



THE GROUNDHOG

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Volume 38, No. 4

"Neighborly News from the Heart of Lookout Mountain"

April 2019

The Geese of Mentone Abbey

by Sharon Dovie



Mama Scorch in front

This weekend, we heard quite the fight out on the pond. We have nine half-tame geese, and one was trying to drown another...or so it would seem. Fighting is a common goose problem, with the lead male sometimes attacking a younger male in efforts to protect his harem. But upon a closer look it appears this is not "Inky" versus "Dale" and not a drowning at all, but perhaps romance on the high seas. "Inky" and "Priscilla." It's spring time! Soon we will find eggs lain here and there. Though we have a floating, A-frame goose hut for just such laying and hatching, the gals won't share the hut and don't all seem to instinctively know the hut's purpose.

A floating hut is ideal. We recently put fresh straw inside in preparation for spring, my husband, Chris, wading out in cold, cold February water to remove dirty straw from last year. This month, we will start walking around the pond, looking under bushes, behind steps, and even just out in the grass, as our girls have been known to lay an egg in the open. Days or weeks later, once in the setting mood, the girls will dangerously risk their lives sitting on and defending their eggs. Inside a floating goose hut, there's no danger of foxes or coyotes. Or dogs. But the geese don't read the same books we do on goose safety.

Spring of 2017 saw no hatchings at all. "Inky," the lead male goose, is very bossy, very controlling. No goose goes to eat at the goose feeder unless Inky permits it. No goose comes to eat bread from the humans unless Inky permits it. And Inky breaks the eggs for population control if

(continued on page 12)



*Rhododendron
Festival*
Mentone, AL
May 18 & 19

SEE PAGE 5

Original painting by Lydia Randolph



Local Camps Donate Vehicle to Mentone Police

Chief Gene McKee of the Mentone Police Department thanks the Mentone area camps that partnered with the Town of Mentone to purchase a new 2018 Chevrolet Tahoe. This is the third vehicle the area camps have purchased for the Mentone police force. "Because of the continuing support of these camps to the town and community of Mentone, we will be in good vehicles for several years," says Chief McKee.

Shown from left are: Mentone Police Chief Gene McKee; Mentone Mayor Rob Hammond, Camp Laney; Susanne and Larry Hooks, Riverview Camp for Girls; Ivy McCoy, Camp Skyline; Phil Hurt, Camp DeSoto; Gene Justice, Skyline Camp; and Glenn Brazeale, Alpine Camp for Boys.

THE GROUNDHOG



The Groundhog is published monthly by the Mentone Area Preservation Association (MAPA). First conceived on Groundhog Day, 1982, and then organized on April 5, 1982, *The Groundhog* has been in publication for 37 years. MAPA is dedicated to preserving and protecting the heritage, natural environment and other unique qualities of life in the Mentone area. MAPA is chartered as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation.

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Bruce & Marsha BonFleur, Lacy Hope Dobbs,
Sharon Doviet, Randy Grider, Sharon Habin,
Rob Hammond, Mark Hoffman, Pat Johnson,
Anne McLeod, Tobey Miller, Rhea Pirch,
Diane Mealer Smith, Annette Stone, Sarah Wilcox

Contact *The Groundhog*

mapamentone.com/groundhog
groundhognews@yahoo.com
P.O. Box 387, Mentone, AL 35984
(256) 289-2002

Contact MAPA

mapamentone.com
mapamentone@gmail.com
P.O. Box 50, Mentone, AL 35984

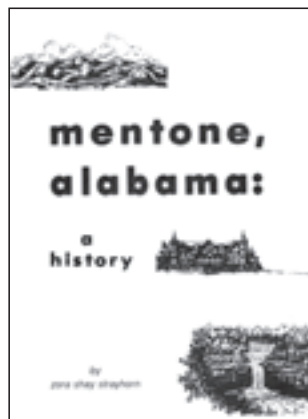
Do you have a story idea?

Perhaps a poem or recipe?

We welcome contributions!

Email groundhognews@yahoo.com

Learn about the History of Mentone



On sale at the Wildflower Café, Moon Lake Library, Green Leaf Grill, Little River Hardware, Mentone Market, DeSoto State Park, Earthly Elements & Bell Battelle. \$15; proceeds benefit MAPA.

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

Groundhog wood cut courtesy of Meg Justice.

Mentone Matters • by Mayor Rob Hammond



Thanks to many volunteers and the DeKalb County Sheriff's work crew, our roadsides are currently free of litter. Unfortunately in a couple of days litter will begin to reappear. Basically litter is bad for business. The thoughtless actions of a few create a negative impression of our town and county. Leadership DeKalb's Class of 2019 community project is an anti-litter campaign. Members of the class have gone to every 4th grade in DeKalb County to stress the importance of not littering and recycling. On April 27, from 8 a.m. until 12 p.m. at First State Bank in Rainsville, Leadership DeKalb will have the following services available: shredding, chemical disposal, and medication disposal. Please see the Leadership DeKalb website at leadershipdekalb.org for further details. For those new to Mentone, paper and cardboard recycling bins are located behind Town Hall. The Boy Scouts recycle aluminum cans. Bring them to the fenced enclosure in front of Jim Berry Hall on Dempsey Avenue. For further recycling options, visit the Fort Payne Recycling Center's web page. Thanks to all who pick up litter throughout the year.

District 1 County Commissioner Shane Wooten let me know that work has begun to repair Tutwiler Gap. It could be a lengthy process. After repairs are completed on Tutwiler, the county will begin work on the Wade Gap road.

According to ALDOT District Engineer Curtis Lowe, the "dip" on AL-117 will be leveled up during the first week of April. ALDOT will continue to monitor and make more extensive repairs if needed.

Work replacing the water lines on Cutler and West River Roads has begun. Fort Payne Water Works will do the work on West River Road and Bolt Construction will do the work on Cutler.

Letter from the Editor

Mentone is abuzz with excitement about the upcoming Taste of the Mountain and Art Auction hosted by the Mentone Area Educational Resources Foundation on April 6. Tickets have been sold out for weeks, which is an amazing show of support from our community—both for MERF and the Moon Lake students whose art is being auctioned, and for local artists as well, whose work will also be auctioned. The evening's food is truly a "taste" of everything, but all together it makes a splendid meal from our area's fine restaurants and other cooks.

Four years ago, I attended my second auction and was inspired to bid on "Mr. Monet's Pink Door," done in oil pastel with a watercolor wash by Alexis Reed, who was in 3rd grade at the time. This beautifully framed piece takes me right back to the time I've spent in France (which I have a certain love for). I really appreciate that a 3rd grade Moon Lake art student in Mentone, Alabama, created something able to transport me so.

It's like the magic of the mountain all comes together with this piece—the magic of the children and their teachers, and of the non-profits that support them so well, and the magic of art and its many powerful effects.

Stop by Mentone's Town Hall some time to see the student artwork that Mayor Rob Hammond has won bids on through the years. It's hanging in the Council room and deserves to be seen.

Thirty-seven years ago this month, the first issue of *The Groundhog* was published. The front page featured an article written by Sandra Padgett about Ruby O'Rear ("the flower lady"). Sandra and Bruce BonFleur were two of the forces behind the creation of the paper. I think we can all agree that they did a good thing in creating this voice for our community. Not many community papers these days can claim 37 years of continuous publication! We welcome all who want to be part of the paper by submitting articles, recipes, and photographs. In this issue, you'll see photos submitted by readers that reflect the beauty of our area. I would love to be able to share readers' photos every month. Email me at groundhognews@yahoo.com.

I saw my first hummingbird of the season today. I hope this spring brings you the same kind of joy these unique birds bring to me. —Kelly



"Mr. Monet's Pink Door" by Lexi Reed

Mentone Area Preservation Association

by Mark Hoffman



Ah, Spring is finally here! What a glorious time of the year. Let's get out of the house and go walking in the woods, hiking in and exploring our wonderful state park, or simply meandering through town and visiting our local artists and merchants. And don't forget to go by the farmer's market on Saturdays to see your friends and the local vendors with their wonderful array of fresh produce, canned treats, and other

unique and original food products. I can't think of a better way to spend a little of that money being saved with lower heating bills!

MAPA extends its sincere thanks and appreciation to Lyle Nicely for continuing to organize the annual spring trash pickup along Highway 117 through town and its perimeters which took place on March 30. Thanks also to the local businesses providing supplies and food, and to those individuals who volunteered and were there to do the

actual grunt work involved.

Please, let's everyone do their part to keeping the town and highway free of trash and litter throughout the upcoming year. Mentone is so beautiful—a small effort on everyone's part will help keep it that way.

Mark Hoffman is president of the Mentone Area Preservation Association.

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MAPA
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MapaMentone.com

Is "Momentum" Evident in Mentone? And is that a good thing?

It really is a blessing to be back and living in Mentone. We see people, projects, and proposals moving in a good direction. "Momentum" simply defined is movement. Movement can be good, it can be bad. It can improve a circumstance or a place, or it can signal a decline.

Since returning last spring after having been gone for almost 25 years, it has been amazing (and pleasing) for us to see that the same qualities of life—in the only place where we ever considered retiring—remain in Mentone. Thanks to all who have worked to preserve those qualities, and thanks to all those who have invested their time, money, and hearts into creating new businesses and community-related organizations.

As things move it begs the question, "What direction are we headed?" It's a big deal and needs to be looked at with the involvement of the entire community. At least the effort needs to be made to involve as many Mentone area residents as possible. This requires open minds, communication, and a willingness to 'give and take.'

The give and take includes all of us. If we believe growth is all bad and we believe there is some danger of Mentone becoming too commercialized, then we need to give that up. If we believe anything and everything goes, especially if it creates more jobs, then we need to temper those possibly overzealous plans, take them off our 'table,' and come to a new table that will exhibit cooperation and compromise.

I (Bruce) was instrumental, along with others, starting a few things that appear to have greatly benefitted many in Mentone. MAPA honored me years ago with a Lifetime Membership for efforts to create that organization and its offshoots, including *The Groundhog* and the annual Rhododendron and Colorfest celebrations. Believe me, at the time—the early 1980s—not everyone living here thought these were good ideas. History has proven differently. How many businesses succeeded, how many jobs were created, and how many beneficial community organizations have received vital funds as a result?

Now here we are, years later, at another decision-making time. Will those who have and are contributing to such great organizations like MERF, Little River Arts Council, MAPA—and now the emerging ones—a new arts and cultural center and a revived merchants association, come together with local officials and citizenry in a spirit of true community?

We hope so, and that is why we are joining all of these groups and will actively support as many of their projects and purposes as we can. We look forward to meeting and greeting many of you in the coming days. That's what living in Mentone should be about—believing in and living out through our actions—in the very best sense of the word, community. Common ground, shared, in unity.

So, is the "momentum" we're sensing in Mentone these days a good thing? We believe so.

—Bruce and Marsha BonFleur



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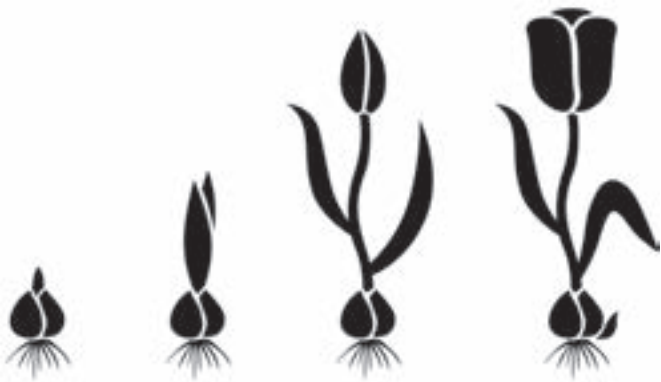
Birthdays

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| 1 Michele Kincer
Angie Miller
Calvin Lanier
Kayla Cronnon
Cayson Hughes | 10 Brittany McAdams
Newly Ingram
Paul Ethan Blackwell
Lindsey Webb
Lisa Moore
Emily McElhaney
Debra Rhodes
Stanford Carson
Conner Barkley
Robert Tillman | 20 Lane Ingram
Brenda Clinton
Charlene Smith |
| 2 Milton Chambers
Ellie Cox
Jayken Lawton
Nancy Lawton
Amanda Patrick
Dee Dee Hendricks | 11 Jorden Beasley
Joey Garrett
Josie Crider
Jerri Ann Tidmore
Austin Simpson
Ashton Simpson | 21 Thelma Coots
John Paul Verdon |
| 3 Ray Padgett
Jessica Battles | 12 Corey Davis
Kyle Coots
Tiffany Baker
Jeff Stephenson
Liam Cooper | 22 Lauren McGee
Philip Cash
John P. Smith Jr.
Coleton Phillips
KareyAnn Garner |
| 4 Jamie Vest
Mina Blalock
Sherry Barkley
Coty Powell | 13 Brian Blalock
Tessa Gravitt | 23 Courtney Meadows
Taylee Keith
Adam Dupree
Mariah Shannon |
| 5 Kaitlyn Tedder
Jana Sharp
Kenny Chamlee
Steve Rhodes
Chris Black
Andi Runnels
Donna Busby
Jamie Pannell | 14 Zoey Chambers
Carl Tubberville
Jason Baber
Tucker Wayne Smith | 24 Cooper Kirby
Jennifer Hamilton |
| 6 Jazz Hazelton
John Chambers
Ethel Manifold
Sydney Ingram
Jennifer Cruse | 15 Barbara Busby Rape
Craig Hendricks | 25 Molly Manifold
Eloise Lance
John Moore
Phyllis James
Cindy Carden
Zack Payne
Wesley Flarity |
| 7 Shannon Chappell
Kansas Lee
Kyle Miller
Dori Reed | 16 Preston Kirby
Danny Hopper
Al Blackburn
Sandy Johnson
Walker Reece Stinson | 26 Kaden Brody Johnson
Emily Miller
Kaylee Cartwright
Tommy Stephens |
| 8 Angie Wright
Jackson Eli Rosson
Sharon Coots
Madissen Chitwood
Hayden Knowles | 17 Ann Cash Harrell
Scott Guinn
Hannah Drain | 27 Stacey Bowman
Austin Reed
Alfred Langston |
| 9 Josh Goss
Justin Kahler
Mickey Smith | 18 Taylor Verdon
Shan Smith | 28 Mandi Goza
Anita Meadows
Shane McMahan
Jaimee McGee
Doug Powell |
| | 19 Butch Manifold | |

Anniversaries

- | | |
|--|---------------------------|
| 1 Raymond & Sharon Coots | 14 Ronnie & Leslie Bowman |
| 3 Chris & Jennifer Collins
Steve & Sandy Tate | 19 Corey & Abby Davis |
| 7 Milton & Gail Chambers | 20 Josh & Brandi Rosson |
| 10 Nathan & Lacie Keith | 26 Ross & Jessica VanPelt |

Happy Day!



