



THE GROUNDHOG

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Volume 38, No. 12 “Neighborly News from the Heart of Lookout Mountain” December 2019/January 2020

WHAT'S THE BIG iDea?

by Kelly Leavitt

Last spring, Sarah Wilcox, executive director of the Mentone Educational Resources Foundation (MERF), was invited to apply for a competitive grant from the Community Foundation of Northeast Alabama. The foundation was offering a \$20,000 grant, in celebration of their 20th anniversary, to a non-profit organization with an innovative “Big Idea” for their community.

Shortly after Sarah learned of the grant, Anne McLeod and I attended the Creative Placemaking Leadership Summit in Columbia, SC, thanks to a scholarship from South Arts and the combined financial assistance of MERF, the Little River Arts Council, Moon Lake Library, the Mentone Area Preservation Association (MAPA), and the Mentone Arts and Cultural Center. When we returned, we hosted a meeting for anyone in the community who was interested in exploring how to implement some of the placemaking principles we had learned about. Sarah Wilcox attended, and the group decided to develop an idea called “Pathway to Community” as MERF’s entry to the Big Idea competition, in cooperation with the Little River Arts Council.



Colorful picket fencing will be painted by the community.

So...what's the Big Idea?

MERF’s community walking trail on AL Hwy. 117 (next to the MERF House and Moon Lake Library) will soon be transformed into a true pathway for the entire community, enhanced by the following elements.

- Professionally-tuned quality outdoor musical instruments will be installed, including

chimes, gongs, a xylophone, and a drum. These instruments will be available for all to play.

- A colorful picket fence will be hand-painted by community members of all ages. Each picket will resemble a person.
- Overhead solar lighting will extend the hours the trail can be used, providing safety and comfort.
- A mural designed by Mentone artist Lydia Randolph will be painted on the

(continued on page 7)



MERF’s walking trail was developed by Boy Scout Jake Pinholster for his Eagle Scout project in 1997.

A series of brain-storming meetings led to the development of this exciting project. Many, many dedicated community members participated (I fear that if I start listing names, someone will be mistakenly omitted). One twist on the application was that this was not to be a traditional, written grant, but rather it would be submitted in the form of a video, no longer than five minutes in length. Although we knew we were not videographers, we also knew we were a group with big ideas, and we approached the grant application with gusto.

To our great surprise, we won the first-place award. In fact, MERF’s Big Idea video won top scores from the entire panel of judges, among a field of 20 other deserving projects. We believe this is because our application was so community- and partnership-oriented, with cameo appearances on the video from the leaders of our town and its organizations. We are all very grateful to the Community Foundation of Northeast Alabama for this extraordinary opportunity.



Merrityme Artisan Market to Benefit Moon Lake School

by Rhea Pirch

The Little River Arts Council will again partner with Moon Lake Baptist Church to host the Merrityme Artisan Market in the Arlene Fowler Youth Center next to the church at 4671 AL Hwy. 117 in Mentone on Friday, December 13, and Saturday, December 14, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day. All vendor fees from this event benefit the students at Moon Lake Elementary School.

The Merrityme Artisan Market will feature more than 20 local artisans with a variety of wares, including handmade jewelry, soaps, candles, ornaments, metalworks and other crafts, photography, massages, paintings, baked goods, candy, and much more. It serves as a perfect holiday season opportunity for

(continued on page 3)

THE GROUNDHOG



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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.

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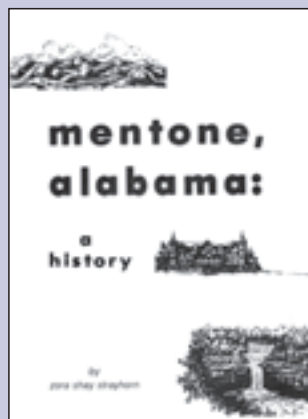
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*Do you have a story idea?
Perhaps a poem or recipe?
We welcome contributions!*

Email groundhognews@yahoo.com

Learn about the History of Mentone



On sale at the
Wildflower Café,
Moon Lake
Library, Green
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River Hardware,
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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



We have much to be thankful for in
Mentone. Our community thrives
because so many people give of their
time and resources to make Mentone a great
place to live. A generous spirit prevails, not
only during the holidays, but all year long. The
council and I wish you a Merry Christmas and
best wishes for a healthy New Year!

Letter from the Editor

Well, the year is wrapping up, and
so is the decade. The second
decade, in fact, since the turn of
the millenium (which, honestly, feels like
yesterday). Much has changed and much
has stayed the same, in Mentone and the
world beyond.

In my own family, this will be the
first Christmas I have a grandchild, and
I cannot wait. Next year might be more
fun, with his burgeoning understanding
of Santa Claus. But this year might be
more magical, as he takes in the lights, the
sounds, the smells, the colors, and the love
and the laughter of family and friends.

We'll have plenty of opportunities to
enjoy the Christmas season in Mentone,
starting with the second annual Christmas
Tree Lighting on December 6—a lovely
event created by Cynthia Stinson of the
Mentone Inn. Our seniors will enjoy a
special Christmas lunch on December 4,
and our children at Moon Lake School
will present a musical Christmas program
on December 12. Moon Lake Community
Library will host an Open House on
Sunday, December 15, for a time of
community socializing. Jimmy Rogers will
open the doors of the Green Leaf Grill on
Christmas Day for anyone wishing to enjoy
a potluck lunch with others who may be far from
family or friends.

It's a time for making memories, as Betsy Dillbeck
so poignantly expresses in her story on page 16.

As we approach winter solstice on December 21,
with these dark nights that can be so conducive to
introspection, I do hope we are lucky enough to
experience at least one good snow!

Opportunities also are occurring as we gear
up for the new year. There will be a community-



wide planning meeting for MERF's Pathways to
Community project on December 12 at the library.
A First Day hike will be led from Little River Falls
to Martha's Falls in Little River Canyon National
Preserve on New Year's Day. The library will host a
Seed Swap on January 25, and a Circle of Service on
January 26.

I join the board of MAPA in wishing for you,
your family, and friends a meaningful and peaceful
holiday season and a very happy new year. —*Kelly*

May all good things
come to you.



Mentone Area Preservation Association

by Mark Hoffman

I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving, and can now look forward to the Christmas holidays coming in the near future. It's a great time (and excuse) for getting the family together to watch all of our favorite Christmas movies. My family knows pretty much every line from "Christmas Vacation." It's almost a contest to see who gets them exactly right. The best part of the whole experience is everyone getting to share a ton of laughs. Beats fussing and bickering any day.

There is no significant MAPA news to share this month, so I'll part with a simple wish that everyone has a fabulous holiday season, and that you are fortunate enough for your family's version of Cousin Eddie (and Snots) not to unexpectedly show up at your door.

Peace to all.

Mark Hoffman is the president of Mentone Area Preservation Association.



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Merrityme Market (continued from page 3)
artists to show and sell their work to shoppers who can find unique gifts in a festive, Christmas-filled atmosphere. On Saturday, from 10-12 a.m., musician Matt Downer, known as the "Old Time Traveler," will add to the ambiance by playing a selection of early American holiday music on fiddle, banjo, and guitar, and Santa will be on hand from 12-2 p.m. each day to listen to children's Christmas wishes. A gift-wrapping station will be available to get newly acquired Christmas gifts wrapped.

We look forward to seeing you at this community event that helps support local artists and Mentone's Moon Lake Elementary School students.

Rhea Pirch serves as the treasurer for Little River Arts Council.

Mentone Christmas Tree Lighting

Friday, December 6 • 5-7 pm

Join in the fun during the second annual Mentone Christmas Tree Lighting at the town square next to the Mentone Inn (at the corner of AL Hwy. 117 and County Road 89). Hosted by Cynthia Stinson and supported by volunteers, the evening is open to all in our community to enjoy Christmas carol singing, hot cider, hot chocolate, and an exciting visit from Santa! This year, the tree is being dedicated to all first responders.



Become a MAPA Member Today!

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

*MAPA is dedicated to preserving
and protecting the heritage, natural
environment and other unique
qualities of life in the Mentone area.*

One of MAPA's key missions is supporting local organizations and projects which seek to improve the quality of life in Mentone. Financial grants are made possible through MAPA memberships, donations, and funds raised by the publication of *The Groundhog* and by hosting annual spring and fall festivals which feature handmade arts and crafts and live music.

**Individuals \$20/year
Couples \$30/year**

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

**JOIN AT
MapaMentone.com**

or mail your check to MAPA,
P.O. Box 50, Mentone, AL 35984.
Be sure to include your full name(s),
address, phone, and email address.

*MAPA is chartered as a 501(c)(3)
non-profit corporation.*

**Call for Artists & Craft Makers,
Festival Food Vendors, and
Musicians!**

**Rhododendron Festival
May 16 & 17, 2020**

Information and applications will be
available online in February
at mapamentone.com and
in *The Groundhog*.

Miss Rhododendron Pageant
information and application will be
available online in February
at mapamentone.com and
in *The Groundhog*.

SENIOR HEALTH

Medicare Advantage Supplemental Benefits by Lynn Hixon

A supplemental benefit is an item or service covered by a Medicare Advantage Plan that is not covered by Original Medicare. These items or services do not need to be provided by Medicare providers or at Medicare-certified facilities. To receive them, you just need to follow your plan's rules. Some commonly offered supplemental benefits are dental care, vision care, hearing aids, and gym memberships. Supplemental benefits must be primarily health-related, with some exceptions for people with chronic conditions. Some supplemental benefits are offered to everyone who is enrolled in a plan, but for an additional premium, such as to add dental coverage. Other benefits may be covered for

everyone enrolled in the plan, regardless of whether you use the benefit, such as a gym membership. Medicare Advantage supplemental benefits are not to be confused with Medicare supplemental insurance, also known as a Medigap policy. Medigaps are health insurance policies that pay for some Original Medicare out-of-pocket costs.

Beginning in 2020, Medicare Advantage Plans can begin covering supplemental benefits that are not primarily health-related for beneficiaries who have chronic illnesses. These benefits should address environmental factors that may affect the health, functioning, quality of life, and risk levels of beneficiaries with chronic conditions. Some

examples of the new benefits are meal delivery, transportation for non-medical needs, and home air cleaners. In order to be eligible for this new category of supplemental benefits, you must be considered chronically ill. This means that you:

- Have at least one medically complex chronic condition that is life-threatening or significantly limits your health or function.
- Have a high risk of hospitalization or other negative health outcomes
- Require intensive care coordination.

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

10 Commandments of How to Get Along with People by Ann Landers • Submitted by Harvey Hogue

- 1 Keep skid chains on your tongue; always say less than you think. Cultivate a low, persuasive voice. How you say it counts more than what you say.
- 2 Make promises sparingly, and keep them faithfully, no matter what it costs.
- 3 Never let an opportunity pass to say a kind and encouraging word to or about somebody. Praise good work, regardless of who did it. If criticism is needed, criticize helpfully, never spitefully.
- 4 Be interested in others, their pursuits, their work, their homes and families. Make merry with those who rejoice; with those who weep, mourn. Let everyone you meet, however humble, feel that you regard him as a person of importance.
- 5 Be cheerful. Don't burden or depress those around you by dwelling on your minor aches and pains and small disappointments. Remember, everyone is carrying some kind of a load.
- 6 Keep an open mind. Discuss but don't argue. It is a mark of a superior mind to be able to disagree without being disagreeable.
- 7 Let your virtues, if you have any, speak for themselves. Refuse to talk of another's vices. Discourage gossip. It is a waste of valuable time and can be extremely destructive.
- 8 Be careful of another's feelings. Wit and humor at the other person's expense are rarely worth it and may hurt when least expected.
- 9 Pay no attention to ill-natured remarks about you. Remember, the person who carried the message may not be the most accurate reporter in the world. Simply live so that nobody will believe them. Disordered nerves and bad digestion are a common cause of backbiting.
- 10 Don't be too anxious about the credit due you. Do your best, and be patient. Forget about yourself, and let others "remember." Success is much sweeter that way.

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December

in Mentone's history. . .

- 1983** Holiday Festival will illuminate Mentone. The holiday celebration, called "A Wintery Wander-ful Christmas," will be coordinated by local merchants, residents and MAPA. The theme will reflect Mentone of the 1920s. MAPA's membership now stands at 85. With 100 members within reach, MAPA will give the 100th member a free membership and their picture will appear in *The Groundhog*.
- 1985** Congratulations to the Moon Lake School and lunchroom staff. Its November rating by DeKalb County Health Dept was 98—the highest in the county.
- 1986** At December's town meeting, Mayor Rob Hammond announced that the drought is officially over. The storage tanks are full and water is plentiful at this time of year.
- 1993** The newly formed Cloudland Volunteer Rescue Squad held their first annual Turkey–Ham shoot. A total of \$1,900 was raised to help fund the Squad.
- 1998** The Rhododendron Garden Club establishes a library with the presentation of its first book, "Wildflowers of Alabama and Adjourning States" by Blanche Dean, Amy Mason and Joab Thomas. The Club looks forward to adding to its library with additional books.
- 2001** Mentone City Council posted a "Noise Ordinance" to deal with the ever-increasing loud boom boxes, which many of the towns citizens have complained about recently.
- 2003** The Lookout Fire Protection District in Mentone received a \$83,000 federal grant to be used for the purchase of a new firefighting vehicle.

January

in Mentone's history. . .

- 1984** The arrival of the Bookmobile is a big local event. On alternate Wednesday mornings, the Bookmobile is in front of Town Hall from 9:30 until 10:30 and is open to all DeKalb County residents.
- 1985** Town Council decides on a vote for a Cable Company to service Mentone. Also voted on was the purchase of two snow tires for the Police Chief's vehicle.
- 1987** The post office window was broken. One of the large panes of glass was broken over night and was first thought that the office was burglarized. After inspections from both DeKalb County Criminal Investigation Unit and the Postal Investigators from Birmingham, this was found not to be the case. The cause of the break is still unknown.
- 1990** Cloudmont Ski Resort will host the first ever Alabama Special Olympics Coaches Training School. The volunteers will be trained during the morning, then spend the afternoon learning to teach these skills to the Special Olympians.
- 1995** DeSoto Rescue Squad marks its 30th year of service in Mentone. They are in the process of purchasing land on which to build a new meeting hall and rescue response building.
- 2000** Hammondville's best known landmark, The Castle Café, was destroyed by fire. High winds kept smoke and flames whipped up for hours, despite approximately 75,000 gallons of water being sprayed on the building by responding Fire departments. The café, at Hwy. 11 and Hwy. 117 was a total loss.

Compiled by Annette Peteck

Source:
Groundhog archives

Valley Head School Receives Technology Grant

by Tara Kirby

Valley Head School (VHS) strives for all students in grades K-12 to be performing on grade-level. This includes meeting standards in reading, math, and science. We hope to provide our students with the most up-to-date technology. Technology changes how students learn. Although we will never keep up with the ever-changing technology, we want to offer the best possible resources for our students. Our current goal is to encourage achievement and engagement and to develop 21st Century learners.

