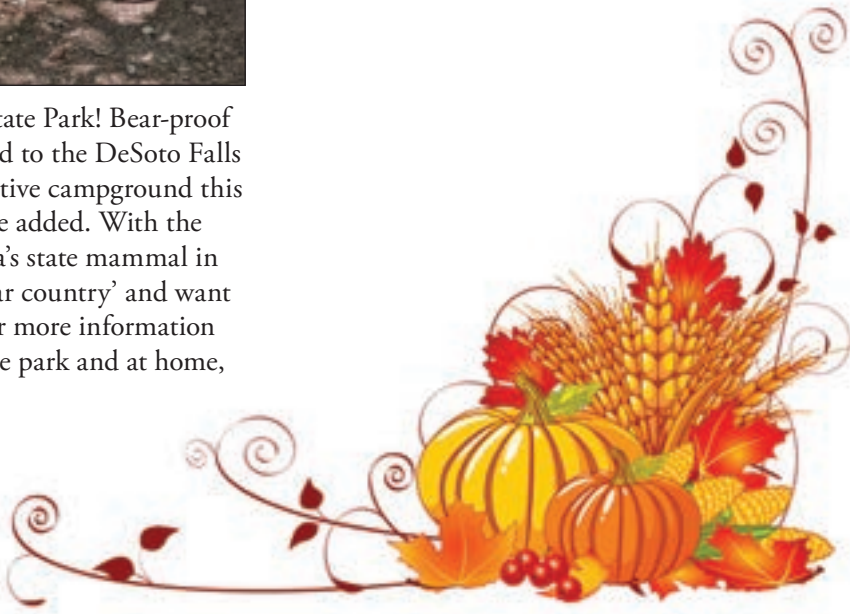
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New additions to DeSoto State Park! Bear-proof trash cans have been added to the DeSoto Falls Picnic Area and DeSoto’s primitive campground this year, and over time more will be added. With the growing population of Alabama’s state mammal in our area, we are considered ‘bear country’ and want to make sure they stay wild! For more information on how to stay bear aware in the park and at home, see bearwise.org.



*Best wishes to Kirt and Sherry Schoenheit
on their 3rd anniversary on October 13!*



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Colorfest “Sustaining” Sponsor

Continuing the Legacy

by Anna Mae Horn

MERF, Mentone’s educational resource foundation, is excited to move forward with continued support for our local students in Valley Head. Their presence is certainly missed at the Moon Lake campus, but they are settling in well, and we are all joining forces in the valley.

Did you know that Valley Head School was included as a goal by the original founders of MERF? Official minutes from the initial meeting to establish a non-profit educational foundation in Mentone reflect the “focus would begin with Moon Lake School” as well as “the added desire of branching out toward Valley Head” once expansion became possible. Two of the primary goals listed were the “enhancement and enrichment of the existing schools.” With the merging of Moon Lake and Valley Head schools

to be taught art and music by Ms. Paula Easter. Now, she even has her very own classroom. (If you’d like to help fund the shelving or organizational tubs, please contact us.)

Already this year, two projects have been requested by Valley Head faculty and enthusiastically approved by the MERF board. Terrific plans are in the works for other educational collaborations that will require volunteers and community support. As we shake out these plans, we’ll let you know where help is needed. We expect to find many community members and parents who are willing to step up to continue the tradition of helping propel our eager students forward.

Also, the art auction will be happening again in the spring! It’s been several years since we have been able to host Taste of the Mountain and Art Auction. I know you all are as excited as we are to attend the festive gala. The planned date is April 15, so save the date to celebrate The Magic of MERF!

Part of the magic is the continuation of the legacy through many changes and circumstances. As we shift into a new season, MERF is also shifting gears with new leadership. Several of MERF’s treasured board members and our fabulous director have stepped away to pursue other dreams. Their valued contributions and years of service are unmeasurably appreciated.

Their departure makes way for others to give of themselves and continue the legacy. Kathryn Norris brings her enthusiasm and focus to the role of president. The new vice president, Tom

MacMichael, shares his technology talents generously. As a recent addition to the board, Craig Sheldon’s grant writing experience will be invaluable. As the new director, I vow to continue the educational legacy of MERF in creative new ways for all ages and am excited to collaborate with Valley Head School staff to meet the needs of our children. The entire team at MERF is looking forward to carrying the ball forward to support Mentone and the larger community through educational outlets that benefit and involve both young and old. Please visit our website at MERFhouse.com for more information on what we love to do.

Speaking of continuing legacies, Colorfest is just around the corner. I am hopeful that this year’s weather produces a long and colorful fall that displays all its brilliance on October 15 and 16. Colorfest will be held in and around Moon Lake Village. Traffic will be tremendously easier and less interruptive to locals and Mentone businesses in general. MERF will be set up at the Community House with our MERF merchandise. We have a new stock of “Leave Me in Mentone” sweatshirts and t-shirts in fall colors. Be sure to pick up a cap, tag, or ornament as well. Ms. Paula will be set up with her free marble art for kids of all ages. We hope you’ll stop by and say “Hello.” It is wonderful catching up with friends and meeting new people!

MERF Moms is geared toward toddlers and creates a safe space for the children to interact. These mothers from around the area have enjoyed the Secret Garden at MERF as well as meeting at local parks this summer. New families are frequently joining the group.



Ms. Paula in character while reading to first graders at Valley Head School



Markettia Crane and Gene Watkins enjoying senior lunch provided by Mentone Market

this has become a fantastic reality! The merging creates a convenient and cost-effective way to reach all students.

Previous funding from MERF to Valley Head students was primarily through scholarships and character awards. Last year, Valley Head elementary students (including those transferred from Moon Lake) were able

MERF’s senior lunch group has expanded so much that we are continuing them in the fellowship hall of Moon Lake Baptist Church. Don’t let the name fool you; we don’t check ID at the door. So, if you enjoy socializing with a mature group and eating good food provided by local restaurants and organizations, join us each Wednesday through November 16. Food is served at 11:30 but you are welcome to come early and stay later.

Anna Mae Horn is the executive director of the Mentone Educational Resources Foundation. She can be contacted by email at merf.mentone@gmail.com.



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TIMES-JOURNAL

Colorfest 2022

@ Moon Lake Village

Mentone

Alabama

10/15•16

FESTIVAL PARKING

\$5 suggested donation

Vendors

Food Trucks

Access from Parking

Amphitheater

Live Music

Saturday, October 15

10–10:45

Will Dooley

11:15–12

The Vegetaters

12:30–1:15

Blushin Roulettes

1:45–2:30

Jess Goggans

3–3:45

Lisa Crow & James Roberts

4:15–5

Jonah Drake

Sunday, October 16

10–10:45

Linda Arthur

11:15–12

Stuart Douglas

12:30–1:15

The Locals

1:45–2:30

Mentone Strummers

3–3:45

Mentone Ukes

Festival Parking

All Festivalgoers must read this!

ALL FESTIVAL PARKING will be in the field on Alabama Highway 117 adjacent to Moon Lake Village OR in the overflow lot near Mentone Community Church.

Directional signage will be prominent.

THERE WILL BE ABSOLUTELY NO PARKING ON AL-HIGHWAY 117 OR EAST RIVER ROAD!

A donation of \$5 per vehicle is suggested. Your donations help support the youth groups who are assisting with parking.

Those needing assistance may be dropped off in front of the school, or will be offered a ride from the main parking area.

Thanks to the Town of Mentone and Moon Lake Village for graciously providing our new venue!

Thanks to Mentone Arts Center and Mentone Community Church for the use of their parking fields.



Pet Pawrade!

Bring your furry pals and join us at the Pet Pawrade, when the area’s cutest residents will join us for a romp around the festival. You can march with us, cheer on neighbors, or just show up for the paw-ty. Meet at the MAPA Welcome Booth near the music stage at 1:15 p.m. for the parade kick-off at 1:30. It’s free to march in the parade and each precious pet will receive a bandana to show off while they strut their stuff! A few rules: All animals must be leashed or in a carrier and play well with others, please. Rabies and vaccinations must be current. Owners/handlers are responsible for the actions of their pet.

“Contributing” Sponsors

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Colorfest “Sustaining” Sponsor

DeKalb Tourism



Colorfest “Leading” Sponsor



40TH ANNUAL COLORFEST
SAT October 15 • 10 AM – 5 PM
SUN October 16 • 10 AM – 4 PM

Arts & Crafts

- Amy BlueKat | 55
- Animal House Pottery | 24
- Artjewelz | 61
- Bags, Bows & Doll Clothes | 71
- Barks & Bones Bakery | 18
- Barnyard Pics | 6
- Basaraba Laser and Leather Designs | 4
- Boom Town Makers Market | 59
- Bow Ties by Emily | 7
- Candice Cobb Artistry | 21
- Cordelia Styled | 42
- Country Blues | 45
- Courtney Kinneman Art | 8
- Eastaboga Bee Company | 12
- EclectArt Studios| 38
- Eden Bath, Hair & Skincare | 48
- Gayla Allison | 13
- Gert Wands | 35
- Green Rhino Studio | 19
- Grumpy Ole Goat | 9
- Heartstrings and Stitches | 34
- Heisey Jewelry Designs | 49
- Hidey Holes by L | 41
- Homestead Heirlooms | 57
- Iron Cove Co. | 64
- L & K Authentic Creations | 40
- Life's Colors by Sherry | 62
- Mikel Yeakle Photographer | 17
- Mountain Mosaics | 11
- Nancy M. Elliott Studios | 54
- Newell Arts | 15
- Nightingale Pottery/Misty Morning Meadows | 14
- Nonas Barn Quilts and More | 53
- Oden Knives | 16
- OH! Only Handmade | 36
- Pam's Craftings | 56
- Personalized Wooden Trains & Woodcrafts | 39
- Rezin Kreation | 20
- Richard Schrei | 5
- Roadside Recyclers | 51
- Running Dude Guitars | 23
- Serenity Gourds | 44
- Simple Creations | 32
- Skeeter's Ridge Soap Co. | 33
- Stamped Out Love | 50
- Sweet Tea Pottery | 46
- The Paper Parks Project | 37
- The Vintage Sunflower | 25
- Thistle & Olive Soapery | 70
- Tim Tingle—As The Wood Turns | 58
- Wild Hearts Artistry | 22

Be sure to pick up
a booth map at the
MAPA Welcome Booth!