Another Fun Spring Festival Is in Store! by Sharon Habin



Rhododendron Festival

May 18 & 19 in Mentone

Arts, Crafts, Live Music, Festival Food, Boat Rides & More!

mapamentone.com/rhododendron-festival

and Cultural Center and across from the Mentone Market. Free shuttles will move folks to and from the festival sites, with stops in town. We will again use activity buses that were used at Colorfest. They provide better comfort and an area to put larger items in the back door of the small bus. Handicapped parking is available at CR-89 & South Street. No other public parking will be at the festival sites.

The Miss Rhododendron Pageant on Friday, May 10, will take place at 6 p.m. at Mentone Community Church. The entry deadline is May 1. Audience tickets are \$5. The online entry can be completed at mapamentone.com/miss-rhododendron-2019.html

Entry packets are available at Moon Lake Community Library, which is open Tuesdays & Thursdays 3–6 p.m. and Saturdays 9 a.m.–1 p.m. Entries can also be completed online on one of the library's computers. Schools in the area will receive packets soon. The packet may be requested by email at

rhododendronfestival@gmail.com.

Musicians who would like to play during the Rhododendron Festival at the Brow Park Pavilion can apply online at mapamentone.com/performer-info or request an application. Email rhododendronfestival@gmail.com or send a request to MAPA, P.O. Box 50, Mentone, AL 35984. The deadline for performers is April 9.

Raffle tickets will be available in mid-April for an original painting of rhododendron blossoms by local artist Lydia Randolph (see upper left). Lydia will also be continuing her series of Festival Posters for us. We still have some from Colorfest, so if you would like to start a collection from the beginning you still can. Posters will be for sale at Moon Lake Library and at the festival.

Look for a special festival pullout edition of *The Groundhog* in May. For updated information, go to Mentone Alabama Festivals on Facebook.

Sharon Habin is Chair of the Rhododendron Festival.

Volunteers are always welcome! We had a very useful meeting on March 20. The next meeting will be Wednesday, April 10, at the Wildflower Café in the Wildflower Room at 1 p.m.

It takes a great deal of effort to present festivals, which can only be accomplished by the generosity of the gift of time. Donations and sponsorships are always useful, too.

We have still have openings for help at the MAPA information booths on Saturday and Sunday. More sign teams members are needed in advance of the festival, and we can always use help with odds and ends between now and the festival.

Thanks to the folks who have already come forward to volunteer. If you're interested, please email rhododendronfestival@gmail.com, or go to 'Volunteer Mentone AL Festivals' on Facebook or fill out an interest form at mapamentone.com/volunteer-info. —Sharon Habin

Miss Rhododendron



Presented by Mentone Area Preservation Association

Friday, May 10, 2019 at 6 p.m. CDT • \$5 admission

Mentone Community Church, 90 Summerville Road, Mentone

Miss Rhododendron is part of the annual Rhododendron Festival, May 18 & 19

Six Age Divisions for Girls Ages 0 – 18

Miss Rhododendron (Senior Division) will win a One-year Scholarship to Northeast Alabama Community College (NACC admission requirements apply)

For more information and entry packets, please enter online at mapamentone.com/miss-rhododendron-pageant-2019 or email rhododendronfestival@gmail.com Packets are also available at Moon Lake Community Library.

Rhododendron Garden Club by Rhea Pirch



The Rhododendron Garden Club met on Tuesday, March 12, at the MERF House. Hostess Jan Wilkinson provided tiny cupcakes, a coffee cake, and refreshments, all with a St. Patrick's Day motif. I read the meditation, "View Trees Like an Artist" from Luke Miller, blogger and outdoor living editor for Lowe's Creative Ideas. ("There's nothing like a skyline to isolate the shape of a tree. No color to dazzle, no flowers to intoxicate. It's all about form.")

President Marsha Merrell called the meeting to order. During roll call, members were asked to share what flowers we have growing in our yards and what summer bulbs we like to plant. Daffodils are still blooming, along with Lenten Rose, Almond Flower, Spirea and Camellia. Favorite bulbs mentioned were Gladiolus, Chrysanthemums, Stargazer Lilies, Sedum, and Daylilies.

For the conservation report, Jan Wilkinson directed our attention to the article in the March Groundhog about the temporary bridge being built just over the Alabama/Georgia state line in preparation for the replacement of the existing bridge. The temporary bridge, the article states, is being built because of the existence of the threatened aquatic plant *Sagittaria Secundifolia* (also known as Kral's water-plantain, Little River Arrowhead, and Little River Water Plantain.) We all expressed appreciation for the article informing the public of this effort made to save this rare plant.

Martha Wood continued her focus on wildflowers in the horticulture report. She acquainted us with two wildflowers growing in her yard now. The first one was *Antennaria Plantaginifolia*, better known as "Pussytoes," and the other was *Claytonia Carolinaea*, or "Spring Beauty."

Pussytoes is a perennial ground cover that grows from seed. It has gray-green leaves that sprout downy flowers resembling cat feet and is remarkably resistant to disease and pests, including deer and rabbits. Pussytoes also attract pollinators and serve as a host for the American Lady butterfly.

Spring Beauty is a woodland perennial that produces small flowers with pink or white petals, with darker pink veins that serve as nectar guides for pollinators. They are grown from corms, where energy is stored to fuel early spring growth. All parts of Spring Beauty are edible and can be used for medicinal purposes.

The meeting continued with reminders of upcoming events, including the MERF senior lunch we will be hosting on March 27, and Mentone Clean-up day, on March 30, when we'll again gather to help the community pick up trash along our allotted section of Highway 117.

After business was completed, member Mellanie Tuttle passed out hand-outs for her presentation on flower design. Mellanie has taken on the role of chairman for the 2019 Flower Show to be held as part of the DeKalb County Fair from September 23–29. This year's theme is set on Dr. Suess' "Oh the Places You'll Go!" and all designs will be focused on various segments of the book.

There's a lot to learn about flower design, especially for competition. It is so much more than placing flowers in a vase! Designs are judged and awarded on very specific criteria outlined in each section and class of the flower show handbook. Designs are eligible for distinct awards in each section and class, also. As examples, an American Traditional Mass Design can win a Tricolor Award of Design Excellence. A Creative Line Design, in a different section and class, can win the Designer's Choice Award but not the Tricolor Award, and so on.

In this meeting, Mellanie focused on two basic design concepts: Traditional and Creative. Three of the National Garden Club Traditional Design styles are Line Design, Line-Mass Design, and Mass Design. With a traditional design, the plant material is dominant; the container and background are

subordinate. All the plant material comes from one point of emergence (as in a basic vase or pot.)

Creative Design has more emphasis on, yes, the creative aspects of the design. The National Garden Club names 18 creative design styles. Many of these design styles are influenced by the artistic styles of Impressionism, Fauvism, Art Nouveau, Art Deco, Cubism, and Surrealism. Some creative designs included in this year's flower show will be Construction Design, Creative Line Design, and Still Life Design, among many others. To make use of the creative aspects of these design styles, there can be more than one point of emergence for the plant material.

Mellanie plans on continuing her lessons in order to prepare us each to enter at least one design in the flower show. With her instruction and some practice sessions, all who enter just may come home with a



Traditional Design



Creative Design

blue ribbon (or two!).

For our next meeting on April 9, we're looking forward to taking our yearly excursion to the pocket of Pigeon Mountain, GA, to explore the blooming wildflowers along the Shirley Miller Wildflower Trail, followed by lunch at a local restaurant. Visitors are welcome! We will meet at the MERF House at 9 a.m., instead of our regular meeting time of 10 a.m.

Rhea Pirch serves as secretary for the Rhododendron Garden Club. The Rhododendron Garden Club is a member of National Garden Clubs, Inc., Deep South Region, The Garden Club of Alabama - District II and the Northeast Federation of Garden Clubs.

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Mentone Arts & Cultural Center

Jim Connor Gives Incredible Performance

by Randy Grider



L to R: Don Park & Jim Connor

Singer/songwriter and Alabama Hall of Fame banjo player Jim Connor lived up to that high praise and more during his March 16 performance in Mentone. The show was sponsored by the Mentone Arts & Cultural Center.

Joined by Don Park on guitar and vocals, Connor delighted the packed house with his humor and song—a virtual stroll of his storied history in the music industry.

The Gadsden native, who has played 68 countries on four continents during his career, is best known for writing John Denver's hit, "Grandma's Feather Bed."

Connor was a recording artist for Capitol Records in the 1960s, known as "Richard and Jim." Then, from 1968 to 1974, as a member of the New Kingston Trio, he lent his musical talents to such hit records as "Tom Dooley" and "Where Have All the Flowers Gone?"



Jim Conner with fans

Connor's work has also been recorded by such country luminaries as the Kingston Trio, Brenda Lee, and Three on a String. He has performed with a diverse assortment of entertainers including John Denver, Dolly Parton, Linda Ronstadt, Barbara Streisand, Fanny Flagg, Judy Collins, Donald O'Connor, Red Buttons, Steve Martin and Phyllis Diller—just to name a few. But Connor hardly needs to rely on the talents of others: he has three platinum records, and eight gold records to his credit.

After two hours of entertaining the crowd with his folksy, charming stage presence, Connor and Park saved the best for last. He performed "Grandma's Feather Bed" before inviting the crowd to join him in a moving rendition of "I'll Fly Away."

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



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Taken by Jerry Megli on the morning of February 28, 2019, looking west from Mentone toward Sand Mountain.



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(ALMOST) Touched by the Light by Kelly Leavitt

Mentone resident Bill Rutledge recently had an “enlightening” experience. Late in the evening on Thursday, March 15, scattered severe storms were rolling through our area. Most everyone who lives near downtown Mentone heard the lightning bolt that struck Bill’s property. Some said it was the loudest sound they’d ever heard.

As he was lying in bed, lightning struck the base of a tall hickory tree outside his brow-side home on County Road 89 near downtown Mentone. It travelled underground toward his house, forging a deep channel of finely pulverized dirt along its way. Embedded rocks, stones, and flower

bulbs were unearthed and explosively flung into the air.

The electricity then seems to have found a conduit through some old wiring under a deck where a hot tub once stood. It entered Bill’s house, made its way to his breaker box, threw off the breakers, and disabled everything electronic except the refrigerator.

From his bedroom, Bill had a direct view of his now-darkened kitchen. What appeared to be a ball of fire (about the size of a basketball) was slowly travelling through the air, towards his bedroom. He noted that it was bright enough to cast shadows as it moved. At its closest point, it

was about six feet away from Bill. It disappeared within seconds.

Meanwhile, the electrical discharge found its way to the underground water lines and travelled to the meter near the street, which it hurled into the air, and on to the connector with the main water line under the road. It exploded there as well, so a gravel-and-sand patch was placed on the asphalt.

Bill expressed appreciation for the service he was provided by Sand Mountain Electric Cooperative and Fort Payne Water Works. They were prompt, professional, and committed to helping him restore his services quickly.