Because of the generous support from the

Tillotson-Menlo Foundation, Valley Head School has increased the technology in every grade during the past nine years. I started writing the grant applications in 2010 and we have received a total of \$65,000. Every student has benefited. Although I transferred to another school in the county, I have a 6th-grade student at Valley Head School and my husband is the principal. I taught for 18 years at VHS and I still feel a strong connection to both the community and school. I can now continue my support as a parent. VHS has many bright students that I know will reach their full potential if given the appropriate tools.

My Unforgettable Character

by Addison Prestwood

My dad is my unforgettable character. He always helps people out when they need it. He also makes sure that when you need basketball shoes, he can always be counted on. His favorite food is steak. He also has a fast car and he is even growing a beard. He works a lot, but he does come to my basketball practice.

One day I was working with my dad under a car and he started showing me parts under his car, then showed me how to put them on. Now I know a lot about a car. He once let me change a wheel and tire on his car. He also shows me tricks in basketball and how to do a layup or how to shoot a basketball correctly. One day he shot a half court and made it!

Addison Prestood is a 6th-grade student who lives in Mentone. He wrote this story for a class assignment at Moon Lake Elementary School.



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Rhododendron Garden Club by Rhea Pirch



The Rhododendron Garden Club met at the MERF House on November 12 at 10 a.m. Nine members were present, along with two guests. Mellanie Tuttle supplied refreshments for the group. For the meditation, Sue Schwarz shared the poem "Autumn Leaves" by Edel T. Copeland. It focused on the beauty of the changing seasons, and "Mother Nature's way of letting go."

The flag was pledged and the business portion of the meeting commenced. The minutes and the treasurer's report were presented and accepted. During roll call, members were asked to name an herb we can bring inside to overwinter. Rosemary, sage, German and lemon thyme, parsley and oregano were all mentioned. We were also asked to name our favorite gardening books. These included "The Well-tended Perennial Garden," "Pass-along Plants," Tough Plants for Southern Gardens," "Compost Gardening," "Southern Living Gardening Book," and "The Giant Book of Garden Solutions."

Horticulture chair Martha Wood gave us a tip on how to stunt the growth of the paperwhite narcissus, a popular bulb for winter forcing that frequently grows tall so quickly that they flop over before the plant has finished flowering. Plant the bulb as usual, she instructed, in a combination of stones (gravel, marbles, or glass beads) and water, as usual. Wait until the roots start growing and the shoot is about 1–2 inches tall. Pour off the water and replace it with a solution containing 4 to 6% alcohol. (Any higher percent may be toxic.) Just about any hard liquor can be used for the solution; vodka, gin, whiskey, rum or tequila. Be careful not to confuse "proof" with the percent of alcohol in each of the liquors. An 80% proof bottle of vodka actually contains 40% alcohol. To convert this to 5% alcohol, divide the 40 by 5 to

get 8. Subtract one part to give you 7. Therefore, for this 80% proof vodka, use one part of it to seven parts of water. If you don't have hard liquor, rubbing alcohol can be used, but be aware that it contains 70% alcohol, so needs to be diluted at the rate of 1 part rubbing alcohol to 10 or 11 parts water. Use the alcohol solution instead of water for further irrigation of the paperwhites, and they will start to show the results (shorter stems with just as many big blooms) in just a few days.

The meeting continued with discussion of old and new business. We decided to start a Facebook page in order to draw some attention to the club and to give us the opportunity to share tips and inform the public of gardening events going on in the Mentone area (please "Like" it!). The business portion then wrapped up, and Martha Wood presented her program on salvia.

Salvia, also known as sage, is part of the mint family. All varieties have a square stem with opposite leaves. Its corolla is a colorful tube that can be different shapes but must have two lips of unequal length, two fertile stamen, and produce four seeds.

bed, and provide an array of colors from spring to fall; yellow, pink, purple, coral, white, blue and red. Bees and hummingbirds love their tubular flowers. They can be used in culinary dishes and have healing properties, but their aroma is offensive to deer, so they'll be left alone in the garden.

Martha brought in different types of salvia (salvia elegans, or pineapple sage, and salvia coccinea, or Lady in Red) for us to examine. She also shared a PowerPoint presentation with pictures and facts about the wide assortment of salvia, which included salvia patens (gentian sage), the variety that brags the deepest and purest blue flowers in the world of plants. Salvia splendens comes in many colors, with large flower stalks above dark green, heart-shaped leaves. Salvia argentea, or silver sage, is a foliage salvia, noted for its silvery, fuzzy leaves arranged in a rosette. Salvia greggi, also known as Texas or autumn sage, is a mounding shrub that can survive on little water and high heat. Its blossoms are most commonly red, but also come in shades of pink, purple, white and orange. For cooking, the culinary sage salvia officinalis purpurascens is most widely used for its distinct flavor.

For future reference on salvias, Martha suggested *A Book of Salvias: Sages for Every Garden* by Betsy Clebsch.

The meeting wrapped up with a reminder of the yearly luncheon on December 11 at the home of member Mary Shurett. Past members are invited to join us, along with any visitors who would like to indulge in a tasty selection of food and good company. Please contact Mellanie Tuttle at 256-634-4403 or send us an email at RhododendronGardenClub@gmail.com if you're interested, and we'll save you a place at the table! We'll be swearing in a slate of new officers and reviewing the past year of events. Our next meeting

will be held at the MERF House on Tuesday, January 14, at 10 a.m. The Rhododendron Garden Club wishes you all a safe and happy holiday season!

Rhea Pirch serves as secretary for the Rhododendron Garden Club, which 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.



Gentian Sage

The attributes of this perennial garden flower are numerous. They reproduce readily from seeds and stem cuttings. They have few disease problems and grow well in sun and shade, as long as they have well-draining soil. They display fragrant, handsome leaves. Many produce flowers sporadically up the stem instead of opening at the lowest or uppermost position and progressing the other direction. Species (there are over 900 of them) can grow from two to six feet tall, adding accents to all parts of a garden

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Mentone, AL 35984

The Log Cabin Village will host an Open House on November 29 and 30, with Santa and Mrs. Claus on Friday from 11–3 in period costume for free photographs.

Helpful Facebook groups for those in Mentone:



Mentone Alabama Festivals
Mentone Neighbor to Neighbor
Mentone Neighbors Alert
Mentone Unconditional Give or Take
Mentone Area Visitor's Guide
Moon Lake Community Library

Big Idea (continued from page 1)

A concrete block building will be transformed with art.

existing concrete block building behind the MERF House with the help of community members. The mural represents macro images of native flowers.

- Additional seating, including new Adirondack chairs and a “friendship” bench, will be installed.
- A large abacus featuring ceramic beads made by the children of the community will serve as a way to keep track of laps around the ¼-mile track.
- Native flowers and other vegetation will be planted along the trail.

The pathway is designed to interest and inspire people of all ages, with the hope of building a happier and healthier community. You can see the video, which was



These sculptural flowers are gongs tuned to four different notes.

professionally edited by Robert Moehr and narrated by Paul Peppers, on MERF's YouTube channel (a shortcut link is bit.ly/MERFpathway).

How can you be involved?

There's work to be done and, as always, the more hands helping, the lighter the load! The next step in this project will be a meeting led by Sarah Wilcox on Thursday, December 12, at 5:30 p.m. at Moon Lake Community Library. Everyone is encouraged to attend. We will develop a timeline and participants can signify their various interests, talents, and skills. We'll especially need the help of those who can dig holes, pour concrete, and secure the musical instruments and fencing. We'll also need helpers when it's time to paint the pickets (300+!) and the mural. We know this is a lot of work, but we're counting on volunteers to complete this project all the way to fruition. It will be fun, and it will be rewarding...not just for those who help create it, but for generations to come. We have a new Facebook group (MERF's Pathway to Community), where we will post updates throughout the project.

Personally, I've been gratified to see how the core principles of creative placemaking really do work. We have tied together the improvement and enhancement of an existing community resource with art, music, nature, health, and personal connection. And we have a winner!

Mentone Farmers Market

Every Saturday
10 a.m. – 1 p.m.
YEAR ROUND



At the corner of AL Hwy & Co. Rd 89,
on the square at the Mentone Inn

Fresh & Locally Produced

Veggies • Fruits • Eggs • Pasture-raised Meats
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facebook.com/mentonefarmersmarket



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Mentone, Alabama 35984

littleriverhardware.com

It's Beginning to Feel a Lot Like Christmas!



December 1

Christmas in the Park. Menlo Park will have a "Christmas in the Park" beginning at 5pm EST. There will be games for the children and refreshments. All of the Menlo churches will participate in a service in the park with lots of Christmas caroling. Downtown Menlo, GA.

December 1–January 5

Saturday Lights in Paradise Howard Finster's Paradise Garden in Summerville, GA. Explore Paradise Garden lit up in Holiday lights, Saturday nights until 8pm in December, with complimentary Hot Coco and yummy treats to keep you warm. Admission is \$15, \$5 for students, and \$10 for seniors (over 59), under 12 FREE. Pets are welcome too! Call 706-808-0800 for more information.

December 4

MERF Senior Lunch Christmas Party. Join us at the MERF House at 11:15am for fabulous food, singing, and surprise visitors—ho ho ho!

December 6

Mentone Community Christmas Tree Lighting.

Celebrating the season with the annual Christmas Tree Lighting. Santa photos, Live music and more. Town square corner at the Mentone Inn. 5pm–7pm.

Christmas in the Park. Join us at Fort Payne City Park for the tree lighting at 4:45pm. Santa arrives at 5pm and departs for the North Pole at 7pm. Refreshments, caroling around the yule log. Candy Cane Lane opens in Alabama Walking Park, presented by DeKalb County Library. Shop and stroll downtown. Gingerbread house contest at Coal and Iron Building. Free.

"How the Grinch Stole Christmas." The Jim Carry version will be screened at DeKalb Theatre in Fort Payne. 7pm. FREE to the public.

Swingin' Christmas. Don your most festive Christmas sweater and join us for an evening of jazzy holiday favorites! Featuring the NACC Chorus, Jazz Band, and String Band! NACC Department of Music. 630pm.

December 7

Valley Head Christmas Parade. 10am.

Rainsville 60th annual Christmas Parade. 11am.

Fyffe Christmas Parade. 12pm.

Ider Christmas Parade. 1pm.

Geraldine Christmas Parade. 2pm.

Sylvania Christmas Parade. 2pm.

Crossville Christmas Parade. 5pm

Canyon Christmas. An annual tradition to celebrate the season that is filled with holiday spirit and activities including Christmas arts and crafts, a gift shop, puppet shows, and a visit with photos with Santa, and more! JSU's Little River Canyon Center. 10am–3pm. Most activities are free. Call 256-845-3548 for more details/schedule.

December 9

Fort Payne Christmas Parade. Presented by Fort Payne Chamber of Commerce. It will begin at the VFW Fairgrounds on 18th Street N and run south on Gault Ave. to 3rd Street South. Parade applications can be picked up at the Fort Payne Chamber Office. 6pm.

6th Annual Vulcraft Christmas Market. Food vendors, crafts, and silent auction during and after the Fort Payne Christmas Parade. Benefiting the DeKalb County Children's Advocacy Center. Held at The Building on N. Gault Ave. in Fort Payne. 4–9pm. 256-845-2460.

December 13

"Christmas in Dixie" Fort Payne Christmas Parade. Join the City of Fort Payne for its 46th annual Christmas Parade. Grand Marshall is the "Alabama" band and their families. Parade starts at 6pm at the VFW Fairgrounds on 18th Street N. and runs south on Gault Ave. to 3rd Street S. Parade applications can be picked up at the Fort Payne Chamber Office or Coffey Agencies. 256-845-2741.

"The Night Before Christmas." The Jim Burton version will be screened at DeKalb Theatre in Fort Payne. 7pm. FREE to the public.

December 14

Miss Merry Christmas Pageant. Fort Payne City Auditorium 3-6pm. Email crowningstarevents@gmail.com for info.

Collinsville Christmas Parade. Come out to enjoy floats, antique cars, marching band, Santa and more! 6pm.

Breakfast With Santa at Applebee's. Join us to help raise money for Relay for Life! For only \$5 per ticket, you can enjoy a Pancake Breakfast and a picture with Santa. You will get 3 pancakes with sausage and tea, water or coffee. To purchase tickets, please call ABC Plus at 256-997-1770. 8–10am. Applebees, Fort Payne.

Bluegrass Christmas & Art Market Opening. Join us at Howard Finster's Paradise Garden in Summerville for a special Bluegrass Christmas Party, with a set of music by the Little Country Giants and the Barbaric Yawps, while shopping the Artist Market for some unique gifts, complimentary snacks & Hot Chocolate Bar. After dark, explore the garden lit up with the lights of Christmas! Bring an instrument and play along! All of this is INCLUDED with your General Admission ticket! Kids under 12 are free. Pets are welcome. Chattooga County residents are FREE! Students \$5, Adults \$15, Seniors \$10. 4-8pm EST. The Artist Market will be available to shop through Jan. 5, and is free. 706-808-0800 for details.

December 17

"The Christmas Wish." Musical presentation by Moon Lake students. The public is welcome. 6pm. Moon Lake School Gymnasium, Mentone.

December 22

Courtyard Community Christmas. A special seasonal event to celebrate the holidays. This is a pot luck dinner, so bring a dish if you can. Historic DeKalb Theatre, Fort Payne. Doors open at 5pm. Dinner at 6pm, with music following.



Potluck Christmas Dinner at the Green Leaf Grill

Christmas can be depressing for many people who are alone. It's especially difficult when we miss our family and friends who are no longer with us. Jimmy Rogers, owner of Green Leaf Grill, recognizes this and, for the fourth year, he will be opening his Mentone restaurant for a community potluck to be served between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. on Christmas Day for a time of good fellowship and comfort.

"Bring a dish if you can," says Jimmy. "If you can't bring a dish, join us anyway! There will be plenty for all to eat." If anyone needs transportation, Jimmy invites you to call 256-634-2110. "We will pick you up and take you back home."

Can You Say “I Hiked Them All”?