Food

- BonnieRay's Bake Shoppe | 31
- Dina's Shaved Ice | 2
- Fontastic Foods | 30
- Frios Gourmet Pops | 1
- Java Gypsy | 66
- Lemon Shakers | 69
- McIlwain Kettle Corn | 26
- Mobile Munchies | 27
- Mountain Flower Jams | 60
- Nana Bakes | 68
- Papi's Roasted Corn | 28
- Rib Shak | 29
- The Mason Jar - Canning & Home | 43
- Trvl Love Koffee | 10
- Venice Gelato | 67

Organizations

- DeSoto Rescue Squad
- DeSoto State Park
- Little River Waterkeeper
- Mentone American Legion
- Mentone Area Preservation Association
- Mentone Arts & Cultural Center
- Mentone Educational Resources Foundation
- Moon Lake Community Library
- Prodigal Pottery
- Rhododendron Garden Club
- Valley Head FFA Chapter



Colorfest RAFFLE

Over the decades, it's been a tradition to raffle a quilt for Colorfest. This year, it's a steel quilt! Thanks to Nathan Winkler of the Steel Quilt Company for this generous donation to help raise funds for the Mentone Area Preservation Association (MAPA). This rustic piece measures 20" x 20" and is made with reclaimed barn materials on a weather-resistant board. Tickets will be sold at the MAPA booths and are currently on sale at the MAPA office, Mentone Market, and Moon Lake Library.
Raffle tickets \$2 or 3/\$5
The winner will be announced on Sunday, October 16 at 2:50 at the music stage.
Winner need not be present.

Why Volunteer? It's helpful, it's fun, and there's an appreciation party!
Sign up @ mentonecolorfest.com.

Enter the Colorfest 2022 Scarecrow Contest

This year's theme is
“Mountain Life”
Let your imagination
have fun!

Cash prizes!
\$75 1ST • \$50 2ND • \$25 3RD

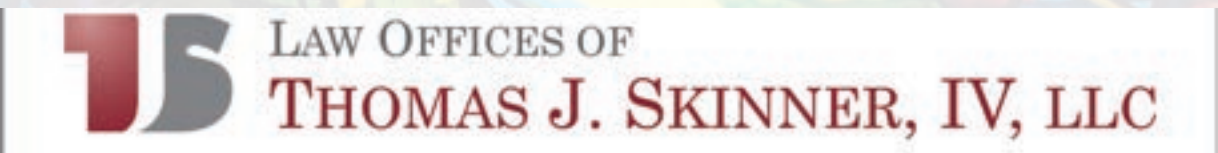


Rules + Registration:
Scan the code or visit
MentoneColorfest.com

Entry Deadline October 8 @ 5 pm.!



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Blue Jug

Alkaline Water & Health Market

Ruby O'Rear's Days Come to Life

OCTOBER 1937

October 1, Friday, 1937
Cloudy
Jessie washed. Part of clothes got dry. Mr. Hunter & Mr. Thompson came by to see Mother. Sang some for her. Paul stayed at home today. Sewed some.

October 2, Saturday, 1937
Showers
Mason's birthday
Paul went to Sand Mt. I ironed some. Jessie, Paul & J.B. went to Trion. Jessie got her teeth while they were gone. We took Mother to back porch. She lay on Jessie's bed.

October 3, Sunday, 1937
Rainy
Stayed home all day. Helen went to Dan's after dinner. Paul went to Dan's to get gas. Mother about as usual.

October 4, Monday, 1937
Cloudy. Temp about 70. Sun shone in valley quite a bit.
Paul & I went to Fort Payne. I got everyday shoes. Also bought roofing for back porch. Came home. Paul left. Jessie went to Elder Place to meet J.B. but bus didn't go around. Debbie, Margie & Clyde all came. We sang & played [...]. Brought in clothes that were washed Friday.

October 5, Tuesday, 1937
Clearing up. Pleasant.
I went to store early. On to Thelma O'Rear's & got syrup. Stopped by to see Mrs. Brown a few min. back by garden. Got turnips, corn & pea vines. Jessie cleaned & mopped living room. Helen pressed curtains.

October 6, Wednesday, 1937
Fair & pleasant. Temp nearly 80.
Jessie washed. Didn't start till rather late as wood was wet but nearly all the clothes got dry. Helen ironed curtains. Also all to-day's washing. I went to store & garden. Picked some tomatoes for Miss Clara. Also got turnips, corn, pea vines & tomatoes. Paul & A.J. came while I was there. Mother walked to cellar. First time in months.

October 7, Thursday, 1937
Fair & warm. Temp in 70s.
Put up curtains. Jessie went for mail. Hazel & Hobert came for Helen. Bill C. & Dickie Smith came down. Played some on guitars. Put water on to heat on oil stove then went to mail letters. Flames ran up & nearly choked Mother.



Covered everything with soot. Paul, A.J. & Sonny came in truck for trunk, table, etc. Jessie cleaning up her room.

October 8, Friday, 1937
Fair but cooler & windy. Temp 49. Temp went to 66.
Jessie cleaned her room & kitchen & swept back yard. Worked all day. Didn't stop to eat dinner. I had to stay with Mother most of day. Paul came home. Had traded cars. Has chocolate 2-door sedan.

October 9, Saturday, 1937
Cloudy & rainy.
Eula came over & Jessie, Paul & J.B. went to Fort Payne & came back by & got Mrs. Everett from on Sand Mt. Paul & J.B. brot in corn & pea vines from garden.

October 10, Sunday, 1937
Fair & cooler. Cleared off about daylight & seemed like it might frost to-nite but it clouded up in north late in p.m.
Went to S.S. [Sunday school] and church. Ernest preached. Had communion. Got home after 1:00. Baptists organized Sunday school at schoolhouse. Paul & I went to garden & picked about 1-1/2 bu. of tomatoes. A.J. & Paul came to garden. Hope & Faye came by & got tomatoes.

October 11, Monday, 1937
Fair & pleasant. No frost.
Paul went off early. Came back around 10:00. Jessie went to store for mail as he went back out. I got Mother up and put her back to bed by myself last nite.

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 October, 1937.

Blake brot roofing, stove, & springs. Put new stove in our room & put up stoves for living room & kitchen. Ethel called. Said Faye broke her arm last nite.

October 12, Tuesday, 1937
Fair & warm. Temp 42 this morn. Clouding up this p.m.
This is Paul White's birthday. Mother up in nite several times. I went with Paul this morn to Mr. Shigley's to see about him fixing roof. He was going to Sand Mt. to-day but would try to come tomorrow. Walked back & on to Mrs. Crane's. Back by Frank's to see about shingles. To store while waiting on mail. Home. Started crocheted collar. Went to Charlie Smith's this p.m.

October 13, Wednesday, 1937
Cloudy, cool. Rained a little.
Jessie washed. Too bad for Mr. Shigley to come for work. Mother still at outs with Mrs. Everett so I got Mother up & put her down. James B. forgot mail & went back & got it.

October 14, Thursday, 1937
Clearing off. Wind from north.
Mr. Shigley, Frank & Charles came to work. Tore old shingles off & put tin on & fixed valley. I picked up & put into wood house some of shingles. Mother said noise didn't bother her but she didn't sleep much & was getting

nervous. Turning cold so went & picked rest of green tomatoes. A.J. came & got some too.

October 15, Friday, 1937
Temp nearly to frosting. Clear, windy.
Cow got out last nite. She & calf went to field. Found them at church. Mr. Shigley & Charles came & finished up work. Also fixed foot log. We sang some for Mother. Jessie worked hard cleaning up mess. We put a few of shingles up.

October 16, Saturday, 1937
Fair. Hard east wind. Clouding up in p.m.
Just after breakfast Mr. Laster came. Didn't stay but little while. Mrs. Everett ironed. Heart bothering her after dinner. She went to Dan's. Jessie went to creek to wash a few things. Paul came home. Ralph & Billy came over. Ralph & I played & sang some for Mother. Paul, J.B. & I went to Mrs. Crane's. Got 48 lb flour but she hadn't got [...] meal.

October 17, Sunday, 1937
Cool, rainy
Stayed at home all day. Cleaned Mother up then took a bath. Ate dinner then gave Mother hers & started to give her some kidney medicine & she got mad & broke cup. Finally took some of another kind. Paul & J.B. went to Mentone this morn & this p.m. they & Jack went to take Ralph to V.H. to train.

October 18, Monday, 1937
Rained all day
So thankful roof was covered. Paul, Jack, Jodie & Jack went to F.P. Jessie had to go to institute. Eula came over & sewed some. I basted some on Jessie's print dress.

October 19, Tuesday, 1937
Cloudy, then it brightened up & then about 1:30 it rained hard then cleared off. Cooler.
First day of school.
Paul took Jessie to school. Bill, Dovie & their baby girl came out. Bill went on to Mentone & Dovie stayed here. Mrs. Everett got dinner then went for mail. Jessie came home about 12:00. Said she had another bus. I went to garden & got turnips. Went on to store. Came hard

(continued on page 19)

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

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Lil Mole Run

Golf Course + Campground

Little River Arts Council by Rhea Pirch

The Little River Arts Council wrapped up another summer of activities with Follow Your Art and the last concert of the Summer Music Series, featuring Lon Eldridge.

