



THE GROUNDHOG

Standard Mail (A)
U.S. Postage PAID
Permit No. 1
Mentone, AL 35984

Address Service Requested

**Serving the Mentone, Valley Head,
Hammondville, Cloudland & Menlo
Communities since 1982**

P. O. Box 387, Mentone, AL 35984

Volume 39, No. 2

“Neighborly News from the Heart of Lookout Mountain”

February 2020



Lucy Mitchell, Brow Park, June 2016

Lucy Mitchell Truly Led an Artist's Life

by Kelly Leavitt

she devoted her time solely to the mediums of oil paint and pastels. She focused on an intense study of color and, being a life-long lover of the outdoors, she was most fascinated with the colors of nature. Lucy had a natural penchant for plein air drawing and painting.

“It is not enough to simply look at a color and attempt to copy it,” Lucy once said. “To enable the viewer to experience the feeling that a scene in nature gives me, I must look beneath the surface of the colors I find. Only then will I allow the viewer to experience the same feeling and can I share the beauty that I hold in my own eyes, to touch their senses with it.”

Lucy Mitchell's artistic career spanned six decades, and it was marked by numerous awards and honors. She held leadership roles in the art world, including chairing a national competition and founding a regional art council. Her preferred media were oil and pastel on paper, with subjects varying from landscape to still life to portrait. Lucy focused on exhibitions in the early part of her artistic career, and was later represented by a wide variety of galleries across the Southeast.

Her daughter, Melinda “Max” Mitchell, is an artist living in Mentone. We recently sat down to lunch together and spoke about Lucy's life.

“We lived in a very small house when I was growing



Blue Mountain Beach, oil pastel by Lucy Mitchell

up and Mom took over the living room with easels and canvases, often painting in her pajamas,” said Max. The influence of both her mother and her father, also an artist, was profound for Max. “Growing up,” she continued, “my mother would take me with her to help hang art shows at the local art center in Anderson, IN, so I would see all the different local artists' works. When my mother became interested in lithograph, I was able to go to the studio after school and sit in on the class she was taking and watch the process of the lithographs being made. I had a constant exposure to all these creative mediums of art making. As a

(continued on page 20)

Lucy Mitchell's life was propelled by her love for art and creativity. This love was nurtured well during the decades she lived in Mentone. Three years ago, Lucy moved to Lanark Village, FL, where she passed away on October 4, 2019. She was 83 years old.

Born and raised in Cleveland, TN, Lucy was educated at Harris Art School in Nashville and Cincinnati Art Academy in Cincinnati, where she earned her Bachelor of Fine Arts. She first worked in the field of Visual Communications, but she knew her heart was in painting and drawing so, in 1970,

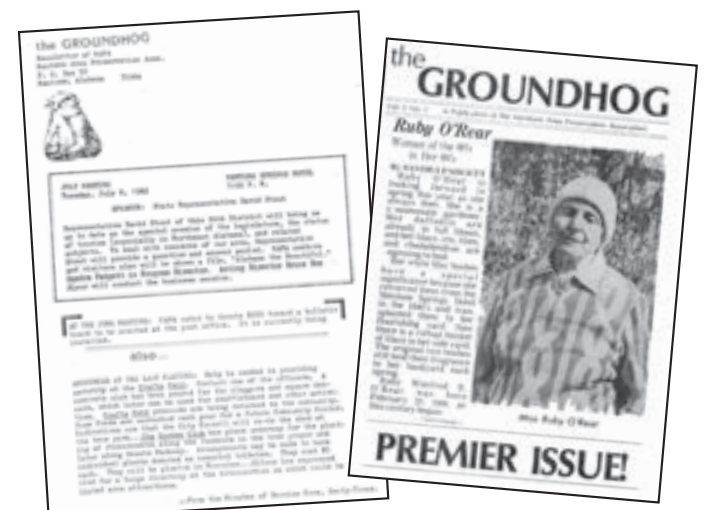
The Groundhog was born 38 years ago...

