

FREE

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THE GROUNDHOG

“Neighborly News from the Heart of Lookout Mountain”

November 2022



Colorfest Has a Successful Move to its New Location

by Kelly Leavitt

Colorfest 2022 was a festival to remember, mainly because of its new venue. Moon Lake Village (the former Moon Lake School campus) proved to be an unexpected surprise, and its suitably as an alternate location really fit the bill. While everyone missed having the beautiful view from Brow Park, we were graced with abundant trees circling the property and their showy fall colors. Throughout the weekend, people said they preferred having the space and amenities offered by Moon Lake Village. The goal was to ease the traffic that often congested the streets of downtown Mentone, making the passage of emergency vehicles impossible. An unexpectedly high turnout still created some congestion, but according to Mentone police chief Gene McKee, it was beneficial to not have traffic backing up down the mountain.

Chief McKee’s traffic concerns were a main impetus for the move to Moon Lake Village, a property that is now owned by the Town of Mentone. Colorfest has been an annual Mentone tradition for decades. Hosted by the Mentone Area Preservation Association (MAPA), it began in Mentone’s Town Square before moving to North Cool Street and Brow Park. With an estimated 7,000 to 10,000 cars and trucks now passing through Mentone on Highway 117 each Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, it was time to move to a safer location, and MAPA is grateful to the Town for offering the use of the old school property.

The five-acre campus allowed people to wander about, exploring the booths of artists and craft makers, non-profit organizations, and food vendors. Face painting and art activities were offered to children in the pavilion near the playground, where children played with abandon. The almost-complete stage hosted a variety of musicians and the crowd enjoyed sitting in the Shigley Amphitheater to enjoy the sounds, which included bluegrass, rock, Native American flute, folk, and dulcimer. The Mentone Ukes were the final performers, with a smaller but very enthusiastic crowd.

Parking was available in the nearby field, courtesy of the Mentone Arts Center, as well as in the overflow field, courtesy of the Mentone Community Church. The main lot was filled within the first 20 minutes of the festival opening, so some congestion did occur on East River Road. We are working to find solutions to this unfortunate problem for future festivals. The youth group from Moon Lake Baptist Church worked hard to rise to some unexpected challenges, and we are grateful for their help.

It is estimated that between 8,000 and 10,000 people attended, as well as countless dogs, many of which came dressed for the occasion. Sunday afternoon’s “Pet Paw-rade” was a fun way for them to express their enthusiasm and show off their costumes. Thanks to the entrants of the scarecrow contest, numerous creatively-crafted scarecrows were scattered about the venue, expressing the theme of “Mountain Life.” Moon Lake Library held their traditional book sale, and with easy access through the back door, shoppers were able to enter the library, meaning that library volunteers didn’t need to move boxes of books. The Bill Berry Community Room was open to the public, where people were able to enjoy the wall display of historic Moon Lake School memorabilia.

All of this was made possible by a small but dedicated cadre of volunteers, most notably Chris Davenport, Beverly Haynes, Dana Lockhart, and Jody Rhodes. Their tireless efforts made the festival possible, and MAPA is deeply grateful for their help, as well as the other volunteers who helped in ways both big and small. Each volunteer truly made a difference.

Photos of the event show the fun on pages 6 and 7.

6th Grader’s Quick Action Helps Save Father’s Life

by Kelly Leavitt

Friday, October 7, was a day to remember in the Ogle household. Matthew Ogle, 38, and his daughter, Kylah, 12, were in their Mentone home when he collapsed in the bathroom. Kylah heard her father collapse and went to check on him, only to find him unconscious and unresponsive. She called her mother, Adriane, who was at work in Fort Payne, and tried to call 911 on the house phone, but had difficulty placing the call. She grabbed her father’s phone and ran next door to their neighbor Eddie Browder’s house. She was able to call for help while Eddie ran to the Ogles’ house. Eddie was trained in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) over 40 years ago, and he remembered enough to start chest compressions.

Kylah is a 6th grade student at Valley Head School. She has wanted to become a veterinarian since she was a very young girl. Last summer, she attended a summer STEM camp at the Technology Center in Rainsville. One of the trainings focused on nursing. Having learned the most current CPR technique, she was able to help coach her neighbor.

When DeSoto Rescue Squad (DRS) arrived moments later, they were unable to find a pulse and began using their Defibtech Lifeline ARM CPR-assist device, defibrillated Matt, and administered Advanced Life Support medications. The squad was fortunate to receive two of these life-saving machines in October 2020 with funds granted by the State of Alabama’s COVID Relief Grant for Health Care and Emergency Response Providers.

“The device provides mechanical chest compressions, acting as an extra set of hands in cardiac arrest situations,” said DRS Captain Mike Stone. “This allows our providers to perform other vital tasks, including ventilation, use of the AED (automated external defibrillator), and performance of Advanced Life Support skills by our licensed paramedics.”

Matthew’s life was saved, due to a combination of the fast actions of Kylah, Eddie, and DRS. “I’ve known Kylah her whole life,” Eddie said. “We’re buddies. I think she’s a hero. Her quick action to come get an adult helped Matt survive this.”

Matthew was transported by ambulance to Hammondville,

where he was flown by air ambulance to Erlanger Hospital in Chattanooga. He spent the weekend in the Cardiac Intensive Care Unit, where it was determined he had an electrical problem with his heart. An implantable cardioverter-defibrillator (ICD) was placed in his chest to correct the problem if it happens again. In the next month or so, he’ll have a cardiac ablation, a procedure that scars tissue in the heart to block irregular electrical signals.

“Kylah’s good now that I’m home,” Matthew said. “Once they revived me, she told my wife she knew I was going to be OK. She’s very proud of herself.”

Matthew coaches football and baseball at Valley Head School, where he also teaches 5th and 6th grades. “I feel good. I’m getting better every day,” he said. He also preaches at Lebanon Baptist Church. “God intervened and saved my life,” he said. “We want to praise God for His many blessings.”

CPR classes are taught each month by DeKalb Ambulance Service in Fort Payne (facebook.com/dekalbambulance). DeSoto Rescue Squad will offer classes in Mentone soon.



Colorfest “Supporting” Sponsor

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FORT PAYNE, AL

The Groundhog

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

Groundhog woodcut courtesy of Meg Justice/Bee Spring Studio



“A Light in the Forest”

Artist Trés Taylor has generously designated 50% of the proceeds of the sale of this original painting to the Mentone Area Preservation Association (MAPA) and 50% to Moon Lake Village. Titled “A Light in the Forest,” the painting measures 36" x 48" and is on display in MAPA's office at Moon Lake Village. It's a great artistic addition to any mountain home!

Visit trestaylor.com/product-page/a-light-in-the-forest-36-x-48 for details. Thank you, Trés Taylor!

Mentone Matters

by Mayor Rob Hammond

Governor Ivey notified the town that our FY 2023 application for the Federal Transportation Alternatives Set-aside Program has been approved. Federal funds in the amount of \$594,880 are being awarded for the sidewalk along the northern side of SR 117 – Phase II (from Dempsey Avenue to the library). Mentone's 20% local match will be \$148,720. The total TAP project cost is \$743,600.

There was some concern about Colorfest being moved from Brow Park to Moon Lake Village. From what I heard and saw, visitors, vendors, volunteers, and organizers had a good experience at the new venue.



As part of MAPA's local history series Judge David Rains spoke at the Bill Berry Community Room on DeKalb County – the road to Chickamauga. He related personal stories of Union troops that were here and stories about the challenges facing the local women and children. It was a fascinating night of history.



From the Editor

by Kelly Leavitt

This has truly been the fall that keeps on giving! Trees on the mountain started turning in early October and they're still going strong. We were fortunate to have such showy colors to share with visitors during Colorfest. The beauty really added to the festive feeling of the weekend.

I've been enjoying having regular office hours in the MAPA/Groundhog office at Moon Lake Village. Every few days, I've been able to meet people who have some connection to Moon Lake School (usually an old one) and have stopped by to explore the campus. It's been fun to hear their memories. One woman showed me a photo she had brought of the Moon Lake schoolhouse and students in 1912 when her great-grandfather was the teacher. A copy of the photo is on display in the Bill Berry Community Room, which now exhibits

memorabilia from the years donated and hung on the walls by Bill Berry himself. Everyone is welcome to drop by and see it.

One reason I truly love November is that it's a month when so many turn their focus to gratitude. Today's world has its challenges, for sure, but there is always something to be grateful for. I truly believe that "gratitude is the attitude."

I am grateful for the beauty of the mountain, our community, our veterans who have served our country, our local first responders...and just the simple fact that I am alive. When we're feeling down, making a "gratitude list" can be a powerful tool.

I hope you all have a wonderful month, filled with beauty and gratitude. —Kelly

Valley Head Receives Grants

by Mayor Mike Key

On October 13, the Town of Valley Head received some very good news. We received an email that the town has been awarded a Community Development Block Grant to repair drainage and street paving for Railroad Avenue, Church Street, and Hammond Street. This is a \$400,000 grant which the town has applied over each of the last four years. The town has also been awarded an ALDOT grant to resurface the town square and the town's part of Carmichael Road. In addition, the

town received \$100,000 from Representative Nathaniel Ledbetter to go towards the town's project of repaving portions of School Street and 3rd Avenue, and all of Lowery Road and Carmichael Road. Yes, Carmichael Road is listed twice, but we can apply that money to hopefully pave the parking lot at the park and the upper loop picnic area road across from the park. This is \$720,000 total in grants and contributions to Valley Head this year.

Do you like to write?

We welcome contributions!

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

Email groundhognews@yahoo.com

Colorfest “Supporting” Sponsor

The Package Store

The PACKAGE

Store

A Look Back...

The Groundhog | September, 1999 | Page 1

Mrs. Catherine Bailey Brown by Marie S. Dillenbeck

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 features Catherine Bailey, the mother of Gerald Bailey, who will be giving an oral history to Marsha Merrell on November 17. See details on page 11. It is important that these histories be kept alive in our community.

Editor’s Note: The ellipses denote lengthy genealogies which, unfortunately, had to be clipped due to space considerations. The article in its entirety is available in our archive at mapamentone.com.

Catherine Agnes Brown was born in Mentone on June 21, 1910. She was the first child born to parents, Charles Roscoe Brown (03/22/1884 -03/08/58) and Ethel Agnes Hamman Brown (09/22/1885 - 10/15/67). [...]

Catherine said that her grandparents moved from Umatilla, FL, to Dalton, GA, because of her grandmother’s health. Later, they moved to a place in the woods near Cloudland. Her grandmother got better after moving to the mountain. They bought property in Mentone on what is Cutler Avenue. Her grandfather built several houses along the road and rented them to summer visitors from Birmingham and elsewhere. [...]