Trail Trekker Hike Series: DeSoto Scout Trail Section

by Brittney Hughes

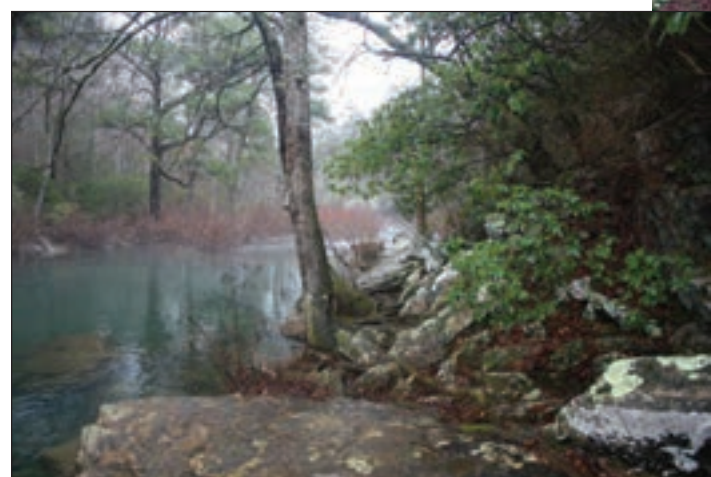
DeSoto State Park challenges you to become a DeSoto State Park Trail Trekker. Hike the designated 22 miles of trails in DeSoto (whether on your own or in a group; there is no time limit), and collect your prize—a Trail Trekkers Patch. Pick up a log book at DeSoto State Park Country Store or Lodge. Record the date for each trail listed, then turn your signed form in to the Country Store or Lodge to receive your patch.

This hike series is designed for those who prefer some company out on the trails with experienced park staff or volunteers. Each month there will be a different hike, so you can start marking them off towards your patch!



On December 7, from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m., we'll hike the DeSoto Scout Trail Section. This hike is approximately five miles round-trip, with moderate to strenuous difficulty along rocky mountainous terrain. It runs from the Lodge to DST exit 2, and then back on the CCC road.

Meet at DeSoto's Country Store and Information Center on County Road 89. The hike is free and open to



everyone, so no pre-registration required. For a listing of all hikes planned so far, see alapark.com/parks/desoto-state-park/hiking.

Bring plenty of water and/or sports drink, snacks/lunch, hiking poles/staff/lightweight hammock (optional), sturdy shoes (open toe shoes are not recommended).

Please be sure to dress appropriately according to seasonal temperatures/weather. As with all outdoor events, if it is stormy or very poor trail conditions, we may have to cancel. If the weather is questionable, please call the park before you leave home to check if the hike is still on (256-845-0051). Hike conditions will be posted the day before the hike on DeSoto's Facebook page.

Brittney Hughes is the park naturalist at DeSoto State Park.

Start the New Year with a First Day Hike

January 1, 2020 • 9–11 a.m.

Hike to Martha's Falls in
Little River Canyon National Preserve
by Niki Wayner

Start the New Year with a first day hike at Little River Canyon National Preserve. Join Little River Canyon Preserve (National Park Service), DeSoto State Park, and JSU Field Schools staff on a beautiful outdoor adventure/hike from the Little River Canyon Center to Little River Falls and on to Martha's Falls. This hike is a moderately difficult 4-mile hike. Meet at JSU's Little River Canyon Center in Fort Payne at 9 a.m. for a pre-hike orientation.

First Day Hikes are staff-led hikes, held annually on New Year's Day throughout the country, that are designed to encourage visitors to enjoy parks year-round and to promote good health and exercise by working off those calories gained during the holidays. Start the New Year off right!

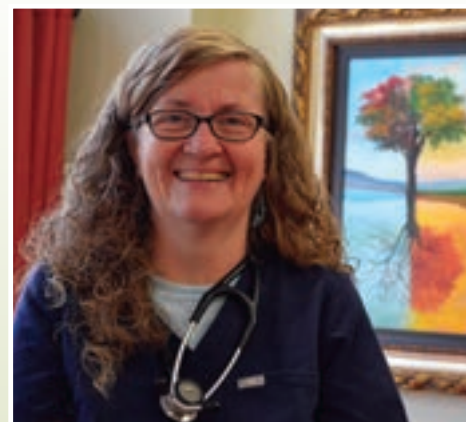
Bring plenty of water and/or sports drink, snacks/lunch, hiking poles/staff (optional), sturdy shoes (open toe shoes are not recommended). Please be sure to dress appropriately according to seasonal temperatures/weather. As with all outdoor events, if it's raining/stormy or very poor trail conditions, we may have to cancel. If the weather is questionable, please call the Canyon Center at 256-845-3548 before leaving home. Please make every effort to arrive early or on time so that you do not hold up the group. This event is free and open to the public.

Dr. Niki Wayner is the assistant director of JSU Field Schools.



We are fortunate to have DeSoto State Park “in our backyard.” Visit alapark.com/parks/desoto-state-park to learn about the 25 miles of trails and (fun) educational activities offered throughout the year.

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MERF News

by Sarah Wilcox



My boards may be a little creaky and my paint a little flaky but I am full of life. I continue to open my doors to the young and the wise so my walls are full of joy, laughter and learning.

MERF's heart is overflowing with thankfulness. Thank you to everyone who believes in the work of MERF and supports it with their time, their talents, and their resources. Thanks to ideas and work from many in the community, MERF won 1st place in the "Big Idea" grant from the Community Foundation of Northeast Alabama. The community will receive \$20,000 to enhance the MERF walking track. Enjoy the video on MERF's YouTube channel named "Pathway to Community." Thanks to Crista Sims' second grade class at Moon Lake Elementary school for honoring MERF as their Helping Hand Hero with a liberty pin! Thanks to MERF moms and

toddlers for beautiful artwork and "shaking off the sillies" during your monthly art/music class with Ms. Paula. Thank you to all volunteers who help MERF programs happen, such as senior lunch and afterschool tutoring.

December Delights and Deadlines for MERF:
Wednesday, December 4—Sue McLaurin Henry Memorial Scholarships are due!

Wednesday, December 4—Senior lunch Christmas party at the MERF house. Join us at 11:15 a.m. for fabulous food, singing, and surprise visitors—ho ho ho!

Thursday, December 12—Planning meeting for "Pathway to Community" grant project to enhance MERF's walking track. Everyone is welcome to come to Moon Lake Library at 5:30 p.m., as the entire community is needed to make this project fulfill the vision.

Friday and Saturday, December 13 and 14—Come by MERF's booth at Little River Arts Council's Merrityme Artisan Market from 10 a.m.–4 p.m. Great gifts that give twice will be available, including new Christmas cards and ornaments designed by Moon Lake Elementary School students.

Tuesday, December 17—Moon Lake Elementary School Christmas program in the gym.

January Jaunts for MERF will not be in hibernation but will be planning, organizing and designing a fabulous walking track and MERF's 8th annual "Taste of the Mountain and Art Auction" happening on Saturday, April 4. Volunteers are needed to make both of these events happen, so please join us and let Sarah know by email or text that you are interested in helping.

MERF loves being able to provide wonderful experiences such as the scholarships, field trips, tutoring, and senior lunches. Thank you to all who help to enrich the learning and living in our community. MERF could not do what it does without each of you! Here's to a fabulous New Year and an engaging and vibrant "Pathway to Community"!

Sarah Wilcox is Executive Director of MERF, a local non-profit organization whose mission is "to enrich the learning and living of the community by identifying needs and coordinating resources." If you would like to support 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 Sarah at merf.mentone@gmail.com or 256-635-8193 for more information.



CG concentrates on the right position for his fall leaves



Coleman and Titus love playing the xylophone together!



Forrest and cotton balls make the perfect autumn tree.



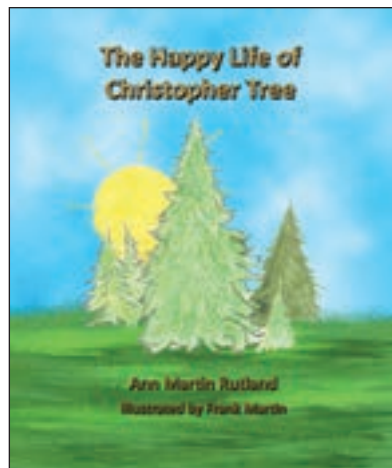
MERF moms have enjoyed Wallace and Titus Faught and wish them well in the mission field.



Selah is patient as Paula Easter traces her hand for her tree!

Moon Lake Community Library News by Kelly Leavitt

We very much appreciate your ongoing support of Moon Lake Community Library, one of our area's most valuable resources. Please join us at our annual Holiday Open House on Sunday, December 15, from 3 until 5 p.m. Bring your holiday cheer and community spirit, and spend time socializing with your neighbors. We want to thank you for your support throughout the year and give newcomers a chance to get to know the library. Refreshments will be served. Area businesses have generously donated a variety of wonderful door prizes, and author Ann Rutland will read from her delightful children's book, *The Happy Life of Christopher Tree*.



The Christmas village, which Mentone resident Mickey Luck constructed for the library many years ago, is currently on display. Children, especially, are enchanted by the scene, which features the Yuletide train as it passes through the village.

We're looking forward to another vibrant year in 2020 and invite you to be a "Friend of Moon Lake Library." Friends are vital to the ongoing success of our community library. Your financial donation directly supports our ability to meet our expenses of book and DVD

purchases, utility bills, wireless internet, librarian's salary, catalog software, furnishings, and supplies.

Our book sales alone do not meet our expenses, so our budget is very limited. The future of Mentone's community library depends on the financial support of the community in order to survive...and thrive.

This year, we are offering "perks" to our Friends. Those who donate \$100 or more will be offered one of our new tote bags and your choice of five free books from our sale shelves. Those who donate between \$25 and \$99 may purchase a discounted tote bag (\$5) and select two free books from our sale shelves. Every donation makes a difference, and we want you to feel appreciated.

Kelly Leavitt is the community librarian.

WINTER HOURS
Tuesdays, Thursdays
3–5 pm
Saturdays
9 am–1 pm



Community Game Nights Fridays 12/13, 1/10 & 1/24 @ 6 pm

Enjoy playing a variety of games with your neighbors and friends (old and new) at Moon Lake Community Library. Bring your favorite game or come learn how to play a new one. Bring a finger food to share in the pot luck. Coffee, tea, and water will be provided. All ages are welcome.

4607 AL-Hwy 117, Mentone • moonlakelibrary.org



Moon Lake Book Club Saturday 1/18 @ 10:30 am

The unforgettable, heartbreaking story of the unlikely friendship between a wealthy boy and the son of his father's servant, caught in the tragic sweep of history, *The Kite Runner*, by Khaled Hosseini (2003) transports readers to Afghanistan at a tense and crucial moment of change and destruction. A powerful story of friendship, it is also about the power of reading, the price of betrayal, and the possibility of redemption; and an exploration of the power of fathers over sons—their love, their sacrifices, their lies.

Everyone is free to join in the discussion.

"It Came Like a Cyclone": Alabama & the 1918 Influenza Monday 1/13 @ 6:30 pm

As World War One came to a close, tens of millions of people around the world contracted influenza in the worst pandemic in human history. Alabama was not spared the misery, and almost 150,000 Alabamians became ill in every part of the state. Thousands, including whole families, died. Stores, theaters, fairs, schools, and even churches were closed to try and stop the spread of the disease. With not enough doctors or hospital beds to tend the sick, neighbors pulled together to care for one another. This talk explores the story of the great influenza in Alabama and around the world.

On Monday, January 13, at 6:30 p.m., Moon Lake Community Library will host Jim Baggett, who will present this multi-media program on the pandemic.

He will also share with us a Mentone connection to the 1918 Influenza.

Jim Baggett is Head of the Department of Archives and Manuscripts at the Birmingham Public Library and Archivist for the City of Birmingham. He has served as president of the Society of Alabama Archivists, Chair of the Jefferson County Historical Commission, and as a trustee for several historical associations. Jim has lectured throughout the U.S. and in Europe and has been featured on Alabama Public Television, Alabama Public Radio, National Public Radio, and C-SPAN. He has authored two books on Alabama history, edited three others, and has written more than fifty articles. Jim lives with his wife and daughter in Birmingham and Mentone.



Seed swapping is a tradition as old as time. Come by the library on Saturday, January 25, between 10 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. with any seed you'd like to share with others, either by swapping or giving. This is a great way to diversify your seed supply. Local gardeners will be on hand to offer gardening tips, discuss native plants, and organic gardening.



The Lookout Mountain Strummers, a musical group started by Mickey Luck, is primarily a mountain dulcimer group, but all instruments are welcome. Some of the instruments played include fiddle, guitar, mountain dulcimer (standard, baritone, and bass), bowed psaltery, and even a hammered dulcimer on occasion. The musicians play both in unison and harmony, with strumming and fingerpicking.

The group will perform at Moon Lake Community Library on Saturday, December 14, at 11 a.m. This is a relaxed time for the musicians to enjoy playing together, while others sit and listen or browse for books. Light refreshments will be served.

Musicians are welcome to join the group, which meets at St. Joseph's Episcopal Church on alternate Thursdays. For more information, call Liz Baker at 256-634-0402.

December

Birthdays

1	Gayla Blalock Mark Hatfield Morgan Crane Marcia Tucker Christine Brooks Megan Kelley	7	Gavin Myers Keesha Burgess Reagan Owen Nathan Owen Olivia Burton Brandy Graham
2	Ladon Willingham Dwayne McKenzie Angel Baggett Brody Britton	8	Bailey Pryor Trish Clink Ross Hulgan
3	Karen Saferite Austin Battles Angie Bell Young Cherita Holman	9	Brenda Kerby Kyle Freeman Mike Stone
4	Lloyd McElhaney Nichole Williams Lydia Rastall Heath Blalock Raymond Beasley Easton Bailey Melissa Patton	10	Kevin Worthey Tammy Frost John Breithaupt Daniel Kilgore Jeremy Hart Darlene Swindall
5	Jess Goggans Brian Howard Berkley Chambers Barbara Neel Avery Pepper Aero Potts Zack Peek Arrielle Turner	11	Christine Ballenger Toni Freeman Hannah Blansit Christy Cordell Kaelan Shankles
6	Austin Potts Judy Johnson Tonja Bell	12	Valerie Logan Jeff Nelson Connie Nelson Waylon Collins Gwen Stone

Anniversaries

1	Cotton & Pam Baggett Hoyt & Helen Ashley Lamar & Cheryl King
2	Joe & Donna McClure
3	Walt & Shirley Zange
8	Alvin & Sherry Durham
9	Jake & Melinda Easler
12	Walter & Christine Brooks
13	Ron & Valerie Logan John & Jennifer Chambers
14	Benny & Brenda Goss Mike & Barbara Neel
15	Johnny & Sissy Crider
17	Rob & San Hammond
18	Jim & Joan Byrum
20	Dave & Jamie Vest Bruce & Jennifer McCurdy
23	Heath & Tara Kirby Eddie & Mary Porter Doug & Kaye Kiker Randy & Virginia Ballinger
28	Lendell & Annette Chappell Danny & Julie Mewes Chad & Ashley Wooten
30	Matt & Ginger Lee Bryan & Melissa Roe Kelly & Donna Johnson
31	Steve & Patti Watkins David & Stephani Chaney

January

Birthdays

1	William Blackburn Alexis Reed Brittany Harrison Harold Carden Jim Byrum Kathy Carson April Hurst David Tucker Andrew Campbell Abby Mitchell	6	Austin Potts Judy Johnson Tonja Bell Sharon Crouch Mia Sweeney Chuck Williams
2	Donnie Bell Kristen Ann Nelson Amber Stokes Rickey Williams Gideon Grisham	7	Kristen Emory Madisen Smith Jace Carden Hoyt Ashley Ronnie Hulgan
3	Stacy Howard Aiden Logan Owen Izell Lance Elkins Cameron Hunt Tressie Thomas	8	Tyler Carden Garnett Smith Zachary Wallace Emily Stallings Jerry Boatwright Ryker Abernathy Jessica Chester
4	Ed Ringer	9	Dallas Lee Ellie Shugart Kristy Sweatman Ashley Jones
5	Aidan Dupree Angela Chambers Tiffany Wallace Gage Gelfenstein Steve Sharp	10	Neal Whitt Stacey Worthey Nancy Frost Heath Miller Eli Durham

Anniversaries

2	Jim & Cynthia Connor
4	Raymond & Heather Evans
10	Tony & Cindy Tipton
12	Darius & Hope Turner
9	Jake & Melinda Easler
12	Walter & Christine Brooks
13	Kenny & Doris Chamlee
19	Bill & Donna Carman
23	Kevin & Ashley Gifford
24	Taylor & Nancy Brown
25	Greg & Nikki Wheat
28	Robert & Annette Johnson
29	Bubba & Martha Browder

Happy Day!