by Kelly Leavitt

Bruce BonFleur and Sandra Padgett are the last living members of a small group of people who formed the Mentone Area Preservation Association (MAPA) in 1982. The group soon found they needed a newsletter to discuss MAPA news, and The Groundhog was born. MAPA was first conceived on Groundhog Day of that year (February 2). On April 6, 1982, the MAPA organization was formally organized, and in July, the first typewritten newsletter was mailed to every home in Mentone, “back in the days when we'd cut and paste and use the photocopier,” Bruce recalled. In April 1983, the first issue of *The Groundhog* as a newspaper was released, featuring Ruby O'Rear on the cover. Since then, the paper has been in continuous publication, with just a few lapses due to staffing.



Bruce BonFleur & Sandra Padgett





THE GROUNDHOG

Published monthly by the
Mentone Area Preservation Association

MAPA was first conceived on Groundhog Day, 1982, and then organized on April 5, 1982. *The Groundhog* has been in publication for 37 years.

MAPA BOARD

- Mark Hoffman PRESIDENT
- Joe Piscatelli VICE PRESIDENT
- Susan Seago TREASURER
- Beverly Haynes SECRETARY
- LC Moon PARLIAMENTARIAN
- Domenic Fulginiti
- Bill Shugart

GROUNDHOG STAFF

- Kelly Leavitt EDITOR/DESIGN

FEBRUARY CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

- Paula Easter, Randy Grider, Rob Hammond, Sharon Habin,
- Lynn Hixson, Mark Hoffman, Rhea Pirch, Bill Shugart,
- Sarah Wilcox
- Amanda Massa *Community Calendar*
- Kayla Worthey *Birthdays & Anniversaries*

Contact The Groundhog

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

Contact MAPA

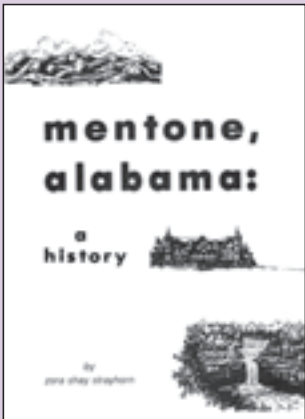
mapamentone.com
mapamentone@gmail.com
P.O. Box 50, Mentone, AL 35984

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

Groundhog wood cut courtesy of Meg Justice.

Do you have a story idea?
We welcome contributions!

Email groundhognews@yahoo.com



Learn about the
History of Mentone

Zora Strayhorn's book, "Mentone, Alabama: A History" is for sale at the Wildflower Café, Moon Lake Community Library, Green Leaf Grill, Little River Hardware, Mentone Market, DeSoto State Park, Earthly Elements, and Bell Battelle. \$15; proceeds benefit MAPA.

Mentone Matters • by Mayor Rob Hammond



Obviously, progress requires patience. Many of us had to wait in traffic in late January as they delivered and placed the bridge arches on AL 117. ALDOT also cleared trees and limbs overhanging AL 117. This should reduce the number of times our officers and volunteer firemen are called out to clear the road and direct traffic due to fallen trees.

Hopefully the engineering work is close to completion on the sidewalk, which will lead from downtown

Mentone to the hardware store. We will keep you updated.

Lyle Nicely is again coordinating the annual roadside litter pick-up in Mentone. Mark your calendar for Saturday, March 28. Contact Lyle at 256-996-0169 if you are interested in volunteering or need further details.

Over the years at Camp Laney, the English ivy that was originally ground cover has grown up into the trees. The ivy will eventually kill the tree. An arborist told me to kill the ivy by cutting a two-inch plug out of every vine going up the tree. Now that I am aware, I notice trees all over Mentone that need help!



Letter from the Editor

As I grow older and build my own life experience, I've become aware of how much love I have experienced, and how individual moments build up so that when I need to feel love, I can access it, because it truly lives in my heart. Just thinking of certain friends or loved ones literally gives my heart a warm feeling. It might be a scent I catch on the wind that acts as a reminder to a special moment, or person. It might be someone's laughter that brings me back to a moment when I "stored" some love in my heart.