Follow Your Art Recap

On September 3, Follow Your Art started out in a mist of light showers but cleared just in time for the sidewalk chalk artists to start their works of art on the community walking trail, where the event was held. Gift cards to the Mentone Market were awarded to the following artists: Cannon & Geiger Guin, “Beginner Artist Award”, the team effort of Irelyn and Baylece Walsh, Ryleigh Ronan and Jameson Moor won “Most Colorful”, Lulu Goshern, “Most Fun”, Havannah and Hannah Barber, “Family Effort Award”, Debra Fey and Jerry Megli, “Community Spirit Award”, and Carol Davidson and Kenna Newman won the “People’s Choice Award”. Check out their works on the LRAC Facebook page!

This year, artist Tres Taylor served as our art show judge, walking among the various artists, perusing their work, talking with them and getting to know their artistic styles in order to decide who would receive the \$700 prize money allocated to the winners. Congratulations go to Eugenia Johnston, whose paintings won the first-place prize of \$350. Mikel Yeakle won the second-place prize of \$225 for his outstanding photography and Victoria Pearmain won the third-place prize of \$125 for her landscape paintings.

Musicians entertained the visitors throughout the day, including Larry Joe Hall, The Vegetators and Judy-Nicole Kirby. Storyteller Debbie “Happy” Cohen delighted kids and adults with her handspun fairy tales, accompanied by her Story Elf, Linda Selby. Children also enjoyed the make art tables provided by the arts council and our co-sponsor, the Mentone Area Resource Foundation (MERF). All in all, it was a day filled with creative activities and fun for Mentone and its visitors.

Music for the People

On September 10, Lon Eldridge took the stage at the Linger Longer Pavilion for the last of the Summer “Music for the People” Series concerts. He captivated the audience with his blend of pre-war blues, ragtime and swings, leaving them wanting more of his unique musicality.

Coming Up! Colorfest Concert October 14

The fun isn’t over yet! Thanks to a grant from the Mentone Area Preservation Association (MAPA) Will Dooley and Friends will kick off this year’s Colorfest with a concert on Friday, October 14th, at the Linger Longer Pavilion, from 7–10 p.m. The down-home sound of Will and his friends ignite a special flair to the Colorfest celebration!

Art Talk October 19

Mark your calendars for our ongoing events! “Art Talk” is held each 3rd Wednesday of the month from 6–8 p.m. at the Moonlake Community Library. The discussion is led by professional photographer and board member Mikel Yeakle,



Chalk art “People’s Choice” winner by Carol Davidson and Kenna Newman.



Debbie Cohen, storyteller and author of “Get Fairy Tales”



Jerry Megli, drawing the Mentone Ukes chalk art, which won the Community Spirit award

an art history buff whose knowledge and enthusiasm for art is engaging and delightful. Join us on October 19th for this fun and casual conversation about your art and your creative process.

Creative Spirit Market November 12 & 13

Thanks to a matching grant from the Alabama State Council on the Arts and The National Endowment for the Arts, we are once again able to host the Creative Spirit Market, to be held November 12 and 13 at DeSoto State Park. We are inviting artists, musicians, craftsmen, and makers to join us for this fun event, now in its 7th year. Demonstrators are encouraged as well, to help visitors to further appreciate the time and effort that goes into all art forms. Artist Booth Fee is \$20 for the weekend and the entry deadline is November 9. Visit our website,

littliverartscouncil.org for an application and more information.

Pop-up Art

Pop up art continues at the Mentone Farmer’s Market, each Saturday from 10 a.m.–1 p.m. Drop on by to find unique art and gifts from a variety of eclectic artists! If you’re an artist who would like to take part in this opportunity, contact Cynthia Stinson at makescynts@me.com or info@littliverartscouncil.org.

The Little River Arts Council believes that art is for everyone! We strive to achieve our mission to enrich the quality of life for people in Mentone and neighboring communities by raising funds for the arts; sponsoring events; providing educational opportunities; and strengthening cultural resources for the benefit of all businesses and citizens in the Mentone area.

We rely on memberships, individual and corporate contributions, program revenues, and fundraising to support our programs throughout the year. We are extremely grateful to the donors, supporters, and volunteers who make our work possible.

Rhea Pirch is the treasurer of the Little River Arts Council.

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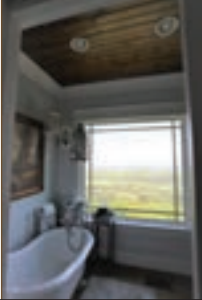
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Mentone Market



Adventures with Carla
and Malu
by Cat Findley



L to R: Cat Findley's mother Kathy Kessler, Malu, Carla, and exchange "mom" Cat Findley

I'm Cat Findley, and I'm a host mom to two foreign exchange students, Carla, from Italy, and Malu, from Brazil. They are both seniors at Valley Head High School and they will be living with me for the school year. This is my first-time hosting and I enjoy inviting others to share in the experience, and perhaps consider hosting a student in the future.

As I write this, it's inching towards the end of September, which means the girls have been home in Valley Head for over a month. The newness has worn off and we are starting to settle into a routine. According to the exchange programs, this is often when problems arise after the "honeymoon" period is over. My two girls are very different. One is more "chill and go with the flow," and the other is structured and definitely likes to have her ducks in a row. They are both uniquely wonderful but coexisting peacefully on a daily basis has taken work and more than a bit of grace on everyone's part.

Clear, kind, and direct communication seems to be the key to avoiding misunderstandings and working through them when they do arise. I'm thankful for my

25 years as a psychotherapist, as well as having raised my own two kids in helping me prepare for this. None of us are mind readers and the three of us come from different cultures with different expectations and norms. We prioritize keeping communication flowing on a daily basis but also have a weekly house meeting to make sure any difficulties or miscommunications get addressed. In the wise words of Mr. Rogers, "What is mentionable is manageable."

One of the things I find interesting is that exchange students have definite ideas about where they would like to be placed in the U.S. The top destinations are New York City, Miami, or California, but all bigger cities are preferable. And definitely not the south, not to mention a tiny town in the rural south. I follow a host mom and local exchange student coordinator on Tiktok who is in South Carolina, and you wouldn't believe the rude comments she gets about how no exchange student should have to end up in South Carolina!

In following the journeys of exchange students and host families, I've noticed that many exchange students struggle

with finding friends, fitting into their large high schools and becoming a part of their communities. Exchange students are often consoled by being told it's "okay" if their only friends are other exchange students (at their large high schools). I see a lot of loneliness in their stories at this point.

I was concerned initially that a place like Valley Head with a graduating senior class of 30 kids might be too small for a good exchange experience. Nothing has proven further from the truth. The girls have been overwhelmed by the warm welcome they have received from their school and the local community. Already, it seems like they know everyone, or at least everyone knows them. They have more friends than they know what to do with and their weekends are filled with a full teen social life. Now, the girls tell me they feel so blessed to have ended up in Valley Head. They can't imagine having a better experience anywhere else! I wish I could convey their experience here to all prospective exchange students. Bigger may not be better!

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October Community Events

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

October 1—Little Library Learners. Storytime and crafts for children ages 3–7. 10:30am. Moon Lake Library in Mentone.

October 1—Blessing of the Animals. All pets welcome. Please bring your pet on a leash or in a carrier. 2pm. St. Joseph's on-the-Mountain Episcopal Church's front lawn, Mentone. For more details: 256-634-4476 or stjcom@centurytel.net.

October 1—Ceramic Ornament Class. Join artist Jessica Haigh of Animal House Pottery for a Ceramic Ornament Class at the Little River Canyon Center. This 2-hour class will be from 10am–12pm. Students will learn how to handle the clay and the process of turning “dirt” into the ceramic pieces we know and use today. This class will also review a short history of this ancient craft. Participants will receive the clay and supplies to make 6 – 8 Christmas ornaments each. Each ornament can be customized with all types of designs, shapes, and colors for this special Christmas project. Once class is completed each ornament will go through a firing process and will be available for pickup by October 22. You will not be able to leave with your ornament set; however, once complete you will have a special Christmas ornament set that can last a lifetime with proper care. Students as young as 4 years old and up are welcome! Pre-registration is required. \$35 per participant. For questions please email rmtaylor@jsu.edu or call 256-845-3548.

October 1—The Art of Woodburning: DeSoto's Stonework. Pyrography or woodburning is the art of decorating wood or other materials, the term meaning “writing with fire” dating back 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 14 to adult. 2 class times available: 9–11am OR 12–2pm. DeSoto State Park (Location disclosed at time of registration). \$25 includes all supplies. Pre-registration is required for attendance in this class. Email Brittney.Hughes@dcnr.alabama.gov to sign up or for more info. Examples of April's work: facebook.com/Aprils-Woodburnings

October 1—Campfire Talk: Birds of Alabama. Bird watching has become a popular pastime for many people-not only do birds offer tremendous recreational, economic, and psychological benefit, they are often great indicators of environmental health. Over 400 species of birds are known to occur in Alabama. Of these, 141 species have been reported from DeSoto State Park, which is stop #47 on the North Alabama Birding Trail. Guest speaker Ashley Peters returns to showcase some of the resident species and some of the migrants that should be moving through our area on their Fall migration. (alabamabirdingtrails.com/trails/north-alabama) 7pm. DeSoto State Park's Campfire Ring in the Improved Campground. (In case of inclement weather will be located in the CCC Pavilion in picnic area.) Campground gates will open 30 minutes before program. Free and open to everyone. For any details about the talk, email Brittney.Hughes@dcnr.alabama.gov.

October 1–2, 8–9, 15–16, 22–23—Kayak Little River. Rent sit-on-top kayaks to enjoy a peaceful flatwater paddle on West Fork Little River overlooking beautiful DeSoto Falls. Your adventure can be up to 4 miles round trip, or as long as you want to make it! Paddle trips are perfect for individuals or groups. Life vests & paddles are provided. Miller's Bend Paddle Shack in DeSoto Falls Picnic Area. 10am–6pm. alapark.com/kayak-little-river

October 3—Featured Speaker Sallie Brandon. Featured speaker Sallie Brandon, an adoptee from the Tennessee orphanage depicted in Lisa Wingate's bestseller, Before We Were Yours. 6:30pm. Moon Lake Library in Mentone.