Catherine and her siblings attended school in Valley Head. She said, “I was five years old and went to school, but couldn’t be enrolled because of my age. When I went to school, they sent me on to another grade.” There weren’t any school buses.

She said, “We didn’t think anything of walking down and up the mountain to school. We took a shortcut down the mountain and came out to the school house which was located up the road from the Winston Place, and then walked back up the mountain.” She said, later on, when she and her husband were running the store, students didn’t want to walk, and if they missed the bus, they tried to go back home. Her sister, Carrie Ruth, wouldn’t let her son get away with walking back home instead of walking from the store on Hwy. 117 to where the Moon Lake Elementary School is located.

Catherine was promoted to skip the

6th grade, but her aunt who was a teacher said, “No, you would miss something in English and other subjects, and you wouldn’t get some basic things.”

The old school in Valley Head burned during the spring of Catherine’s 9th grade, and the students were given a choice to take the test at Fort Payne to pass to the next grade or not take the test and stay in the same grade the next year. Catherine chose to take the test and be promoted to the 10th grade.

There were no school buses when she had to go to Fort Payne for the 10th grade. They were living in Valley Head at the time. A man had a truck in which he put benches, and his son drove the children to school in Fort Payne. After the new school was built in Valley Head, she attended the 11th and 12th grades (1925–1927), and graduated in May 1927, at the age of 16. Her 17th birthday was June of that year. While in school, she played basketball. The *Al-Ti-Cerian* was the first yearbook for the new school in Valley Head. Catherine wrote the class history for the 1927 yearbook. Under Catherine’s picture, the notation for ambition was: “To aspire to noble things.” “Her words are her ways. She succeeds in all she plays.”

Catherine said there was no electricity during her school days. Electricity came to the mountain in the 1930s.

Following her graduation from Valley Head School, Catherine attended



Valdosta, GA, College. Catherine married Floyd Sanford Bailey on January 19, 1936. They had two children: Barbara Alice [Blalock], who was born on 1/18/37, and Gerald Wayne, who was born 11/22/40. [...]

Catherine and her husband owned and operated Bailey’s Texaco station for 30 years from 1940 to 1970. Mr. Bailey died in 1968, and Catherine ran the store for another two years. The store was located in Mentone on Alabama Hwy. 117. It is still standing, but is a residence now at 5351 Alabama Hwy. 117.

From 1955 to 1959, during the time she and her husband were running Bailey’s Texaco, she taught 5th and 6th grades, then the 6th and 7th grades at the school in Menlo, Ga. She also did substitute teaching at different schools. Due to her husband’s ill health, Catherine had to give up teaching. One year, while the store was in operation, Catherine took a course at the University of Chattanooga She wanted to learn something new. [...]

Mrs. Eloise Temple called Catherine in 1972 and asked her to come work for Camp Skyline. Catherine was the head dietitian at Camp Skyline in Mentone from 1972 to 1976.

For 20 years, from 1976 to 1996, she was the town clerk of Mentone. She worked under three mayors, beginning with Sam Barrett, then Rob Hammond, and the present mayor, Max Cash. She

worked until February 1996, when she officially retired at the age of 86. Mayor Cash said, “I really enjoyed working with her as the city clerk.”

A life-long Methodist, Catherine believes in service to others. She served as treasurer of the United Methodist Church for 36 years. Catherine continues to teach a Sunday School Class, having taught for over 50 years. She has inspired many by her faithfulness to God and His teachings.

On November 12, 1995, a reception honoring Catherine Bailey was held at the meeting room of the town hall. It was hosted by her friends and family. One of her friends, Eloise Brown, wrote a poem, entitled “Catherine Brown Bailey.” It was read at her reception and printed in the December 1995 issue of *The Groundhog* and also appeared in *The Times-Journal*. It is being reprinted in her honor.

When asked what she liked most about being the town clerk, Catherine said, “Being able to meet the people. A lot of people were so nice, I just enjoyed them.” Commenting on her different job situations, she said, “ I tried anything that came along.”

Catherine was never afraid of work and was willing to try something new. The statement in the 1927 yearbook, *Al-Ti-Cerian*, says it all: “Her words are her ways. She succeeds in all she plays” Miss Catherine Brown Bailey has succeeded in all that she set out to accomplish, and more. At age 89, she is, indeed, a remarkable and marvelous woman. Her legacy will live on forever.

Thank you, Catherine Brown Bailey, for all that you have contributed to those you taught, to those whose lives you have touched in any way, and for those lives you will touch in the future. God has surely blessed you all of these years. You have aspired to noble things, as it said in the 1927 *Al-Ti-Cerian* yearbook.

Message from MAPA

Happy Fall to everyone! It’s really here, and I’m loving it. The last bit of summer type weather hit us at Colorfest, which was wonderful, but I’m really glad cooler days and nights are upon us. Speaking of Colorfest, it was a huge success and we managed to pull it off with very few glitches, especially in light of hosting it at a new venue for the first time, Moon Lake Village.

We can’t express our thanks and appreciation enough to all who helped us out and worked so tirelessly to make it happen. I cannot even begin to name all of the people and organizations in this short space—but you know who you are. Thank you! We’ll

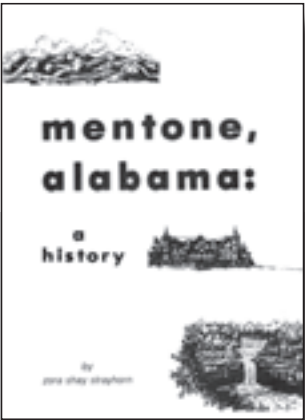


soon be hosting a “thank you” party for all of the volunteers. It will be lots of fun in a very special, beautiful setting, and we look forward to spending time with the volunteers.

MAPA wishes all of our readers a safe and wonderful Thanksgiving and holiday season. As always, I can be reached at mhoffmanatty@yahoo.com with comments, questions or suggestions on how MAPA can

continue (and improve upon) its commitment to the Mentone community.

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.

Colorfest “Contributing” Sponsors

Bargain Depot
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Mountain Sun Farm
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Seabolt’s Tacos
Southern Properties
The Groovy Goat
Westmoreland Tires



DeKalb Ambulance Service (DAS) is offering its “Home for the Holidays” program again this year. This program picks up a patient in a nursing facility and takes them home to be with their family on Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Eve, or Christmas Day. After the patient has spent time with their family, DAS will take them back to the nursing facility. This is free of charge to patients within the DAS service area of DeKalb County.

There is limited space available and certain restrictions apply. If you think your family member would qualify for this program or for more information, contact DAS by phone at 256-845-4027, extention 101, or email at cheryl.turner@dasems.com.



November Birthdays & Anniversaries

1	Easton Bain Marc Walsh Austyn Young Marilyn Blansit David Simpson River Lewchuk Crockett Ledford		Toby Crider Mary Beasley Gibson Roberts Bob Tate Ruth Rose Potts Joy Pam Lewchuck Sheena Combs		Ian Roberts Chris Stallings EJ Bickerstaff Blexton Potts		Tim Hulgan Angie Shankles Julie Smith		Kyleigh Barkley Steve Barkley Aric Collins Hollie Cross Emi Jane Stephens	
2	Katherine Chambers Ryan Cash Davis Nick Floyd Michael Potts Taylor Brown Triston Goss J.R. Hurst Larry O'Tinger Gequetta Darwin Taylor Brown Caleb Rogers Kai Ballenger Philip Williams	9	Kowen Worthey Laura McKenzie Bonnie Easler Patterson Emily Hodge Melissa Simpson Morgan Miller Barbara Morgan Webb	16	Helena Dodd Dink Tillman Jeff Wigley Johnny Mann Larry Smith Rita Wynn Brantley Cowart	23	Sam Shankles	30	Sandy McNutt Alyss Kay Kilgore Jaclyn Nasoni	
3	Aubrey Shields Sandy Hulgan Hudson Brownfield Kay Sadia	10	Toby Manifold Valinda Miracle Jessica Easler Hope Sells Susan Tidwell	17	Jordan Hammond Colton Dittmore Judy Jones Jeff Callahan Layne Hawkins Tom Shanklin, Sr. Robbie Grisham Carson Dutton Cade Holder Christy Ledford	24	Pam Baggett Hayley Crider Sarah Tucker Staci Winn Bradley Tyler Smith Robert Totherow Kenna Chambers Evan Whittle Kimberly Williams Adalee Turner	• • • • •	1	George & Kim Raley Matt & Jana Sharp
4	Barrett Wilkinson Rita Chapman Pat Lewis Daniel Hawkins Scotty Vaughn	11	Gerry Bain Amber Griffith Allen McElhaney Shelley Blalock Garrett Duke JT Nelson	18	George Boehringer Kim Foshee	25	Billy Tramel Billy Shugart IV Ginger Kearney Ryleigh Blansit	2	Adam & Morgan Miller	
5	Gail Chambers Luke Wright	12	Kynlee Baggett Megan McElhaney Major Frost McKinley Potts Brantley Easler Misty Bearden	19	Caden Blalock Margo Tate Macrae Bailey Andrew Spicer	26	Krissy Harris Heath Kirby Renee Pruitt Brinley Ware Madison Carson	3	Jordan & Jessica McGinnis Josh & Courtney Gregory Charley & Karen Vest Dean Poolos & Heidi Steinemann	
6	Tommy Harrison Duane Blalock Mike Smith Jeffrey Manning Alanis McKenzie Grayson Gatlin Nedy Cruz	13	Addison Prestwood Lendell Chappell Kim Raley Bridget Arnold	20	Brandi Miller Kevin McElhaney Angel Carson Jan O'Dell Copeland Reed Eric Chambers	27	Kim Johnson Timothy Carden Clay Stiles Charlton Bell Ross Smith Lesley Blalock Adam Haynes Erin Hester Johnny Smith	8	Andrew & Penny Herbert Hugh & Gigi Stump	
7	Melissa Bain Brooklyn Johnson Brian Smith Isabel Carabello Zora Williams	14	Don Brock Austin Harrison William Hughes Asher Amanda Garcia Greg Hughes Kenzie Bailey Wini Freed	21	Deedra Battles Nancy Brown Rachell Givens Ashley Manning Judy Carter Brettley Smothers Candice Dunaway Noah Hulgan	28	Lily Harrison Chance Hodges Almeda Bickerstaff Taylor Smothers Jean Powell John Shannon Liam Floyd Ian DePaul William Wright Floyd Tina Shigley Price	10	Paul & Bethany Whittle Chris & Cheri Thacker	
8	Michael Harrison Judson McElhaney	15	Laura Boehringer Rory Quinn Lee Carden	22	Amber Hart Cason Garner Collin Coots Gerald Bailey	29	Karen Powell Brian Blalock Kerry Bailey	12	Gerry & Melissa Bain	

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Free clothes closet
Children & Adults
Open 3rd Monday, November 21
4–6 p.m.
Mentone Community Church
256-364-0150

Mentone's Boy Scout Troop 106 would like to express its gratitude and appreciation for everyone who helped make the Chicken & Dressing Dinner a successful event. Thank you for everyone's help. It is greatly appreciated.
—Alicia Chitwood



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Agency, Inc.