It reminds me of the oncoming of spring. During the cold, dark days of winter, I can capture the memory of those luscious spring days when the air feels good and beauty is popping up everywhere.

In the meantime, I'm glad we have Valentine's Day to celebrate. It doesn't have to

be a celebration of romantic love...it can simply be about love, in all its many forms of splendour.

Love is abundant in our community. This was particularly evident, for me, when we recently hosted a day of service at the library, where 30 people came to help clean the building and everything in it, and when the library hosted a "circle of service" and 20 people came to learn about the myriad of ways they can be of service in our area.

With spring come opportunities to help out, with events such as MERF's annual fundraiser (page 14) and MAPA's Rhododendron Festival (page 7). Helping is good for the heart (science says), and one of the best benefits are the personal connections we make while serving with like-minded others. And, of course, the opportunity to store just a little more love in our hearts. —Kelly

The Mentone Area Preservation Association (MAPA) begins this month by celebrating the groundhog, the mascot of our heartwarming local publication, and by gearing up for our annual Rhododendron Festival, which always takes place on the third weekend of May. An amazing amount of planning and work go into making the festival be efficient and successful.

MAPA's Rhododendron Committee wants your help in creating a festival where all who attend—locals, visitors, vendors, and patrons alike—find treasure and full tummies, and leave with positive thoughts and energy from the experience.

We are fortunate to have Sharon Habin as our festival organizer (and chief bottle washer!) to put all the magic together. Sharon relies in large part on a cadre of volunteers, some of whom have been on board for many of our spring and fall festivals. All volunteers are welcome, as there are a variety of tasks that are necessary for a successful festival—and there is always a need for assistance. If you are willing to help, please go to the MAPA website to learn about all the volunteer opportunities (mapamentone.com/rhododendron-festival-volunteers). Every volunteer makes a difference.

Another very critical way you can help is by becoming a sponsor for the event.



We normally solicit and attract local businesses in this regard, and will continue to do so. Sponsors are crucial in helping us to help support the festival financially so that MAPA can continue to preserve and protect our community. MAPA is very grateful to have the opportunity to continue to publish The Groundhog and to give financial grants to local charitable causes and organizations. We are asking each of our readers to consider becoming a sponsor. All sponsors will be publicly recognized with sincere appreciation in The Groundhog, on social media, and in the festival brochure. Please visit mapamentone.com/sponsorship for details. Your contribution will help make a difference in Mentone! Another way you can contribute is by becoming a member at mapamentone.com/membership.

This hasn't been an especially difficult winter, weather-wise, but that doesn't mean I'm not looking forward to spring. It always brings a profound joy and sense of abundant life renewal. We at MAPA hope you feel that way, too. I leave you with a simple thought: "Alone we can do so little. Together we can do so much!"

I can be reached anytime if anyone wishes to communicate with me directly. Just send me an email at mhoffmanatty@yahoo.com. Peace.

Mark Hoffman is the president of Mentone Area Preservation Association.

Free Ukulele Classes Prove to Be Popular by Kelly Leavitt

Last fall, local ukulele players Debra Fey and Jerry Megli were considering committing to a bi-monthly drive to Arab to play with others when it occurred to them that they could avoid the drive if there were people in the Mentone area who wanted to play together. Artist and musician Mickey Luck agreed to join the couple in leading free ukulele classes for beginners.

Since November, an average of 15–20 people have participated in each of the sessions, which are held on the second and fourth Saturdays at 1 p.m. at Moon Lake Community Library (February 8 and 22).

The class is so popular that there's no end in sight, so if you've been interested, feel welcome to join anytime. New and experienced students are always welcome. The focus is on strumming techniques, learning basic chords, making smooth chord changes, and applying these new skills to well-known songs. You can bring your own instrument or borrow one from a limited supply that is available courtesy of Moon Lake Elementary School. Some of the participants have purchased their own ukulele, so they can continue to practice at home. Mickey offers guidance to those who decide to buy their own instrument, many of which are quite affordable.