October 4—Songwriters Round. With host Jon Kinsey. Free. 6:30pm. Mentone Arts Center, 5951 AL Hwy. 117, Mentone. 256-674-3366. October 4th-Yoga Hike to DeSoto Falls 4:00 p.m.

October 7—Campfire Talk: Cherokee Trail of Tears. In 1838, the Cherokee Nation—more than 16,000 men, women, and children—was removed from their lands in the southeast to Indian Territory (present-day Oklahoma), resulting in the deaths of approximately 4,000 Cherokees. In the Cherokee language, the event is called Nunna daul Isunyi—“the Trail Where They Cried.” Retired JSU professor Dr. Kelly Gregg will share the story of the Native American people before, during, and after this tragic chapter in our nation's history. 7pm. DeSoto State Park's Campfire Ring in the Improved Campground. (In case of inclement weather will be located in the CCC Pavilion in picnic area.) Free & open to everyone. For any details about the talk, email Brittney.Hughes@dcnr.alabama.gov.

October 8—Community Workday at Moon Lake Village. If you enjoy getting your hands dirty, folks with shovels, clippers, trowels, wheelbarrows, wagons, strong arms, good backs, and a willingness to “dig in” are needed. 8am–12pm. 5586 East River Road, Mentone.

October 8—Moon Lake Library Book Club. Moon Lake Library book club monthly meeting with discussion of Wild Card Quilt by Janisse Ray. 10:30am. Moon Lake Library in Mentone.

October 8—Mentone Ukles. Free ukulele lessons at 1pm at Moon Lake Library in Mentone. Beginners welcome!

October 8—Little River Canyon 9th Annual Half Marathon. One of the most scenic and challenging certified half marathon courses in the country. Little River Canyon Center \$65. Details at jsu.edu/epic/canyoncenter/little-river-canyon-half-marathon.

October 8—Serious Skills Series: Dutch Oven Cooking 101. Dutch ovens have been in use for hundreds of years; especially

when our country was expanding and families were on the move. Unable to bring their large cook stoves with them, women learned how to cook entire meals from stews & soups to bread & desserts, in their Dutch ovens. Learn the basics about Dutch ovens, how to clean & care for your cookware, AND cook (& eat!) dinner & dessert at the same time! DeSoto State Park's Campfire Ring in the Improved Campground. 4–6pm. This is a demonstration so you can swing by anytime, & the best time is when food is just coming off the fire! Seating is limited, so bring your own comfortable camp chair if you wish. Free & open to everyone. For any details about the demo, email Brittney.Hughes@dcnr.alabama.gov.

October 8—Campfire Talk: Geologic History of Little River. The Little River area of Lookout Mountain is extraordinary in both its geology and biology. As the river winds its course atop the mountain it creates a mosaic of microhabitats that support unique groups of plants and animals. Join retired JSU geologist Dr. Kelly Gregg to learn about fossils and some of the ancient inhabitants of Little River, sharks, corals, ferns, ancient trees, and even giant salamanders. Seating is limited, so bring your own comfortable camp chair if you wish. 7–8pm. DeSoto State Park's Campfire Ring in the Improved Campground. (In case of inclement weather will be located in the CCC Pavilion in picnic area.) Free & open to everyone. For details, email Brittney.Hughes@dcnr.alabama.gov.

October 9—Meandering Moonlight Paddle Trip. DeSoto State Park staff offers this relaxing guided moonlight paddle trip on scenic Little River. This trip is approximately 4 miles round trip on flatwater. Ages 8 to adult. Bring appropriate clothing for weather (you may get wet), headlamp or flashlight, bug spray, snacks, and drinking water. \$30 for single kayak rental includes paddle & personal flotation device. Weight limits: 300 pounds for singles & 450 for tandems. 7–10pm. (2 person-tandem kayaks are available on a limited basis for \$50.) Meet at Miller's Bend Paddle Shack at DeSoto Falls Picnic Area. Pre-registration closes October 4 at 5pm. To register, email Paige.Norsworthy@dcnr.alabama.gov. PLEASE provide date of paddle, a 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. alapark.com/kayak-little-river.

October 9—Sacred Harp Singing. Historic Council Bluff School. 2–4pm. A dinner on the ground will be held after the singing. For more information about and directions to Council Bluff School: landmarksdekalba.org/preserving-dekalb-county-alabama-landmarks/the-council-bluff-school.

October 11—Rhododendron Garden Club Featured Speaker. The guest speaker is Dan Spalding who will talk about the ferns of Alabama and take everyone on a walk to see some examples at DeSoto State Park. Monthly Meeting at 10am, held at Moon Lake Village Community Room. Everyone is welcome to this free program. Refreshments provided.

October 11—Granny Dollar, Black Bears & Colonel Milford Howard. Marcus Thomas, Hannah Leeper, and Kelly Leavitt will present talks and answer questions. Bill Berry Community Room at Moon Lake Village, 5866 East River Road, Mentone. Free. 6:30pm. Hosted by MAPA.

October 13—Featured Speaker Sallie Brandon. Joint public meeting of municipal library board and Friends of the Library. 4pm. Moon Lake Library in Mentone.

October 14—Yoga Hike to Unfinished Bridge. Experience yoga while enjoying the beauty that is Desoto State Park! Join instructor Destin Padgett and park naturalist Brittney Hughes for a great outdoor experience of strengthening yoga poses AND hiking along beautiful trails. This hike will be a mix of trail hiking with an outdoor yoga session. Combining hiking and yoga practice in the great outdoors confers benefits unmatched in any other setting. You get the light cardio and strength-building that hiking offers, the toning, flexibility, and relaxation that yoga offers, and the powerful connection to Mother Nature that being outdoors offers. Yoga poses are alignment based which makes them perfect for those beginning or continuing their yoga practice. Wear closed-toe shoes & weather appropriate clothes; bring a hike-friendly yoga mat or towel if you wish (poses will be standing poses), water and a snack. Moderate hike on Gilliam Loop Trail & old CCC roadbed. Approx. 4 miles round trip. Meet at DeSoto State Park's Gilliam Loop Trailhead (Just past DeSoto's Lodge on Blalock Drive). 3pm. \$5 per person. Pre-registration is required, so we know how many to expect. Hike is open to ages 10 to adult. Email Brittney.Hughes@dcnr.alabama.gov for more info or to pre-register. If weather is questionable, check with DSP Lodge before coming: 256-845-5380.

October 15 & 16 • Colorfest

October 15—Serious Skills Series: Chair Weaving Demonstration. DeSoto State Park Naturalist Brittney Hughes will demonstrate chair caning with reed, weaving the herringbone pattern on a 1930s Civilian Conservation Corps-built chair. The craft of chair seat weaving and chair caning has been practiced for centuries and is still a viable craft today, experienced all over the world. 10am–3pm. Come by anytime. (Please note demo may be postponed due to wet conditions.) DeSoto State Park's Country Store & on County Road 89. For information, call 256-997-5025 or email Brittney.Hughes@dcnr.alabama.gov.

October 15—Max Mitchell Art Demonstration. Artist Max Mitchell demonstrates how she makes her stoneware peace bells and wind chimes. Free. 10am–3pm. Mentone Arts Center, 5951 AL Hwy. 117, Mentone. 256-674-3366.

October 15—Third Saturday Sunset Cruise-In. The Third Saturday Sunset Cruise-In is a great car show, featuring over 200+ classic vehicles on display in Fort Payne's historic downtown district. Music across the street from DeKalb Theatre

and food vendors. 5–9pm. For current info see facebook.com/3rdSaturdayFortPayneAL.

October 19—Art Talk. Little River Arts Council presents an evening of art critique and discussion. This will be free to the public and open discussion is encouraged! Mikel Yeakle leads another informal conversation about art, why we create it, and how it affects our lives. All are invited to bring their artwork and share their process and inspirations. 6–8pm. Free & open to all. Moon Lake Library, 4607 AL Hwy 117, Mentone. littliverartscouncil.org.

October 20—“DeKalb County—On the Road to Chickamauga.” Judge Rains will discuss the movement of Union troops in DeKalb County during the Civil War. Bill Berry Community Room at Moon Lake Village, 5866 East River Road, Mentone. Free. 6:30pm. Hosted by MAPA.

October 21—Campfire Talk: Stone Structures of NE Alabama & the Southeast US. Better understand Native American sacred stone structures such as rock mounds, walls, stone effigy structures and more. Join retired JSU archaeologist Dr. Harry Holstein for an interesting campfire talk about the stone structures found on several sites in Alabama & the SE United States. 7pm. DeSoto State Park's Campfire Ring in the Improved Campground. (In case of inclement weather will be located in the CCC Pavilion in picnic area.) Free & open to everyone. For any details about the talk, email Brittney.Hughes@dcnr.alabama.gov.

October 22—Mentone Ukles. Free ukulele lessons at 1pm at Moon Lake Library in Mentone. Beginners welcome!

October 22 Campfire Talk: Discover Archeology: Bain's Gap Native American Village Site. Join JSU archaeologist, Dr. Kathryn Catlin for an interesting campfire talk about the fieldwork at the Woodland/Mississippian site at Bains' Gap near Anniston, AL. Info about this site gleaned from multiple field seasons reveals numerous storage pits, hearths, and post patterns dating from the Early Archaic up through the early Mississippian time periods. 7pm. DeSoto State Park's Campfire Ring in the Improved Campground. (In case of inclement weather will be located in the CCC Pavilion in picnic area.) Free & open to everyone. For any details about the talk, email Brittney.Hughes@dcnr.alabama.gov.

October 22—“Paint Like Bob” Workshop. With certified Bob Ross instructor Gary Gridler. \$100 includes supplies. Limited class size. 9am–1pm. Mentone Arts Center, 5951 AL Hwy. 117, Mentone. 256-674-3366.

October 27—Sunset Social. Meet at Mentone's Brow Park at 5:30pm for a time of getting to know one another while enjoying a sunset. Bring a dessert, snack, or beverage if you like. Hosted by MAPA.