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. \$529,900. #1816166

LOCATED ON THE PARKWAY! With 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 huge potential! Home has suite w/ vaulted ceiling, loft office/study, wood stove, walk-in closet & private bath. Other amenities include hardwood floors, vaulted ceilings & 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. \$285,000. #1816692

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

#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
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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
GREAT POSSIBILITIES! This Mentone property offers road frontage on Cove Road in the business/alcohol district. A rare opportunity as this is one of very few available vacant lots in this area! Also adjoins a lot that fronts AL Hwy 117. #1801378

LOTS & LAND
MIDDLE FORK of Little River, Approx. 6 acres. \$48,900. #1034997
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 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.



Books & More at Moon Lake Library

by Anne McLeod

One of the best things about the development of Moon Lake Village has been all the new faces we see at the library. It's a good time to remind everyone just what resources Moon Lake Library has available for patrons and visitors. Here are just some of the things you can enjoy at Moon Lake Library:

Programming

We've hosted author talks by writers like Robert Bailey, Janisse Ray, Marcus Thomas, Neal Wooten; discussions with artist/illustrators like Elizabeth Dulemba and photographer John Dersham. We've had visits by bear research scientist Hannah Leeper, Angie Shugart for Little River Waterkeeper, and Sallie Brandon, an adoptee from an infamous children's home in Tennessee. We've sponsored seed swaps with the help of Rhododendron Garden Club members, and Little River Arts Council holds a monthly art discussion group at the library. Library programs are free and open to the public.

Internet access

We have several computers available for patron use, plus wifi if you bring your own device to use. It's been especially gratifying to be able to assist patrons who are applying for jobs or Social Security online.

Children's activities

Little Library Learners, our program for kids ages 3–7, meets the first and third Saturday of each month at 10:30 a.m. (with a few weeks off for holidays and festival weekends). Thanks to volunteer Lynn Vanderhoff, who started Little Library Learners and who continues to spearhead the program along with her volunteers.

Ukulele lessons from the Mentone Ukes

This little band of ukulele players has grown considerably since its humble beginnings a few years ago. They meet every other Saturday at 1, and you'll often find players from as far away as Rome joining in. There is always someone to help newbies get started, and they even have a few extra ukes, if you want to try it out before investing in your own instrument. Debra Fey, Jerry Megli, and Mickey Luck have built a solid band, most recently seen at Colorfest where they played the final set at the new Shigley Amphitheatre.

Games

You'll often find games of chess or Scrabble in progress at the library. Wednesday, after MERF's Senior Lunch, is the usual time for Scrabble, while chess games are usually more informal pick-up activities. We're thrilled to finally have Family Game Night back on the schedule. Just before the pandemic, when Game Night was a regular Friday evening event, families donated a number of new games to the library. In addition to our usual favorites like Train Dominoes, we now have Ticket to Ride, Cranium, Stratego, the family edition of Catan, and more. Come in and play!

Kits

We currently have a hot water bath kit for canning jams or salsa. The kit includes a granite ware canner, along with a jar rack, and tongs, packaged in a large tote bag. We plan to add more kits to our collection, such as a cupcake kit that includes a cupcake tower and muffin tin.

DVDs

Moon Lake Library is also our local video store, but with no fees for DVD rentals. We have an extensive collection of popular movies and TV shows for loan.

Copies made

Black and white copies are .25 and color copies are .50.

Voter registration forms

Pick up a voter registration form to mail in, along with the current voter guide from the Alabama Secretary of State's office.

Our hours of operation are Tuesday through Thursday from 12 to 4:30 and Saturday from 10 to 1. Stop by Moon Lake Library to pick up a schedule of our latest activities or visit our website at moonlakelibrary.org.

New Books

- Fairy Tale* by Stephen King
- Upgrade* by Blake Crouch
- Dreamland* by Nicholas Sparks
- Our Missing Hearts* by Celeste Ng
- Mad Honey* by Jodi Picoult and Jennifer Finney Bylan
- The It Girl* by Ruth Ware
- The Wonder Boy of Whistle Stop* by Fannie Flag
- The Personal Librarian* by Marie Benedict and Victoria Christopher Murray

Anne McLeod is the librarian of Moon Lake Community Library.

Mentone American Legion Donates to DeSoto Rescue Squad

by Barry Morton, MAL Commander

At this year's Colorfest, the Mentone American Legion made a \$100 donation to our DeSoto Rescue Squad. Although this seems like a big deal for us, since it's the first time we've given back to the community, this was actually our second donation. Our first donation was made June 4 at our BBQ when we gave the Mentone Cub Scout Pack 106 \$360 for delivering food to cars pulling up out front.



From one Commander to the other

But this time it felt right... giving back to the community is where we want to be. To that end, with the interior Post refurbishment of our propane tank heat; fireplace cleaned and ready for a blazing fire; the bathrooms like new; the auxiliary room repainted and the electrical system with new energy saving lights; and insurance both on the building and liability...we are going to rent the Post. We've currently got it rented for Thanksgiving and Christmas parties. At our last month's meeting a new Legionnaire suggested that weddings on the brow would find it convenient. We have a nice working kitchen, complete with refrigerator, microwave, oven, and hot and cold running water. We can handle groups up to 50 with our tables and chairs. We are partnering with three Mentone catering restaurants: Elevation, Mentone Market, and the new

Pantry in Moon Lake Village. If you're interested in renting the Post, please text me at 334-202-8936.

We had a real great Colorfest. We had eight Legionnaires staffing the booth, including Bruce Van Apledoorn Jr; Jim Rodgers; Sandra

Plummer; Connie Baer; Charlie and Vickie Stone and Paul Vishaway. We sold 47 tickets, 10 to a fine young lady who's the granddaughter of Charlotte Gentry. We raised \$460, with the winner, Kathryn Norris, donating her winnings back to the Post! We signed on three new enthusiastic members. We're already looking forward to next year's Colorfest. To see what's happening at the MAL, please visit the Mentone American Legion Facebook group.



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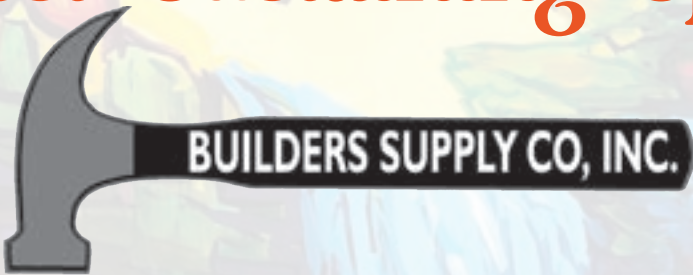




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.....
LOTS and LAND

JUST LISTED! 1.45 ACRES, WOODED, LEVEL, with underground utilities in place. Nestled into the rustic quietude of the Hunters Ridge Community in Mentone. You can feel the stress falling away as you drive down the hardwood-shaded gravel road. Build your cabin here, where you can get away from the noise & light pollution of the city and escape to the mountains! \$15,000. (1821465)

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)

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)

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 in a factory-built home or even to visit. Located in Northeast 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)



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)



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)



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)



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 (1790110)



Mentone Realty would like to thank all our customers, the buyers and the sellers who have entrusted us with their business in this beautiful corner of Alabama.

Thank you to our families, friends, and neighbors for your encouragement and support.

Most of all, we thank God for His love, grace, and mercy. It is through Him we live, move, and have our Being.

Have a happy and blessed Thanksgiving.

PENDING!



River Voice

by Angie Shugart



Back in the summer, Little River Waterkeeper was invited to take part in a national testing survey on Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) with Waterkeeper Alliance and a global science firm, Cyclopure. PFAS are often called “forever chemicals” and are used to make water resistant products from clothing to cookware. Because industries that make these products have to discharge their used water back into the water system, the chemicals are now found in wildlife, humans and in our drinking water. PFAS have finally caught the attention of regulatory agencies because of their persistence, toxicity, and widespread occurrence in the blood of the general population. Yet, only limited information exists on the prevalence of PFAS pollution in surface waters across the country. To make the most of this opportunity and to underscore the urgent need to address widespread PFAS contamination in our nation’s waters, Waterkeeper Alliance urged all U.S. Waterkeeper groups to engage in this sampling

project. The project is going to generate one of the country’s largest PFAS surface water data sets and generate a nationwide report on PFAS surface water contamination detected in watersheds throughout the U.S.

Little River Waterkeeper was one of over 100 Waterkeeper Alliance member organizations in the US to receive a PFAS Water Test Kit. The objective was to test one upstream location and one downstream location within the watershed in the month of June and mail the sample to Cyclopure’s lab. They tested for 55 PFAS structures, including 21 precursors and all PFAS listed under EPA Methods. Results were revealed in September and an informational Zoom meeting took place to go over how to read the results and determine concentrations of PFAS contamination. The sample was a 250 mL bottle and the threshold of contamination is <1ng/L (nanogram per liter). Our upstream site was Taylor’s Ford, north of Mentone on the West Fork. It did not have any indications of contamination. Our downstream location was Canyon Mouth Park. This is where the entire Little River Watershed flows into the main Coosa River channel. Our test results detected contamination of PFBS at the level of 2.3 ng/L, PFOS at 1.4 ng/L, and PFOA at 1.1 ng/L.

So why are we finding PFAS structures in a practically pristine watershed with no industry? The more we understand about how PFAS enters our environment, the better we can work on solutions. Not only are PFAS entering our drinking water supply through discharged industrial wastewater, it can be transferred by air from industrial smokestacks, land application of toxic sludge on soil where PFAS seep into groundwater or uptake into the plants that humans and/or wildlife ingest. Even though the Little River Watershed is considered pristine, it is not immune or protected from this type of contamination.

It is an issue that our organization will continue to investigate to try and find solutions to protect our most valuable resource, Little River.