Participants have included children, tweens, teenagers, young adults, parents, and older adults. "I love that we have such a variety of people coming in," said Debra. "I think that just adds to the fun of it."

"Mickey works with people who come regularly, or who have some experience," Debra said. "Jerry and I have a little side session with new people, to give them the beginning chords and the ins and outs of the ukulele. The end goal is to quickly integrate everyone as one big group to play, sing, and be happy. It's a sociable instrument."

"Mickey has brought so much to the sessions," Debra continued. "He has proceeded at the right pace, he's got a huge amount of musical experience, and then he throws in some music theory for fun, and for free!"

"Anyone who wants to get started can come anytime," Mickey said. "We don't want to leave anybody out."

"We've been honestly surprised at the turn out from session to session, and that everybody's really enjoying themselves," said Debra. "There is a lot of



Rhea Pirch shows her "This is my new ukulele!" smile

(continued on page 19)

Join MAPA Today

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

The Mentone Area Preservation Association 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 name(s), address, phone, and email address.

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

Ryleigh's Closet

Free clothes closet for those in need

Children & Adults / Jackets - Shirts - Pants - Hats - Bras - Shoes

**Open 4–7 p.m. on 2nd & 4th Monday of each month
This month: February 10 & 24**

Mentone Community Church (256) 364-0150



River Voice by Bill Shugart

"I came to life in the cool winds and crystal clear waters of the mountains." -John Muir

Hey all, happy February! The soaking rains have surely kept Little River churning! Riverbanks and waterfalls swelled between 1,000 and 10,000 cubic feet per second (6'-9' feet), during the months of December and January.

This trend should continue throughout February and March and is an incredible opportunity for experienced whitewater boaters. Whitewater kayakers sometimes travel hundreds of miles to paddle here. THIS is what Little River is known for! The Canyon put Little River on the map. Because of Little River Canyon National Preserve and DeSoto State Park, we have been able to create better access for users, not only for whitewater boaters but for flatwater boaters as well. If you haven't been on Little River in a kayak or canoe, check out our calendar. We have several opportunities for you to experience Lookout Mountain from the water. Little River is the life blood of this community and is for everyone.

Little River and Lookout Mountain are our area's greatest natural assets. Along with the honor of living in such a prestigious location, it is also our biggest priority to protect the ecological services the river provides. Native plants along the riverbank prevent erosion and provide wildlife refuge throughout the river corridor. By keeping the riverbank intact with native plant species such as rhododendron, mountain laurel and bearded Iris, you are helping maintain the health and integrity of the river for years to come. As stewards of the water, we do not recommend the use of herbicide because of the negative impact on water quality. Most herbicides are not water-soluble and are a detriment to the wildlife that depend on the area for their habitat. DeKalb County Master Gardeners and the Rhododendron Garden Club are happy to give tips about native landscaping.

This time of year, Little River Waterkeeper kicks off our annual anti-litter campaign, Erase the Waste. From January through April, we target areas around Little River and the drinking water reservoir in Fort Payne in order to prevent litter from entering our local waterways. On MLK Day of Service, with the help of loyal volunteers who braved the bitter windchill of 10 degrees and gusts up to 30 mph, we cleaned up the West Fork of Little River above DeSoto Falls. We also cleaned up County Road 85, a major thoroughfare between Sand Mountain and Fort Payne which runs along spring-fed Smith Branch, a tributary to Wills Creek. Over 40 bags of litter were removed within two miles. People, we have a problem. That's a lot of trash. On February 15, we will get out on Lake Lahusage and March 21 will be the Fort Payne Reservoir Cleanup. Interested in helping? Contact Angie Shugart at 256-634-8370 or by email at angie@oneworldadventureco.org

Join the Little River Waterkeeper Movement

Becoming a member of Little River Waterkeeper comes with a number of benefits, such as the satisfaction of knowing you're helping protect our clean water future. But it's also more than a typical membership. We rely on our members to protect our ability to protect your right to clean water. Our members and their

love of Little River help us advocate for drinkable, swimmable, and fishable waters. Individual membership is \$25 and business membership is \$50. You can make your payment by going to [PayPal.com/Little River Waterkeeper](https://www.paypal.com/LittleRiverWaterkeeper) or mail a check with "membership" in the memo to Little River Waterkeeper, 215 Grand Ave. SW, Ste. A, Fort Payne, AL 35967.