October 28 & 29—Spookapalooza at DeSoto State Park. Trick or treating, games, live animals, storytelling, and more are in store during this popular annual event. Grab your favorite costume, bring the family, and come stay with us! All events are free to the public & great for all ages! More details to come. DeSoto State Park in Fort Payne, Alabama Call 256-997-5025 or see www.alapark.com/DSP-Spookapalooza for complete details.

October 29—Author Neal Wooten. Wooten will discuss his latest book, With the Devil's Help: A True Story of Poverty, Mental Illness, and Murder, and will have copies for sale and for autographing.. 10:30am. Moon Lake Library in Mentone.

October 30—Mentone's Boy Scout Troop 106 Annual Fundraiser. Chicken & Dressing Dinner. 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. Boy Scout House, Dempsey Ave., Mentone (behind Little River Hardware). Donations Accepted. This annual fundraiser helps pay the insurance and provide upkeep on the scout van.

October 31—Halloween at the Fort Payne Opera House. Join us for a spooky evening of trick or treating at the Fort Payne Opera House. You may even catch a glimpse of the Phantom. Enter if you dare! 5pm. 510 Gault Ave N, Fort Payne.

Menlo Quilt Show

by Pat Johnson

The Menlo Annual Quilt show will be held on October 8 starting at 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. EDT at the Lawrence Center in Menlo, GA. General admission is \$3. There will be three different categories: hand-quilted, machine-quilted, and small items such as baby quilts and crocheted, knitted or cross stitch items. Come and see all the beautiful quilts. There will also be quilting demonstrations, refreshments, vintage quilt display, door prizes, and country store where you can buy jellies, jams, pickles, homemade bread, fudge, fried pies, various crafts, and quilt fabric. Two beautiful quilts will be given away. Raffle tickets can be bought at the quilt show, or, previous to the show, at the Housing Authority Office, Menlo City Hall, Menlo Restaurant, Design Cuts, Chattooga County Commissioners and Mentone Market. The lucky winner will be drawn and announced at 1 p.m. at the show. The winner will be notified by phone if not present. All proceeds go to support the Veterans Marker Program, Reading Buddy program, and other projects and programs. The Lawrence Center is located at 71 Edison Street, Menlo, GA 30731. For further information, you can call 706-862-2240.



Mentone Mayor Rob Hammond was presented a check by Representative Nathaniel Leadbetter (L) and Senator Steve Livingston (R) from the DeKalb Community Development Commission to help offset the cost of the stage at the Shigley Amphitheatre at Moon Lake Village.



Mayor Mike Key presented a Proclamation for Constitution Week, September 17–23, from the Town of Valley Head to Hannah White Arnett Chapter NSDAR members Debbie Bates and Judy O'Daniel. The Daughters of the American Revolution initiated the observance of Constitution Week in 1955, and President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed it into Public Law #915 on August 2, 1956. Mayor Mike Key and Town Clerk Debra Rhodes are shown displaying a Constitution Week poster at the front entrance of Valley Head Town Hall.



Mayor Rob Hammond presented a Proclamation for Constitution Week from the Town of Mentone to Hannah White Arnett Chapter members Tara Allgood, Regent Ann Gilbreath and Mary Shurett on September 12.

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Ruby O’Rear (cont. from page 14)

rain. Paul came by. He & Jack went to Fort Payne.

October 20, Wednesday, 1937
Clear, pleasant
Cow broke into calf pasture & then tried to break out of bars. I fixed fence back of garden & pasture gate. Paul came in about 11:00. Decided to stay at home this evening. He fixed barn door. My back hurting me some. Mother eating lunch a little more. We ate lunch & had hot supper. Smiths fixed up their line & I can talk to Lilly.

October 21, Thursday, 1937
Light frost. Fair in a.m., clouding up in p.m.
Mother ate pretty well to-day. Paul went to Ga. to-day I covered shed by play house. Cow broke into calf pasture again. Crocheted a little on cotton stocking rug. Telephone line still out to V.H. Sewed some on Jessie’s dress. All finished except hem.

October 22, Friday, 1937
Rained last nite. Cloudy in morn but clearing off later & turning colder then clouded up again & sleeted a little to-nite.
Had headache & no energy to-day but nearly finished blouse. Mother didn’t sleep but very little if any to-day until about 4:30 this p.m.

October 24, Sunday, 1937
Fair. Temp 21. Killing frost.
Went to S.S. No church. Rode back with Horace & Grace. Ate big dinner. Had pumpkin pies. Slept some this p.m. Eula & Jodie came by. Talked to Hazel some.

October 25, Monday, 1937
Fair & pleasant. Temp 30. Went to 60 or so.
Mrs. E. had headache all day. Mother awake quite a bit. I dug 2 post holes & started calf shed. Had to help Mrs. E. finish supper as her head was aching so. I made peanut butter cookies. She took aspirin & it nearly made her have [...] with heart.

October 26, Tuesday, 1937
Foggy. Rained hard. Cleared off then rained again.
I finished green skirt. Mrs. E. went for mail. Got caught in rain. I turned stove around. Made feed box for calf. Eula came over. Mother slept nearly all p.m.

October 27, Wednesday, 1937
Partly cloudy. Windy. Temp about 50.
Mrs. E. ironed & got dinner all before

11:00. I washed out mine & Mother’s clothes. Put feather bed out in sun then put it on Mother’s bed. Washed old brown coat. Washed & pressed green shirt. Worked a little on calf shed. Crocheted some on rug.

October 28, Thursday, 1937
Frost. Clear, moderately pleasant.
Jessie has sore throat this morn. I killed chicken. Mr. Yarbrough came down. Mrs. E. went for mail. I started covering calf shed with shingles. Jessie & J.B. both about sick. I took dirty clothes to store.

October 29, Friday, 1937
Fair & pleasant
J.B. sick last nite & stayed at home to-day. I worked on calf shed in morn & stayed in house with Mother & James B. most of p.m. Eula & kids came over. Jodie & Charlie Smith hauled 2 ricks of wood. Jessie came home at recess. Jodie & Mr. S. cut down pine trees. Hauled logs to mill.

October 30, Saturday, 1937
Fair, warm. Temp 77.
I went to garden. Got collards, turnips & cabbage. On to Mrs. Yarbrough’s & Mrs. Cash’s. Got clothes & brot them home on wheelbarrow. Jessie scrubbed & cleaned up back yard. Eula & kids came. She trimmed mine & Mrs. E’s hair & worked some more on shed.

October 31, Sunday, 1937
East wind. Fair, warm. Temp about 76.
Didn’t go to S.S. Mrs. E. looked for company but they didn’t come. Paul & J.B. went to Mentone early. Back by Paul White’s. Bathed Mother then took bath myself. In p.m. Miss Pearl Hudson, Mr. Elmore, Miss Della Kirby & the young folks of Presbyterian church came over & had short service & sang for Mother. Ethel & Hope came by.



Mentone American Legion Gets \$1,000 Donation

by Barry Morton, MAL Commander

The Mentone American Legion (MAL) received a \$1,000 donation from the DeKalb Community Development Commission. Responding to a letter request from me, the Alabama State Representative Nathaniel Ledbetter gave the check to Rob Hammond who gave it to me at our Fort Payne Rotary Club lunch meeting. The money will be used to put in a new tank filled with 150 gallons of propane so we will have heat this winter. We also put in an value outdoors so that we can hook up a grill and have more bbqs. Prior to this year, we had to shut down our meetings and turn off the water for the winter months. Our beautiful fireplace will also be cleaned and useful this winter...I can’t wait to have the first fire (in the fireplace that is).

To see what’s happening at the MAL, please visit the Mentone American Legion Facebook group.



On behalf of Representative Nathaniel Ledbetter and Senator Steve Livingston, Mentone Mayor Rob Hammond presented a check to the Mentone American Legion. Accepting the check is Commander Barry Morton.



A new propane tank is installed at the Mentone American Legion.

Valley Head Cemetery “Running In Memory Of” Race

by Sherryl Lewis

Saturday, September 24, 2022 was a beautiful fall day and the weather was perfect for the Valley Head Cemetery 5K & 10K Races. The races were held at 8 a.m. on the Town Square in Valley Head. We had a great turnout for the race. There were 69 participants with ages ranging from 6 to 82. The male and female 5K and 10K Overall Winners received a medal and a cash award. First, 2nd and 3rd place medals were awarded in each gender and age category.

Several families in the community made a donation in memory of their loved ones and we ran the race in their memory. Local businesses sponsored ads on our shirts and donated door prizes for our runners. Special thanks to Gary’s Warehouse for donating a compact refrigerator for our grand

door prize and to Robert Johnson Roofing and Construction for the use of his building for our race. Thank you to all the memorials, sponsors, door prizes, volunteers, workers, PinPoint Timing, runners and walkers. You made this year’s race very special.

All proceeds from the races go towards the maintenance on the cemetery. The funds that we raised at the races will set the maintenance budget for the following year. Mowing is our largest expense but there are always trees and shrubs that need trimming, and storm damage to be cleaned up; the maintenance is never-ending. The cemetery receives a few donations during the year but the races are our main source of funds.



Congratulations to our grand prize winner Camden Bell! He was very excited to win the compact refrigerator donated by Gary’s Warehouse!