Current River Conditions

We patrol the watershed on a regular basis to monitor the conditions over time or to investigate issues. It’s one of the best parts of the job! The weather is glorious this fall but dry! Low water levels do however, allow you to rock hop on shallow parts of the river.

The U.S. Drought Monitoring Report says DeKalb County, along with 77% of Alabama, is abnormally dry, with moderate drought being the next scale up. It may just be a dry fall season but then there is winter and spring and, well, that could be a different story.

Join or Renew Your Membership

You can help us stay afloat by becoming a member! Our mission is to foster and protect the pristine resource through awareness, education and monitoring. We work on campaigns to conserve the natural beauty of Little River, promote access to Little River and encourage implementation of Low Impact Development in the watershed to preserve water quality.

\$25 Individual Membership
\$50 Business Membership

Send by mail:
Little River Waterkeeper
215 Grand Ave. SW, Suite A
Fort Payne, AL 35967

To make a one-time or recurring online donation via PayPal, visit tinyurl.com/LRW-donate.

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

Adventures with Carla and Malu: Friday Night Lights in Valley Head

by Cat Findley



I am host mom to two exchange students, Carla from Italy and Malu from Brazil. They are both seniors at Valley Head High School. I write this monthly column to give a glimpse into our world and perhaps encourage others to host in the future.

Carla LOVES American football!! In an attempt to introduce the girls to our American culture, we’ve made sure the girls get to be a part of their high school by attending football games. From the very first game, Carla was smitten. As she says, “I always

wait for Fridays (for our Valley Head Tigers football game) as a kid waits for Christmas.” This season has been extra exciting, as our team has won every game so far.

To her, it is one of the most exciting things to watch and be a part of. She relishes the crowd, the cheers, and the student section. She often comes home hoarse from the cheers and shouts! Her favorite colors are of course, gold and purple. She loves to don her ‘Tigers’ gear for school. The head coach, Coach Hammon, is her teacher for weights class, which is her favorite class of the day. He affectionately refers to the girls as “Italy” and “Brazil.”

Carla is already feeling a sense of loss as we reach the end of the season. She doesn’t understand why it has to end. If you drive past our house, you will see our newly purchased beautiful Valley Head Tigers flag proudly flying. GO MIGHTY TIGERS and thank you for being a part of this journey with us!

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MENTONE UKES

Music flows from the Soundhole
Like Little River
Cascading through the Canyon.
—Jerry Megli

Colorfest and the Mentone Ukes: And a good time was had by all!

by Debra Fey

Colorfest 2022 was a weekend to remember. Loads of arts and crafts vendors. Food trucks. Children playing in the new playground. Perfect fall weather. Trees adorned in their autumn splendor. A new venue hosting thousands of visitors. A new amphitheater stage bathed in shade from the tall trees in a location where people expect to feel close to nature. A festival that hosted a weekend full of varied musical artists. For the Mentone Ukes it was our first Colorfest appearance (indeed, it was only our third live performance ever). We were honored to be selected to close out this incredible two-day festival.

There were several months of practice and hard work on our part. And it paid off in the resulting performance. Although it was mid-afternoon before we took to the stage, there was to our surprise a substantial audience. An audience that became more engaged with each passing song. A songbook handed out or downloaded digitally encouraged folks to sing along — and they did! When we held up a sign that read, “And the Crowd Goes Wild,” they did. Hooping and hollering and whistling. We felt the love. As Mentone Ukes member Tricia McNutt so eloquently stated after another successful song, “WE NAILED IT!”



ALL SOULS DAY

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 2ND 2022 @ 5:30 PM

"For the souls of the righteous are in the hand of God..."
Wisdom 3:1

St. Joseph's on-the-Mountain Episcopal Church, Mentone

The Rev'd Ethan P.J. Ferguson, Priest-in-Charge

All are welcome. There will be a Book of Remembrance for signing the names of those who have died. Refreshments will be served following the service.

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Mentone Area Preservation Association (MAPA) November Programs

by Kelly Leavitt



Oral History Night: Gerald Bailey
Thursday, November 17
6:30 p.m.

Our second Oral History Night will feature Mr. Gerald Bailey, who will be interviewed by Marsha Cox Merrell. Born in 1940 in his great-grandparents’ home on Cutler Avenue and raised in Mentone, Gerald is the son of the Catherine and F.S. Bailey, and brother of Barbara Bailey Blalock. The Bailey family owned Bailey’s Grocery for over 30 years.

Gerald attended Moon Lake and Valley Head Schools. After living in Rainsville for 27 years, he returned to Mentone in 1991 and married Phyllis Flarity. He has served as a valued member of Mentone’s town council since 2004.

Marsha Merrell is a descendant of Eldridge Jones, an early settler from Georgia, making her a member of the fifth generation of a family who has called this area of Lookout Mountain home. She also attended Moon Lake and Valley Head Schools.

This method of interviewing is traditionally used to preserve important voices, memories, and perspectives. The interview will be recorded on video and posted to MAPA’s YouTube channel for everyone to enjoy in the future.

Sunset Social
Thursday, November 10
4 p.m.

MAPA will host another Sunset Social on Thursday, November 10, 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 snacks or a beverage.

MAPA’s YouTube Channel

MAPA now has a YouTube channel where you can find September’s oral history with Dr. Bill Berry and October’s program, “DeKalb County—On the Road to Chickamauga” with Judge David Rains. Additional videos will continue to be added. Search for “Mentone Area Preservation Association” at youtube.com.

MAPA/Groundhog Office
Open M–F 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. & by appointment

Drop in to look through the 40-year archive of *The Groundhog*; purchase Zora Strayhorn’s book, *Mentone, Alabama: A History* (\$15), Colorfest 2022 festival posters (\$10 unframed/\$20 framed), and MAPA grocery tote bags (\$5); subscribe or place an ad in *The Groundhog*; or sign up or renew a MAPA membership. Hours are also available by appointment; call 256-289-2002.



Congratulations to the Valley Head High School Tigers football team for winning the regional championship! Go Tigers!

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

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

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

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DeKalb Tourism

Rhododendron Garden Club

by Alyce Kenney

“Only spread a fern-frond over a man’s head and worldly cares are cast out, and freedom and beauty and peace come in.” —John Muir



For an exciting change of scenery, the October 11th meeting of the Rhododendron Garden Club was held in the Moon Lake Village Community Room. Newly refurbished, this room evokes a sense of nostalgia of school days gone by. Author Daniel Spaulding, curator of collections at the Anniston Alabama Museum of Natural History, presented his vast body of research and knowledge on “Ferns of Alabama.” After his presentation, Mr. Spaulding led several folks on a live “fern walk” in DeSoto State Park, where we found several types of ferns growing along the wooded paths near Indian Falls. To use his words, the entire event was “Ferntastic!”

Ferns are some of the oldest plants in the world. They first appear in the fossil record about 360 million years ago, in the late Devonian period, but many of the current families and species did not appear until roughly 145 million years, in the early Cretaceous period, after flowering plants came to dominate many environments.

Ferns belong to the lower vascular plant division of Pteridophyta, from the Greek words for “fern” and “plant.” Being a vascular plant means that it has one or more stems and it usually has leaves and roots. The stems of vascular plants contain cells forming tiny tubes of two kinds that extend throughout the plant. Some tubes carry water and minerals from the roots to the upper portions of the plant and to the leaves. The other tubes carry nutrients produced by the green aboveground parts of the plant to the roots and other parts of the plant that need the nutrients.

Ferns reproduce via spores and have neither seeds nor flowers. A spore is a single cell that is microscopic in size. Mosses and fungi also reproduce by spores. Sori are spore-producing organs found on the underside of the plant’s leaves.

The stems of most ferns in Alabama are rhizomes. This means that the stems do not grow up into the air, they grow either under the ground or creep upon the surface of the soil, rock, or tree bark that supports them. The root system of ferns arise from the rhizome.

To identify ferns, you will want to be well-versed in the morphology of their leaves. Specific characteristics and descriptors of fern leaves distinguish them.

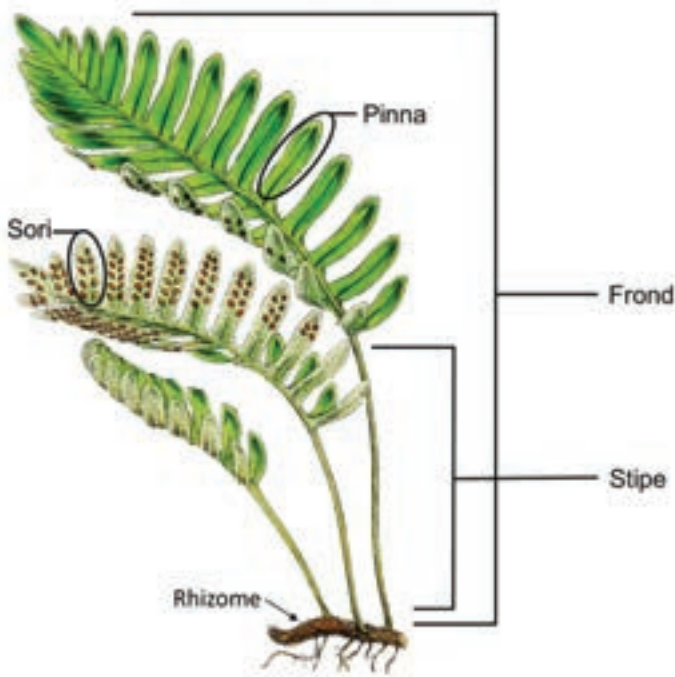
Ferns are distributed throughout the world. Most species are located in tropical regions, but they are also found in temperate and Arctic environments. Alabama’s mild, subtropical climate, along with abundant rainfall and a variety of geology and landforms, make ideal conditions for ferns to grow. Ferns are named for the state they are found in as well as by the persons (usually botanists) who “discover” them. There are about 10,560 known species of fern worldwide. Some ferns with interesting names are: the resurrection fern, which grows on another plant; the eastern mosquito fern, which grows in stagnant pools of water; and the Christmas fern, which remains evergreen throughout the winter.

Fall is the perfect time of the gardening season to plant ferns. Check out your local nurseries and native plant garden shops to find varieties to add to your landscape. They are not difficult to care for and deer really don’t bother them too often.

Perhaps you saw us at Colorfest! We really enjoyed ourselves while we shared our knowledge of horticulture and sold some delightful succulents and other plants. Thanks for supporting us and please join us at our upcoming meeting on Tuesday, November 8.

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.



Want to learn more about ferns?