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Melody Sellers
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Steve Manning
Assoc. REALTOR®
256-996-7624

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FACELIFT IS ALMOST DONE! Work is nearing completion on the exterior painting, roofing & general upgrading of the exterior of Mentone's iconic gas station and eatery, Helena's Gas & Deli. This is a thriving restaurant, bar & grill, store, and gas station business. So, why would Helena want to sell? Well, she says she's ready to retire and be with her grandbabies. (And she's selling it "Lock, stock and barrel.") Locals and visitors to Mentone alike know this is the place to go for delicious food, reasonable gasoline prices & cold beverages. Lots of paved parking & add'l wooded land behind the existing building for future growth. \$350,000 (1119821)



TURN THE TENSION METER DOWN & shift the clocks to slow speed, because this custom home, with a view of a small lake, is the place for you to RELAX. Originally built as a full-time residence, it has become a top earner in rental program. Sold furnished. 4BR/3.5BA. Custom cabinetry; granite counter tops; SS appliances; stone FPLCE w/gas logs; open floor plan; exposed beams & wide-plank floors. Just off DeSoto Pkwy; easy access to Mentone, DeSoto St Park, DeSoto Falls, Comer Scout Camp. \$295,000 (1130640)



DIAMOND IN THE ROUGH ON NORTH COOL ST. This single-level cottage is plain on the outside, delightful on the inside! Great location, too. Just a couple blocks from Mentone's Brow Park, dining & shops. Built by local stone/block artisan Lee Crow, this place is virtually unchanged from its beginnings in 1962. Beautiful, wood-burning, mtn stone fireplace is central to LR/DR/KIT areas. Vaulted wood ceilings. Yes, it needs some updating & TLC, but this is a sweet opportunity. \$189,000 (1119202)



LOTS and LAND

NEW LISTING! 11.03 UNRESTRICTED ACRES IN MENTONE, cornering 2 county roads (one paved, one chert), with driveway. Wooded, generally level-to-rolling in terrain, and rich with wildlife. Ideal for someone who wants a few acres, maybe have a place to park a camper, build a cabin (or several), do a little hunting, or just escape from workaday pressures. \$60,000 (1132226)

COOL, GREEN & SHADY. 4.1 acres of unrestricted beauty is just about the perfect size for your dream, large or small. Located on a quiet chert road, perfect for taking afternoon walks, just 7 miles from downtown Mentone. Survey & topo map available. Wet-weather stream. \$41,000 (1120916)

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. \$19,000. (1109345)

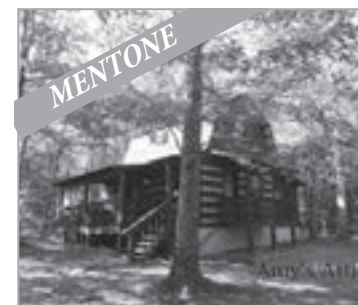
10.8 ACRES ON THE NORTH BROW. There's just something about having the possibility of that wide-open vista of the valley below you, the mountain ridges in the distance beyond. Land is located just about 4.5 miles north of downtown Mentone off a paved county road. Build your brow-front dream now, or just clear a spot to set up your sunset gathering spot till you're ready to build. It's all good. \$137,500 (1128138)

SOUTH COOL STREET BROW-FRONT property w/old stone fireplace chimney, part of foundation, plus small garage. Newly surveyed. An original Mentone summer home once stood here, been in the same family since early '20s. Approx 0.45-acre lot in an area where properties are seldom available. Build your own memories! \$118,000 (1070474)

UNIQUE, YEAR-ROUND NAVIGABLE RIVER LOT AT DESOTO FALLS Lake area. 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! Survey & perc in file. So much natural beauty! \$155,000 (355152)



MAKE NATURE YOUR NEW NEIGHBOR! 3BR/2BA cabin is nestled into 3 acres of peace & quiet; just minutes from downtown. Large front porch; large, screened back porch (complete w/hammock). Gorgeous HW floors throughout; stone fireplace & tons of windows make the main living area a space you won't wanna leave! Main level MABR. Underground utilities, whole house generator, tankless water heater & custom outbuilding Fully furnished. \$229,900 (1129104)



TWO LOG CABINS, FULLY FURNISHED. Rugged, mountain-style, currently very active, income-producing properties. One line the possibility of a rental. The other is a "Old Dad" is a 1/2.5BA, approx 1186 sq ft cabin, pine floors, log walls, vaulted T&G ceiling, main-level MABR. "Amy's Attic," approx 912 sq ft, MABR on main level. Both cabins \$259,900. (1128754)



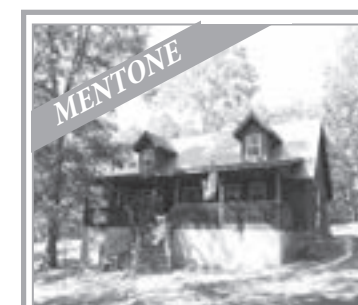
A CABIN FOR EVERY SEASON. 2BR/2BA on 1.75 wooded acres. All wood interior; wood-burning Fplce w/stone hearth in vaulted living; handy galley kitchen; dining area; laundry closet; 2 screened porches; welcoming front porch w/swing; large deck w/add'd supports (for future hot tub); mostly furnished. Property is wooded, borders a small creek, & has a great outdoor fire ring w/benches for chilly evenings around the fire. Located in Laurel Creek Lakes which offers common areas lakes for canoeing & well-maintained walking paths. \$179,900 (1128107)



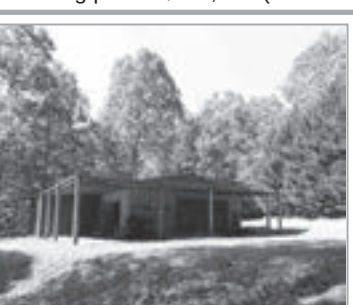
CUTE CABIN & 1.4 AC OF WOODLAND! If you're looking for a personal retreat that could also be used as a rental, this could be the cabin for you! Combination of rustic & civilized elements: HW floor & mtn stone, WB Fplce in LR; spacious BR; galley kitchen; shower bath; CH/A; lg laundry; new roof; updated ext paint; HUGE screen porch w/hot tub; timber-frame pavilion for garage or gatherings! \$133,500 (1104545)



FURNISHED CABIN ON 5 WOOD-ED ACRES. 3BR/2BA, 1800 sq ft; wood-burning fireplace; open living/dining; spacious kitchen w/lots of cabinets. Beautifully furnished, including a hot tub. This property is a great area across the road with OVER 300' ON W FORK LITTLE RIVER. Kayak launch; river-side deck; areas for picnicking, camping, outdoor adventures of all sorts. New back door parking. \$229,000 (1086017)



SPACIOUS CABIN HOME ON 3.31 ACRES, with pleasant, winding, private drive. 3BR/2.5BA, 2500 sq ft, one-owner home features a welcoming front porch & a deep, oversized back porch for easy entertaining outdoors. Open living/dining/kitchen features an efficient, wood-burning heater; hardwood floors. Main-level master suite. First level also offers a laundry room & 1/2 bath. Upstairs are two large bedrooms & guest bath. Two new CH/A units in Aug 2019. Outdoors, the property includes a well-equipped workshop/garage; a large pole barn for firewood with an attached chicken coop; and a combination of cleared/wooded land. Add'l land avail. \$264,500 (1128526)



SUMMERS REST. What a treasure! Filled with eclectic treasures gathered by the family through the years (that stay in the cottage, too!) Built circa 1950 for the Summers family by mountain craftsman Lee Crow, this is the first time this cabin has been offered for sale. walking distance of downtown Mentone. A simple, cozy cottage, tucked into a tree-filled yard, just waiting for the next generation of owners to put their stamp on it. \$129,900 (1127722)

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 11am and is led by Rev. Heidi C. Bender. 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 with a pot luck lunch afterwards. 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".

Mt. Calvary Baptist Church offers Sunday School on Sunday mornings at 10am (EST) and Worship Service at 11am (EST). Pastor Jack Green. 10090 County Road 103. 706-862-6221.

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.



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 Bunnell.

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 (EST) and Worship at 10am (EST). 150 Partain Road.

Menlo, Georgia

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

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

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

Summerville, Georgia

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

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

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



**MENTONE HONORED VETERANS
AT MASON PARK ON NOVEMBER 11**
• THANKS TO ALL WHO PARTICIPATED •



Christmas is Memory... Past & Present

by Betsy Dillbeck



Here we go again, another Christmas season. I, for one, am marching purposefully into the holidays, at my age, just grateful for another chance to be with family and friends to enjoy this special time.

As we gather, over the past few years, I marvel at the new memories and traditions being blended into my sons' families, many different from the ones I grew up with, but recognizing some that my sons have taken from their childhood Christmases.

Since moving to Fort Payne four years ago, I usually spend Thanksgiving with my son in San Clemente, California, where Christmas begins on Thanksgiving Day afternoon, as the artificial tree is put together and decorated, and the various seasonal decorations (the Nutcracker cast!) adorn the home. I then spend Christmas with my other son, at their home on Lookout Mountain, where a live tree is not put up that early, usually cut at a Christmas tree farm, but the same sequence of events holds true on the afternoon. They decorate their tree and home for the season. In both families, each child has his and her special ornaments that they place on the tree. It always brings back so many memories on Christmases past in my life.

Many of those involve the Christmas tree. My Uncle George and Aunt Meta, on my mother's side, lived in Greenfield, New Hampshire, on Slip Road, at the edge of a tract of meadows and woods. It was about a 45-minute drive from our home in Ashby, Massachusetts, just over the state line. I was probably 8 years old, the first time I went on the tree gathering. It was cold and snow was on the ground and roads, and I don't think the heater in my Dad's car reached my sisters and me in the back seat, but we were so excited, as we knew this Sunday afternoon we were getting our tree from the woods. Bundled up for the cold weather, we followed my Dad and Uncle George, and along with a few cousins, we pulled a toboggan that would be used to haul the tree out of the woods back to the house.

We went down a hollow, where the temperature seemed to fall about five degrees, over the railroad track, through a meadow, past the Shea family

graveyard and into the woods. Uncle George had already tagged the trees that would be cut for each family, or neighbor, that he was expecting to travel here for a tree. There was a beautiful mix of blue spruce, green spruce and balsam, and the occasional full, fat cedar tree. Ours was usually a blue spruce, or balsam. My Dad and Uncle George had a different shaped handsaw, and once the cutting began, we children frolicked in the snow. They tied the tree firmly to the toboggan and we trekked out of the woods, to Aunt Meta's hot chocolate and warm cookies. The tree was somehow fit into the trunk of the car, and off we went, tired but singing Christmas songs all the way home with our tree.

In 1984, newly divorced, my sons and I moved from Indiana back to Greenfield, where we lived in a Shea family farmhouse on the south end of Slip Road, on the side of a hill that backed into the Shea woods. That Christmas, although Uncle George had passed, Aunt Meta and my cousin Frank Shea insisted that we cut a tree, just the way we used to do it when I was my sons' ages. Cousin Frank was armed with a chain saw though, and that year there was no snow when we went into the woods for our tree, but the boys were excited and we had fun dragging it out with ropes through the pasture. Aunt Meta, then in her late eighties, had hot cocoa made and warm cookies at her home. It was another splendid memory.

Years followed and we moved several times, landing in South Carolina, where some of our traditions changed. In 1996, I landed back in Ashby, MA, and went to a Christmas tree cutting of a very special kind. My sisters and I had grown up with the Pernaa girls, from a Finnish family who lived on the edge of their "certified" tree farm, just south of town. I was working for a local newspaper and old friends told me of this special tree cutting to take place on the first Saturday of December. Evidently, this had been going on for years...the tree that was hauled from their woods would decorate the deck of the USS Constitution in Boston Harbor.

Mrs. Pernaa was now in her nineties (she lived to be 103, I believe), and her husband had passed, but her children and neighbors kept the tradition alive.

Two huge horses were hitched to a large wooden sled, waiting anxiously at the edge of the woods for the captain and crew of the Constitution to arrive. They came bringing a large truck with a flatbed trailer, and backed down the narrow road off of the main road. The officers of the Constitution were in full uniform, circa 1800s, with swords at their side and a drummer in the group.

The tree, cut earlier for safety, was hauled out, with great ceremony, and somehow loaded and secured on the flatbed for the trip to the ship.

Hot cocoa, cider, and homemade Finnish-style doughnuts were served to all who came to see the spectacle, in Mrs. Pernaa's garage, by friends and neighbors. It was another memorable Christmas tree experience for me.

My mother passed away in 2012, just one week shy of her 93rd birthday. I was living with her in the house she and my Dad had purchased in 1950, in Fitchburg, MA, just seven miles from Ashby. She was able to stay in the home until about three months before her death. When she died, I had the task, or honor, of going through all her belongings, all the memories of a lifetime she had saved—hers and my grandmothers. She saved EVERYTHING. It took months. There were five of us children, and I sorted out stacks for each one of things that related to them, one stack to throw away...photos and letters and cards, receipts and ledger pages of expenses and payments. She wrote down every penny she spent every day.