Ball lightning is very rare and potentially very dangerous. It can melt glass, burn objects, and kill people. Because of its rarity through the ages, data is sparse and inconsistent, so there’s no official scientific explanation for it. One theory is that it’s a chemical reaction that creates a sphere of vapor. When lightning strikes the ground, silicon, which is found in soil, combines with oxygen and carbon, becoming a type of vapor. As it cools, it condenses and morphs into a sphere. As it recombines with oxygen, it begins to emit a glow. Once the silicon has burned out, the ball lightning disappears.



Earth Day Celebration at Valley Head Park 3:30–5:30 p.m.

Bring your lawn chair and enjoy the games, activities, including the Duck Race and the local market. Duck race will begin at 5 p.m. Food will be available for purchase.

PLANT SALE

Saturday, April 13
7am–12pm
VFW Fairgrounds

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Master Gardeners

Oak Leaf Hydrangeas
Magnolia Trees
Daylilies
Azaleas
Bedding Annuals
Herbs
Ferns
Natives
Hostas
Vegetables

Community Easter Egg Drop & CaRnival

Saturday, April 13 • 10 am – 1 pm

Join the Mentone and surrounding communities for an Easter celebration. The Mentone summer camps, Mentone churches, and local business have come together once again to create a massive Egg Drop of over 20,000 eggs from a helicopter flying above. There will also be carnival games, prizes, inflatables, cotton candy, sno-cones, popcorn, clowns, music and lots of fun. Everyone is welcome. Bring your family and friends out for a day to remember! There is no charge for anything at this event. If you don't have a bag or basket, no problem! All children will receive a bag at check-in to use for collecting eggs. You are welcome to bring lawn chairs.

Mentone Community Church is located at 90 Summerville Rd, Mentone, Alabama 35984.



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Mentone Wedding Chapel



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Nestled in the woods atop Lookout Mountain, near Mentone, Alabama, this quaint little chapel is surrounded by ferns, forest and flowers. The chapel is a scaled version of traditional Appalachian churches of days gone by. Stained glass windows filtering soft forest sunrays and soft organ music accent an ambience fitting the wedding ceremony. Inside, wooden pews will seat approximately 60 guests.

Linda Patterson, owner of the chapel, said the idea for it began with a bell, and now that bell rings as newlyweds exit the door of the chapel.

*To arrange your wedding or renewing of your
wedding vows, call
256-634-4181*



MERF News

by Sarah Wilcox

MERF moms had another great music lesson with Paula Easter on March 14. There was lots of moving and grooving to the music, shaking tambourines, playing the tomtoms, and enjoying each other. So glad to have such fun moms and little ones Selah, Forrest, Zinnia, and CG. MERF senior lunches will continue until April 24 at the MERF house. Please come join the fun and good food!

MERF's Taste of the Mountain and Art Auction is happening on Saturday, April 6. It is an evening of creative food and amazing artwork in celebration of "American Road Trip: Oh the Places We'll Go." Lots of hard work and creative juices come together to transform the Moon Lake School gym. Thanks to everyone who is making this evening a great celebration of our community. Ticket sales went fast and I hope we end up allowing everyone to come who wants to come. Thank you to the community for making this event fun and successful. The students have been creating masterpieces in the style of great American artists. See their creations in the pictures below. Artists who have donated are still coming in, so they will be noted in May's article but many of our



Megan & Forrest, Kara & Selah, Savannah & CG



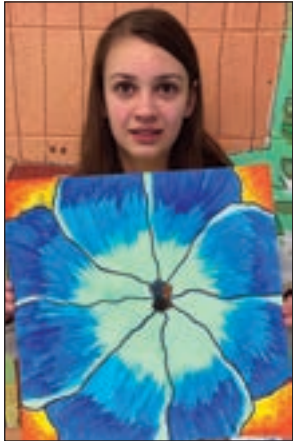
Allysa Hawkins, grade 5



Austin Pickett, grade 4

regulars have donated again, as well as some new ones. MERF's Facebook page has pictures of the donated artwork. The culinary creations are from Wildflower Café, Green Leaf Grill, Plowshares, JoeJohn's Catering, Mentone Market, Stinson's Catering, Mildred's Meadows, Chick Fil A, Helena's Deli, The Lookout Restaurant, Paula's Biscuits, Tip Top Bake Shop, Valley Head Food team, Mentone Inn, and The Farm at Windy Hill. Thank the food vendors and artists for supporting MERF with a thank you and a purchase of their food or artwork. The artists have their work for sale at Little River Hardware, Boom Town Makers Market, Valley Head Drug Store, Mentone shops, and the DeSoto State Park Country Store.

Sarah Wilcox is Executive Director of the Mentone Educational Resources Foundation (MERF), a local non-profit with the mission "to enrich the learning and living of the community by identifying needs and coordinating resources." If you would like to support our programs, tax-deductible donations can be mailed to P.O. Box 107, Mentone, AL 35984, or you may contribute online at merfhouse.org. Contact us at mentone@gmail.com or 256-635-8193 for more information.



Baylece Walsh, grade 6



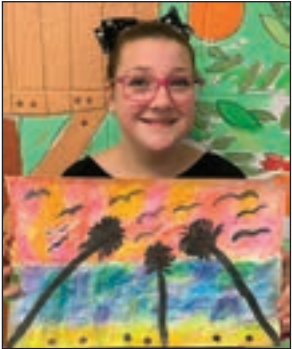
Lexi Flannigan, grade 1



Christian Whalen, K



Brantley Hawkings, K



Emily Stone, grade 6



Lydia Hulan, grade 3



Alex Tillman, grade 2



Cade Hawkins, grade 4



Kenya Heinrich, grade 3



Christian Whalen, K



Beau Barnes, grade 1



Gracie Pullen, grade 6



Alexis Brown, grade 2



Byrdie Furlow, grade 5



Ricky Hawkins, grade 4



Bella Buckler, grade 1



Family Art Night...Grandmother of Allysa, Hayden Bullock, and Allysa Hawkins



Catie Crawford, grade 2

Ongoing Community Calendar

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

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

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 during these hours. Joint effort between St. Joseph's-on-the-Mountain Episcopal Church (Community Outreach Ministry) and the Food Bank of North Alabama.

Ryleigh's Closet is a clothing closet that provides men's, women's, and children's clothing to those in need on 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month from 4–8pm. Mentone Community Church, 90 Summerville Rd. 256-634-4210.

The Farm Market at The Farm at Windy Hill is open Fridays from 2–5pm. Seasonal produce, grass-fed and finished beef, pastured and wooded pork, and pasture-raised eggs. 445 Road 942, Mentone, AL.

Moon Lake Community Library is open on Saturdays from 9am–1pm, and Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3–6pm. Enjoy complimentary coffee, wi-fi, and use of 2 computers. Visit moonlakelibrary.org for an online catalog.

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

The Lookout Mountain Knitters meet each Tuesday at 3pm at Moon Lake Community Library. All are welcome.

Writing anyone? Point of the Pen is a small, supportive writing group that welcomes anyone to join us for a casual sharing time with other writers interested in life stories, poetry, and fiction. Come to Moon Lake Community Library on the 1st Thursday of each month at 3:15pm. Call 256-635-8775 for details.

Lookout Mountain Strummers mountain dulcimer group meets on alternate Thursdays at 1pm at St. Joseph's Episcopal Church. For a schedule and directions, send an email to norbaker194@gmail.com. Beginners are welcome.

Beginning yoga classes are taught by certified teacher Jamie Baugh on Wednesdays at 1pm. \$5. St. Joseph's Parish Hall, Mentone. 256-634-4476.

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

The DeKalb County Genealogical Society meets the 2nd Saturday of every month in the DeKalb County Public Library, 10am.

The Little River group of Alcoholics Anonymous meets every Saturday & every Tuesday night at 6pm at St. Joseph's on-the-Mountain Episcopal Church in Mentone. Open AA Discussion Meetings. Anyone who thinks they might have a problem with alcohol is welcome. Questions? Call 256-638-7308.

Hope Faith-Based Recovery Ministries, a Christian-based support group, meets each Friday at 6pm at Church of God of Prophecy on Hwy. 117 in Mentone. 706-331-7359.

Exercise Room is open at the Fort Payne Senior Center, Monday through Friday (except for certain holidays), from 8am to noon. 600 Tyler Ave. SE, Fort Payne. 256-845-8590.

Free Low Impact Fitness Class is held every Monday, Wednesday and Friday 9:30–10am at the Fort Payne Senior Center. 600 Tyler Ave. SE, Fort Payne. 256-845-8590.

Ballroom dancing lessons are offered at the Fort Payne Senior Center on Mondays from 6–8pm. Call 662-213-2401 to register.

Line dancing lessons are offered at the Fort Payne Senior Center on Tuesdays from 1:30–2:30pm (beginners) and 2:30–3:30pm (experienced). 256-845-8590.

Bowling League for Seniors at Mountain Lanes in Rainsville. Wednesdays at 1pm. 256-638-1710.

Ceramics/Pottery Club meets at the Fort Payne Senior Center on Tuesdays and Fridays 9am–12pm. New students meet Mondays & Wednesdays 9am–12pm. 600 Tyler Ave. SE, Fort Payne. 256-845-8590.

Bridge Club meets at the Fort Payne Senior Center on Wednesdays and Thursdays 12:30–3:30pm. 600 Tyler Ave. SE, Fort Payne. 256-845-8590.

Round Dancing is held the Fort Payne Senior Center on Tuesdays 5–8:30pm. The cost is \$5/class. New students can start in February with FREE admission for the month. 600 Tyler Ave. SE, Fort Payne. Call 256-244-5320 to register.

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

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Moon Lake Community Library News

Moon Lake Library is wearing a new coat... of paint, that is! Several volunteers painted the interior walls during Moon Lake's spring break. They're now shades of blue, rather than the more impersonal beige of years past. It sure feels fresh...and larger!

We enjoyed our Author Talk in March with Edwene Gaines, who gave the audience tips on being a writer. The "Point of the Pen" writer's group meets

at the library on the first Thursday of each month at 3:15 p.m. Everyone is welcome.

The library is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3 until 6 p.m. and on Saturdays from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. Check our Facebook page or web site (moonlakelibrary.org) for updates or to join our email list. The library is located at 4607 AL Hwy. 117 in Mentone. —*Kelly Leavitt, community librarian*

A New Way to Look at Books by Tobey Miller

What happens when you mix a serious love of books, artistry and whimsy? You get a miniature world where the words of a book are revealed in three dimensions. This is the world created by my sister, Alice Dudoich. Alice has a knack for seeing everyday objects as something of value, something that can be repurposed to fit into a small world. In so doing, she transforms a mundane gardening book into a fully equipped garden shed. Look closely and you'll realize that the nozzle on that water hose is a simple wood screw. But don't ask her to look for a twist tie in your junk drawer.

She'll never be able to focus on the item you seek. The tiny snaps she finds will become the burners on a miniature stove; a loose bead might become a bowling ball. When there is no existing object that works just right, she just builds what she needs with her tiny woodworking tools or models them out of clay.

Alice is coming to Mentone in April and will share some of her miniature worlds with us. Come to the Moon Lake Library on Saturday, April 20, at 10:30 a.m. See a 50s-style kitchen made from a cookbook and Renoir's studio made from his biography. You can ask her how she comes up with her ideas or how she makes a 2" by 4" Frigidaire. Come and share the tiny worlds she has created from the hearts of books.



**Friday, April 5
5–8 p.m.**

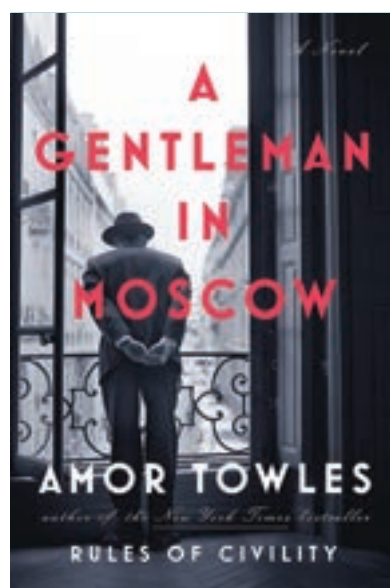
**Mentone Market
5872 AL Highway 117**

Our deep gratitude goes to Mentone Market, who will generously donate \$1 for every beer and wine sale on the evening of Friday, April 5.

Popular Mentone singer/songwriter Terry Hutcheson will be performing that evening.

We'll have a pop-up book sale at the market as well, starting at 4 p.m. Hardcover \$2, large paperbacks \$1, small paperbacks \$.25, DVDs and CDs \$1.

Moon Lake Community Library is primarily funded by donations and book sales. This will be a fun evening! Come support your friendly library.



Moon Lake Book Club 4/27

Join fellow book lovers on for a discussion of *A Gentleman in Moscow*, a best-selling historical novel by Kate Quinn. The book club will meet on Saturday, April 27, at 10:30 a.m. at Moon Lake Community Library in Mentone (where the book is available for check-out). Everyone is welcome to join the discussion. Organic coffee and hot tea will be served.