- Here are some resources for more information:
- *Ferns of Alabama*, Gosse Nature Guides (available at Moon Lake Community Library)
 - amerfernsoc.org/about-ferns
 - uapress.ua.edu/product/Ferns-of-Alabama,7255.aspx
 - gardenia.net/guide/recommended-native-ferns-for-alabama
 - britannica.com/plant/fern/images-videos
 - encyclopediaofalabama.org/article/h-4307

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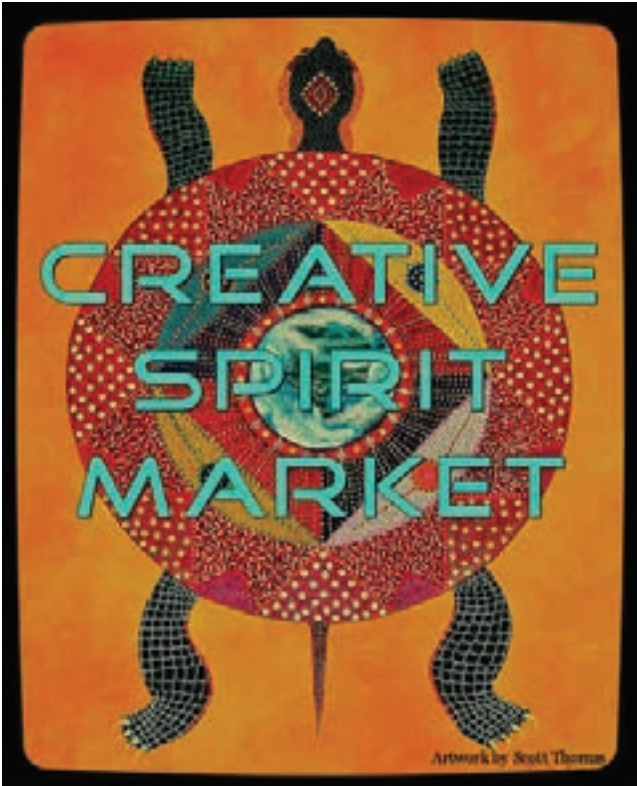


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Little River Arts Council by Juli Jordan

7th Annual Creative Spirit Market
November 12 & 13, 10am–3pm
DeSoto State Park



Wrapping up a year of LRAC art and music events, Creative Spirit Market celebrates the artists’ work and their process. Creative Spirit Market is designed as an open air showcase, with artist demonstrations, local and regional fine and folk art, premium hand-crafted goods, live acoustic music, and a free interactive art area where market-goers can make their own art. Shoppers can browse and watch artists in their creative process and purchase goods from artists such as painters, potters, quilters, weavers and basket



Every 3rd
Wednesday
6–8 pm
@
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makers, fabric spinners, culinary artists and craftsmen. Some unique and one-of-a-kind gifts will be available for purchase. This is a perfect opportunity to begin your holiday shopping.

The market is held near DeSoto State Park’s picnic area across from the Country Story on County Road 89. If the weather is chilly, market-goers can enjoy a blazing fire in the stone fireplace in the CCC pavilion. Bring your own camp chair to hang out a while and listen to the music.

There is limited parking in the picnic area, the tennis court area, and in front of the Country Store. If parking anywhere in the picnic area, a \$2 per vehicle fee applies. There is no fee to attend the open-air market and leashed dogs are allowed in the park.

Creative Spirit Market is hosted by DeSoto State Park and Little River Arts Council and made possible in part by the Alabama State Council on the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts.

- Live Music Lineup**
Saturday, November 12
10 am David Mays & Will Dooley
11:15 am Robbie Jordan
12:30 pm Lisa Crow & James Roberts
1:45 pm Larry Jo Hall

- Sunday, November 13**
10 am Linda Arthur
11:15 am Lydia Randolph
12:30 pm Judy-Nicole Kirby
1:45 pm Mark Womack

Art Talk
November 16

The final Art Talk of 2022 will take place Wednesday, November 16, 6–8 p.m. at Moon Lake Library in Mentone. Artists and art appreciators are invited to participate in the conversation. This is a show and tell for artists of all levels and all ages. Bring something that you are working on and share your process with us.

Lacy Hope Dobbs Adds Another Mural to Her Portfolio

Local artist and LRAC board member Lacy Dobbs, known for her vibrant, groovy art, recently completed a mural for Citywide Auto Rentals in Fort Payne. The concept for the mural came from Derrick Blevins, general manager of Citywide. He asked for a floor-to-ceiling black outline of the state of Alabama and gave Lacy a list of places to highlight on the map, including four Citywide locations in Albertville, Gadsden, Scottsboro, and Fort Payne, represented by the four blue cars in the northeast corner. The state outline measures 7’ x 4’. She also painted their tag line, “Take a ride with Citywide,” on another wall. There is a possibility of an exterior mural to follow.

You can see more of Lacy’s murals at The Creamery in Fort Payne, The Groovy Goat in Mentone, and Blueberry Falls in Mentone.



Lacy Hope Dobbs

Her “happy art for the hippie at heart” is available locally at The Groovy Goat. She will be exhibiting at Creative Spirit Market and you can find her art online at LacyHopeArt.com and on social media @LacyHopeArt.

Founded by Artists, for Artists



Sandra Comley & Kregg Wilhite

Did you know that MAAC (Mentone Area Arts Council, now LRAC) formed in 2004 around the vision of two local artists: Sandra Comley and Kregg Wilhite. Their idea was to provide venues for artists to show and sell their work and to inspire local artists to grow and perfect their art. The early art shows were one-to-three-person events in small buildings in downtown Mentone. The community rallied around this group and soon a board of directors formed and MAAC became a 501(3)c corporation in 2006. In 2016, MAAC chose and elected to change the name of the organization to Little River Arts Council, to encompass a more wide-spread area of Lookout Mountain and to distinguish itself from other local non-profits.

LRAC continues to encourage, support and promote member artists through free or low-fee opportunities, including weekly pop-up art exhibits at Mentone Farmers Market, Follow Your Art, Creative Spirit Market, Artist Registry, and social media platforms. If you are an area artist who is looking to share your work with the community, LRAC is here to help you. Contact us at info@littleriverartscouncil.org.

Your support creates opportunities for artists! If you understand how important art is to a community and would like to support our efforts, please consider becoming a member of Little River Arts Council at a level of your choosing. For more information visit our website at littleriverartscouncil.org.

Little River Arts Council: We believe Art is for Everyone!

Juli Jordan is the president of the Little River Arts Council.

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Ruby O'Rear's Days Come to Life

NOVEMBER 1937

November 1, Monday, 1937
Mostly clear, strong east wind, prospect of rain
Mother rested fine last nite. Also to-day. I washed. Wrote the locals, made out order then while Mrs. E. went for mail I washed mine & Mother's clothes. Finished covering calf shed. Hulled some walnuts.

November 2, Tuesday, 1937
Temp about 70. Fair, warm & pleasant.
Mother sat up over an hour & she & I sang some of the old songs. I worked on calf shed. Eula came over & brot some black-eyed white peas. Ben Smith came to call doctor for his wife. Calf got nearly all the milk.

November 3, Wednesday, 1937
Fair, pleasant.
Had bad cold & stayed in house practically all day. Had sore throat last night & didn't sleep well. Took nap to-day. Eula came by. I sewed a little.

November 4, Thursday, 1937
Frost & ice. Fair.
Mother up only once last nite. Sore throat about well. Cold better this morn but sneezed all p.m. Mrs. E. and I took pictures this morn. I knitted a little. Worked outdoors a few min. Paul came home. Think he's taking cold.

November 5, Friday, 1937
James Beverly's 13th birthday
Temp. 30 in nite. Then it clouded up & turned warmer. Weather very fickle. Cloudy, clear, rainy, a few snowflakes fell.
Cold much better. Nora Crowe came over & washed. Eula came over. I worked on calf shed a little.

November 6, Saturday, 1937
Frost. Fair, pleasant.
Paul took Jessie to F.P. Mrs. E. went to V.H. with them. Going on out to Sand Mt. to see sick friend. Eula came over & stayed. Then Paul took Ethel & me to Menlo, Summerville, Trion. Faye looking better but said arm was hurting. Didn't get back until after dark & then didn't get to go to house or pay city tax.

November 7, Sunday, 1937
Temp 27. Heavy frost. Fair (cloudless), pleasant.



Stayed home all day except to go to garden & store this p.m. Paul went to Mentone. Jessie & Paul went to Sand Mt. for Mrs. Everett. James B went to Billy Smith's.

November 8, Monday, 1937
Frost. Fair, pleasant.
Got good nite's rest. Every chance I had today I worked on calf & cow shed. Finished them for time being. Put leaves inside & kept cow in shed to-nite. Read story in Country Gentleman. Knitted little on white sweater. Eula came by.

November 9, Tuesday, 1937
Cloudy, rainy
Didn't do anything much. Eula came over & while Mrs. E. went for mail she started dinner. Brot us some butter & buttermilk. I cut blouse out of old dress of Mother's. Knitted some. Jessie & J.B. got home early as ran on short schedule. A.J. called & said they had corn meal for sale.

November 10, Wednesday, 1937
Cloudy, warm.
Another day of nothing much accomplished. Churned while Mrs. E. went for mail. Eula came by taking dinner to Jodie & Cooper. Gave Mother some broth & squirrel dumplings. Started pen for cabbage. Baked a cake

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 November, 1937.

& made some ginger cookies. Knitted some.

November 11, Thursday, 1937
Armistice Day.
Rainy, temp about 56.
Fixed cabbage for gal. of kraut. Peeled citron & put it in salt water. Finished knitting front of sweater.

Mother rested well. Jack & J.B. came home early & I went to store to get some things but truck had never come. Paul came home.

November 12, Friday, 1937
Cloudy in morn.
Cleared off late in p.m.
Robbye, Clifford's wife & Glover came over for stuff for

orphanage. I gave doz. qts. of berries & soup mixture. I had not dressed when they came. Took a bath. Paul came home early. Went back to garden & got about 30 head of cabbage to put up.

November 13, Saturday, 1937
Foggy in morn, cleared off in p.m.
Eula came over. Paul & J.B. took Jessie's report to Mr. Turner. Came back by garden & I met them there. Brot in some more cabbage & turnips. Paul put 90 heads in pen. He went to Lafayette & I went to Menlo. Went to Bill Chappelar's first to see house by woodland. On to town. Paid city tax & part of Mr. Wyatt's bill. Jodie hauled in 4 cords of wood. Started hickory stove wood.

November 14, Sunday, 1937
In 30s last nite. Clear, windy. West wind blew just like March.
Didn't feel well to-day. Went to see A.J. & Paul as Paul went to Mentone. First time I'd been there since latter part of Aug. Did nothing much this p.m.