But one thing that was a treasure to me was all the Christmas ornaments and cards and letters of the season that she had kept. They were beautiful cards in the style of the 1940s and on, with notes written from my grandmothers to each of us, or from my Mom and Dad to us, aunts and uncles, family photos sent with the cards. There were the cards we children sent to our parents and grandmother from the first time we could print our names, on through the times we had our own families and lived far away, or seven miles away. And ribbons! Remember the ribbons of the past? She had carefully rolled them up and put them away, to be used another year.

I do not save as compulsively as my mother did, as many of her generation did, but I have saved some of those special cards from my sons and their wives and my grandchildren, and from my mother and grandmothers. Photos of Christmases past and letters. I know that each of my children's families are building their own memories, and I often wonder how they will be kept as memories of their Christmases for their children. In this age of technology, is everything recorded on a digital camera or in a video?

Or, will they remain only in their memory, hopefully to share when they are my age. Somehow, in my era, the writing of a card or note at the holidays, from a family member or a friend, was so very intimate, and that seems lost in today's digital era. When I am around my sons and their family at Thanksgiving and Christmas, I feel somewhat like the main characters in that classic novel "The Giver," by Lois Lowry. I am The Giver of memory and I so much want them to be "The Receiver," but I fear that many of my generations' memories are lost in us.

So, I will fully embrace these new memories created with every Christmas I get to spend with my sons, and silently play back those cherished memories of mine, and their, past Christmases, with a "hot toddy" and create more memories in the beautiful light of the Christmas tree present. I suggest we all do the same. Merry Christmas!

Betsy Dillbeck is a retired newspaper publisher and editor living in Fort Payne.



L to R: Nathan Hudgins, DeSoto Rescue Squad First Lieutenant Gwen Stone, Michael Stone



L to R: Moon Lake School Fine Arts Teacher Paula Easter, Stormy Prestwood, MERF Executive Director Sarah Wilcox

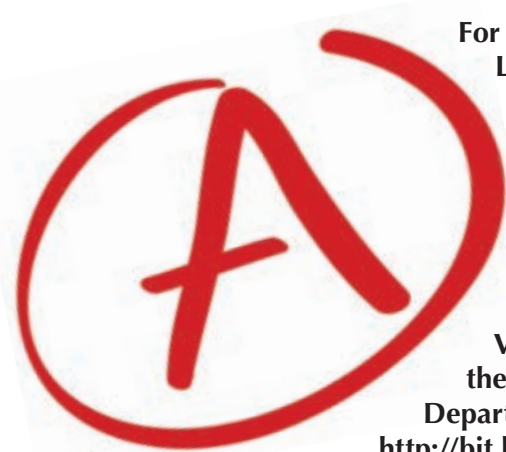
SUPER CITIZEN PROGRAM

They celebrated. They graduated. They honored heroes. Through the Liberty Learning Foundation's Super Citizen Program and live theatrical events, Moon Lake Elementary School students in second and fifth grades were taught character, civics, financial literacy, and career lessons. The active civics program and interactive resources empower educators to teach these crucial lessons in less time, with higher retention, and alongside STEM subjects, to round out the equation for truly outstanding citizens.

On Monday, November 4, at the DeKalb County Coliseum, the second- and fifth-grade students all graduated from the engaging 10-week program (libertylearning.org). One of the lessons was to discuss, to identify, and to vote on a local citizen who represented good character and citizenship in the community. Moon Lake fifth-graders honored DeSoto Rescue Squad to receive the "Torch Team Heroes" for their dedication to keeping our community safe. The second-graders honored MERF: Mentone Educational Resources Foundation as their "Helping Hands Hero" for providing tutoring, arts education, and experiential education for all students. At the ceremony, Nathan Hudgins and Michael Stone spoke about why the fifth grade chose the DeSoto Rescue Squad as a good citizen model for Mentone, and second-grader Stormy Prestwood presented the award to Paula Easter and Sarah Wilcox, representing MERF and the arts program. What great citizens we have in Mentone, from young to old!

Thank you to Alabama Bicentennial, Alabama Department of Education, AlaTrade Foods, Inc, Alfa, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Alabama, D & F Equipment Sales Inc., DeKalb County Commission, Optimist Club, Regions Bank, Screentech, and United Givers Fund of DeKalb County Inc., for funding and giving this opportunity to these wonderful students!

Congratulations to Moon Lake Elementary School!



For the second year in a row, Moon Lake Elementary School was the only DeKalb County school to receive an A from the Alabama State Department of Education. Congratulations to all! It takes a dedicated staff and community to help each individual child succeed.

Visit this shortcut link to see the school's report card on the Department of Education's web site: <http://bit.ly/moonlakeA>

Beautiful brow cottage for nightly rental



Two bedrooms, two full baths, large living area & screened back porch in the heart of Brow Park. Try a drive-by look at 220 North Cool Street in Mentone. For full details, see VRBO.com and search for property 1547348 or call 256-997-7922.

You're invited to
St. Joseph's on-the-Mountain's
Candlelight Christmas Service
Tuesday, December 24, at 5 p.m.



Many of your favorite traditional Christmas carols will be sung during the service, and all are welcome to join!

21145 Scenic Highway | Mentone | (256) 634-4476

Porter Wagoner Fudge

—submitted by Harvey Hogue

2 cups sugar
2 heaping Tbsp. cocoa
1/2 tsp. salt
1/4 cup maple syrup
1/4 cup milk
2 Tbsp. butter
1 tsp. vanilla
2 Tbsp. peanut butter
1/2 cup English walnuts

Mix sugar, cocoa, salt, and syrup in saucepan. Add enough milk to make it soupy, but very thick. Bring to boil and boil until sugar is dissolved (4–5 minutes). Test by dropping a spoonful into a cup of cold water until it forms a soft ball. Remove from heat and add butter and vanilla. Stir until it begins to cool. Add peanut butter and walnuts. Pour into large platter until it cools and then cut into squares.

Poppy Seed Dressing

(Fruit Salad Dressing)

—Betty Jo Dooley, submitted by Linda Griffin Stephenson

2/3 cup pineapple juice 1 Tbsp minced onion
1 cup sugar 1-3/4 cup vegetable oil
2 tsp dry mustard 3 Tbsp. poppy seeds
2 tsp sal

Combine juice, sugar, mustard, salt, and onion in a blender. Blend until smooth. Run blender on high. Add oil slowly, then add poppy seeds. Refrigerate overnight (will keep 3 or more days). Pour over fruit salad.

Recipes to Enjoy

Reindeer Sandwich

—Linda Griffin Stephenson

1 slice white to wheat bread, cut in half diagonally
1 Tbsp. spreadable peanut butter (or enough to cover bread)
2 pretzel sticks (for antlers)
1/2 cherry, drained (for nose)
2 raisins (for eyes)

Cut one piece of bread diagonally to make a triangle. Carefully spread peanut butter over entire piece of bread. Place bread on paper plate. With pointed end of bread pointing down, stick pretzel sticks into top (wide part of triangle) of reindeer's head. Put 1/2 cherry in middle of face for nose, and place the two raisins for eyes.

Puppy Chow for People

—Linda Griffin Stephenson

"This is fun to make and just a little messy. Good to give at Christmastime in small containers."

1 bag semisweet chocolate chips
1 cup peanut butter
1 stick butter
1 large box Rice Chex cereal
1 to 2 boxes powdered sugar

Melt chocolate chips, peanut butter, and butter together. Pour this over the Rice Chex in a very, very large bowl and stir until covered. In batches, put mixture in gallon-size plastic bags and pour sugar over. Shake until completely covered. This usually takes more than one box of sugar. Store in a clean gallon bag or an air-tight container. Very tasty!

Chelsea's Spinach Salad Dressing

—Chelsea L. Stephenson

1/2 cup green onion, chopped small
1/4 cup vinegar
1/4 cup + 1 Tbsp Worcestershire sauce
1/2 cup ketchup
1 tsp salt
1/4 tsp pepper
1/2 cup salad oil

Mix all ingredients well. Pour into a jar and put in refrigerator. Shake well before using. Serve on spinach salad.

LAW OFFICES OF THOMAS J. SKINNER, IV, LLC



Ho! Ho! Ho!

**We wish you
and your family
a very Merry
Christmas and a
blessed New Year.**

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No representation is made that the quality of the legal services to be performed is greater than the quality of legal services performed by other lawyers.

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SOUTHERN PROPERTIES

Agency, Inc.

256-845-6000

www.southernpropertiesagency.com

311 Gault Ave. N., Fort Payne



2500 SQ FEET of One Level Living with Stone and Vinyl exterior, 2 bedrooms, 2 baths, with 15 x 23 Master Suite, Master Bath with soaking tub and separate shower. Home is situated on 2 acres. \$269,900. MLS #1122165



2 BR, 2 BA, also get a 1-room Cottage House. Indoor pool and its own attached screened porch. Large storage shed. Bathroom also serves as storm shelter. Furnished! \$186,000. MLS #1127846



PEACE AND PRIVACY ARE YOURS! Three bed/1 bath home within walking distance to downtown Mentone. \$79,000. MLS #1123288



BROW TOP RETREAT! Vaulted ceilings, rock fireplace, kitchen comes with stainless appliances. 2 BR/ 2.5 BA, screened porches to enjoy the gorgeous brow view! \$389,900. MLS #1130005



KNOWN AS HIGHPOINT AND ONE OF THE MOST CELESTIAL AREAS FOR STAR GAZING... This 7 BR, 6 BA manor boast onyx porcelain & tile baths, walk-in showers, granite & marble counter tops/vanities. Attached private living quarters with full amenities PLUS detached guest cabin. \$729,000. MLS #1119192



MENTONE BROW HOME! 2 BR, 2 BA hardwood floors, rustic wood walls, gas log fireplace, CH/A, decks, detached storage building. \$288,000. MLS #1130058



REDUCED
LOOKING FOR THAT GET-A-WAY that you will NOT want to leave? Take a look at this one of a kind property in Mentone. 1.2 acres with 100-year-old farmhouse and barn. \$182,500. MLS# 1119979



REDUCED
NEW HOME ON THE BROW! 2 Bedrooms, 2 Bathrooms with loft area. Nestled in the woods with seasonal views, covered back porch, wood burning fireplace, open floor plan, vaulted ceilings, and LAKE ACCESS! \$215,000. MLS #1125898



REDUCED
COUNTY ROAD 89, across from brow. Cozy Cabin with batten walls, hardwood flooring, master suite, laundry room with washer and dryer, new stainless appliances. \$159,900. MLS #1129826



REDUCED
ONE LEVEL RANCH located near Georgia Line of Alabama, offers 2 bedrooms, 1.5 baths, open floor plan, and screened porch allowing outdoor living you can enjoy! Attached garage plus detached carport situated on 3.5 acre parcel! \$299,900. MLS #1125366



REDUCED
PRIVATE HIDEAWAY—3.60 +/- wooded acres surround this 3 or 4 bedroom, 2-1/2 bath BRICK home in Oakwood Subdivision in Mentone. Ready to be enjoyed by a NEW owner! Call for more details. \$194,500. MLS #1120888



REDUCED
NEW CONSTRUCTION! 3 BEDROOM AND 2 BATH CABIN IN MENTONE! Tongue and groove walls and ceilings, act quickly and you can finish customization. Sitting on over 2 acres lightly restricted. Call today for more details. \$149,900. MLS #1125546

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year from Southern Properties!

LOTS & LAND

#1011734... Located on a private road just minutes from downtown Mentone. \$21,900.

#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 \$270,000.

#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.

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

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

#1092235—Building lot in Laurel Creek Lakes. \$19,900.

#1098785—Beautiful wooded BROW lot in Mentone with winter views! \$77,640.

#1099911—LAST CHANCE to buy open land before entering into Georgia!!! \$179,000.

#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! \$99,000.

#1111628—AMAZING VIEWS! YES, VIEWS!!! REDUCED TO \$79,900.

#1112787—40 acres in Mentone, AL with stream and untouched family owned property since 1923! REDUCED TO \$198,000.

#1113936—Looking for a brow lot inside the city limits of Mentone? \$78,500.

#1118808—A GREAT PLACE TO BUILD YOUR GETAWAY NOW! Level wooded lots with

underground utilities, inside gated community. Just minutes to Historic downtown Mentone. Call today for more information. \$25,000

#1118810—A GREAT PLACE TO BUILD YOUR GETAWAY NOW! Level wooded lots with underground utilities, inside gated community. Just minutes to Historic downtown Mentone. Call today for more information. \$25,000.

#1118812—A GREAT PLACE TO BUILD YOUR GETAWAY NOW! Level wooded lots with underground utilities, inside gated community. Just minutes to Historic downtown Mentone. Call today for more information. \$25,000.

#1118813—A GREAT PLACE TO BUILD YOUR GETAWAY NOW! Level wooded lots with underground utilities, inside gated community. Just minutes to Historic downtown Mentone. Call today for more information. \$25,000.

#1118815—A GREAT PLACE TO BUILD YOUR GETAWAY NOW! Level wooded lots with underground utilities, inside gated community. Just minutes to Historic downtown Mentone. Call today for more information. \$25,000.

#1118229—A great little investment property or place for your weekend get-a-way. \$49,900.

#1118898—BEAUTIFUL LAKEFRONT PROPERTY ON TOP OF WORLD FAMOUS LOOKOUT

MOUNTAIN! sloping wooded lot inside gated community. Call Now for more information. \$30,000.

#1120910—Five-acre wooded property with stream, across from Lake Lahusage. \$62,000.

#1121175—Beautiful Treed Lot in Mentone with underground utilities! \$25,000.

#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"... Call TODAY for more information on this one of a kind property! \$669,200.

#1127776—Take advantage of this 9.5 acre property just steps away from downtown Mentone. There are SO many options for this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. Build your wooded homesite, develop a tiny home community, or invest in the rental business. (Mentone) \$190,000.

#1128694—40 acres with 3-acre lake stocked with bream and bass. \$229,000.

#1129833—1.5-acre brow lot in Mentone. \$124,900.

www.southernpropertiesagency.com

December/January Community Calendar

December 2—Rock Climbing / Rappelling Adventure Combo. Come experience first-hand what rock climbing and rappelling is all about with guides who are fun, safe and energetic. This trip includes all the gear plus basic instruction. No prior climbing experience is needed. 10am–2pm. True Adventure Sports. 256-997-9577.

DECEMBER 3 Giving Tuesday

December 3, 23, & 30—Rappelling Adventure. Come experience the thrill of rappelling down the sheer sandstone gems of NE AL. Each trip includes all the gear plus basic instruction. 10am–2pm. True Adventure Sports. 256-997-9577.

December 4—Cold Weather Survival Class. Learn tips to prevent hypothermia and death. This class covers the basics for emergency cold weather conditions and also covers a few tips on how to stay warm and comfortable for everyday cold conditions. 2–5pm. True Adventure Sports. 256-997-9577.