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How can CREATIVE PLACEMAKING utilize arts and culture to make a difference in Mentone? Come to the library on Thursday, April 25, at 6:30 p.m. for a round-table discussion. Everyone is welcome.



Geese (continued from page 1)

he thinks conditions aren't perfect to enlarge the gaggle. In Spring 2017, Inky broke all the eggs. Inky is about 10 years old, says Aunt Gwen, who created the wonderland she called "Cambria Bleu", that we've called "Mentone Abbey" these past two years. (PBS viewers of *Downton Abbey* would get it and chuckle. I guess Chris is Carson the Butler and I am Mrs. Hughes, because we're certainly not Lord and Lady Grantham. My retired mom may, however, be the Dowager-what-is-a-weekend-? Countess.) The original two geese came from Collinsville Trade Day, with one laying an egg on the ride home! We thought they were "Hawaiian" geese and searched online with no luck. Then we spotted a Chinese goose with the familiar creamy beige bodies, snow white bottoms, dark heads and great orange feet. A Chinese "Huiyuan" goose could easily be turned into "Hawaiian" goose.

We've researched. Geese can live 20 years, so Inky's time might be drawing near. Out of six original geese, our crew has just two boys...as best we can tell. Male geese are bigger, with prominent bumps on their foreheads. We've given them all names based on distinctive features—mostly beak markings. Dale (as in "Earnhart" for the racing stripe down the center of his beak) is the only other male. The ladies are Pumpkin (perfect orange beak), Priscilla (a few spots), Scorch (beak looks like a burned marshmallow), and earthbound Eartha (with malformed wings that keep her from even the slightest lift-off, a weird double-chin and bad eyesight. Birth defects are common if the mother goose doesn't know what she's doing and doesn't turn the eggs precisely during incubation—180 degrees, four times a day).

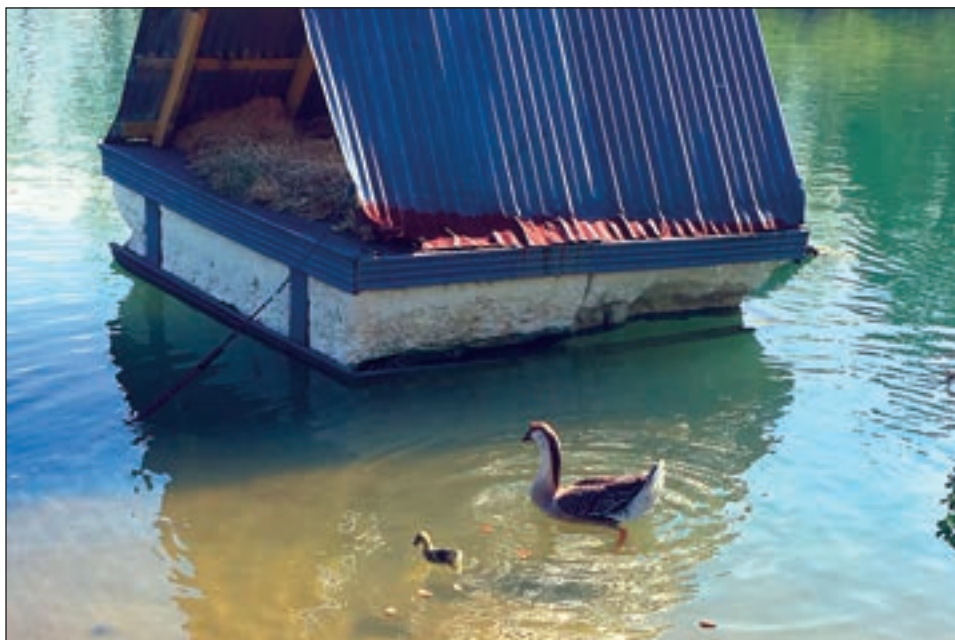
After no hatchings in 2017, we were hopeful 2018 be a successful egg season. We wanted chicks! We wanted evidence that we were taking good care of them and that they were happy and felt bullish about their future with us as the new home owners.

Geese are funny creatures. In the spring, the girls lay an egg every day or so, and just anywhere—even out in the open. A goose may come back and lay more all in that one spot, or she may just drop them here and there. Later, once she has lain 10–15 eggs, she will come back to sit, and start "cooking" them with her 98-degree rumpus. Ideally you need 50–55% humidity for 27 days—or so says the internet. Once the mother goose commits to sitting, she'll sit on her eggs for weeks straight—going days or weeks without eating and getting skinny. If she laid the eggs out in the grass, she'll stay there in the open, sitting and risking attacks. And many or all of the eggs may not be fertile. She can sit on 10 or 15 eggs and wait and wait—very "Horton Hears a Who" but with a sad ending, if none hatch. Around day 28 you watch for action.

In March of last year, we began finding stray eggs all over—yes, in the hut, but also under a pine tree, out in the yard, at the water's edge... We would collect all strays and wade through freezing water (okay, only Chris had the will to wade through freezing water for our girls) to put all the eggs together in the safety of the hut, having no idea which girl had lain which egg. We were up to 11 eggs in the hut when Scorch climbed up the ramp to brood. She plopped herself down and stayed. We started a list of appropriate names for chicks by a mother named Scorch: Coal, Ash, Ember, Hot Flash,

Smoky... But we kept finding more eggs in the yard, and we couldn't sneak those eggs under Scorch's bottom now.

We love having guests at Mentone Abbey, and the Lowrys are our kind of people. Zara and Todd and their wonderful nine-year-old daughter, Zoe, came to visit after Scorch was already entrenched in the hut. They saw a fun challenge in the extra found eggs. There was no harm done trying to incubate extra eggs that had no other chance, right? So, they took a bucket of eggs, cushioned with straw, home to Huntsville, reading internet articles on the drive. The first try, with a homemade Styrofoam cooler incubator didn't hold the temperature properly, so the Lowrys went and bought a proper one. Zara and Zoe turned eggs multiple times daily—good Mother



Baby Fireball, first view

Gooses. These eggs, if successful, would be a couple of weeks behind whatever Scorch was brooding.

On April 25, the Dowager Countess spotted a flutter in the water near the goose hut. A chick! By the old-fashioned method, Scorch had a baby! We decided "Fireball" was a good name, especially since there appeared to be only one. The baby had already climbed down into the water and was swimming. Sometimes it would stagger up the ramp back under Scorch's warm feathers, especially at night, but Scorch stayed put on the nest waiting for more babies. When Fireball ventured out in the water alone, it was our challenged goose Eartha who babysat. Eartha might be ostracized by the other geese for her wings that stick out wrong—she's always bringing up the rear whether walking or swimming—but she had protective capacity with this chick. She stayed within inches of the baby.

After a few days, Eartha and Scorch seemed to take turns in the water with the baby—and now Eartha took over sitting on all the remaining eggs in the hut. For days. But nothing happened.

On May 16, we got enthusiastic texts from the Lowrys! Three of the incubated eggs were starting to crack! Photos came by text. There was a crack, then a dark blob visible through a dime-sized hole. The struggle into the world was too much for one of the three chicks, despite help from the human moms and it didn't pull through, but two chicks broke free and survived the night. The Lowrys reported the tiny creatures seemed exhausted from the effort, but soon the wet feathers dried and fluffed up. The humans coaxed them to eat. Soon the chicks were chattering and developing two very different personalities—one calm and peaceful and one pushy and controlling. They needed "Z" names like their human moms Zara and Zoe. So, it became "Zen" for the calm one, and

"Zippy" for the one running non-stop. Chris and I went to visit the Lowrys' garage. The chicks were darlings. Just two inseparable yellow puffs of fluff at first, then slowly after a couple of weeks, they were swimming in a blue plastic baby pool.

Zara and Zoe led the research on options for the future of these two little survivors. They couldn't stay in the Lowrys' garage forever, but books and websites said the Mentone geese might never accept them, or worse, might likely try to hurt them. Still, if the Mentone geese wouldn't accept them, what was to say any other group of geese on any other pond would. At least if they came back to Mentone, we could watch and protect them and shift to some unknown Plan B if things went badly.

A date was circled and a plan, well, hatched. In the weeks leading up, my husband Chris used his phone to record the chatter of the adult geese in Mentone and took it to Huntsville to play for the babies. The babies cocked their tiny heads, listening and chatting back at the recording. And then he recorded baby goose chatter and played it for the grown geese in Mentone. The adults in Mentone went crazy hearing the recordings—they squawked and searched frantically for invisible babies. Fascinating behavior, but were they eager to help a chick, or upset and dangerous? What would they do in person?

On the big day, June 3, the Lowrys drove to Mentone for the weekend with the two chicks in a box. Even by then, Eartha was still manning the hut, not giving up on the lost-cause eggs that even we city folk knew were not going to hatch. Fireball, the one naturally-born chick, was growing bigger, roaming the whole pond. At 10 a.m. Saturday morning, we set the plan in motion. I took a loaf of bread to the far end of the pond and called "Goosey-goose! Goosey-goose!" This always gets instant response and, Inky permitting, the five adults and Fireball swam to me. Chris, in swim trunks and bringing out the box, planned to wade stealthily to the side of the A-frame, keeping the roof as a block to Eartha's view from inside. He was going to hand in the two incubator chicks. In our fantastic plan, Eartha would believe two of the lost-cause eggs had hatched after all! The other geese, out of range across the pond, none the wiser, would come back to assume she'd done it after all! Eartha, the outcast, would be Eartha the heroine.

It took less than five minutes for the plan to fall apart. As soon as the box with the baby chicks came outside, the babies chirped. Even from the extreme end of the crescent pond, the sound carried, and the adults heard. They went frantic. They raced for the hut, chasing the sound and practically beating Chris there. He scooped the chicks inside, but Inky knew instantly these little strangers were not hers. She wailed! She shoved the baby chicks off the side of the floating hut, into the water. The other geese circled in five-alarm alert. The squawking was horrible. The chicks paddled hard for the bank, terrified, running to the humans they knew as their only family. But the big geese intercepted the babies, separating them from the humans and herded the chicks back into the pond. Zen and Zippy flapped their little nubs of wings, swam fast, and hid in the dark under a low bush at the water's edge. The racket continued. The adult geese surrounded the bush, squawking at the babies. Todd and Chris waded in, trying to retrieve the chicks, but the goose attack took another turn.

Our half-tame gaggle of bread-loving “Hawaiian” geese turned wild on us. Despite all the nutty-bread hand feedings over the last year, and a solar-powered never-ending corn feeder that spewed at least two square goose buffets every single day, now suddenly the humans were the enemy. Inky and the gang chased us! Up onto the bank, away into the grass. They pursued us, those long necks stretched out, threatening, and running us back. We all watched, worried, and strategized from a distance. The option would be to fight our own beloved and coddled pet geese, maybe with nets or poles. And even if we risked hurting the grown geese and risked a flogging, the babies would be hard to capture now anyway.

For 30 minutes, the babies hid under the bush with the other geese paddling in circles around them, not attacking but not leaving either. We humans all headed for a porch deck overlooking the pond and watched and waited. We started lunch and watched. We poured glasses of chilled rosé wine and waited. For hours, the babies hid, and the adult geese circled and talked.

But then, a little flutter.

We spotted puffs of fluff a few feet away from the bush, still near the edge of the water but also near the big geese. We counted. They were all gathering into a pod, with two teeny puff balls, one bigger puff which was Fireball, and five adults tracking along the edge of the pond. Eartha remained in the hut, protecting old eggs, throughout. We watched all evening and by



Inky on the left, Scorch on the right...with babies Zen and Zippy

dinnertime we appeared to have one big goose family.

The humans woke randomly through the night, getting up and going out on the deck to check. The geese chattered through the night, as normal, but every so often in the dark a squawking explosion would erupt and we would go check, worried. Foxes? Coyotes? A goose civil war? The big flashlight reached far enough to see the water and the hut. Nine. All nine.

We watched eagerly for the next week. Eventually, Chris had to scare a skinny Eartha off the nest and out of the hut to go eat. He took all the dud eggs

away, digging through the nasty straw with bird poop and broken shells. He pulled out about eight intact, rotten eggs. What a stink! A few broke in the bucket as he carried them off to the woods. Some had slimy green insides. Whew! We'd never encountered such a smell!

Eartha returned to the group and re-assimilated, as much as they would allow her. We noticed that Fireball, who had been babysat by Eartha in the days after hatching, was the one goose who seemed to accept her.

It's been a year now. We have nine full-grown geese and it's difficult to tell the “babies” from the adults. Zen and Zippy are thriving, and are always close together. It takes months for goose genders to become obvious, but we now think Fireball is a boy as he's getting that big bump on his forehead. And he's got a funny double-chin... the Eartha chin! Scorch may have hatched him—our one and only natural birth—

but he's clearly Eartha's boy. Best guess, we rescued his egg from the bank and put it inside the hut before Scorch started setting. And while Eartha may be flightless, myopic, and bullied by the other geese, Fireball is perfectly healthy. Inky the lead male is getting older. We wonder if Eartha has lain the next leader of the pack.