Played guitar a little. Paul took car to Bankhead & washed it.

November 15, Monday, 1937
Fair & pleasant.
Nora came & washed. Brot little girl with her. Eula came over after dinner. I made some ginger cookies. Still have cold. Mother about as usual. Heard Geneva Hulkan was very bad.

November 16, Tuesday, 1937
Rainy.
Mother didn't rest at all well last nite. Had pain on left ear until it was sore. I felt bad so laid around & slept most of day. Took more cold. Stayed in all day. Mrs. E. didn't go for mail. About the first school day she had missed. Geneva better to-day.

November 17, Wednesday, 1937
Temp 32. Didn't go to 40. Cloudy in morn. Clear in p.m.
Cold lots better as I took lots of B.Q.R. yesterday. Mother rested O.K. last nite. I put leaves in hog shed. Jodie came by. I knitted some & read story in Country Gentleman.

November 18, Thursday, 1937
Temp went to 28. Clear most of day but clouding up & wind from east.
Mother rested well. Kept fire all nite. Started luncheon cloth for Carrie Ruth's shower. Knitted a little. Read story in Hollands & Observer. Hulled a few walnuts. Mother slept long time in middle of day.

November 19, Friday, 1937
Cold & rainy.
26 years ago Grandpa Mason died & 3 years ago Uncle Henry died.
Uncle Earl Jackson came by this morn. Something about John's Mtn. I worked on cloth for Carrie Ruth. Eula came by, brot mail. Frank Green came over.

November 20, Saturday, 1937
Temp 18. Didn't go above 24. Cloudy.
Stayed with Mother all morn as she had taked Black Draught last nite. Eula & Jodie came by. Finished cloth for Snookie but so cold I didn't go to shower Bertha was giving. Jessie washed out some things. Went to store, on to Ethel's by Nettie's. Brot in some frozen turnips.

November 21, Sunday, 1937
Temp 13. Clear. Colder. Didn't go to 32 all day.
Went to S.S. [Sunday school]. Only 15 there. Willie & Vergie Perkins boy
(continued on page 18)

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In Memoriam



KENNETH HAMMOND, SR.
November 14, 1931 – October 22, 2022
Kenneth Hammond Sr., 90, of Valley Head, passed away on Saturday, October 22, 2022 at his residence.
Mr. Hammond was born on November 14, 1931. He served in the Korean War, was a graduate of Troy University, and was a lifelong politician. He is fondly remembered for being the mayor of Valley Head for many years and always trying to better his hometown community.
He is survived by his wife, Carol Payne Hammond; children, Kenneth Hammond, Jr.,

Tonni Armstrong, Tina Armstrong, Byron Armstrong, and Pam Hartline; special son/grandson, Corey Armstrong; sister, Patsy LaJean Matthews; and several grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews.
He was preceded in death by his daughters, Sheila Hammond Yamada and Janet Shores; parents, Hatchie Hammond and Patsy Lankford Hammond; and grandparents, William Bleve Hammond, Alice Holleman Hammond, Patrick W. Lankford, and Sally Blake Lankford.
Mayor Michael Key, Valley Head Police Department officers Brad Gregg, Jimmy Phillips, and Lamar Bray, and the Valley Head Fire Department served as pall bearers.

MARIE EWTON SMITH
May 24, 1929 – October 22, 2022
Marie Ewton Smith, age 93, of Menlo, GA, died Saturday, October 22, 2022, at her residence.
Mrs. Smith was born May 24, 1929, in Dunlap, TN, daughter of the late William Madison Ewton and Ruth Cunningham Ewton. She was Baptist by faith, and prior to her retirement, served as Vice President of J.P. Smith Lumber Company.
In addition to her parents, Mrs. Smith was preceded in death by her husband, J.P. Smith; sisters, Anna Lee Harmon, Lorene Evans, Mildred Ammons, and Evelyn Wilkes; and her brother, Charles Ewton.
Survivors include her sister, Gertrude Narramore; and several nieces and nephews.
A memorial service was held on Wednesday, October 26, 2022, at Alpine Community Church. Interment followed in Alpine Cemetery.

JEANETTE DOTSON FLOYD BROOME
August 15, 1927 ~ October 22, 2022
Jeanette Floyd Dotson Broome, 95, passed away at home on Saturday, October 22, 2022, surrounded by her family.
Mrs. Broome was born August 15, 1927, in Centre, AL, to the late Beman and Lilly Maddox Floyd.
Upon her death, she was living in Trion, GA; prior to that, she lived most of her life in Lyerly, GA and Menlo, GA. She loved spending time with family and listening to gospel music. Mrs. Broome had many talents: quilting, canning, playing the guitar, and singing. She attended the Resaca Assembly of God in Resaca, GA.
Along with her parents, she is preceded in death by her husbands, Herman Coolidge “Coot” Dotson and Hoyett Broome; two sons, Franklin LaDon “Don” Dotson and Aaron Timothy “Tim” Dotson; a ste- granddaughter, Mary Elizabeth Chapman; and three siblings, Mary Trammell, Geraldine Taylor, and Thurman Floyd.
Mrs. Broome is survived by her daughter, Kathy (Darrell “Steve”) Burns; four grandchildren, Stacy (Christy) Burns, Gary (Peggy) Dotson, Jeff Dotson, and Darian (Anna) Dotson; seven great-grandchildren; two great-great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

STELLA GERTRUDE ABBOTT
November 5, 1930– October 27, 2022
Stella Gertrude Abbott, age 91, died peacefully of natural causes at her home in Mentone on October 27, 2022.
Mrs. Abbott was born November 5, 1930. She was a resident of Millbrook, AL from 1955 until 2020. During those 64 years, she was active in the community and in her church. She was a member of Millbrook Presbyterian Church for 30 years and Coosada Baptist Church for 35 years.
She is preceded in death by her parents, Vinley and Stella Tomlin, of Talladega, AL, and all of her eight brothers and sisters.
She is survived by her only child, Tracey Davenport (Chris) of Mentone; two grandchildren, Robbin Dodd (Brandon) of Oak Harbor, WA and Christopher Deyerle of Lima, OH; three great-granddaughters, Hannah Robinson (Joshua) and Victoria Kelly (Chase), both of Enterprise, AL, and TraceyAnn Dodd of Oak Harbor, WA; and three great-great grandchildren, Jenson, Evelyn, and Declan, of Enterprise. She is also survived by many loved nieces and nephews.



Senior Health: Review Your Medicare Coverage for 2023

by Lynn Hixon

Medicare Advantage and Part D plans usually change each year. Make sure that your drugs will still be covered and your providers and pharmacies will still be in network.
If you have Original Medicare, visit Medicare.gov or read the 2023 Medicare & You handbook to learn about Medicare’s benefits for the upcoming year.
If you have a Medicare Advantage Plan or a stand-alone Part D plan, read your plan’s Annual Notice of Change (ANOC) and Evidence of Coverage (EOC). You may also want to explore other plans in your area. You may find a cheaper plan that meets your healthcare and prescription drug needs. Research

shows you can lower your costs by shopping around. Medicare Advantage Plans have significant flexibility in the supplemental benefits they are allowed to offer their members, including whether some benefits are offered to all members or just some members. This included the ability of offer benefits to some members that are not directly considered medical care, like nutrition services. This means that there are many factors to consider when comparing Medicare Advantage Plan options
If you have any questions about Medicare Open Enrollment, please call Lynn Hixon at the DeKalb County Council on Aging at 256-845-8590. She is ready to assist you.

Free Transportation

Transportation has been and continues to be the number one need of older people in DeKalb County. DeKalb County Rural Public Transportation provides daily scheduled trips to seven nutrition centers. Other services provided are shopping, medical and pharmacy trips, and payment of bills. Social and recreational trips are enjoyed also. Excursions to local points of interest provide educational experiences as well as social outings. Transportation is funded through the Section 5311 Rural Public Transportation Program. DeKalb County Rural Public Transportation provides transportation to the general public. For more information, call 256- 845-8593.

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Mentone Arts & Cultural Center

November features singer-songwriter Chris Roberts; Terry Hale's glass beadmaking demo
by Randy Grider

As we head into the holidays, we have two great events scheduled and several in the planning stage.

On Tuesday, November 1, our monthly Music on the Mountain Songwriters Round will feature Fort Payne's own Chris Roberts and students from the Chris Roberts School of Music from 6:30–8:30 p.m. (Central time).

Roberts runs an instructional school in Fort Payne that teaches guitar, bass, drums, piano, fiddle, banjo, voice and sound design, as well as hosting musical acts. He has a long history in the music industry as both a musician and educator.

The program is free to the public. The monthly Nashville-style songwriter round is part-educational and part-entertainment, featuring local and regional songwriters singing their own original material. It is hosted by Mentone resident and award-winning singer-songwriter Craig Hendricks.



Terry Hale



On Saturday, November 19, we will host glass beadmaker Terry Hale for a demonstration of her art from 10 a.m.–3 p.m. inside the gallery. We have scheduled Hale to teach a two-day workshop May 6–7, 2023 inside the Bill Berry Community Room at Moon Lake Village. More details will be provided at the demonstration.

Hale is an artisan glass beadmaker and jewelry designer in Madison, AL. Her skills at the glass torch began in 2003 when she took her first class in working with molten glass, studying with Marjorie Langston in Chattanooga. Hale found that she was mesmerized by the movement of the medium and all the surface design techniques used to design beads. The combination of the scientific nature of the glass, the beauty of the colors, and the technical skills involved made her fall in love with the

medium. She found herself at the torch at every opportunity and pushed herself to learn.