December 6—Afternoon Zip Line Adventure. All our zip lines are set up just before the adventure to ford a gorge or cross from one high point to another. Pre-registration required at True Adventure Sports by 6 pm the day before the adventure. 2–4:30pm. True Adventure Sports. 256-997-9577.

December 7—The Art of Jim Shores Closing Reception at Paradise Garden. Jim Shores is an artist from Cave Springs, Georgia, who is known for his found-object sculpture, assemblage, and environmental art from found/discarded objects. He has work in the permanent folk art collections of the High Museum of Art (Atlanta, GA) as well as the Polk Museum (Lakeland, FL) and the House of Blues (Orlando, FL), and in many private collections around the country. Works will be available to purchase from Dec. 1–7, with 20% of proceeds benefiting Paradise Garden. Hot cocoa and snacks will be provided all

day, and the Garden will stay open late so guests can enjoy the garden by night. The gallery is free, admission to the garden (\$5–\$15) can be purchased in the gift shop. Howard Finster's Paradise Garden in Summerville. 11am–8pm EST. Call 706-808-0800 for more information.

December 7—Trail Trekker Hike Series: DeSoto Scout Trail Section. DeSoto State Park challenges you to become a DeSoto State Park Trail Trekker. We'll hike the DeSoto Scout Trail Section. This hike is approximately five miles round-trip, with moderate to strenuous difficulty along rocky mountainous terrain. It runs from the Lodge to DST exit 2, and then back on the CCC road. Meet at DeSoto's Country Store and Information Center on County Road 89. The hike is free and open to everyone, so no pre-registration required. 10am–3pm. For additional information, call 256-845-0051.

December 7—Black Squirrel DeSoto State Park Trail Run. Race number 3 of the 2019–2020 Black Squirrel Alabama Trail Run Series presented by Black Squirrel Events. Start time 8am. Course Description: Distance Options 15K or 8K on the trails at DeSoto State Park. Single and double track trails that offer a challenging course to both novice and experienced trail runners. A course that opens enough for a large volume of entrants, without bottlenecks on the single-track portions. Lots of elevation changes without being overly technical. A course that traverses exciting and diverse terrain. This venue has plenty of parking for all participants and a great place for spectators to relax, view the race, and take in the scenery. Registration 15K Trail Run \$40 through December 6; Race Day registration \$45. Registration 8K Trail Run \$35 through December 6; Race Day registration \$40. Packet pickup: The morning of the race starting at 6:30 a.m. to

7:30 a.m. at DeSoto State Park. Race starts at 8:00 a.m. See Black Squirrel Events on Facebook for more information. Register at register.chronotrack.com/r/51290.

December 7—Art of Woodburning—DeSoto Falls Ornament. The Serious Skills series is a variety of classes and workshops that provide opportunities to discover a hidden talent or learn a new skill for personal enrichment. Classes are open to local residents, overnight guests, and park visitors. Pyrography, or woodburning, is the art of decorating wood or other materials, the term meaning "writing with fire" dating back to the 17th century. Participants in this class will learn the basic techniques of decorative wood burning and painting designs from artist April Blanks, and will work on making an ornament featuring

DeSoto State Park's DeSoto Falls. This class is for ages 14 to adult. 2 class times to choose from: 10am–12pm OR 1pm–3pm. DeSoto State Park. \$25 includes all supplies. Workshop space is limited to 10, so pre-registration is required for attendance in this class. Call 256-997-5025 or email Brittney.Hughes@dcnr.alabama.gov.

December 7, 14, & 21—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-served basis. 9am–2pm. Orbix Hot Glass. Cost is \$38 per ornament blown. 256-523-3188.

December 7—Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day. Come and be a part of this remembrance program presented by the DeKalb County VFW. Each year, Traci's donates a wreath that is dropped from the bridge over Little River Falls and carried downstream in tribute to those who gave their lives in the line of duty at Pearl Harbor. Please join the VFW members in this Pearl Harbor Remembrance ceremony. Meet in the Exhibit Hall of the Little River Canyon Center. 11am. 256-845-8192.

December 7 & 20—Line & Sky Swing Adventure. All our zip lines and sky swings are set up just before the adventure to ford a gorge or cross from one high point to another. Pre-registration is required. 10am–2pm. 256-997-9577.

December 10—Courtyard Concert: Blues Night. Courtyard Concerts (every 2nd and 4th Tuesday) feature local, regional, and special guest artists. Admission is free. Cash bar. Gates open at 5:30pm, show begins at 6pm. Adjacent to the Historic DeKalb Theatre, Fort Payne.

December 10—Sky Swing Adventure. This is an adventure of a lifetime. Enjoy the thrill of the swing at night. Pre-registration is required. True Adventure Sports. 12–2pm. 256-997-9577.

December 12—"Pathway to Community" Planning Meeting. See article on page 1 for details. Everyone is encouraged to attend. 5:30pm. Moon Lake Community Library, Mentone.

December 12—Knot Class & Application. Introduction and instruction to essential knots and their application for camping, rappelling, rock climbing, outdoor survival, and other applications. 1–5pm. True Adventure Sports. 256-997-9577.

December 13, January 10 & 24—Community Game Night. Bring your own game, or play one of ours. Everyone is welcome. Finger food potluck. 6pm. Moon Lake Library, 4607 AL Hwy. 117, Mentone. moonlakelibrary.org.

December 13—Night Zip Line Adventure. All our zip lines are set up just before the adventure to ford a gorge or cross from one high point to another. Pre-registration required. 6:30–8:30pm. True Adventure Sports. 256-997-9577.

December 14, January 11 & 25—Ukulele for Beginners. Free classes. 1pm. Moon Lake Community Library, Mentone.

December 14—The Winter Excursion. The Winter Excursion is a mystery trip that



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EQUAL HOUSING LENDER

December/January Community Calendar

includes hiking, bouldering, sightseeing, navigation, survival, teambuilding, waterfalls, and just plain fun. You will need to bring a small backpack, compass, flashlight, change of socks, warm clothes, camera, trail mix, water, small first aid kit, emergency blanket, and emergency poncho. 10am–1pm. True Adventure Sports. 256–997–9577.

December 13 & 14—Merrityme Artisan Market. Hosted by Little River Arts Council and Moon Lake Baptist Church. Proceeds from vendor booth space rentals will benefit Moon Lake Elementary School. Shoppers can browse unique and one-of-a-kind gifts by local artisans, listen to music, & visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus (12–2pm each day). Musician Matt Downer will perform on Sat. from 10am–12pm. Free gift wrapping is available. Stop by, get some gift-shopping in, and support your local artists and makers! 10am–4pm each day. Located inside Arlene Fowler Youth Center at Moon Lake Baptist Church, 4671 AL-117, Mentone. Entry to market is free & open to everyone. littleriverartscouncil.org.

December 14—Browsing to Music at Moon Lake Library. The Lookout Mountain Strummers will perform while you browse for books. Light refreshments will be served. 11am. Moon Lake Community Library, Mentone. 4670 AL Hwy. 117, Mentone. moonlakelibrary.org.

December 15—Moon Lake Library Holiday Open House. Bring your holiday cheer and community spirit, and spend time socializing with your neighbors at Moon Lake Community Library! We want to thank you for your support throughout the year and give newcomers a chance to get to know the library. The Christmas village, which Mentone resident Mickey Luck constructed for the library many years ago, will be on display. Children, especially, will be enchanted by the scene, which features the Yuletide train as it passes through the village. Free. 3–5pm. 4670 AL Hwy. 117,

Mentone. moonlakelibrary.org.

December 16, 17, & 21—Bouldering Adventure atop Lookout Mountain. Come experience first-hand what bouldering is all about with guides who are fun, safe, and energetic. No prior climbing or bouldering experience is needed. Meet at True Adventure Sports. 2–6pm. 256–997–9577.

December 18 & 24—Zip Line Adventure. All our zip lines are set up just before the adventure to ford a gorge or cross from one high point to another. Pre-registration required. 10am–12pm. True Adventure Sports. 256–997–9577.

DECEMBER 21 Winter Solstice

December 20—Zip Line & Sky Swing Adventure. All our zip lines and sky swings are set up just before the adventure to ford a gorge or cross from one high point to another. Pre-registration required. 10am–2pm. True Adventure Sports. 256–997–9577.

December 21—Art Making Social at Paradise Garden. Join us for hot chocolate and sweets while creating a unique piece of art, just in time for Christmas. After-dark Garden touring is available 5–8pm EST. All ages are welcome. Perfect for the whole family! Pet friendly and free with admission (\$5–\$15). 11am–8pm EST. Howard Finster's Paradise Garden, Summerville, GA. Call 706–808–0800.

December 21—Boys in the Band Alabama Tribute. Gonna Have a Party! Builders' Supply Company proudly presents "And From Fort Payne Alabama—an Alabama Tribute," featuring the Boys in the Band. ALL proceeds benefit The SAM Foundation and Fort Payne Main Street. Many of us grew up in Fort Payne during the group Alabama's meteoric rise and sustained career at the top of the charts. We were "checkers" at the June Jam, we carried golf bags at the Randy Owen Celebrity Classic, we cheered on celebrities and friends at the June Jam Softball Classic, and we watched

incredible talent with 60,000 other fans within throwing distance from the halls of our high school and middle school. Not to mention those fireworks! Alabama's energy and showmanship are legendary. They'll never be replaced . . . but we are gonna pay them a well-deserved tribute right here, Down Home, in Fort Payne, Alabama. Come and join us for a night of Jamming and reminiscing. DeKalb Theatre. Tickets available at eventbrite.com.

December 23—Courtyard Concert: Courtyard Christmas. December 25 Merry Christmas!

(every 2nd and 4th Tuesday) feature local, regional, and special guest artists. Potluck Dinner. Admission is free. Cash bar. Gates open at 5:30pm, show begins at 6pm. Adjacent to the Historic DeKalb Theatre, Fort Payne.

December 26 & 28—Hypothermia Class. This 3-hour class teaches the extreme dangers and how to treat hypothermia. Learn how quick hypothermia can set in and the signs indicating it is setting in. True Adventure Sports. 1–4pm. 256–997–9577.

December 27—Celestial Navigation. This



two-hour class is a basic introduction to navigation by the stars. Learn how to navigate without the use of a compass or GPS with the same rules used for almost six thousand years. Meet at True Adventure Sports. 7:30pm–9:30pm. 256–997–9577.

January 1—Hike to Martha's Falls in Little River Canyon National Preserve. This hike is a moderately difficult 4-mile hike. Meet at JSU's Little River Canyon Center for pre-hike orientation. 9–11 a.m. Free and open to the public. For details, contact the Canyon Center at 256-845-3548.

January 11—DeKalb County Genealogical Society Meeting. Mr. Jim Fletcher will be present a program on his stay in the military. 10am. in the Hunt room of the DeKalb County Library, Fort Payne. Everyone will enter through the north employee entrance. The doors will be open a few minutes before 10am and will close at 10:10am due to the library's being closed on Saturdays. If the weather is hazardous, the meeting will be postponed until February.

January 13—"It Came Like a Cyclone": Alabama and the 1918 Influenza. Moon Lake Community Library will host Jim Baggett, who will present a multi-media program on the 1918 Influenza. He will also share with us a Mentone connection to the pandemic. Free. 6:30pm. Moon Lake Library, 4607 AL Hwy. 117, Mentone. moonlakelibrary.org.

January 18—Moon Lake Book Club. Join the discussion of Khaled Hosseini's book, *The Kite Runner* at Moon Lake Community Library, 4607 AL Hwy. 117, Mentone. 10:30am. All are welcome. Coffee and tea will be available. moonlakelibrary.org.

January 25—Community Seed Swap. Bring your excess seed to swap with others, or to take what you need for free. 11am–1pm. Moon Lake Community Library, 4607 AL Hwy. 117, Mentone.

January 26—Circle of Service. Learn about volunteer opportunities in the Mentone area. 3:30pm. Moon Lake Community Library, Mentone.

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Mentone Arts & Cultural Center News

Holidays include bids, donations and Sequoyah by Randy Grider



The holidays are always a busy time and this season seems even more so. The Mentone Arts and Cultural Center (MACC) has moved into high gear as we approach the end of the year.

The MACC Board of Directors recently voted to let bids on initial construction which will focus on the center's multi-purpose room. This comes on the heels of fundraising efforts that have netted more than \$150,000 in donations in the past five months.

Among these charitable gifts was a generous donation from Will Crane and Taylor Crane made in memory of their late mother. The lobby of the center will be named in memory of Gladys Blalock Crane, who was born and raised in Mentone. We greatly appreciate the Cranes' generosity.

their artistic work on the sculpture. We are very pleased with the sculpture and so thankful to Carl and Betsy for bestowing us with this amazing piece of art.

MACC is currently raising additional funds to pay the costs associated with the finished sculpture. These costs include pre-casting supplies, mold-making, a pedestal and transportation, which all totaled is approximately \$15,000. Those who make donations to the casting will be included on a plaque that will accompany the sculpture when placed at the center.

December 3 is Giving Tuesday, and of course, December 31 marks the last day to make a charitable contribution for your 2019 tax deductions. While any time is a good time to give locally, we encourage you to consider giving to MACC this year. We have taken huge steps in the past few months, but we still have work to do to reach the overall fundraising goal that will make the center a reality.

Please remember that you can make a donation "in memory" or "in honor" of a loved

one or distinguished citizen. Contributions also can be made anonymously. If you have questions about how to make a donation or would like more information, please contact me.

While this column is a recent update of what's happening, we offer



Sculpture artists Betsy Scott and Carl McCleskey with the beautiful Sequoyah sculpture.

a heartfelt "thank you" to everyone who has made donations, given their time for events, or offered words of support over the past three years. We ARE getting closer...and it's because of you.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

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



L to R: Randy Grider, Jami Posey, Randy Posey

When fully completed, the center will include a performing arts area, classrooms, a culinary kitchen, museum/community safe room, gardens, and an outdoor amphitheater.

We also would like to thank Randy Posey's Allstate Insurance Agency for their "Helping Hands" grant that will pay for a portion of the bronze casting of the center's Sequoyah sculpture. The sculpture was created by artists Carl McCleskey and Betsy Scott and honors the inventor of the Cherokee syllabary. Sequoyah lived in nearby Willstown when he completed the syllabary. The couple donated



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Moon Lake Fine Arts News by Paula Easter

Through the years, I have wondered why people around me would often say, "Time, please stand still." I am now one of those people, too. It truly seems like only yesterday that my Moon Lake students and I were starting our new school year together...can December actually be here already? Soon we will be welcoming the New Year 2020!

But before we bid 2019 goodbye, I would love to share some of the great things my Fine Arts students have accomplished since my last article.

In October Mrs. Sims' 2nd-grade students presented a 'Spook'tacular PTO program and also shared their fun antics with the "JOYS" (Just Older Youth) at the MERF Halloween lunch.