Spring is upon us. We've start searching the banks and bushes for stray eggs. We hope to hit double digits this year.

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OWNER FINANCING CONSIDERED! This tastefully designed cabin comes furnished and decorated! Enjoy the elegance of the cabin along with the serenity of Lookout Mountain. Main living area has open floor plan. Main level master has one-of-a-kind style with reclaimed furniture. Loft bedroom, utility room, screened porch and wood burning fireplace! \$189,900. MLS #1110505.



3 BEDROOM/2 BATH HOME IN THE COUNTRY AT MENTONE. One-level brick and vinyl home offers updated kitchen and baths, hardwood flooring, central heat & air, office space, large pantry/utility room, rear porch enclosed for great sun porch. \$119,900. MLS #1110832.



MENTONE BROW HOME! Just around the corner from DeSoto State Park and Desoto Falls. Home features split bedroom design offering 3 bedrooms and 2 baths, open living and dining combo with vault ceiling, wood burning fireplace, spacious kitchen with breakfast bar, sunroom/den area, large deck for entertaining and an enclosed garage. \$350,000. MLS #1099721.



MENTONE BROW HOME! 2BR/2BA brow home with tons of character! Enjoy all the extras like hardwood floors, rustic wood walls, gas log fireplace & more. Being sold furnished. Call today! \$295,000. MLS #1076700



NEW CONSTRUCTION! Don't miss your chance to customize the finishes in this new cabin now under construction in Mentone. Covered front porch, screened back porch, 2 bedrooms, 2-1/2 baths, laundry, open kitchen and living with corner gas log fireplace unit. If you're looking for just the right place...call now to make this home all your own! \$179,900. MLS#1109748.



QUAINT DOWNTOWN BUNGALOW Looking for a new owner to enjoy the character and charm it offers. Built in 1910, the house has been fully restored, updated, and expanded. GREAT location on a quiet street. \$174,900. MLS# 1108601



3.3 ACRES of historic property in the heart of Mentone. Starting at \$325,000. Call for details. MLS#1045206.



CRYSTAL LAKE LODGE in Mentone... Fifty breathtaking acres surround you in this one-of-a-kind property. Call today for your private tour! \$734,900. MLS#1070805



Mentone Cottage! Fully remodeled spacious two bedroom with bath in each room and additional half bath. This home comes completely furnished and just in time for the beautiful Fall season. Property has been used as resort rental and can easily transition to your primary residence. Only \$179,900! MLS#1102065.



WORKING POULTRY FARM with approx. 16 acres! Two 42x500 operating Pullet houses built in 2006. Houses operate on well water with city water back-up. Contract currently with Pilgrim's Pride. Property has pond and fencing. 25x50 3-bay shed. 3BR, 2BA house with carport built in 1970 also on the property. \$179,000. MLS#1096127.



GORGEOUS COUNTRY SETTING with a Modern 1-level, 4BR/3 Full BR home. Built in 2014! Open floor plan with a split bedroom design. Many upscale touches include a wood-burning fireplace that heats the home through the central unit duct work, full stainless steel appliance package, crown molding, tile flooring, security system. \$365,000. MLS#1099363.



QUAINT DOWNTOWN BUNGALOW Looking for a new owner to enjoy the character and charm it offers. Built in 1910, the house has been fully restored, updated, and expanded. GREAT location on a quiet street. \$174,900. MLS# 1108601



GREAT BEGINNINGS & OPTIONS are endless in Mentone with an unfinished home! Approximately 4,800 sq ft on 7.5 acres. Great investment opportunity to create a neighborhood of cabins leading to the Owner's Estate or Common Gathering Area. Great Investment Opportunity, especially with the growth of the Mentone Resort area! \$165,000. MLS#1099079.



THE HISTORIC CRAGSMERE MANOR on 5+ acres serves as rental lodging and/or event hosting. Perfect setting for large or small groups, 6BR/4BA, Large kitchen, dining, and living area, covered pavilion. \$699,000. MLS#1066481



VINTAGE BUNGALOW, completely remodeled, zoned Commercial/Residential w/250' on Hwy 117. Bright & sturdy 1940's-era, 3BR/1BA gem. Wood walls; period trim details. Updated with new electrical, plumbing, floors & cabinets. \$125,000. MLS#1046940.

Happy
Easter!

LOTS & LAND

#1014183—1.5 acres. Brow Lot on CR 89. \$124,900.

#1021165—2-acre lot offering lake and brow footage. \$59,900.

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

#1039769—6.32+/- waterfront building lot in Mountain River Estates! **REDUCED TO \$44,950.**

#1065542—90 acres on Co. Rd. 89 in Mentone. **REDUCED TO \$299,000.**

#1070628—3.01 acres. 152' on West Fork of Little River. \$49,700.

#1070629—3.01 acres. 152' on West Fork of Little River. \$59,500.

#1073864—Brow Lot! .78 acres. **REDUCED TO \$89,500.**

#1076239—Cleared & wooded 3.6 acres on Scenic Hwy. **REDUCED TO \$74,500.**

#1076286—1.75 acre building lot in West Fork Subdivision. **REDUCED TO \$39,900.**

#1078002—Brow view, 4.4 acres. \$99,900.

#1078140—18.3 acres, unrestricted, partially wooded! \$66,800.

#1079713—Gorgeous lot in Mentone with .81+/- acres in Hunter's Ridge Subdivision. \$15,000.

#1080922—.54 acres, Mentone Bluffs. \$69,999.

#1083789—2.11 acres with 300' of waterfront in beautiful West Fork Subdivision. \$39,500.

#1092235—Building lot in Laurel Creek Lakes. \$24,500.

#1098785—Beautiful wooded BROW lot in Mentone with winter views! Build your dream cabin here within walking distance to DeSoto Falls! \$77,640.

#1099911—LAST CHANCE to buy open land before entering into Georgia!!! This 26 acres has lots of road frontage. Old farmhouse on property. Lots of potential with this property. \$179,000.

#1100905—A RARE FIND! Don't miss the opportunity to own 239 rolling wooded acres in Mentone with multiple pond sites, streams and abundant wildlife and "trophy deer"... \$669,200.

#1107397—Build here! \$99,900.

#1107398—Build here! \$99,900.

#1107408—Build here! \$99,900.

#1107411—Build here! \$99,900.

#1107412—Build here! \$99,900.

#1108339—Better Than a Bargain... this is a STEAL! Build your dream home here... on this 1.20 brow lot in Mentone with amazing views! Don't hesitate on this outstanding opportunity. Call TODAY for more

details. \$99,000.

#1111628—AMAZING VIEWS! YES, VIEWS!!! Enjoy the scenery that ONLY Mother Nature provides! Live in PARADISE with your 2nd or retirement home located on the brow of Lookout Mountain, Mentone Bluffs in Mentone, AL. \$82,900.

#1112787—40 acres in Mentone, AL with stream and untouched family owned property since 1923! Back to nature with wildlife and beautiful stream for your discretion. Call for an appointment today! \$200,000

#1113936—Looking for a brow lot inside the city limits of Mentone? Look no further!!! Almost an acre within walking distance to downtown Mentone...buy here, build here and enjoy all the special things Mentone has to offer! Call TODAY for more information! \$78,500

www.southernpropertiesagency.com



Little River Arts Council News

Membership Social & Open House by Rhea Pirch

Camaraderie, creativity, and entertainment were three distinct components of the Little River Arts Council's Membership Social and Open House, held on March 16 at DeSoto State Park Lodge.

Camaraderie, creativity, and entertainment were three distinct components of Little River Arts Council's Membership Social and Open House, held on March 16, at DeSoto State Park Lodge.

The event started at 5 p.m., when current members, new members, and the simply interested flowed into the dining room to visit with each other, partake of the buffet, check out the artist demonstrations, and listen to songs performed by local musician Larry Joe Hall.

The business segment of the meeting included updates on the treasury and upcoming events, such as the Summer Music Series, the Creative Spirit Market, and the Mountaintop Market, held in December, whose proceeds go to Moon Lake Elementary School. Board member Brittney Hughes also gave an update on



the community art project "A River Runs Through It." The glass mosaic step risers created by our local community are nearing completion and will be installed on the concrete stairs at DeSoto Falls as soon as temperatures stay steadily above 50 degrees.

Our new pop-up idea was introduced, where we will invite member artists to set up

their own gallery of work at various venues in Mentone and help to promote each impromptu event as it occurs.

The 12th Annual Home Tour, to be held October 26 and 27, will include artists' studios and artists demonstrating their work at some of the beautiful homes for view during the tour. The Silent Auction will also take place, featuring a variety of exciting items to bid on.

Officers of the board of directors were presented to the general membership, along with the entire board, and approved unanimously. The board of directors consist of twelve members: President Bill Rutledge; Vice President Cynthia Stinson; Secretary Anne McLeod; Treasurer Rhea Pirch; Brittney Hughes; Will Henry Cobble; Barbara Umland; Holley Midgley; Destin Padgett; Jessica Harper-



Join the Little River Arts Council during 2019 and receive this unique gift!

Little River Arts Council has worked with artist Meg Tannehill Justice to offer these specially-designed hand-blocked canvas bags for those who join the Arts Council in 2019. Meg created the design with certain symbolism—the tree in the design represents the Mentone area, the river inside represents Little River Arts Council; the three birds represent the three arts: visual, performing and literary.

Brown; Jerry Megli; and Kelly Leavitt.

Our thanks go to all those who made this year's Membership Social and Open House a success: DeSoto State Park staff, for use of their facility and the delicious appetizers; the artists who demonstrated their process, including Lenton Williams (straw brooms), Don Highfield (wood carving), Slade LeCroy (turned wood bowls), and Brittney Hughes (basketmaking); Jessica Harper-Brown for her table decorations; and Meg Justice for the membership bag design and printing. We especially thank those who joined or renewed their memberships, contributing close to \$1,100 of financial support, and to all those who participate in our events and programs. The board will work diligently this year to continue to expand our outreach to artists and the community to bring the arts to the Mentone area!

If you are interested in becoming a member, renewing your membership, or contacting us for questions or suggestions, please visit our website at littleriverartscouncil.org.

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

FARM MARKET

OPEN

EVERY FRIDAY 2-5PM

445 ROAD 942 MENTONE, AL

THE

MENTONE

GAS EAT

MARKET

YOUR MOUNTAIN GROCERY

256-634-4686

Local Goods Eatery Draft Beer Wine

Tuesdays 4-8
\$1 Tacos

Thursdays 4-8
50¢ Wings

Check out our new Deli Case!

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PLOWSHARES BISTRO

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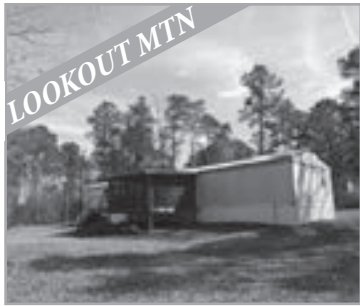


Melody Sellers
Assoc. REALTOR®
256-996-5297



Steve Manning
Assoc. REALTOR®
256-996-7624

Office: (256) 634-4767



40 ACRES, 3BR/2BA HOME, SHOP. A pleasing property indeed! A nature lover's paradise with possibilities as a farm as well. 3BR/2BA mobile home; 30x30 garage/shop w/apartment & kennels. Frontage on both sides of paved county road. Located atop Lookout Mtn, Walker's Chapel area; just a few miles from Little River Canyon Nat'l Preserve. Owner financing considered with acceptable terms. \$175,500. (1114340)



UNPARALLELED PROPERTY. Sited on approx 8 acres, with an elevation offering pleasing views of the lake below & mountains beyond. Interior filled with rich native woods, cut & milled locally: cherry, walnut, wormy maple, cedar, poplar, oak, alder, pine. A Master closet larger than many bedrooms, fitted with a multitude of cedar built-ins. Two complete living spaces, one on the main-level, the other in the daylight basement area. 5BR/3BA. And most surprising of all, gorgeous Georgia marble throughout! Large shop. Fruit trees, blueberries, garden spot & more. \$535,000 (1112805)



CABIN ON 5 ACRES; OVER 300' ON W FORK LITTLE RIVER w/ launch site for kayaks; river-side deck; level areas for picnicking, camping, outdoor adventures of all sorts. 3BR/2BA, 1800 sq ft; wood-burning fireplace. Furnished (including locally-crafted dining table & benches). Land features gorgeous native holly trees, huge boulders, hardwoods. \$248,500. (1086017)

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LOTS and LAND

LIBBY LANE. It's one of those almost secret places in Mentone; sort of in the heart, but with no traffic; lending itself splendidly to quiet strolls along shaded Libby & East River Rd. 1.47-acre lot; mostly hardwoods, level, public water & power available; paved road. \$39,900. (1095291)

NEED A BIT OF EARTH? Well, here it is! Less than 5 minutes from downtown Mentone. Public water & power avail. A single acre, unrestricted, has been very hard to find in this area until now. \$27,500. (1109345)

30 ACRES (+/-) IN MENTONE of mostly hardwood forest, some pasture land. Slight slope to offer a great elevation for future cabins, a farm, hunting cabin or whatever your Mentone dream dictates. \$105,000 (\$3,500 per acre). (1067525)

DESOTO FALLS AREA LAKEFRONT LOT with approx. 94' frontage on the prime part of W Fork Little River, the truly navigable part where you can canoe, kayak or pontoon all the way to Mentone! So much natural beauty, so rarely available. \$155,000. (355152)

SOUTH COOL STREET brow-front property with a beautiful old stone fireplace chimney, part of the foundation, plus a small garage. New survey. An original Mentone summer home once stood here, built and owned by the same family since early 1920s. Approx 0.45 acre lot in an area where properties are seldom available. Build your own memories! \$125,000. (1070474)

3-ACRE LOT IN NORTHBEND, a woodsy mountain subdivision located right across from the brow, less than one mile from Brow Park. Light restrictions; underground utilities; public water. \$24,000. (960201)

.....