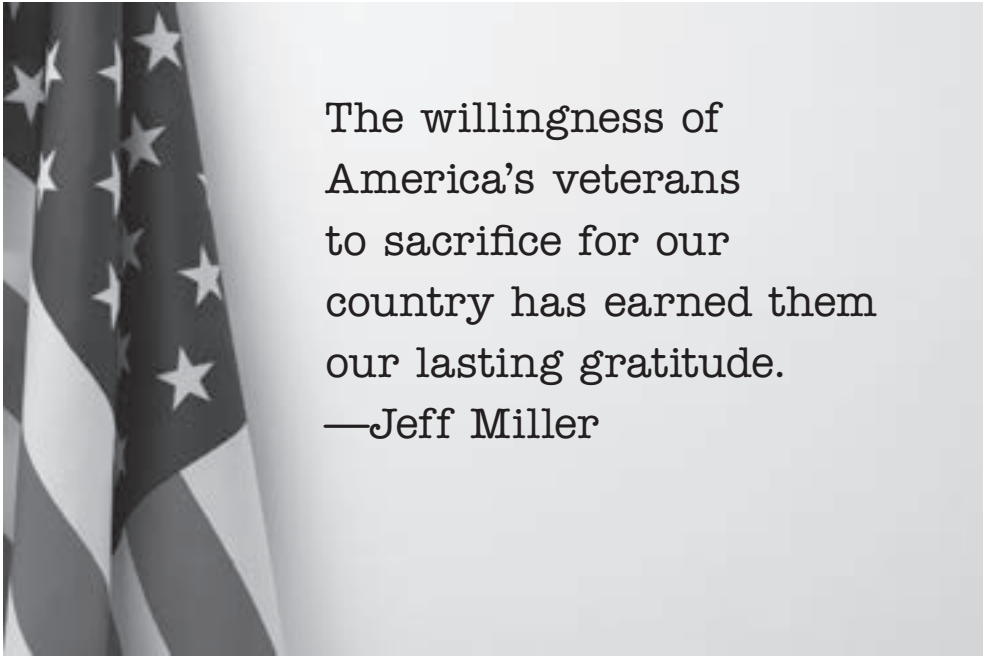
In 2005, she began teaching glass beadmaking in her studio and came to love instructing as much as creating. In 2006, she opened a brick-and-mortar studio that was also a classroom and gallery for local artists. Very soon after, she was invited to teach at John C. Campbell Folk School (Brasstown, NC), where she still regularly teaches beginner to advanced classes in torchwork as well as jewelry making. She also teaches at the Alabama Folk School at Camp McDowell (Nauvoo, AL), Miami University (Oxford, OH), Appalachian Center for Craft (Smithville, TN), and semi-annually at Essence of Mulranny/Mulranny Arts (Mulranny, County Mayo, Ireland.) Together, Hale and Langston host Hot Time in the Valley, a popular bi-annual torch glass beadmakers' retreat soon celebrating its 20th year in Chattanooga.

For several years, Hale was on the board of directors for the International Society of Glass Beadmakers, serving as regional director, director of membership, and eventually as president.

Hale's work has appeared in *The Flow* magazine's "Women in Glass" Gallery, and it has been shown in several boutiques and galleries throughout the U. and Ireland. She has also shown her work at John C. Campbell Folk School's Fall Festival and Fort Payne's Boom Days, in addition to many other art shows.

For more information on these events or the art gallery, gift shop/information, which is located inside the Chuck Sennett Center for the Arts in the heart of Mentone, please see contact information below.

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



The willingness of America's veterans to sacrifice for our country has earned them our lasting gratitude.
—Jeff Miller

Bake Sale Benefits Scholarship Fund

Valley Head Area Women's Club will be once again holding its pre-Thanksgiving fundraiser bake sale. Stop by White Hall Methodist Church (Highway 11) on November 19 from 8:30 until about noon (or until items are sold out). You can pick up homemade breads and desserts for your holiday dinner! Proceeds go toward scholarships for Valley Head High School students.

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November Community Events

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

November 1—Music on the Mountain Songwriters Round. Featuring Fort Payne’s Chris Roberts and students from the Chris Roberts School of Music. 6:30–8:30pm. Mentone Arts Center, 5951 Al Hwy. 117, Mentone.

November 4–6—Holiday Open House Fort Payne. We invite you to join us for a magical weekend of shopping in beautiful Fort Payne Alabama. Our local merchants have their stores all decked out for Christmas and offer the very best sales during their open houses. Swing by the Depot Museum between 9am–2pm, where there will be free train rides for children and the Depot will be open for tours. There are restaurants and coffee shops throughout town, plenty to keep you fueled up. Visit our member directory at fortpaynechamber.com for a listing of Chamber Members. Times and dates vary on each independent shop.

November 5—Dinovember at Moon Lake Library. Storytime and crafts for children ages 3–7. 10:30am. Moon Lake Library in Mentone.

November 5—Mentone Ukles. Free ukulele lessons at 1pm at Moon Lake Library in Mentone. Beginners welcome!

November 5—Nena’s Christmas Open House. Join us and Mr. and Mrs. Clause at Nena’s in Valley Head as we kick off the Christmas season! Hourly gift drawing, food and fun. 11am–3pm.

November 5 & 6—Christmas at Eddie’s. Tis the Season! Save the date to see the Christmas magic! Christmas at Eddie’s Florist Christmas Open House is scheduled for Saturday, November 5, from 8am–5pm and Sunday, November 6, from 1–4pm. Eddie and the elves are working hard to unpack everything from the North Pole and get it ready for your Magical Christmas Experience. Bring your friends and family and continue or begin a new Christmas tradition. Christmas at Eddie’s hours after Open House are Monday–Saturday, 9am–5pm and Sundays from 1–4pm. 9112 Alabama Highway 40 (AL-40), Henagar, AL 35978. 256-657-3841.

November 5—Canyon Fest: A Celebration of Arts and Nature. Little River Canyon Field School and Interpretive Center want you to come and enjoy live music, nature and arts activities, arts demonstrations and sales, great food, vendors, children’s activities and more. 10am–3pm. 256-782-5697.

November 6—Landmarks Annual Meeting. Please join us for our Annual Meeting at 2pm. at the Fort Payne Opera House. Our guest speaker will be Glenn Wills of Forgotten Alabama. Reception to follow in Richard C. Hunt Reception Hall. All current and new members welcome.

November 11 Happy Veterans Day

November 10—Sunset Social. Meet at Mentone’s Brow Park at 4pm for a time of getting to know one another while enjoying a sunset. Bring a snack or beverage, if you like. Hosted by MAPA.

November 11–13—Fall Retreat. Join us for a blast of a weekend and fellowship with other students seeking to grow in their relationship with Christ! Ages 7–12. \$95. Ponderosa Bible Camp.

November 11-13 & 18 – 20 The Lightning Thief: The Percy Jackson Musical

November 12—Collinsville Turkey Trot. The Collinsville Historic Turkey Trot is sponsored in part by the Collinsville Historical Association. Festival hours are 10am– 3pm and admission is free. All activities are held in and around historic downtown Collinsville. For more information about the Collinsville Historical Association visit collinsvillehistorical.weebly.com or follow on Facebook, @Collinsville Historical Association or @Turkey Trot, Collinsville, AL.

November 12—Ider Fall Festival. Ider PTO is hosting Ider School and Community Fall Festival to bring a fun family event back for our kids and families! Free Admission. All Games are .50 to \$2. Chili contest \$5 fee. Bingo. Hayride. Inflatable. Bonfire. SEC Game on big screen. Cornhole. Volleyball. Cupcake Walk. Football Toss. Coke Bottle Ring Toss. Golf. Sucker Pull. Jail Bail. Duck Pull. Guessing Booth. Pie in Face. Face Painting. Fall Photo Booth. Ider Police. Ider Volunteer Fire Dept. Ider Public Library. Local Churches. Concessions are \$3 for chili, \$2 hotdog, \$1 drinks, \$1 popcorn. Bake Sale items. 5–8 pm. Thank you to everyone who is cooking and volunteering! If your church or club would like to help with games, contact Crystal Bearden 256-605-1307 or concessions contact Dana Greeson 256-996-1267.

November 12 & 13—Creative Spirit Market. Hosted by DeSoto State Park & Little River Arts Council. Adding a new twist to a typical art fair, this event is designed as an open-air showcase, with artist demonstrations, locally & regionally created fine & folk art, premium hand-crafted goods, & live acoustic music.

Shoppers can browse and watch artists in their creative process, listen to music, plus purchase goods from fine and folk artists such as painters, potters, quilters, weavers & basket makers, fabric spinners, culinary artists and craftsmen. Some unique and one-of-a-kind gifts will be available for purchase. Stop by and get some early gift-shopping in! 10am–3pm each day. The market is held near DeSoto State Park’s picnic area across from the Country Store on County Road 89. If the weather is chilly, market-goers can

enjoy a blazing fire in the stone fireplace in the CCC pavilion. Bring your own camp chair to hang out a while and listen to the music. Dogs on a leash are allowed in the park. There is limited parking in the picnic area, the tennis court area, and in front of the Country Store. If parking anywhere in the picnic area, a \$2 per vehicle fee applies. There is no fee to attend the open-air market. Rain or shine event. Call 256-997-5025 or email for more details.

November 16—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.

November 17—Oral History Night: Gerald Bailey. Marsha Merrell will interview Gerald Bailey in the oral history tradition. Community Room at Moon Lake Village. Free. 6:30pm. Hosted by MAPA.

November 19—Dinovember at Moon Lake Library. Storytime and crafts for children ages 3–7. 10:30am. Moon Lake Library in Mentone.

November 19—Mentone Ukles. Free ukulele lessons at 1pm at Moon Lake Library in Mentone. Beginners welcome!

November 19—Valley Head Area Women’s Club Bake Sale. Homemade beards and desserts. Proceeds go toward scholarships for Valley Head High School students. White Hall United Methodist Church, 34387 US 11, Valley Head. 8:30am–Noon.

November 19—Glass Bead Making Demonstration. Terry Hale will demonstrate her art from 10am–3pm inside the gallery at the Mentone Arts Center, 5951 Al Hwy. 117, Mentone.

November 19—Baskets of Blessings. Thanksgiving is around the corner, and we are happy to bless DeKalb County with Baskets of Blessings! For over nine years, God has provided meals to families in need through Baskets of Blessings. Marked For Life Ministries will host multiple feeding efforts for the Thanksgiving season bringing together organizations and churches from around the county. Thanksgiving Baskets will be distributed on a first come first serve basis beginning at 7:30am until all baskets are distributed. No preregistration is required. This distribution will take place at VFW Fairgrounds 151 18th St NE, Fort Payne, AL 35968. Each vehicle will receive one basket with a full Thanksgiving meal: frozen turkey, frozen pie, rolls, green beans, stovetop dressing, mac & cheese, instant mashed potatoes, gravy, and cranberry sauce. For more information visit iammarkedforlife.com/basketsofblessings.

November 24 Happy Thanksgiving!

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.

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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Ruby O’Rear (*cont. from page 14*)
which was born Fri. died yesterday & buried to-day. Grace Green rode back with us. Took her home & got pumpkin. Had slight headache. Mrs. E. & I sang for Mother.

November 22, Monday, 1937
Temp 16. Clear. Went to 38.
Didn’t do anything much to-day. Eula came over. Paul didn’t leave til mail time. He got up wash wood. Cracked some walnuts & started picking them out for fruit cake.