The "JOYS" enjoyed a performance by the 2nd graders.

I would also like to personally thank Mrs. Sims and her 2nd graders for honoring MERF with the Liberty's Legacy hero's award. What an honor to receive such a meaningful award.

Freezing cold weather did not stop our amazing veterans and Moon Lake students from joining together for a wonderful Veteran's Day celebration on November 12. What a joy to work with Mrs. Lea Long and her kindergarten and 1st graders, and all Moon Lake students. Thank you to veteran Keith Lutz, Staff Sergeant, Marines, for bringing a message for us all—to always be thankful for where we are and all that we have.

With December now upon us, Moon Lake students are busily preparing for our school Christmas musical, "The Christmas Wish." If you enjoy a story about friendship, fun, and a little bit of "pretend" traveling...this musical is for you! I don't want to give too much away, but I will tell you that these great Moon Lake students never cease to amaze me with their artistic abilities as well as their musical

abilities...which even includes scarf twirling by the kindergarten and 1st grade students! The children and I are incorporating countries we have studied about in art class into our musical, which has made the music that much more fun. There will be two performances of "The Christmas Wish" on Tuesday, December 17, at 1 p.m. and 6 p.m. in the Moon Lake School gymnasium. Two opportunities for you to experience these talented young people!

Along with preparing for our musical, Moon Lake students have once again created original Christmas cards to sell during the holiday season. This is the third year that Moon Lake students have created these one-of-a-kind cards that are always so cheerful and bright. MERF will be at the Merrityme Artisan Market on December 13 and 14 in the Arlene Fowler Youth Center with these cards for sale, and they will also be available at the Moon Lake Library Open House on December 15.

As I close my last article of 2019, I would like to take a moment to thank everyone for all the love and support that you continue to give, and I would also like to wish everyone the happiest of holidays. May all your days be filled with love and laughter.

Thanks to the hard work of dedicated parents, teachers, family members, and volunteers, Moon Lake Elementary School's Harvest Fest on October 26 was an afternoon marked by fun, fellowship, and fund raising. Despite the cold weather, the event had a great turn-out. Approximately \$6,000 was raised for the Moon Lake Parent-Teacher Organization, who appreciates everyone who attended in support of the school.



First graders honored our veterans during Moon Lake School's Veteran's Day celebration.



The 2nd graders performed the "Bat Dance" at October's PTO meeting.



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The Christmas Wish

**A musical program presented by
the students of Moon Lake School**

**Tuesday, December 17
6 p.m.**

Moon Lake School Gym, Mentone

Everyone is welcome to this free event.



River Voice by Bill Shugart

"What good is the warmth of summer, without the cold of winter to give it sweetness." -John Steinbeck

As I write this monthly update, I am reminded of so many great moments of 2019 and anticipate the new year to be full of exciting opportunities. Little River Waterkeeper spent the year working on issues that matter to you and a community who rely on clean water in Little River for fishing, swimming and boating. Through media and events, our staff educated citizens about water pollution, conservation, and responsible water recreation, to ensure its clean water designation of an Outstanding National Resource Water.

Here are some highlights from 2019:

- Little River Cleanups—100 bags of litter removed from the Little River Canyon National Preserve and over 100 additional bags were collected in other local waterways.
- SwimGuide—176 water samples were taken over 16 weeks in 11 popular swimming holes on Little River. Over 15,000 people visited the Little River Waterkeeper website to view results.
- Guided Eco-Tourism—We shared the best parts of Little River with hundreds of local youth and visitors from around the region.
- DeKalb County Drinking Water Festival—We conducted the 8th annual field trip for over 1,000 4th grade students and their teachers in DeKalb County schools. In order to teach environmental literacy, the event is completely free for schools. Students learn about the water cycle, recycling, and Alabama wildlife and plants through fun, interactive presentations.
- Keep Little River Wild—A campaign in partnership with the Alabama Rivers Alliance to designate Little River in its entirety as a National Wild and Scenic River.
- We were given the opportunity to share our story in the Southern Exposure documentary, "Something About Little River." The short film recently received an award for the "Best Nature Documentary" at the Georgia Documentary Film Festival. You can watch the film online at vimeo.com/351280262.
- As Little River Waterkeeper moves into 2020, funding is vital to the programs that protect Little River. Each November and December, we solicit funds from donors to cover program expenses throughout the next fiscal year. Our fundraising goal for 2020 is \$50,000. While most of these funds will come mostly from grants, we depend on public support just as much. When you become a member or attend our events, you are supporting our work. When you volunteer your time at a river cleanup or help us take water samples, we know you care about the health of Little River. We are committed to keeping Little River pristine and healthy now and for future generations. I hope you will continue to support our efforts in the new year!



Little River Waterkeeper Bill Shugart and wife/executive director Angie with their dog, Rusty. Photo Credit: Kevin Garrett Photography

Help Us Stay Afloat...Become a Member

Our mission is to foster and protect the pristine resource of Little River through education, awareness and monitoring. On top of knowing your dollars benefit the river that flows deep in your heart, you'll get that warm feeling anytime you see something cool LRWK did and know it was only possible because of your gift. Also, you'll have the ability to annually vote on a slate of nominations for our board of directors. Memberships are available at two levels: Individual \$25 or Business \$50. Please mail your check to 215 Grand Ave. SW Ste. A, Fort Payne, AL 35967.

Shop and Support

Support Little River Waterkeeper with purchases you make at Smile.Amazon.com. Select our sponsoring organization, One World Adventure Company, as your charity and 0.5% of all qualifying purchases will be donated to help monitor and protect Little River.

Save the Date for 2020 Little River Cleanups

MLK/National Day of Service—Saturday, January 18
 Love Little River—Saturday, February 15
 March River Madness—Saturday, March 21
 April Earth Month—Saturday, April 18

Bill Shugart is the Little River Waterkeeper. Visit littleriverwaterkeeper.org for more information.



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New Year's Wishes

BY THE STUDENTS OF MOON LAKE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Grade 2

Alexis Happy New Year. I would like to be a good colorer.

Annabelle I would like to know how to draw better.

Emma I will learn to ice skate and to play Run and Tag, SO RUN!

Bella I will draw and color more.

Dallas I'd like to draw more.

David Happy New Year to everyone and I wish you are happy to everybody. I wish I had a brother and a sister for my dad and mom and I wish I had a good best friend for me, like Dallas and Bella, and Emma and Solei.

Grayson I want to build a robot dog.

Hallie I would like to discover more.

Stormy I would like my family to go on a vacation to the beach.

Trip In 2020, I want to go to Disney World.

Grade 3

Abby I want my brother to be nicer to me, I want my sister to be nicer to me, and I want to go to New York!

Alex I want to be a good person.

Aubree My goal for the New Year is to get enough money to help the poor!

James I want to get my dog, Cooper, trained this year.

Jasmine I really want to get better at writing so I can write my little brother a story.

Jay I want to go to Pirate's Bay.

Lexi I want to make a tower so tall out of Legos. Also find my Legos.

Maggie I want a pet kitten and I want it to be a Siamese cat.

Reid I would like to go to New York and watch a play!

Sydney I want to get along with my brothers so we can make our parents happy.

Tripp I want to get better at painting.

Grade 6

Addison I would like to create a new Spider-Man.

Alyssa I want to be a good friend to everyone.

America This New Year I want to ride the Incline down Lookout Mountain into Chattanooga, and learn how to draw better, like my classmate, Jake.

Carley I want to help the homeless, become a better artist, and be a better sister, person, daughter, and aunt.

Isaac I want to become a better athlete and I want to be a better Christian.

Jake I want to become a better comic artist.

Levi I would love to be a mechanic like my dad!

Owen I would like to become a better artist.

Raegan I want to be a better artist, even better than Jake, and be a better athlete at softball and basketball.

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relocating!
(...and EXPANDING!)



our new address will be
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(just north of the Fort Payne Depot Museum)

Our last day at 2133 Gault Ave. North will be December 13.

Unfortunately, we will be closed for a short time while renovations are completed at our new location.

Look for opening announcements on our Facebook and Instagram, and on our new shop windows!



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Children will enjoy the Yuletide train!

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a circle of service

by Kelly Leavitt

“My mother would say to me, ‘Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping.’ To this day, especially in times of disaster, I remember my mother’s words, and I am always comforted by realizing that there are still so many helpers—so many caring people in this world.” —Fred Rogers

Our local area of Lookout Mountain has some truly extraordinary helpers. Some we know about, but others quietly engage in a kind of silent service, offering themselves with no recognition expected. We have dedicated food bank volunteers, non-profit board volunteers, a free clothes closet, and clothing swaps, with left-overs going to a women’s shelter. The county’s foster children are given gifts of things that most of us take for granted. Back packs are filled with food on Fridays so children have enough food for the weekend. Fire departments are

supported, computers are given to high school students, artwork is donated for fundraisers. Neighbors check on neighbors. Church ladies are involved in ongoing charitable projects. Hot meals are delivered to the elderly, and weekly lunches are provided at the MERF House. It seems the list is endless.

Charla Hermann of Hawkwind is one of the helpers, in a variety of ways. “I get the drift that everywhere you look, someone is offering something. We are a community blessed with good, proactive people who care.”

If you are a “helper” or if you would like to become connected with helpers, come to Moon Lake Library on Sunday, January 26, at 3:30 p.m. for a Circle of Service. Charla and I will facilitate our getting to know one another and learn about ways to help that we may not know about, or would not have thought of. Everyone is welcome.

Blue Christmas Service

Tuesday, December 27 • 5:30 pm

We recognize that a this is not a season of joy for everyone. In this service, we will be invited to reflect on the pain, loss, loneliness, injustice, or sorrow we may feel and offer it all to our great hope, the holy child of Bethlehem, Jesus the Christ.

—THE REV. HEIDI C. BENDER, LEAD PASTOR



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Cloudland Park

by Pat Johnson

Cloudland Community Park is very pleased to announce that it has received a grant from the Tillotson-Menlo Charitable Foundation. The money will be used to upgrade the second bathroom at the park and make it handicapped-accessible.

The Tillotson-Menlo Charitable Foundation began in 2005 with a \$1,000,000 donation from Tillotson Corporation and over the next five years the Tillotson Corporation contributed an additional \$9,000,000 to the Foundation. The amount of grant money is generally determined by the amount of interest accrued each year on the principle amount in the foundation account. Their mission statement is: “The Foundation shall seek to support, promote, improve and maintain the health, educational, and cultural institutions serving the citizens of Menlo and Chattooga County and some surrounding areas.”

Cloudland Park is very pleased to have received this grant and hopes to have the handicapped-accessible bathroom ready by next spring.

The park has a full kitchen, covered pavilion, lots of picnic tables, playground equipment, tennis courts, 1/4-mile walking path, and (in the spring) two bathrooms, one of which will be handicapped-accessible.

Any family or organization that would like to rent the park should inquire in one of the following ways: Mail to P.O. Box 277, Menlo GA 30731 • Email cloudlandcommunitypark@yahoo.com • Facebook @ CloudlandCommunityPark • Visit cloudlandcommunity.wixsite.com/park.



Governor Ivey Visits DeKalb County



L to R: Dr. Niki Wayner, Assistant Director JSU Field Schools; DeKalb County Tourism Director John Dersham; Governor Kay Ivey; Fort Payne Mayor Larry Chesser

The Little River Canyon Center was host to Alabama Governor Kaye Ivey when she visited DeKalb County as part of the 200th anniversary of Alabama statehood. She has been visiting all the counties in Alabama, and was introduced by local legend and Jacksonville State University board member Randy Owens of the group, ALABAMA. —Betsy Dillbeck



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Little River Arts Council News by Rhea Pirch

The Little River Arts Council board of directors met on November 13 to wrap up the year's activities and start planning for the new year.

We would like to thank the homeowners, volunteers, those who donated works of art and other items, and all those who attended our Home Tour and Silent Auction, making it a true success. The two day event brought a steady

stream of visitors to see the homes and place their bids, raising close to \$5,300 to help support our mission to sponsor events, provide educational opportunities for the community, and strengthen cultural resources for the benefit of businesses and citizens in the Mentone area.

Artists, makers, musicians, and food vendors gathered at the DeSoto State Park picnic area on November 9 and 10 for the fourth annual Creative Spirit Market. This event, a collaboration between the Little River Arts Council and DeSoto State Park, has grown in popularity each year. This year, musical genres ranged from Peruvian flute, jazz, blues, Southern rock favorites, and old time mountain music, as regional and local musicians serenaded the near 1,000 visitors who perused the 30+ artists' and makers' booths, watched demonstrations, and purchased favorite pieces from the wide selection of premium hand-crafted goods, fine, and folk art.

Another popular feature of the event was the "Make Art" table, held in the shelter of the pavilion, where adults and children were invited to make their own creations with a variety of furnished art supplies. Willow Flowers, from Willowynn Expressions, led and inspired the artistic creations with the help of Judy Nicole Kirby, who also charmed the make-art audience with her guitar and delightful songs.

This event to benefit artists, musicians and the community was made possible in part through a grant received from the Alabama State Council on the Arts and the National Endowment of the Arts.

Our next event, a collaboration with Moon Lake Baptist Church, is the Merrityme Artisan Market, to be held on Friday, December 13 and Saturday, December 14, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day at the Arlene Fowler Youth Center, 4671 AL Hwy 117, next to the church. All proceeds from vendor fees from this

market will be donated to the Moon Lake Elementary School PTO, to benefit the students.

The date is set for our annual meeting in 2020. Join us on March 14 at DeSoto State Park Lodge from 5-7:30 p.m. We will introduce new members of the board, install new officers, accept new memberships and membership renewals, and give updates on anticipated programs for the new year. Details will follow in the February issue of The Groundhog and via e-mail, Facebook and our website, littleriverartscouncil.org.

We are deeply grateful to all those who support the Little River Arts Council through memberships, donations, participation, and attendance at our sponsored events. We look forward to a rewarding new year for the arts in the Mentone area.

Rhea Pirch serves as the treasurer for Little River Arts Council.

Free Ukulele Classes Continue



The ukulele classes for beginners that have been offered by Mickey Luck, Debra Fey, and Jerry Megli have been so popular and well-attended, they will continue into the new year. The focus will be on strumming techniques, learning basic chords, making smooth chord changes, and applying these new

skills to well-known songs. Bring your own instrument or a limited supply is available courtesy of Moon Lake Elementary School.

This free class for ALL ages will meet at 1 p.m. at Moon Lake Community Library on Saturdays, November 30, December 14, January 11, and January 25.

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through January 31

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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 AL.

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 4–7pm. Mentone Community Church, 90 Summerville Rd. 256-634-4210.

Moon Lake Community Library is open on Saturdays from 9am–1pm, and Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3–5pm. Visit moonlakelibrary.org.