ALMOST LIKE HAVING YOUR CAKE AND EATING IT, TOO! Two cabins, each very different from the other, but when you combine the two, you get a whole lot of possibilities! Rustic garage cabin on the left; a bit more "cottage-y" cabin on the right. This little "compound" could be the perfect gathering place for friends, family, groups, what-have-you! Sorta quirky (but nice) things like the big claw-foot soaking tub in right-hand garage area; or how about the queen-size custom-made hanging bed for the left-hand garage area? It's almost like going back to camp! Both cabins, one price, only \$258,500. (1112773)



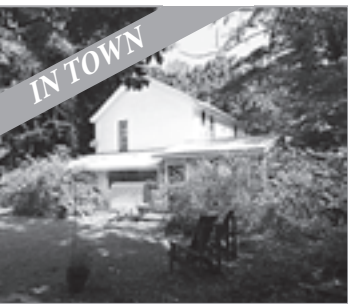
CUTE CABIN WITH 14 AC OF WOODLAND! If you're looking for a personal retreat that could also be used as a rental, this could be the cabin for you! Combination of rustic & civilized elements: HW floor & mtn stone, WB Fplce in LR; spacious BR; galley kitchen; shower bath; CH/A; lg laundry; new roof; updated ext paint; HUGE screen porch with hot tub; timber-frame pavilion that could be made into a studio or garage. \$133,500. (1104545)



UNIQUELY MENTONE RIVERFRONT HOME. Intriguing spaces inside & out. Pagoda-inspired gated entry; privacy fence. Open, vaulted great room w/corner windows & seating; large, masonry & stone, wood-burning fireplace; hardwood & pine plank floors on main level. Inviting outdoor areas w/many native & transplant species & moss garden. Paths down to swimming hole w/big rock river access. \$349,900. (1098813)



IRIS MEADOWS FARM. 3BR/3BA, beautifully-updated, one-level cottage; on 8 delightful acres, pasture & woodland, w/ small pond, seasonal waterfall, fruit trees & 22'x24' workshop w/ pavilion area. Land is unrestricted & mostly fenced. Cottage features fab kitchen w/lots of counter & cabinets; wide-plank pine floors; dining nook w/built-in benches & hand-made plank table. Large dog kennel area. \$274,900. (1109864)



FUNKY, QUIRKY, CLASSIC MENTONE summer home, nestled in the shelter & privacy of a privet hedge. Your own "Secret Garden" home, complete w/ screened sleeping porch, interesting nooks & crannies; library nook; 2 large BRs; 2 BAs (one has a claw foot tub); open kitchen/living area; studio or 3rd bedroom on main level; & laundry room w/great storage. All wood interior. Yes, there's work to be done, but this is a place in the heart of Mentone to put your heart into. \$99,000. (1100721)



THREE FEATHERS RANCH A beautiful, 34-acre (+/-) Mentone property featuring a 3BR/2BA house with 2 bonus rooms and a bath in finished basement! Land is approx 1/2 woods & 1/2 pasture, fenced & cross-fenced; 2 small ponds; tractor shed; picturesque ranch entry way with gently-curving driveway leading to house. Satisfying views of pond & pasture from house's full front porch. Located about halfway between Mentone and Alpine area near DeSoto State Park. This is definitely something to get excited about! Not many properties like this come on the market at Mentone. \$299,900. (1107782)



April 2019 Community Calendar

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

APRIL 1 April Fool's Day!

April 5—"Books & Brew" at the Mentone Market. Support Moon Lake Community Library, who receives \$1 for every beer bought. Book sale on outside patio. Live music by Terry Hutcheson. 5–8pm. Mentone Market. Visit moonlakelibrary.org for info.

April 6—Youth Kayak "Fish for Trash" Tournament & Roadside Cleanup. One World Adventure has teamed up with Fort Payne Water Works for the 1st Annual Youth Kayak "Fish for Trash" Tournament. Youth will set out in kayaks on the Fort Payne City Lake but instead of nets and fishing rods they will be provided with trash bags and litter grabbers. \$10 to enter. Three age divisions. Parent/Child 10 & under, 11-13, 14-17. Cash and prizes for the most litter collected. Fort Payne Water Works will provide free pizza and drinks for all participants. This will be a fun, community event for the entire family and will remove a lot of litter from our drinking water. 8am-12 noon, Fort Payne City Lake, 67th Street North. To register, call 256-634-8370 or email angie@oneworldadventureco.com.

April 6—Blow an Ornament. Come design and blow your own ornament with the help of one of our glass artists. No reservations are needed, it is on a first come, first serve basis. 9am–2pm. Orbix Hot Glass. Cost is \$38 per ornament blown. 256-523-3188.

April 6—MERF Taste of the Mountain and Art Auction. Join us for a night of great food creations provided by Mentone Area Restaurants and for amazing artwork for auction by Moon Lake Elementary School students and local artist friends of MERF. Don't miss out on a special evening that celebrates and supports all of MERF's programs enriching Moon Lake students, Mentone senior citizens and the community. merf.mentone@gmail.com or 256-635-8193. merfhouse.org.

April 7 & 27—Tumbler Glassblowing Class. This introductory glassblowing class teaches many fundamentals through the process of making a small tumbler (cup). Plenty of hands-on experience from choosing colors, gathering, paddling, blowing and shaping is gained in this four hour experience. Class size is maximum of four students so everyone has adequate time at the bench working. Some safety material is provided before the class for you to review. Please join us for some in-depth discovery. Call us at 256.523.3188 or email us at info@orbixhotglass.com for more information or

to make a reservation. Reservations and full payment required. Cost \$145. 2–4 students Minimum age is 13 years old with parent.

April 9—QPR Community Training. Increase your awareness of the warning signs, clues and suicidal communications of people who may be considering suicide and learn how to intervene with at risk individuals. DeKalb Co 911. Presented by the SAM Foundation. 5:30–7:30pm.

April 10—MAPA Volunteer Meeting for Rhododendron Festival. All interested volunteers are welcome. 1pm. Wildflower Café, Mentone. 256-289-2002.

April 12—Paperweight Class. This class is designed for those who really just want see what molten glass is all about. Feel the heat, gather from the furnace, sculpt the glass into your own design. Please join us for some in-depth discovery at Orbix Hot Glass. Reservations Required \$145 per person. 12–4pm. 256-523-3188.

April 13—Plant Sale. Sponsored by DeKalb County Master Gardeners. 7am–12pm. VFW Fairgrounds, Fort Payne.

April 13—Bunny Hope 5K & Fun Run. All proceeds benefit Relay For Life. First 100 participants to register are guaranteed a t-shirt. Medals will be given to winners in each age divisions. Online registration available. Starting line is at GH Metals. Registration day of race begins at 7am. Race begins at 8am. racesonline.com/events/bunny-hop-5k-fun-run.

April 13—County Road Cleanup. Allen Branch and Wills Creek Reservoirs are Fort Payne's source of drinking water, yet the roads upstream and shoreline are heavily littered and this litter ends up in our reservoirs. One World Adventure is asking volunteers to come out and target County Road 608 and 606, north of Fort Payne. Garbage bags, gloves and litter grabbers will be provided. 8am–12pm. County Road 606 & 608 North of Fort Payne on Hwy. 11. To register, call 256-634-8370 or email angie@oneworldadventureco.com.

April 13—Sculpt Your Own Flower. Have you ever wanted to actually sit at the gaffer bench and feel what it is like to shape hot glass? It's all about hands on experience in a safe and fun atmosphere with a final product we know you will love. There is a minimum of 3 people and a maximum of 5 in each class. 1pm. Reservations are required. 256-523-3188

April 13—Community Easter Egg Drop & Carnival. Join the Mentone Community for an Easter Celebration like never before! The Mentone Summer Camps, Mentone Churches and local businesses have come together to create a massive Egg Drop of over

10,000 eggs from a helicopter flying above. There will be carnival games, inflatables, food, fellowship and lots of fun! Mentone Community Church. Bring your family out for a day to remember! 10am–1pm. 256-634-4210.

April 14—Easter Community Cantata. 5pm at Moon Lake Baptist Church. 7pm at Valley Head Baptist Church.

April 14—Guided Waterfall and Lost Cave Hike. Journey into the Desoto Falls Basin and witness the 104-foot waterfall from below. The hike is considered difficult to Moderate-Strenuous. Reservations are required and space is limited. Desoto Falls Basin Trailhead (directions sent upon registration). 9am. \$15 adult \$10 kids 10-14 (not recommended for ages under 10). To register, call 256-634-8370 or email angie@oneworldadventureco.com.

April 18 & 19—"Footloose." DeKalb County Fine Arts Academy presents the famous movie "Footloose". Community performances 7pm. This show is going to be FUN FUN FUN!! You don't want to miss it. Held at NACC Campus. 256-638-3510.

April 19—Tack Auction. The Hillbilly Saddle Club in Fyffe will be hosting its annual tack auction to benefit St Jude Children's Hospital. The auction will begin at 6:30pm. There will be concessions. 256-623-3276 or 256-899-4295.

April 20—Miniature Worlds of Books. Come see the whimsical creations of Alice Dudoich at Moon Lake Community Library. 10:30am. Free. moonlakelibrary.org.

April 20—St Jude Trail Ride & BBQ Supper. The Hillbilly Saddle Club will be hosting its annual ride and BBQ plate supper to benefit St Jude Children's Hospital. The ride will start at 8am and the plate supper will start at 4pm. Please come and help support this great cause. 256-623-3276.

April 20—Third Saturday Sunset Cruise-In. A family fun event featuring a cruise-in, children activities, food, art show, and live entertainment! Gault Avenue in Downtown Fort Payne is closed from 1st–5th Streets for the event. A car cruise-in, music and other entertainment will take place throughout the event as well. 5–9pm. Contact Amelia at 256-996-3857 or Terry at 256-996-2668.

APRIL 21 Happy Easter!

APRIL 22 Happy Earth Day!

April 22—Earth Day Celebration at Valley Head Park. Bring your lawn chair and enjoy the games, activities, including the Duck Race and the local market. 3:30–5:30pm. Duck race will begin at 5pm. Food will be

available for purchase.

April 24–8 & May 1–5—"Beauty & The Beast". Northeast Alabama Community College Theatre. 256-638-4418.

April 25—Creative Placemaking in Mentone. Come for a roundtable discussion of how "creative placemaking" can impact Mentone through the use of arts and culture. Free. Moon Lake Community Library. 7pm. moonlakelibrary.org.

April 27—Moon Lake Book Club. Discussion of "A Gentleman in Moscow" by Amor Towles. Moon Lake Community Library, Mentone. 10:30am. moonlakelibrary.org.

April 27—Evening Wine & Cheese Hike. Join the Little River Waterkeeper for a unique hike around along upper Hurricane Creek, among a stand of old growth Beech trees. See a variety of native plants thriving within this protected land. After the hike, dine on wine, craft beer, cheeses, and hors d'oeuvres. While you enjoy your vino, Bill Shugart, the Little River Waterkeeper, will discuss the organization's mission to protect the Little River and its tributaries. Reservations are required and space is limited. Exact location will be released at registration. All proceeds from this event benefit the Little River Waterkeeper mission to protect, restore, and promote Little River and its tributaries. Lookout Mountain, Fort Payne (Address released at registration). 5:30–8:30pm. \$10 in advance/\$15 day of event. To register, call 256-634-8370 or email angie@oneworldadventureco.org.

April 27—"Spring into Sculpture" at Chattanooga's Sculpture Fields. Free family fun with a laser light show, live music, artists creating their paintings and drawings outdoors, picnicking from food trucks and a beer and wine tent, and other interactive activities. Culminates with colossal sculpture burn. Event kicks off at 12 p.m. Eastern. Light show starts at dark, and the sculpture will be ignited at approximately 9:15 p.m. Eastern, depending on the skies. 1800 Polk St., Chattanooga. 423-266-7288, anne@sculpturefields.org, sculpturefields.org.