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October Birthdays & Anniversaries

- | | | | | | |
|----|--|----|---|----|---|
| 1 | Ron Logan
Brian Baine
Kerry Breithaupt
Greyson Collins
Tate Langston
Autumn Owen | 12 | Amanda Wright
Ariana Jenkins
Leslie Beason
Craig Smith
Cheryl King
Nicholas Senicz
Brandy Browder | | Ross Van Pelt
Donna McClure
Joan Harrison
Alex Garrett
Bradyn Jenkins
Alyssa Poe
Emily Stone
Sally Johnson
Sydney Crow |
| 2 | Kevin Gifford
Ben Kirby
Avery Burke
Brian Brandon
Tim Ledford
Liam Crawford
Dia White | 13 | Sadie Stone
JayDan Haynes
Dustin Smith
John Foreman
Nick Price | 22 | Kendra Cartwright
Wanda Lewis |
| 3 | Angie Shugart
Ansley Blalock
Elizabeth Gentry | 14 | Martha Kirby
Tina Langston
Olen Crowe
Ashley Phillips
Russell Wright
Judy Carolyn Rathel
Helen Pullen | 23 | Levi McClure
Sandra Padgett
Roberta Kirby
Edith Dean
Joe Piscatelli |
| 4 | Casey Cox
Mandy Williams
Reegan Shankles
Jensen Hawkins
Katelyn Brown
Jonathan Browder | 15 | Lanita Allen
David “Tater” Hopper
Pam Manning
Casey Cartwright
Tony Crow
Livvy Chambers
Bryce Rowan
Tucker Langston
Joann Fife
Ava Ashlynn Clardy | 24 | Kyle Rape
Marlie Spencer
Lorri Steinemann |
| 5 | Grace Wright
Mack Flannigan
Sadler Emory
Starla Cash
Donald Daniel
Kathy Peterson
Lily Jane Turlington
Savannah Shannon
Lynn Headrick | 16 | Sarah Blalock
Tina Carden
Jacey Traffanstedt
Glenda Turlington
Barry Sadowski | 25 | Piper Kate Reed
Jordan Bain
Ethan Smith
Nicole Wolf
Deb Givens
Tytan Blevins |
| 6 | Tylor Harrison
Breanna Blalock
Katy Tubberville
Casey Hellums
Tanya Thomas
Adyson Hughes
Timdavid Wheat
Jannie McElhaney
Lee Anne Hulgán | 17 | Renae Langston
Rose Cox
Alisha Lawton
Katie Poe
Tommy Battles
Eddie Coots
Andrue Smith
Aryan Wallace
AndreaH Calvert
Megan O’Shields
Bill Shugart III | 26 | Jeff Harrison
Cindy Butler
Cheri Thacker
Jacob Garner
Liam Williams
Logan Totherow |
| 7 | Christian Henry
Maggie Coots
Macy Smith | 18 | Zoey Kate Baggett
Ken Busby
Stacy Smith
Terry Manning
Hollie Dean
Alisha McElhaney
Ethan Wilborn
Harper Gregory | 27 | Catrina Dodd
Teresa Verdon
Charity Garcia
Johnny Wynn
Ava Blevins
Ella Holloway |
| 8 | Allie Williams
Allen Ballinger | 19 | Isaac Underwood
Charles Robert Hammon
Matt Tillman
Chris Porter | 28 | Judah Grisham
Robert Worthey
Meagan Sutton
Matthew Patterson
Rayford Bethune
Allie Pritchett
Wesley Frost
Kristi Nance
Diana Philip
Monroe Byrum |
| 9 | Donna Hallahan
Audie Beason
Alaina McElhaney | 20 | Joseph Lee
Jamie Shankles
Koralyn Parker
Lana Baker
Khloe Totherow
Heidi Steinemann | 29 | Jessica McGinnis
Blake Blevins
Dylan Newberry
Grady Gilbert
Tucker Gregory |
| 10 | Sally Muschamp
Gayla Smith
Allie Rhodes
Scott Thomas
Charles Hammonds
Russell Stalvey
Leslie Bowman | 21 | Darius Turner | 30 | Shannon Wagner
Jennifer Collins
Emmy Smith
Karen Prestwood
Elisabeth Womack |
| 11 | Michele Wooden
Amanda Reed
Rhett Freeman
Sam Harrison
Abigail Wallace
Caison Allen
Houston Spillman
Bethany Whittle
Kelley Frazier | | | 31 | Ashley Sanderson
Charlotte Gentry
John Dersham
Wayne Miller
Paul Blalock |

- | | | | |
|----|---|----|--|
| 3 | Jim & Kelley Money
Chase & Julie Byrum | 17 | Adam & Alex Dupree |
| 5 | Donnie & Connie Bell
Jason & Karmen Smith | 18 | Lee & Tina Carden
Kevin & Angela Akins |
| 7 | Eddie & Ashley Manning | 20 | Bret & Taylor Johnson |
| 8 | Casey & Madie Gregory
Steve & Carry Pope
Craig & DeeDee Hendricks | 22 | Larry & Faye Bone
Cody & Kaitlyn Tedder
Austin & Jaymie Potts
Mike & Gwen Stone |
| 9 | Nelson & Brenda Kerby | 25 | Josh & Hope Deal
Nelson and Vickie Burger |
| 10 | George & Sandra Boehringer
Jim Bozek & Donna Arnett | 27 | Coby & Brittany Harrison |
| 14 | Chris & Alisha Busby | 30 | Jeremy & Kanissa Young |
| 15 | Nathan & Holly Owen | 31 | Ricky & Jennifer Linn
Colby Baty & Nickie Swanger |
| 16 | Dusty & Lily Smith | | |



To the residents and businesses of Mentone, Valley Head, and surrounding areas:

It is time for our Annual Fundraiser and Newsletter. We would first like to extend a special THANK YOU to all who have contributed to the success of the DeSoto Rescue Squad over the years. Your kind donations have helped fund the purchase of medical supplies, the repairs to our rescue vehicles, and the squad operating expenses including fuel and insurance.

As a reminder, we receive approximately \$1,600 per year from the County Commission. This funding goes towards paying about half of our insurance for the year. We also have been graciously receiving an annual appropriation from the Town of Mentone and the Town of Valley Head. The DeKalb County Legislative Delegation also provides some funding from the Economic Development Grant program. The rest of our funding comes from donations from citizens like you and fundraisers we hold. These donations help cover the remaining cost of the insurance, our fuel, training, supplies, and upkeep of the equipment. We are not part of any fire department, and do not benefit from the tax money the fire departments receive.

The Squad has had many exciting things happen this past year. We have had several new members join and are currently training. We have also been blessed with a partnership with the Town of Mentone and DeKalb Ambulance Service to lease one of the buildings located on the Moon Lake Village Campus. We have been diligently working on renovating the building and making it our own space. We have spent the majority of our available funds on this renovation. We have also been blessed with donations of materials from DAS. The renovation is taking some time due to work schedules and availability of personnel. We hope to have the renovation completed by the first of December.

Your donations help purchase medical supplies, fuel, vehicle maintenance, medications, and other needs of the Squad. We greatly appreciate your continued support.

We continue to be licensed by the Alabama Department of Public Health Office of EMS and Trauma as an Advanced Life Support non-transport provider. This allows us to provide the best care possible prior to the arrival of the ambulance. We spend approximately \$800 per year on medications alone. Our cardiac monitors are also aging and are no longer repairable if one should break. Each cardiac monitor will cost \$25,000 to replace and we have three cardiac monitors.

We are planning to have our Annual Pancake Breakfast in December with a visit from Santa Claus. We are also planning to have an open house to showcase our new and remodeled building in December.

Thank you for allowing us to serve our communities!

We have a Facebook page that we keep up to date with upcoming events and information. We also maintain a website with current information at desotorescue.com.

Your Tax-deductible donations can be mailed to:

DeSoto Rescue Squad
P. O. Box 517, Mentone, AL 35984

Donations can also be made online via our website at desotorescue.com. If you have any questions, please contact me at 256-755-1023 or via email at captain@desotorescue.com.

Again, thank you for your continued support!

Sincerely,
Michael Stone
Captain
DeSoto Rescue Squad
captain@desotorescue.com



Senator Steve Livingston (L) and Representative Nathaniel Ledbetter (R) presented a check from the DeKalb Community Development Commission to Gwen Stone, secretary and treasurer of the DeSoto Rescue Squad.



In Memoriam



FRED BENNIE WHITE
August 3, 1943 ~
August 29, 2022

Fred Bennie White, age 79, of Menlo, GA, died Monday, August 29, 2022, at his residence. Mr. White was born August 3, 1943, in Summerville, GA, son of the late James and Lottie McNeese White. Mr. White enjoyed watching his Atlanta Braves and Georgia Bulldogs. He also loved riding around on any back road he could find. Prior to his retirement, he was employed with Mohawk as a Crew Leader.

Survivors include his son, Kevin (Tammy) White; daughter, Keitha Vaughan; sisters, Betty Jo (Phil) Rogers, Shirley Culberson, and Gail Anderson; grandchildren, Jessica (John) Ware, Maci Tucker, Alex Tucker, and Jacob Vaughan; and great-grandchildren, Annslee Tucker and Addie Mae Ware.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by brothers, Henry White, Johnny Lee White, Bobby James White, and Billy White.

SAMANTHA TAYLOR HUNTER

Samantha Taylor Hunter, age 27, of Jamestown Road, Menlo, GA passed away unexpectedly on Friday, September 2, 2022, in a Rome hospital. Mrs. Hunter was a homemaker.

She is survived by her husband, Dalton Hunter; parents, Stacy Laney (Kevin Vaughn) and Scott Dial; son, Jameson Hunter; sister, Kelsey Dial; brother, Spencer Dial; grandparents, Rex Laney, Patricia and Bruce Bahrnan, Glenda Glass, Linda Dale Holleman; mother-in-law, Julie Hunter; brother-in-law, Taylor Hunter (Ashley); aunts, Linda Wooten, Delvia Streets, Darlene Hughes; and nieces and nephews, Cody Dial, Tayli, Trevin, Ronan, and Roklan.

She was preceded in death by grandparents and great grandparents, Charlie & Rachel Laney, Opal Molock, Deborah Fincher, Fred Hunter and Medford Gass, and uncles Walley Laney and Junior Laney.



BURMA NELL GREEN
April 22, 1945–
September 3, 2022

Burmah Nell Green, age 77, of Cloudland, GA, passed away Saturday morning, September 3, 2022, at her residence. Mrs. Green was born on April 22, 1945, to the late Roscoe and Derotha Tommie McClung. She was a member and Elder of the Cloudland Presbyterian Church and was retired from the Georgia Department of Corrections. Burmah enjoyed walking, sewing, crafting and was active in the Cloudland Yoga and Mentone Knitting classes.