Chess players of all levels meet at Moon Lake Community Library on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3–5pm to play together. Visit moonlakelibrary.org.

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.

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

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

(experienced). 256-845-8590. (No session on 9/10.)

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 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. 600 Tyler Ave. SE, Fort Payne. Call 256-244-5320 to register.

Groundhog T-shirts



We now offer long-sleeved shirts, just in time for the chilly days of late fall and winter. We have short-sleeved shirts, as well. The 100% cotton shirts are natural color with black ink (kind of like a newspaper!). The shirts feature the block-print *Groundhog* logo printed on the front of the shirt. The logo was created exclusively for *The Groundhog* by artist Meg Justice. To place an order, email groundhognews@yahoo.com or call 256-289-2002. All profits benefit the Mentone Area Preservation Association.

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Menlo News by Pat Johnson

Town Elections

Menlo held their town elections on November 5. There was only one open seat for council member and it was won by Cara Cabe. Both the mayor, Theresa Canada, and council member, Chuck Powell, were re-elected. The other council members, Carol Mitchell, Patti Settoon, and John Vanhorn, were not up for re-election. In January, the new city council will be sworn in.

Story Book Walk

The Chattooga County Library has set up a Story Book Walk in Menlo Park. This is their second story book walk this year. It features the book, *Red Leaf, Yellow Leaf*, by Lois Ehlert. The display boards are set around the park's walking path, so you and your child can walk and read!

Christmas in the Park

Menlo Park will have a "Christmas in the Park" on Sunday, December 1, beginning at 5 p.m. EST. There will be games for the children and refreshments. All of the Menlo churches will participate in a service in the park with lots of Christmas caroling.

Lucky's Supermarket

Lucky's bought the old service station next door to them and has torn down the front half. They plan to refurbish what is left. Definite plans for it are yet to be announced. We will keep you informed.

New Town Hall

The new Town Hall, on the corner at the 4-way stop, is almost complete. It will be officially opened in January.

Menlo School

On December 13, there will be an Agape Puppet Show for all the students in the gym at 1:30 p.m. EST.

On December 18, the 6th-8th graders will have a Christmas Dinner during their lunch time. Each child can invite someone to come enjoy this Christmas Dinner with them.

On December 19 at 8:30 a.m. EST, the kindergarten will have a Christmas program. Parents and friends are invited.

Menlo School will be closed for the Christmas Holidays from December 23 through January 3. School will resume January 6.

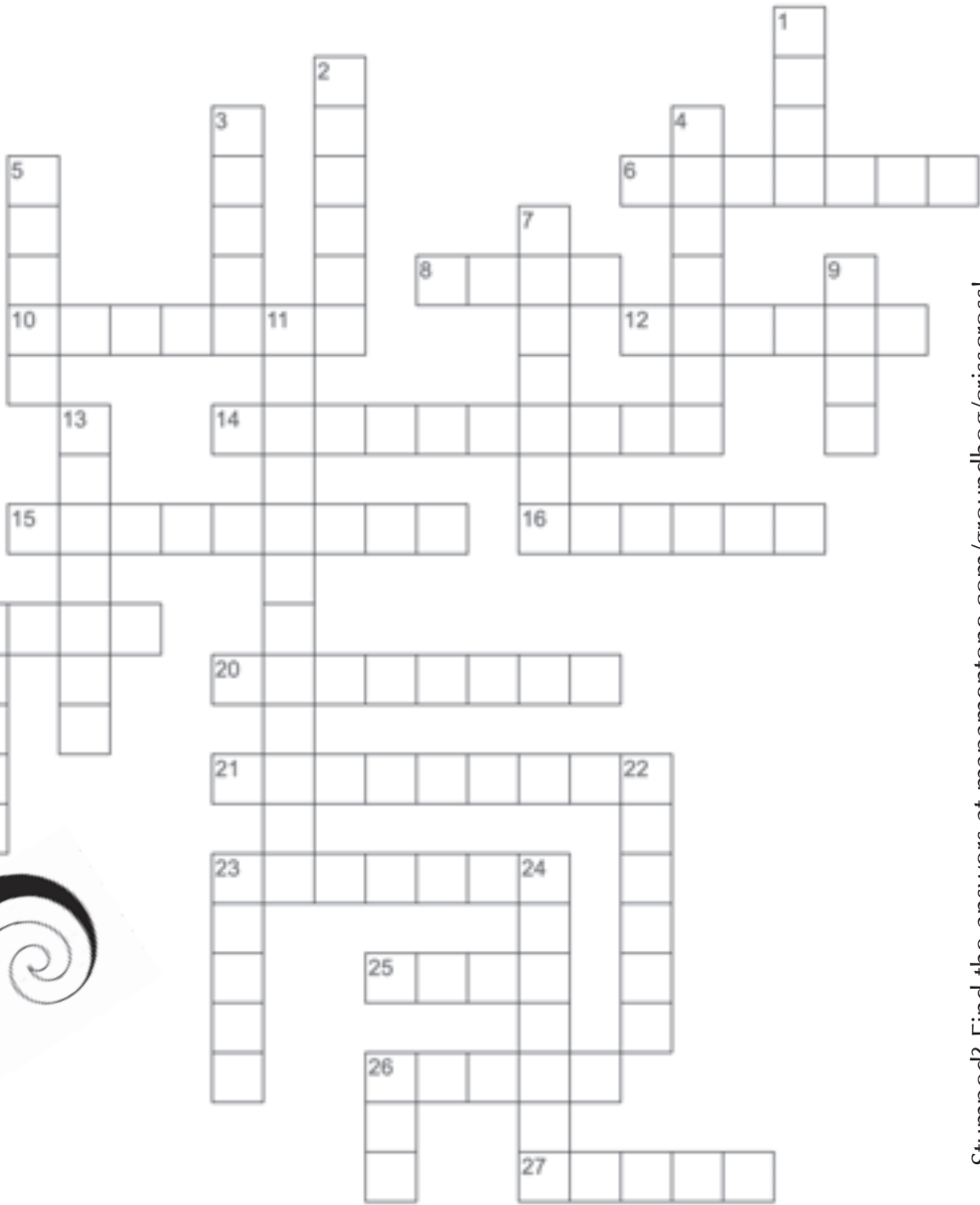
Christmas Criss Cross by Annette Peteck

Across

- 6 Day for celebration or remembrance
- 8 Twinkle, twinkle, little ____
- 10 The most famous reindeer of all
- 12 Long strip used for decorating gifts
- 14 Gift giver from the North Pole (2 wds)
- 15 Christmas 'kissing' plant
- 16 Jingle Bell vehicle
- 18 Long string of leaves or flowers
- 20 Sleigh pullers Dancer and Prancer
- 21 Classic Christmas dessert with candied nuts
- 23 Santa's portal
- 25 The First ____, Christmas song
- 26 Ringing objects
- 27 Found under a tree on Christmas morning

Down

- 1 Wise men from the East
- 2 Circular holiday door decoration
- 3 Divine messenger
- 4 Snacks left for Santa
- 5 Frankincense and ____
- 7 Wax sticks
- 9 Symbol of peace
- 11 Universal accord (3 wds)
- 13 Pals, well wishers
- 17 Kinfolk
- 19 Illumination
- 22 Holiday beverage, often served with rum
- 23 Organized group of singers
- 24 Christmas tradition on the hearth (2 wds)
- 26 Gift adornment



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Reece Tire
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- OTHER**
Alabama I-59 Welcome Center
Little River Canyon Center
Rim of the Canyon Café
& Grocery

... In Memoriam ...

STEPHEN BOYD CAVITT May 18, 1973 - November 19, 2019

Stephen Boyd Cavitt, 46, of Valley Head, passed away on November 19, 2019. He was a member of Lea's Chapel Baptist Church. He was a veteran of the United States Navy. His burial was at White Hall Cemetery with military honors. He is survived by his wife, Kris Cavitt; mother, Beverly Windom; children, Madison Tucker, Autumn Corser, Eden Cavitt, and Willow Cavitt; brother, Richard Cavitt; granddaughter, Skylynn; grandmother, Nina Griffin; brothers, Stacey Windom and Anthony Windom; several aunts, uncles, cousins, and friends. He was preceded in death by his father, Kenneth Windom; grandparents, Champ and Beadie Windom; and grandfather, Raymond Griffin.

EDDIE DELL COOTS, SR. October 17, 1952 – November 1, 2019

Eddie Dell Coots, Sr., age 67, of Cloudland, GA, passed away on November 1, 2019 at Redmond Regional Medical Center. Eddie was a loving father, grandfather, and great-grandfather. He was a retired construction worker, although he still dabbled in the trade. His pride and joys were his children, grandchildren and the growing family of great-grandchildren and also his favorite pastime of fishing. He is survived by his wife, Carolyn Bain Coots; children, Eddie (Buster) Coots (Paula), Tiffany Wallace (Stacey Bowman), and Tracy Coots (Manning Spencer); grandchildren, Patrick Coots, Maggie Young, Mason Coots, Abigail White (Dustin), Savannah Wallace, Wyatt Spencer, Morgan Spencer, and Marlie Spencer; great-grandchild, Bo White; sister, Millie Snay (Paul); and several nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, Norman Coots and Margie Baty Coots; brother, Leroy Coots. Shaun Flannigan, Mason Coots, Josh Goss, Patrick Coots, Michael Flannigan, and Johnny Bell served as pallbearers. In lieu of flowers the family requests donations to The Heart House, 501 Redmond Road, Rome, GA 30165. The Family would also like to thank the staff of Redmond Regional ICU East for their tireless efforts and care.

HOLLIS SMITH JR. December 17, 1952 – November 6, 2019

Hollis Smith Jr., 66, of Valley Head, passed away on November 6, 2019 at Gadsden Regional Medical Center. He is survived by his wife, Piedad Eneida Smith; sons, Francisco Vanega, Timothy Smith, and William Smith; six grandchildren; sister, Mattie Jones (Johnny). He was preceded in death by his parents, Hollis Smith Sr. and Alma White Smith.

WILLIAM (SQUEAK) GUY SMITH March 23, 1941 - November 10, 2019

William (Squeak) Guy Smith, 78, of Mentone, passed away Sunday. Squeak was a life-long resident of Mentone, having been born to the late John Paul and Nettie Jane Crow Smith on March 28, 1941. He was loved by all, and loved all, and on any given day, would often come to town so he could see his friends. He loved the outdoors, working on old cars, fishing, and his church, Mentone Church of God of Prophecy.

But most of all, he loved his wife of 54 years, Judy Gail Hasting Smith; children, Nicole and Josh Goldsmith, Crystal and Ray Poteata, Chad and Amber Smith, Whitney and Crystal Smith, Shan Smith and friend Heather Sandusky, and Stacy and Karen Smith. He is survived by 19 grandchildren and 14 great grandchildren; his special pet, Sophie, and his brother, John Paul Smith, Jr.

A celebration of Squeak's life was held with 2 of his sons (who are ministers) doing his eulogy. His burial was at Bankhead Cemetery in Mentone, with his six children serving as pallbearers and his 33 grandchildren and great grandchildren serving as honorary pallbearers.

WHITNEY DANIELLE LABUDA MARTIN December 8, 1988 – October 30, 2019

Whitney Danielle LaBuda Martin, 30, is survived by her husband, Brandon Lee Martin; daughters, Adelynn Grace Martin and Whitney Eiris AshLee Martin; mother, Tracy Lynn Freeman; father, John B. LaBuda Jr. (Amanda); sisters, Ashley Kramer (Will), Janna LaBuda, and Rebekah LaBuda; brother, John LaBuda; grandmother, Ruth Freeman; father- and mother-in-law, Dan & Cindy Davenport; sister-in-law, Kristen Davenport; and brother-in-law, Derrick Martin.

GENEVA FREEMAN "BOOTSIE" YATES July 5, 1939 – October 23, 2019

Geneva Freeman "Bootsie" Yates, 80, of Valley Head, is survived by her children, Jane Britton (Tim) and Jeff Yates (Lisa); grandchildren, Emma Lauren Burch and Ethan Burch; and sister, Sue Keith. He was preceded in death by her husband, Jesse LaDon Yates; daughter, Julia Anne Yates; granddaughter, Elizabeth Lana Patterson; sister, Jonnie Faye Baty; and brothers, Jerry Freeman & Buzz Freeman.



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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.

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A PIANO FOR OUR COMMUNITY by Rhea Pirch

When Chris Carmichael and Pat Parmelle bought and moved into the house known as the Ruby O'Rear home, they had a dilemma. What to do with the upright piano inside the home, when they have a baby grand of their own? They happened to meet Barbara Umland, board member of Little River Arts Council, and asked her if the arts council might be interested in taking the piano off their hands. Barbara approached the board and an old idea gained new life.

In 2016, former arts council president Scott Thomas had suggested placing a piano somewhere in Mentone for visitors to casually use as they strolled around town and visited local shops. We all agreed with the idea, and even considered setting one up in the covered area outside of what was then The Crow's Nest and Lookout Mountain Properties. Since none of the board members knew where to find a piano at little to no cost, the idea faded. Now we were offered the opportunity to procure an upright piano and place it where we thought it might receive the most attention and the greatest opportunity to be used by visitors, as originally intended.

LRAC President Bill Rutledge asked Magnolia, owner of Magnolia Rose & Co., the shop that is now in the former Crow's Nest space, if she would allow us to place the piano in that covered area on the corner. She agreed, so five men (including four of our board members) moved the piano from the Carmichael/Parmelle home to its new home on the corner of Scenic Highway and AL Highway 117.



Barbara Umland called registered piano technician Wesley Hardman, from Hardman Piano Service, LLC, in Scottsboro, to look at the piano and determine what kind of tuning or repair it might need. Wesley came to Mentone, free of charge, inspected the piano, played with the keys, and fixed the few broken ones he found. He asked if we intended to keep the piano in the outside location for any length of time. (We do, until we can find a publicly-accessible inside home for it.) He advised that we keep it as is, without having it tuned, as it plays well and will serve its purpose as a source of social entertainment just the way it is. He then played us a jazzy tune to prove his point. Barbara and I agreed, along with Magnolia, that it sounds adequate just the way it is.

Wesley then offered us some history on the piano. It was built by Weser Brothers Pianos of New York City in 1916, making it 103 years old. Its mirror, as this type of piano was known to have, is missing but that can easily be replaced. Barbara found a vintage stool at Big Mill Antiques in Fort Payne to complement the piano and make it easier for passers-by to play. And they have been playing it! Magnolia tells us that shoppers seem

to enjoy the opportunity the piano brings to play a tune or two, and that many have done so since its installation.

We do plan on moving the piano to a more environmentally secure location (inside), perhaps at the visitor's center, once it is established, but for now the piano sits in its new home, open for entertainment to all.

Rhea Pirch serves as the treasurer for Little River Arts Council.



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