April 28—Guided Kayaking Trip on Little River. Enjoy a scenic flat-water guided kayaking trip on the West Fork of Little River above AA Miller Dam. We will stop for lunch and admire the peaceful river. Bring a hammock to string up! It is a great way to enjoy a Sunday and is recommended for all ages. Sit-on-top kayaks and canoes are available. Reservations are required and space is limited. Meet at Desoto Falls (directions sent upon registration). \$35 for adults, \$25 kids 12–17 (kids under 12 who are not paddling are free). 256-634-8370 or angie@oneworldadventureco.org.

Mentone Area Church Directory

Mentone, Alabama

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

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

Mentone Church of God of Prophecy has Sunday School at 10am, with Worship at 11am. Evening services begin at 5:30pm on Sunday and 6pm on Wednesday. Bro. Whitney Smith invites everyone to attend. AL Hwy 117 (across from Mentone Post Office).

Mentone Community Church invites you to Crosswalk Sunday School (K through Adult) 9:15am, Adult Worship Service 10:30am, JC Kids Worship Service 10:30am. Pastor Tim Miller. Van Ministry for Children pick-up/take home, ages K-12, for all surrounding areas 8:15am (please call Donna Bunn 706-398-0720). Wednesday small group study 6:30pm. 90 Summerville Rd. 256-634-4210.

Mentone United Methodist Church invites you to come and worship with us. Each Sunday our worship service is held at 9am and is led by Pastor Carol Gullatt. Sunday School is at 10am. The service of Holy Communion is held the first Sunday of each month and fifth Sundays are a service of music. 415 Cutler Avenue. 256-634-8006.

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

St. Joseph's on-the-Mountain Episcopal Church welcomes everyone to 10:30am Sunday service of Holy Eucharist. Open for daily prayer and thanksgiving. Supporting our community with outreach. 256-634-4476. 21145 Scenic Highway. stjosephmountain.dioala.org.

Spirit Expression Ministry, a Chapel of the Alliance of Divine Love, invites you to sit with us in sacred circle on the second and fourth Sundays of the month at 11am Central at Heartwood Center, 7 miles from downtown Mentone. Reverend Cathy Haven Howard facilitates a spiritual wisdom topic. Email havenhoward1@gmail.com for directions and questions.

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

Hammondville, Alabama

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

Greater Vision Ministries Church of God invites you to Sunday School 10 am, Sunday Worship *10:45 am, (*Nursery & Kid's Church). MidWEEK re-charge Wednesday 6:30pm. Pastor Tim Coppock. 38623 US Hwy 11. 256-601-0679.

Valley Head, Alabama

Lea's Chapel Baptist Church welcomes you to worship with us. 10am Sunday Bible Study, 11am Morning Worship, 6pm Evening Worship. Wednesday 6-8pm Awana (ages 4-18); 6:30pm Praise and Prayer time. 4212 County Road 751. 256-635-1001.

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

Happy
Easter!

Visitors are always welcome at **Valley Head United Methodist Church**. Please join us each Sunday morning for a traditional worship service at 9:30am. Tony Gunter is the Pastor. All are welcome. 146 Church St.

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

Fort Payne, Alabama

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

The **Fort Payne Christian Center** and Pastors Ken and Elaine Hollman invite everyone to join in Worship on Sunday at 10am, Wednesday evening at 6pm. 3610 Grand Ave. SW. 256-997-0047.

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

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

New Oregon United Methodist Church is located just off DeSoto Parkway, 1/4 mile south of Fischer Crossroads. We

invite you to worship with us on Sundays. Sunday School for all ages 9:45am, Traditional Worship 11am, and Sunday Evening Service 6pm. Sunday Evening youth meet at 5:30pm. We have Wonderful Wednesdays during the school year with Bible studies for all ages, meal at 5:30pm and classes at 6:15pm. We also have Wednesday morning Bible study at 8:45am, and knitting every Tuesday at 9am. Pastor Ian Conerly. 1204 New Oregon Drive NE. 256-845-7446.

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

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

St. Stephen Anglican Church invites you to attend service on Sunday mornings at 8am. 411 SW Grand Ave. (in the basement of Killian & Killian Attorneys). Father Rodney Jackson, 205-405-0055; Deacon Jack Gilbreath, 256-845-2605.

Walnut Grove Baptist Church, on Highway 11 north of Fort Payne, welcomes everyone at Sunday School 10am, Worship Service at 11am, Wednesday night youth meeting at 6pm, and Wednesday night Prayer Meeting at 6:30pm. 3606 Greenhill Blvd NW. 256-996-0929.

Cloudland, Georgia

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

Menlo, Georgia

Alpine Community Church Pastor and Rev. Rodney Blaylock welcome each and every one to worship service Sunday morning at 11am GA time; Sunday School 10am GA time; Wednesday night Bible Study 7pm GA time. 115 Hwy. 337. 706-862-6641.

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

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

Summerville, Georgia

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

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

Menlo Notes by Diane Smith Mealer

The Annual Spring Quilt Show was held in Menlo on Saturday, March 16, at the Lawrence Center. There were many beautiful pieces created by local and nearby quilters. Our Country Store contained lots of goodies including apple pies, pork skins, peanut butter fudge, nature-made bird feeders, cards, Georgia and Alabama signs, crocheted items, wood work items, and much more. Visitors enjoyed shopping and choosing something to take home. Visitors came from Bremen, Ga, Ft. Payne, Birmingham, and Chattanooga, TN, and many

Menlo and Summerville folk attended.

The "Alabama" Quilt was won by Carolyn Hanks and net sales were over \$1200. We extend thank yous to all the businesses who allowed tickets to be placed in their establishments and to all who purchased, sold, and helped in any way to promote this quilt.

This year we included a "Viewer's Choice" award and the voted favorite was "America The Beautiful" by Marceen Paseur.

Hand Quilting ribbons were awarded to Katherine Chitwood, First Place; Hershel Pruitt showing a beautiful Cathedral Window by his mother, the late Louise Pruett Second Place; and Jean Mitchell of Menlo received Third Place.

In Machine Quilting, ribbons were awarded for first place to Charlotte King, second place to Marceen Paseur, and third place to Patsy Dillard.

Helen Farley of Cloudland won both first- and third-place ribbons, and Jean McGrew won second place.

The day was sunny and chilly—the perfect



Charlotte King—First Place Machine Quilting

weather for our showing of treasures. We are already planning the 2020 show, so now is a good time to start something beautiful and join in the fun and fellowship and being part of this Spring tradition.

As a reminder, the Menlo Quilters meet the second Thursday each month at 5 p.m. at the Menlo Presbyterian Church Fellowship Room. Come join us and Blessings.



Menlo School Art Students—paper quilts



Easter Community Cantata Sunday, April 14

5 p.m. Moon Lake Baptist Church
7 p.m. Valley Head Baptist Church

Directed by DeVann Jackson

The performances are dedicated to the memory of Mrs. Peggy Pullen, who has organized our area's community cantatas throughout the years.

Menlo Bake & Yard Sale April 12 & 13 by Pat Johnson

Come to the Lawrence Center in Menlo on Friday and Saturday, April 12 and 13, between 8 a.m. and 1 p.m. (Eastern). Just follow the signs from the 4-way stop in Menlo. There will be lots of homemade baked goods (breads, fried pies, cakes, fudge, and a lot more). There will also be lots of small and large household items and clothes in all sizes. Come support Menlo! All proceeds go to fund the Veterans Marker Project and other local programs.

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Mentone Police Chief Gene McKee spotted this American Bald Eagle high in the limbs of the standing dead oak tree on the edge of the Morgan farm on County Road 177 at Gray Road.

In Memoriam

Stevan Rodney Davis

November 26, 1946—February 26, 2019

Mr. Stevan Rodney Davis, 72, of Mentone, passed away Tuesday at his residence. Mr. Davis was born in Rome, Ga., to the late Perran Louis and Kareen Averett Davis on November 26, 1946. He was a graduate of East Rome High School and Berry College and was a veteran of the U.S. Navy, having served as a Journalist. After his military service, he worked in the Public Relations Department of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra. He was a policeman with the City of Rome, Ga., for 10 years. After moving to Mentone, he became very involved with St. Joseph's on-the-Mountain Episcopal Church, where he served in many capacities.

Mr. Davis was an avid fan of SEC College Football, especially the Georgia Bulldogs. He loved animals and devoted much of his time rescuing and providing homes for them.

He is survived by his wife Rebecca Rish Davis; children Sean Davis, Diana Davis, Christian (Caroline) Davis, Kenneth Davis, Stephanie Davis, Jimbo (Kendall) Mann, and Chip Mann; seven grandchildren and one great-grandchild. He was preceded in death by his sister, Catherine Davis. Memorial contributions may be made to St. Joseph's on-the-Mountain Episcopal Church.

Mrs. Eleasa Blalock Sword

January 11, 1957 – March 14, 2019

Mrs. Eleasa Blalock Sword, 62, of Mentone, passed away on March 14, 2019 at Redmond Regional Medical Center in Rome, GA. She is survived by her son Matt Sword (Elena); grandson Matthew Sword, Jr.; and mother Josephine Blalock. She was preceded in death by her father, Willis H. Blalock.

Memorial contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society (cancer.org), P.O. Box 22478, Oklahoma City, OK 73123.

Rita Kay Carr

July 10, 1954—March 1, 2019

Rita Carr, 65, died Friday, March 1, 2019. Rita Kay Jones Carr, the fourth child of James Thomas and Mary Dallyne Tilley Jones, was born in Fort Payne on July 10, 1954. She grew up in Mentone, attended Moon Lake Elementary, Valley Head High, and Jacksonville State University.

On March 10, 1973, Rita married her high school sweetheart Terral Carr and together they pursued careers in nursing, graduating from Jacksonville State University in 1977. After their sons Aaron and Adam were born, she worked part-time while homeschooling them.

Rita had a heart for people who hurt that was cultivated during her formative years at Moon Lake Baptist Church in Mentone. She touched many lives primarily through deep personal relationships, but also with her volunteer work at the Etowah Pregnancy Testing Center, her local church, and during 40 years of nursing. Her heart was for others to know the grace and person of Jesus, that had so impacted her life.

She was preceded in death by her father, James Thomas Jones; and sisters, Myra Nell Jones and Debra Ruth Jones Jackson Dewees. She is survived by her husband, Terral Carr; sons, Aaron Carr (Meredith) and Adam Carr (Bentley); and seven grandchildren.

Memorial contributions may be made to Emory Winship Cancer Institute, 1365 Clifton Rd NE Bldg C, Atlanta, GA 30322.



April in Mentone's history...

Compiled by Annette Stone

1984

The inaugural issue of *The Groundhog* was issued. Ruby O'Rear was featured on the cover in an article written by Sandra Padgett.

1993

The request of MAPA to construct a six-sided gazebo in Mason Park was approved.

1998

A GMC "Jimmy" truck commercial was filmed at Little River Hardware. The store's exterior was made to look like a country grocery store.

2000

The Cornerstone of Mentone United Methodist Church was opened and a time capsule was pulled out. The contents of the time capsule were three small books and a nickel dated 1894. The cornerstone will be returned larger than the original, and the contents will be a current list of all members of the church, *The Bible*, favorite hymns and other items reflecting the year 2000.

2001

Valley Head High School acquired the addition of a new, "state of the art" Science building.

2002

Boy Scout Troop 106 clean up project was a tremendous success. They collected and disposed of 4, 22 foot dumpsters of trash. This was an Eagle Scout project of Robert McReynolds.

2004

Creative Arts Center opens in Mentone, offering creative dance and therapeutic arts for children and adults.

2005

Mentone makes the list of best destinations in *National Geographic Traveler*.

2013

April 6 was Mentone's community clean up day, followed by a community cookout at the Mentone Inn Pavilion.

Source: Groundhog archives



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Potential Mini Farm just 10 minutes north of Mentone features a stream, well, septic & 15 acres of organically-improved pasture. \$125,000.

Little River Canyon Craftsman Home. Set on 11 acres w/400' of brow. Features vaulted living w/fireplace, master on main, 3BR 2.5B, cook's kitchen, deck, & screened porch. Wet weather stream w/waterfall off the brow. Property backs up to LRC Wildlife Management Area. \$279,000.



Mentone Lodge Style Cabin

on naturally landscaped 5 acres with a pond, & spring. Well appointed w/ fireplace, open plan, large master suite, portico, attached 2-car garage & 30x40 shop. A must see \$344,000.



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Olive Searing Jones

April 25, 1918—March 19, 2019



Olive Searing Jones was born in Jacksonville, FL, to Oliver P. Searing and Marie Hunt Searing on April 25, 1918. Her family moved to Miami, FL, in 1920, where her father was an engineer and helped lay out the Miami Beach water system. She excelled in her studies, making the honor roll every year and later often appeared in the Miami society pages.

Olive married Jack Eugene Jones in 1940 in her parents' home. After WWII, they purchased Camp Cloudmont for Boys and divided their time between Mentone and Miami, finally deciding to live full-time on the mountain in 1970.