She was President and active member of the Cloudland Community Park board, and participated in organizing the Burning Leaf Festival and 4th of July Fun Run, and was instrumental in helping the Park get grants to finance improvements. Burmah and her husband, Phil, helped with the maintenance of the Park and Playground and made sure the Park was the best it could be. She loved to walk the track around the playground. She could be seen most days walking the streets of Cloudland, stopping to talk with friends along the way. Even during her illness she and her friend, Gay Godbois, rode the Cloudland main road picking up trash. She was always there with food and help for anyone who needed it. Like Bobby Cavin said at the funeral, Burmah Green was the glue that held Cloudland Community together. She was also very active in the Menlo community. She helped with many of their projects and programs, including the quilt shows, yard and bake sales, Reading Buddies, and the Veteran Marker Project. She always supported the Menlo residents, especially the elderly. She will be irreplaceable and sorely missed.

She is survived by her loving husband of 57

years, Phil Green; daughter, Angie Pritchett (Jackie); granddaughter, Lindsey Hankins (Brian); great grandchildren, Reese Willingham, Kristen Hankins, Colton Hankins. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her brother, the late Carlton McClung

Funeral services were held September 6th. Bobby Cavin and David Tidmore officiated and interment was at Cloudland Presbyterian Cemetery. Active Pallbearers were: Chad O. Green, Butch Young, Greg Hawkins, Rex Abernathy, Dickie Tanner, and David Tidmore. Honorary Pallbearers were: Cindy Deberry, Glenda Hamilton, Nancy McCalmon, Sarah Pless, Nancy Abernathy, Carol Thomason, Sally Muschamp, Patsy and Kimberly Jackson, and Gay Godbois. The Family requested no flowers and suggested contributions to the Cloudland Presbyterian Church or Cloudland Presbyterian cemetery in her memory. The church's address is: Cloudland Presbyterian Church, PO Box 383, Menlo, GA, 30731.

BRYAN LYNN PHILLIPS
May 17, 1967 – September 9, 2022



Bryan Lynn Phillips, age 55, of Mentone, passed away on Friday, September 9, 2022.

He is survived by his parents, Hal D. Phillips and Nettie Lou Phillips; brother, Terry Phillips (Brenda); sister, Angela McKee (Gene); daughters, Kellye Jones (Matthew), Heather Giamanco

(Devaun), and Briana “Peanut” Phillips; sons, Bryan “Bubba” Phillips, Braxton Phillips, Michael Phillips; and grandchildren, Jacey Shankles, Marshall Jones, Rhett Jones, Brysen Phillips, Ella Grace Phillips, Adalynn Phillips, Henry Phillips, and Darius Giamanco.

LEONARD EDWARD PEARO
August 22, 1940 - September 13, 2022

Leonard Edward Pearo, age 82 of Valley Head, passed away September 13, 2022 at his home. Mr. Pearo was born on August 22, 1940 to the late Leonard & Jeanette Seng Pearo in Muskegon, MI. He was a member of the American Legion and Lion’s Club and was also a Mason. He served our country in the United States Navy. Leonard was always lending a helpful hand to those in need.

He is survived by his wife, Carlyn W. Pearo; children, Richard (Elizabeth) Pearo and Nicole Pearo; brother, Michael Pearo; sisters, Carol Pearo, Donna Pearo and Vera Jean McKay; grandchildren, Kaitlin Snider, Dominique Medlin, Isabella Medlin, Nicholas Pearo, Ryan Pearo, and Sean Pearo; and great-grandchildren, Jack Snider, Mia Snider and Braelyn Guieb.

He was preceded in death by his parents and his sister, Barbara Maske.



RONALD ARTHUR ESMANN, SR.
March 2, 1947 ~
September 15, 2022

Ronald Arthur Esmann, Sr, age 75 of Menlo, GA, passed away Thursday, September 15, 2022 at his residence.

Mr. Esmann was born March 2, 1947 in Detroit, MI to the late William and Shirley Havel Esmann. He was a retired firefighter/paramedic in Broward County Florida and played college football for the University of Florida. He enjoyed woodworking, and spending time with his family, especially his sons and grandchildren.

Survivors include his loving wife of 56 years, Elizabeth Hammonds Esmann; sons, Ronald Esmann, Jr. and Justin Esmann (Kristy); brothers, William Esmann (Susann) and Robert Esmann (Jeanne); grandchildren, Lauren, Skyler, and Jamison Esmann; and great-grandchildren, Emerson Esmann and Scarlett Villeda.



MAXINE SLOAN
March 29, 1933 –
September 19, 2022

Maxine Sloan, age 89, of Valley Head, passed away on Monday, September 19, 2022 at DeKalb Regional Medical Center.

Mrs. Sloan is survived by her grandchildren, Stacey Blansit, Angela Chambers (Rusty), Kenneth Blansit (Heather), Karina Weiss (Garrett), and James Thompson; daughter-in-law, Marie Blansit; great-grandchildren, Logan Chambers (Ryley), Tyler Blansit, Caleb Whitmire, Clyde Blansit, Landyn Blansit, Rylee Weiss, and Stevie Weiss; and great great-grandchildren, Bence Chambers and Kenna Chambers.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Ollie & Nellie Kidd; husbands, Foye Blansit, Mac Ferguson, and Huel Sloan; son, Calvin Blansit; and four brothers and four sisters.



AMBER SHERYL MCDANIEL
May 26, 1983—
September 22, 2022

Amber Sheryl McDaniel was born May 26, 1983, to parents Bobby Wayne McDaniel and Sheryl Wilson McDaniel. Her maternal grandparents

were Warner Wilson and Edith Wales Wilson and paternal grandparents were Earl McDaniel and Winnie Crouch McDaniel. Amber was the first grandchild in five years on the Wilson side of the family and the first granddaughter in 13 years on the McDaniel side of the family.

She was a sweet, precocious little girl who all her family adored. She grew into a kind Christian lady who was always willing to lend a helping hand. Growing up on her family farm in Menlo, Amber was a hard-working country girl, a loving daughter, and a friend to everyone. She enjoyed gatherings and people and was a phenomenal cook. She even invented several dishes that have become family favorites. One of those was an appetizer she named “Pineapple Crowns.” In 2011, she was overjoyed to become an aunt. And in the following years became the best aunt to her four nephews by her sister, Shanna McDaniel Ammons, and brother-in-love, James V. Ammons III. In 2017, Amber became a valued member of Holy Spirit Encounter ministry team and whole heartily served until just recently when she became unable due to sickness. It was her heart to serve God and see people set free.

In 2020, Amber got a diagnosis of breast cancer. In the following two years, she would undergo a mastectomy, multiple rounds of chemotherapy, and radiation. During this time she used her time and testimony to encourage others. Even in her last weeks, everyone was amazed at how strong her faith was and how she could always have a smile on her face. Through this, her legacy and testimony will live on and encourage others for years to come. At 4:37pm on September 22, 2022, Amber received her ultimate healing and passed peacefully at her sister’s house in Rockmart, GA. She is now dancing on the waves with her Savior.



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Mentone Arts & Cultural Center

by Randy Grider
Songwriters, Bob Ross, Demo and Rock It at the Garden Highlight Events at Center

In addition to our usual gallery and gift shop shopping experience, we will play host to a handful of fun events this month.

We kick it off with our monthly songwriters round on Tuesday, October 4, at 6:30 p.m. inside the Chuck Sennett Center for the Arts.

The Nashville-style songwriter night features local and regional songwriters who perform their original songs. The host for this month will be recording artist Jon Kinsey, who hails from Cherokee County. Mentone resident and award-winning singer-songwriter Craig Hendricks, who is our regular host, is on tour in Ohio. His wife, DeeDee Cooper, will assist as co-host. One of the scheduled singer-songwriters is Trenton Peeples, who has performed at local venues, including the Wildflower Café.

This free event is family-friendly and you do not have to be a songwriter to attend. It is rewarding to these songwriters to have an audience to share their music with.

Note: Next month's songwriters round will fall on November 1 and will feature students from Chris Roberts School of Music in Fort Payne, along with Chris Roberts and his band bringing original music for your listening and educational experience.

On Saturday, October 15, Max Mitchell will conduct a demonstration of how she makes her stoneware peace bells and wind chimes at the center from 10 a.m.–3 p.m. There is no charge for the demo.



September class at the center featured a Bob Ross painting called Emerald Waters.

Certified Bob Ross Instructor Gary Grider will be back in Mentone on Saturday, October 22, for his Paint Like Bob Ross workshop. The 9 a.m.–1 p.m. class is limited to 12 students and tuition is \$100. All supplies are included to create your own painting utilizing the wet-on-wet oil technique made popular by the late Bob Ross.

On Saturday, October 29, the center is partnering with Mentone Educational Resources Foundation arts teacher Paula Easter for a Rock It at the Garden event. It will feature numerous students from her Valley Head School art class painting rocks/stones and placing their creative handiwork around town. We will then host a pizza party for the participants in the art gallery. The event is made possible by a grant from the Community Foundation of Northeast Alabama (CFNEA), which provided the bulk of the funding for the Dr. Stephen Brewer Sculpture Garden adjacent to the center.

This past month, the center was recognized with a golden shovel at a CFNEA grant meeting in Anniston for having the most check-ins/Google hits of any garden in the Nature Sacred (Open Spaces Sacred Places) network of gardens constructed in nine counties of northeast Alabama.

For more information about any of the events or to register for a class, please see contact information below.

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



**Country Breakfast
Meat & 3 for Lunch
Culinary Adventure for Dinner
Brunch Sat. & Sun. until Noon**

HOURS OF OPERATION:
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Thursday / Friday 6am–2pm & 4–8pm
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STATE OF ALABAMA COUNTY OF DEKALB TOWN OF MENTONE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Town of Mentone will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, October 11, 2022 at the Mentone Arts Center at 5:00 p.m. (CDT). The Planning Commission of the Town of Mentone has adopted a resolution recommending certain changes to the Town's Zoning Ordinance. A copy of the proposed ordinance amendment is attached hereto.