November 23, Tuesday, 1937
Temp 18 to 40. Fast wind. Clear in morn, clouding up in p.m.
Bathed Mother. Changed her clothes & bed clothes. Made 2 of fruit cake. Baked one and steamed one. Paul came home.

November 24, Wednesday, 1937
Temp 26–50. Clear.
Nora didn’t come to wash so I washed

Mother’s and my things. Then scrubbed kitchen. Cooked pumpkin. Mrs. E. baked a piece. Eula came over & sewed some. Jessie came home early. Eula & I went to garden & got turnips, cabbage & collards. Paul took J.B. to F.P. for turkey trot & ball game. F.P. won.

November 25, Thursday, 1937
Thanksgiving
Cloudy, warmer. Rainy late in p.m.
Raked up leaves & put in pig pen & cow shed. Jessie washed dishes & got dinner mainly. Read story to Mother. We had pork roast, brown gravy, peas, collards, cranberries, pear salad, pumpkin pies & apple pie. Spaghetti for J.B. Paul went to garden & got turnips for cows. Paul & J.B. went to Mentone to listen to ball game over radio. Taking cold again.

November 26, Friday, 1937
Temp. above 50. Rainy.
Taking medicine for cold & staying in to-day. Jessie & J.B. went with Paul

to-day. He was going to Boaz. I talked to Grace Wright Alexander this morn. Crocheted on collar. Jack, Paul & J.B. got back after dark. Jack visited friend in Boaz & J.B. was with his daddy.

November 27, Saturday, 1937
Cloudy, temp. above 50. Sprinkled some.
Jodie & Eula came over to cut some wood. So damp tho. Jodie went & got wagon & hauled in some. Mrs. Emerson & Jewell came over—finished up collar & jabot. Fixed up mine. Knitted a little. I went home with Eula & she gave me 8 lb. lard bucket. More there.

November 28, Sunday, 1937
Unsettled in morn. Hard west wind blew. Cleared off in p.m. and getting colder.
Stayed home all day—hardly out of house. Cold better to-day. Intended to go to church at Cloudland this p.m. but it was so cold & was afraid I’d take more cold. Mrs. E. and I sang for Mother. Paul whistled some & Mother said that

was best of all.

November 29, Monday, 1937
Temp. 24 to above 40. Cloudless.
Jack came over to see if we wanted Eula to wash & said we did if she thot Nora wouldn’t be able to come. Mother didn’t do anything much but eat & sleep. I cleared off chest. Killed chicken. Crocheted on some jabots. Paul tried to get off early but had flat tire. Got stuck this side of mill. Ethel called wanting us to amend cistern this week.

November 30, Tuesday, 1937
Temp 24–50 or above. Clear.
Mother up only once last nite. Nora came & washed. Jodie hauled in wood. Eula & the kids came over. Linda gave Jodie some spare-ribs & back bone & Eula cooked them over here. I didn’t do anything much. Grace Alexander sent me 1 lb. of white milk bread. I washed few things for Mother.

The thankful heart opens our eyes to a multitude of blessings that continually surround us.
—James E. Faust

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MERF Success & Scholarships

by Anna Mae Horn

October has been a busy and successful month for the Mentone Educational Resource Foundation (MERF). Valley Head Elementary students entered the 2022 DeKalb County VFW fair this year, for the first time, and were so excited to win a first place blue ribbon! The theme for the scarecrow exhibit was “Land that I Love.” The student’s scarecrow exhibit included original artwork by the elementary students while in Ms. Paula’s fine arts class.

Colorfest weekend was fantastic! Beautiful weather and a great venue (literally at the front door of the MERF Community House) combined for a great turnout. Profits from merchandise sales went toward our many programs.

Lunch was served every Wednesday in October at Moon Lake Baptist Church by our terrific elves. MERF is very thankful for all the members of our community who make these lunches happen. Camps, churches, and local restaurants provide delicious food each week while community members congregate and socialize. We played Family Feud, trivia, and bingo. Since one of the primary purposes of our lunches is socialization, there are no income restrictions. There are no age requirements

either, even though we call them “senior” lunches. So, if you would like to make a new friend, or 20, join us Wednesdays through November 16 at 11:30 for lunch and fun.

MERF was delighted to bring Birmingham Children’s Theatre to Valley Head students again. Grades three through six enjoyed a presentation of “Amelia Earhart.” The play is a historically-oriented tale of Amelia’s career as she transitioned from social worker to pilot. Period accurate music and dance were recognized and enjoyed by the students. Performers commented on the good behavior of the children.

During the month of November, MERF will be taking applications for the Sue McLaurin Henry Scholarships. These spring semester scholarships are available to current full time students with a B average in college or technical school who live in the Mentone and Valley Head areas. More details are on our website, MERFhouse.org.

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



Valley Head Elementary students entered the 2022 DeKalb County VFW fair for the first time this year and were so excited to win a first place blue ribbon! The theme this year for scarecrows was “Land that I Love.” The student’s scarecrow exhibit included original artwork by the students.



Birmingham Children’s Theatre performing “Amelia Earhart”



Students were captivated by the “Amelia Earhart” performance.

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Sniffing The Holiday Joy Trail

The Discernment of Detours and Destinations

by Annette Mehurg Wardrup

Hidden away in our subconscious minds is an idyllic vision. We see the holidays as being different this year, more perfect as in past times. We'll spend less, eat less, expect less.

Yet we find ourselves going down the same old trails, expecting different results. Disappointments and expectations seem greater than at any other time of the year. Families are never the picture-perfect photo portrayed in magazines and on greeting cards. Hearts aren't as giving or forgiving as we wish, even during these special months. Feelings still get hurt and tensions are on edge. Everyone wants to make a good impression. But it seems like some of us are too eager sniffing out the bad and not searching for the good....

The work doesn't slow down just because the calendar says it's holiday time, so give yourself a break and ask for help perhaps....or just say no! No time to bake? Buy something or just don't. Heaven knows we don't need the calories and you know who will bake. After all, it's her "pride and joy." So let her have all the glory this year!

No time to clean for the holidays? Recruit help, pay help...close off rooms (you get the idea). If desperate, put in all low wattage light bulbs to help hide the dust. Throw everything you possibly can in closets—the one guests will not open. Pick up everything lying around and put

in standing paper grocery bags. Hide your dirty dishes and clutter in the oven. Put out get well cards you've saved from the past as well as cold and flu medicine. When guests arrive, you're covered!

I can personally attest to the oven and paper bag tricks. Try to remember the dishes before a week goes by though. You'll be sniffing more than joy!

In our hectic stress to make a living, I fear many of us forget to enjoy a life. That's when it's time to be reminded to get back on the Joy Trail. Too exhausted to spend quality time to create treasured holiday memories? Where there's a will there's a way. I'll help you find both. I can't cut back your 70-hour work week to 40. I can't find you more free time if you're a caregiver for a spouse, child, or parent. But I do know, "This too shall pass." Life is like an onion. We peel away one layer at a time, and sometimes we cry. Yet often the sky is so blue, the leaves so golden, the bird's song so melodic, a bit of heaven has truly touched earth ... if our nose is ready to sniff out that joy sent to us!

In my 69th year, I've learned to discern pretty well. And if anyone can sniff out joy, I can! Like many of you, I've dealt with extreme holiday stress, mental stress, the stress of sick relatives....you name it. It's true that you come out stronger and sometimes, after many years, can even be thankful for the situation.

My holiday seminar has been planned with you in mind. I want to help you sniff out your own personal joy trail. And I'll provide several options to select from with quite a few samples to take home! A brochure will help you remember most things covered, but you'll probably want to take a few notes. You may not learn to discern all the detours that take you off the Joy Trail, but expect to hear of about 25 possibilities!

Many of you remember me as the 4-H Agent (for DeKalb County). Some of the most joyful memories of my career came from working with Joyce Smith, who served as 4-H Leader at Moon Lake School. Without her, and Sue Wills at Ruhama, my career would have probably lasted only a year and not until retirement! To say they were the very best is an understatement. They loved teaching children. They went miles beyond the extra mile and they put their heart into 4-H.

4-H gave members the opportunity to participate in public speaking, livestock projects, conservation of natural resources, and numerous other projects. Of all the things that they created with their own hands and imagination ... their own art was most popular.



One of the fun aspects of my seminar will be the sharing of 10 or more holiday decorating and craft ideas suitable for any budget. Some of you may have flashbacks to your 4-H days. I hope so!

Laughter is a certainty in my seminar. (A warning though: if laughter is suppressed, it goes directly to the hips and creates gas!)

A \$5 donation is welcomed. No one will be denied entrance if unable to pay the \$5. I realize that times are hard.

I'm looking forward to seeing you at the new Moon Lake Village on Tuesday, November 15, in the Bill Berry Community Room. Mentone has all kinds of hiking trails. Let's name the newest—The Holiday Joy Trail!

Georgia Military Veterans Hall of Fame Inducts Rev. D.D. Bain

Mentone native Dolas David Bain, a 100-year-old WWII veteran, is being inducted into the 2022 Georgia Military Veterans Hall of Fame.

Technician Fifth Grade Bain (then private) serving in a medical detachment of the 330th Infantry, U.S. Army, was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with V-device for meritorious service against the enemy near Henully, France, in

July 1944. In total darkness and despite heavy artillery and small arms fire, he nonetheless led litter bearers through the swamp, administering medical attention to the wounded while continuing to evacuate his fellow soldiers.

Due to ongoing combat operations, however, it was 43 years later in 1987 that he was presented the prestigious Bronze Star Medal in a battalion

formation by his son, retired Army Colonel Dale Bain.

In 2016 Dolas David Bain was awarded the highest honor of France. Founded by Napoleon, the France Legion of Honor Medal was presented at the French Consulate in Atlanta.

Bain's service did not end, however, after his discharge from the Army in July 1945. In his current hometown of Trenton, he remained active in his community. He is a member of the local American Legion Post and a participant in many local events. Known as the Reverend D. D. Bain, he recently retired from the ministry after finishing a 20-year span on weekly local radio and cable TV programs.

According to Hall of Fame Director and Chairman of the Board Col.

Rick White (USA-Ret), Hall of Fame nominees must have ties to Georgia and qualify in one of three categories: valor for heroic action in combat; outstanding achievement while in service, or significant local, state or national contributions after leaving active duty.

"This year's honorees will be inducted during the 10th Annual Georgia Military Veterans Hall of Fame Ceremony and Banquet at noon on November 5 in St. Luke Ministry Center, 301 11th St. in Columbus," said Col. White.

Col. White advises that while this event is open to the public, seating is limited. Advance reservation details may be accessed on the Hall of Fame website at GMVHOF.org.

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