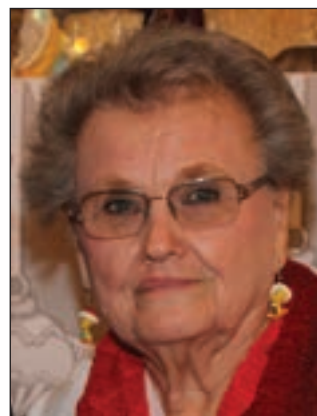
Olive was instrumental in bringing the Catholic community together and helping establish Our Lady of the Valley Catholic Church in Fort Payne. Olive and Jack were very involved in tourism in DeKalb County and were active with MAPA, DeKalb County Tourist Association, Lookout Mountain Parkway Association, and Alabama Mountain Lakes Tourist Association. She was a long-time member of Daughters of the American Revolution, proudly telling that a grandparent was born in the oldest house in the country in St. Augustine, FL. They were also very active in the Coral Reef Yacht Club and Coral Gables Country Club in South Florida. She enjoyed dancing, bridge, socializing, travel, tennis, shooting, and rabbit hunting. She had a generous, loving heart and will be dearly missed by all who knew her.

Olive was preceded in death by her parents, Oliver and Marie Searing; husband Jack E. Jones; sisters Hazel May, Jane Sawyer, and Betty Halliburton; sons Jack E. Jr. and Michael Jones; and granddaughter Julie Jones. She is survived by her children, sons Oliver Jones (Denise) and Gary Jones (Cindy); daughters Nancy Jones, Marsha Hair (Douglas), Janis Carrier, and Angela Wood; grandchildren Rebecca Miller (Marshall), Chelsea Manning (Garrett), Margaret Carrier Vinyard (Brad), Douglas Hair, Jr., Lura Horton (Matt), Dena Jones, Nathan Jones, and Austin Jones; great-grandchildren Tyler Rowland, Jackson Drennan, Cael and Renn Horton, and Larkin and Ryder Manning.

A funeral mass was held on March 23 at Our Lady of the Valley Catholic Church with burial following in the family cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to Our Lady of the Valley Catholic Church.

Peggy Tcherneshoff Pullen

June 22, 1936—February 27, 2019



Mrs. Peggy Tcherneshoff Pullen, 82, of Mentone, passed away on February 27, 2019 at Northside Hospital Forsyth in Cummings, GA. Peggy was born in Jacksonville, FL on June 22, 1936 to Peter John and Katherine Tcherneshoff.

Survivors include her husband Walt Pullen; children Patrick Leon & Debra Bentley, Josh and Amanda Pullen, and Laura Pullen and Donnie O'Tinger; grandchildren Bobby and Jessica Bentley, Peyton Bentley, Katie Pullen, Jazlyn Pullen, Kenny O'Tinger, Kaiden O'Tinger, Kionna-Lee O'Tinger, Alyssa Reese and Eli Reese; great-grandchildren Libby Bentley and Tyler Bentley; sister: Martha

Tcherneshoff; and numerous nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents; daughters Dianna Bentley and Debbie Bentley; sister Mary June Tcherneshoff Reed; and brothers Pete, John, and Bill Tcherneshoff.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Women's Care Center, 107 4th St. SW, Fort Payne, AL 35967 or Valley Head Baptist Church, P.O. Box 97, Valley Head, AL 35989.

Patricia Ann Abbott Eberhart

April 29, 1936—March 24, 2019

Patricia Ann Abbott Eberhart, 79, of Hammondville passed away Sunday, March 24, 2019. She was born April 29, 1939, to the late Lucian and Dorothy Tidmore Abbott. Ms. Eberhart graduated in 1957 in the last class to graduate from DeKalb County High School in Fort Payne. She retired from Vulcraft, worked many years in the Fort Payne City School system and retired from the City of Fort Payne.

She is survived by son and daughter-in-law, John and Linda Stiefel; daughter and son-in-law, Patricia Leigh Stiefel and Rick Winkles; stepson, Johnny & Heather Eberhart and family; granddaughter, Amanda Stiefel Wells and husband, Daniel; and grandson, Jacob Stiefel; great-grandchildren, Carrie Ann Wells and Charles Jacob Wells. She is also survived by sister-in-law, Kay Abbott; nephew, Allan Abbott & family; Anna Wachli & family; and Abby Abbott & family.

She was also preceded in death by husbands, Donald W. Eberhart and Dr. William Noble; and brother, Clarence Richard "Dick" Abbott.

Memorial contributions may be made to Whitehall United Methodist Church Missions, 34387 U.S. Highway 11, Valley Head, AL 35989.

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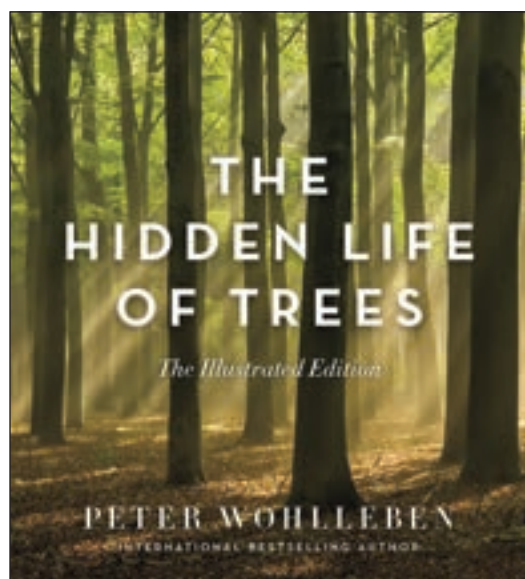
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Inspired by Trees

Book Review by Anne McLeod



The Hidden Life of Trees, first published in 2015. In it, the author describes the inner life of our leafy companions, maintaining that their anatomy and physiology suggest a more deeply social existence than we had believed. For example, German researchers at the Institute for Environmental Research in Aachen, Germany, found that beech trees in undisturbed forests equalize their rates of photosynthesis among themselves so that those trees growing in less than optimal conditions receive assistance via an underground network of fungus. Fungi in the root hairs of the beeches redistribute the beeches' available sugar so that all the trees have equal chances of survival.

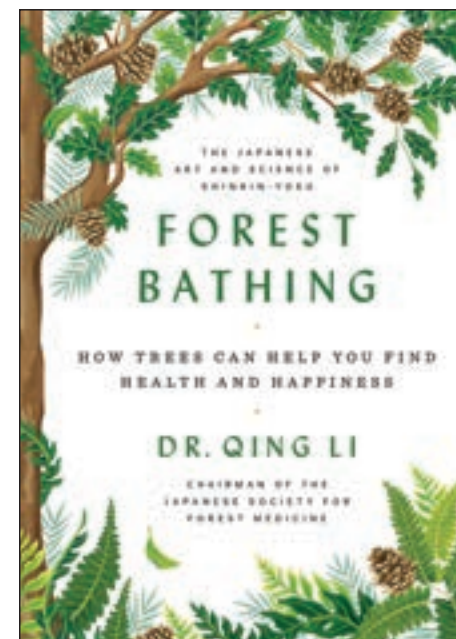
Throughout the book we learn how trees reach for the light, they eat and drink, they even scream. Wohlleben describes communities of trees engaging in constant communication with the world around them. The illustrations in this edition of the book are so rich and lush, they more than make up for the fact that this is an abridged version of the original text.

Forest Bathing by Dr. Qing Li tells how Japanese medicine in recent years has adopted the practice of advising shinrin-yoku or forest bathing to ease the stress of living in contemporary Japanese cities where overwork and constant technology use are the norm. Forest bathing is simply spending unstructured time in a forest. While

activities such as reading, writing, or picnicking may be incorporated into shinrin-yoku, the intent is to be immersed in nature, not to have a particular goal or destination in mind.

Qing Li cites multiple research studies attesting to the value of forest bathing. One study found that hospital patients whose rooms offer a window with a view of nature need less medication and are discharged more quickly than those whose rooms lack windows. When access to an actual forest is limited, aromatherapy with an essential oil such as hinoki that evokes the smell of the woods can have beneficial results. Like *The Hidden Life of Trees*, this book includes beautiful photographs of trees and forests, relaxing the reader into a virtual forest bath.

The Hidden Life of Trees: The Illustrated Edition and *Forest Bathing* are both available for check out at the Moon Lake Community Library.



Anne McLeod is the librarian at Moon Lake Elementary School. She also serves on the board of Moon Lake Community Library.

With the arrival of spring after a cold, wet, dark winter, I catch myself eyeing the trees up here on the mountain, willing their branches to burst out in the electric green of early growth. Their textured canopy of chartreuse and Kelly green will inevitably darken to its summer shade, the heady colors of April quickly forgotten. But for those of us who live among trees, those first verdant weeks of spring are as thrilling as fireworks.

Two of the Moon Lake Library's recent book purchases dig deep into the topic of trees: *The Hidden Life of Trees, the Illustrated Edition* by Peter Wohlleben (Greystone Books, 2018) and *Forest Bathing: How Trees Can Help You Find Health and Happiness* by Dr. Qing Li (Viking, 2018).

The first is an abridged edition of Wohlleben's international bestseller,

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"This photo was taken on Sunday, February 24, 2019. We were visiting the area from Gulf Shores. The weather had been extremely foggy days prior, and on our last day in your area, we captured this rainbow. We are looking forward to our next visit!" —Scott Umphrey



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Honoring Earth WITH Action & Art

My name is Lacy Hope Dobbs, and I was born and raised in northeast Alabama. I'm married to my high school sweetheart, and we have four children. We are an unschooling family and are part of the Mentone Homeschoolers group.

I've been an artist all my life, but I didn't really start taking it seriously until around 2.5 years ago when I decided to open an Etsy shop and set up at my first market, after years of being pushed by family and friends to share my work. I make brightly colored acrylic paintings, inspired by my love for all things groovy and my Southern mountain roots. I like painting on canvas and reclaimed wood, but what I love painting the most are found objects. I love breathing new life into pieces that were headed for the landfills. The older and rustier, the better!

In April 2017, just six months after opening my Etsy shop (LacyHopeArt.etsy.com), I was approached by an old



friend, Sabrina Sanford, who was working in Rome, GA, at the time and had participated in "Free Art Fridays" there. Free Art Fridays is a global art movement that originated in England in the early 2000s.

To participate, artists and creators leave a piece of their artwork in a public place on Fridays with a note attached that states that the piece is free. Anyone who finds it can then take it home, hide it again, or leave it for someone else to find. Over the years the movement has spread all over the world, and with the development of social media, it has morphed into more of an "art scavenger hunt" with participants posting clues about where a piece can be found to Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram. Sabrina had the idea of getting this free art movement started in our area and asked for my help. I fell in love with the idea, so we immediately created our local Free Art Friday chapter with a Facebook group (facebook.com/groups/FAFFP) and a hashtag #FAFFP. The community started hiding and hunting

art right away, and the group quickly grew to over 1,100 members.

The group will be two years old this year, and I was already trying to think of a way for us to celebrate, when one of our members suggested painting "no littering" signs to hang around DeKalb County. Her suggestion reminded me of a challenge I have recently seen taking off on Instagram, and while I'm not one to follow social media trends, the #TrashTag challenge is something I can get behind. This challenge, started in 2015, has people cleaning up roads, parks, beaches, and more and then posting before and after photos to social media using the hashtag #TrashTag.

Since the group's birthday is in April, and Earth Day happens to be April 22, I thought what better way to celebrate than to challenge our members to a bit of a contest. We are asking members to create No Littering signs, and then choose a road within DeKalb County that could use a little extra TLC. Members should take photos of the area before and after it has been cleaned and their sign has been posted and then share the photos in our Facebook group using the hashtags #FAFFP, #TrashTag, #MyDeKalb, and #CleanUpDeKalb. At the end of April, members of the group will vote on winners based on most creative sign and biggest impact.

To go along with the contest, we are asking members to only hide art made from recycled materials during the month of April. Many ideas have been

shared within the Facebook group for ways to create art out of plastic bottles, cardboard boxes, and more. This is a great way to get the kids involved in something creative, while also opening a dialogue with our families on ways we can reduce, reuse, and recycle.

When the rest of the Mentone Homeschoolers group heard about this challenge, they all jumped right on board. With both monetary donations and donations of supplies from Mentone area locals, the homeschool group will be creating several "No Littering" signs to hang around the community. The group has also been inspired to adopt an area of road with the Alabama Department of Transportation's Adopt-a-Mile program. The group is hoping to choose a road where pollution is directly affecting the waterways. If you would like to suggest an area for cleanup, or if you would be willing to have one of our "No Littering" signs posted on your residential or business property, please email me at lacydobbs@hotmail.com.

I'd like to strongly encourage each of you to join our Free Art Friday Facebook group and to get involved in this challenge. The roads in DeKalb County could really use your help, and of course we love seeing what artwork new members bring to the table. All skill levels and mediums are welcome, and it is a lot of fun for both kids and adults!

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