All those persons who have a concern or interest in those proposed changes will have an opportunity to address the Town Council at the public hearing.

ORDINANCE 2022—3 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF MENTONE

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND TOWN COUNCIL OF
THE TOWN OF MENTONE, ALABAMA, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The Zoning Ordinance of the Town of Mentone, Alabama, Ordinance No: 92-1, adopted on June 6, 1992, and subsequently amended is hereby amended to read as follows:

Article II. Area and Dimensional Regulations, is amended to the following listed Districts and adds paragraphs 4.4 and 4.5:

- Section B Residential One District (R-1)
- Section C Residential Two District (R-2)
- Section D Residential Three District (R-3)
- Section E Residential Four District (R-4)
- Section F Residential Five District (R-5)

4.4—Is added to all five (5) sections above to provide the minimum first floor heated space for residential structures to be established as follows:

- Section B Minimum Floor area shall be 800 square feet
- Section C Minimum Floor area shall be 800 square feet
- Section D Minimum Floor area shall be 800 squarefeet
- Section E Minimum Floor area shall be 800 square feet
- Section F Minimum Floor area shall be 800 square feet

4.5—Is added to provide that if any residence is less than 800 square feet and is destroyed by fire or natural disaster, it can be rebuilt to its original size.

Section 2. Amended Permitted Uses:

- Section A
- Section B
- Section C
- Section D
- Section J

Section 3. RECREATIONAL VEHICLES

To add a provision clarifying that no recreational vehicles, campers or other temporary living structures shall be used as a residence for more than seven (7) consecutive days within a period of thirty (30) days, nor shall said vehicles, campers or other temporary living structure be used for a residence or storage within the corporate limits.

No Parking or Storage of recreational vehicles may occur in the front yard of a residence.

Temporary parking of a recreational vehicle (RV) on a driveway in the front yard shall be allowed for up to two (2) consecutive days for the purpose of loading and unloading or otherwise preparing or cleaning the recreational vehicle (RV).

Temporary parking of a recreational vehicle (RV) shall not encroach onto the public sidewalk or encroach into the public right of way.

Section 4. To amend Article VI. Administrative Appeal to provide for a penalty for violation of the Zoning Ordinance. The current ordinance shall be amended to read as follows: Any person, firm or corporation found to be in violation of any part, provision or regulation of this Zoning Ordinance shall be guilty of a violation of a misdemeanor and shall be fined One Hundred Dollars (\$100) for each violation. Each day of a violation shall be considered a separate violation.

All other parts, paragraphs, sections, articles or other provisions of this ordinance shall remain in full force and effect and shall not be affected by this amendment.

Ongoing Community Calendar

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

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 in Mentone. 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 the 3rd Monday of October 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.

Adult Pickleball players play at the Moon Lake Villge gym Monday mornings 8–10am. Loaner paddles are available and beginners are welcome! For additional information, contact Jody Rhodes at jodyrhodesy@gmail.com or 706-202-0887. \$5 charge per day.



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God and Angels

by Songwriter Scott Henderson

Lord I’ve lived the life of a gypsy, moving from town to town
I was forced to see things I probably shouldn’t have
I grew up fast and I grew up strong
I guess all that comes from an unstable home
but the Lord took care of me through it all
Sent down an angel to guide me through it all

Chorus

Lord thank you for all that you do
Thank you for the trials you sent me through
You showed me a life I don’t want to go back to
You gave me a direction that will lead me to you
Thank you

Just like that angel that took me in her home
Showed me what a family was
Made me her own
She took me to church
Showed me right from wrong
Put me on the right track to raise a family of my own

So to all the skeptics who don’t believe in God or angels
Who don’t believe in power beyond a mortal man
Well I’m here to tell you I’ve touched the hand of an angel
And I’ve seen the power of our Lord
Oh I believe in God and angels, I believe in God and angels,
I believe in God and angels, oooh I believe.

The White Moth

by Betsy Dillbeck

She greets me every morning
Fluttering, hovering, brushing my cheek
With her white phosphorous wings.
Always as I step onto the porch,
Among the pots of herbs and flowers,
Hanging branches of the maple, lilacs.
It was her favorite spot from which to survey
Her kingdom in life.
Even in her ninth decade, her senses knew
Every tree, flower, bird, squirrel, scent,
So bound to her, so entwined in her memory,
So natural for her to return to.
I’m comforted, amazed, filled with longing to hear her voice again,
As she pauses before my eyes, turns
And flutters off to another leaf, flower, warm breeze.
The white moth is still my strength, my inner force,
My guide, in death, as she was in life.
Sometimes, I long to flutter away with her,
Escape the boundaries of humanity and pain,
And touch the cheeks of my children every day.

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10 Private Hot Tubs with Stunning Views

9 Weddings, event spaces, retreats, reunion spaces

8 You’re just minutes away from Mentone, waterfalls, state parks

7 Gourmet-equipped kitchens with a goody bag we leave for you

6 Enjoy hiking and nature right outside of all our doors

5 There is space for everyone in your family/group to spread out

4 Fur babies (dogs) are welcome

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Colorfest “Supporting” Sponsor

Wildflower Café

Rhododendron Garden Club

by Alyce Kenney

“In many cases, gardens and nature are more powerful than any medication.”

—Oliver Sacks, physician, author



The September meeting began with the meditation reading of “Why We Need Gardens,” by Oliver Sacks, a well-known physician who cared for patients with chronic neurological diseases such as Parkinson’s, Tourette’s syndrome, and Alzheimer’s. He witnessed the calm and ease of movement that occurred in his patients when he brought them to gardens and natural settings. He believed in the restorative and healing powers of these places and the vital importance of non-pharmaceutical “therapy.” Sacks enjoyed speaking about Biophilia, the love of nature and living things; and Hortophilia, the desire to interact with, manage, and tend nature.

There are countless other naturalists, conservationists, and educators who have captured the feelings of being drawn into nature to soothe or invigorate oneself. Think Frost, Thoreau, and Burroughs.

Many of you have no doubt walked the trails in the region’s parks and gazed at the many waterfalls found there. Even a visit to the Brow Park to watch the sunset can be a magical experience. Have you ever been to the Secret Garden? It’s right under your nose next to the MERF house. There you will find a quiet place to sit and be surrounded by the peace and presence of nature. The garden space is lovingly cared for by garden club members Dee Kelly and Mary Ann Robbins. They enlisted the extraordinary talents of local wood carver Don Highfield to create a trellis at the entrance to the garden. The hand-carved trellis welcomes visitors with a gentle message of “Come in, come sit for a moment.”

Upcoming events include:

- October 8—Moon Lake Village garden clean-up
- October 10—District II meeting and luncheon at Little River Canyon Center
- October 11—Monthly Meeting at 10 a.m., held at Moon Lake Village Community Room. The guest speaker is Dan Spalding who will talk about the ferns of Alabama and take all on a walk to see some examples at DeSoto State Park. Don’t miss this!
- October 12—MERF Senior Lunch, when we’ll be serving our famous lasagna to our local seniors
- October 15–16—Colorfest, where our tent will have succulents for sale and information about fall gardening tips. Got a question about what to do with your mums? Ask one of us. And look for our scarecrow entry (we won first place in 2021!)

Even simple backyard gardening and landscaping allows us the time to feed our passion and express creativity whether nurturing tomatoes, azaleas, daisies, basil or cushaw. Our garden club members expressed their love of horticulture last month at the flower show held at Minvale Baptist Church. The title of this show was “Brush Strokes” and the entries were created with the theme of a painting by one of the “Masters.” Here’s a list of some of the awards won:

- Mellanie Tuttle won the Award of Design Excellence, the top award for design.
- Mellanie Tuttle won the Award of Horticultural Excellence.
- Martha Wood won the Sweepstakes award—the most ribbons overall including Horticulture and design.
- Dee Kelly was chosen the Educational Top Exhibitor for her Monarch butterfly exhibit.
- Dianne Kuehl won the Designer’s Choice award (“The Poet’s Garden” by Van Gogh).
- Barbara Umland won the blue ribbon (“Table for One—Marie Darrien”) by Gauguin.
- Mary Ann Robbins won a red ribbon (“Bedroom at Aries” by Van Gogh).
- Mary Mac Michael won a red ribbon (“The Poet’s Garden” by Van Gogh.)

- Rhea Pirch won a red ribbon (“Old Women of Aries” by Gauguin.)
- Donna Elrod won a yellow ribbon (“Table for One—Marie Darrian” by Gaugin).

There were other winners involved, as well as folks who assisted setting up and taking down and serving refreshments. They say “It takes a village,” and that is totally true. We had a very enjoyable time doing what we love.

Our first participation in the Follow Your Art event on September 3 was a great success and allowed us to have a great time together while selling plants and baked goods to festivalgoers. We’ve already decided to do it again next year.

The educational portion of our meeting is always a highlight because our members have much experience and knowledge to share. Marsha Merrell presented a very informative session about hydrangeas.

These flowering shrubs are originally native to Asia and have 75 different species. Only six are grown in America and though they do

not have a fragrance, they are terrific pollinators. Pruning times depend on whether your plants blossom on “old” wood, or “new” wood. For more about hydrangeas and general fall garden maintenance, visit:

- themarginalian.org/2019/05/27/oliver-sacks-gardens/
- aces.edu/blog/topics/lawn-garden/alabama-gardeners-calendar-october/
- aces.edu/blog/topics/lawn-garden/hydrangeas
- extension.umn.edu (great illustrations for pruning hydrangeas)

I leave you with one last thought, a quote from John Burroughs, a 19th century naturalist and author: *“I go to nature to be soothed and healed, and to have my senses put in order.”*

The Rhododendron Garden Club meets the second Tuesday of each month at 10 a.m. CDT in the MERF house. 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.



Mellanie Tuttle won the Award of Design Excellence, the top award for design.



Dianne Kuehl won Designer's Choice.

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