Fall in Love with Fun Little River Facts

- ♥ The most popular section of Little River is the area that flows through Little River Canyon and is 27 miles long. The area around Little River includes major forks and tributaries and encompasses over 200 square miles.
- ♥ Major tributaries to Little River are the East Fork, West Fork, Middle Fork, Laurel Creek, Armstrong Branch, Straight Creek, Hurricane Creek, Bear Creek, Johnnies Creek, and Yellow Creek. Any impact on these tributaries could potentially impact flow and quality in Little River.
- ♥ The Alabama Department of Environmental Management designated Little River as an Outstanding National Resource Water in 1991, because of its outstanding use classification that includes public water supply, swimming, fish, and wildlife.
- ♥ Little River is home to 13 threatened, endangered, or rare and protected plant and animal species. The Green Pitcher Plant, Kral's Water Plantain and Harperella are federally listed endangered plants and the Blue Shiner fish, Gray Bat and the Rafinesque's Big Eared Bat are animal species that carry state protection.

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



Experience Tiny Living on Lookout Mountain!

In 2019, Little River Escape Tiny Home Community was named one of the nation's top 6 tiny home communities by U.S. News & World Report. As a result, our community is now almost fully occupied by folks who have come from 12 different states. Little River Escape has decided to embark on a new journey by creating River Ridge Escape Tiny Home Dealership, where 6-8 tiny homes are available to tour and purchase. RRE is now delivering across the nation, as well as developing other communities to bring more folks to Lookout Mountain.

A new development is coming to Mentone, only 3 miles from town. Mentone Mountain Escape will be a tiny home neighborhood with +/-20, 1/2-acre wooded lots per house and a common area with a dog park, patio, and firepit area.



RIVER RIDGE ESCAPE

Tour River Ridge Escape's Tiny Homes • Thurs-Sat 11-5 EST or by appointment
12333 Hwy 48, Menlo, GA 30731
RiverRidgeEscape.com 706-936-0007

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.

Rhododendron Festival

Apply online at
mapamentone.com

Saturday May 16 • 9am–5pm & Sunday May 17 • 9am–4pm

VENDOR APPLICATION — Deadline March 19, 2020 • 12x12 Spaces

Apply online at mapamentone.com

Notification of acceptance or waiting list by email on March 27 will also include payment due date and payment options.
Please do not send payment at this time.

Type of space: ☐ Art/Craft maker ☐ Food Vendor ☐ Organization

PLEASE PRINT.

Contact's Last Name _____ First Name _____ Business Name _____

Email address _____ Cell or other Phone _____

Address _____ City, State, Zip _____

Number of 12x12 Spaces needed _____ Facebook and/or Website Address _____

Art & Craft Makers \$120 All Art Must Be Handmade By The Artist. NO Ready-Made Merchandise Is Allowed.

Medium / Product _____

Please provide photos of your work to RhododendronFestival@gmail.com or provide a current Website/Facebook address above. **Make sure your photos show your work clearly. Your application will be declined if there is no way to view your work. Digital photos emailed are preferred to mailing. Please put last name of contact on pictures sent by mail.**

Food Vendors \$125 List all food & drinks _____

If using a trailer: Length, include tongue _____ Serving window side: ☐ Driver's side ☐ Passenger Side

☐ WATER add \$25 ☐ ELECTRICITY 110V (\$25) Number of duplex outlets needed _____ 220V (\$50) Number of duplex outlets needed _____ To avoid outages, electricity is reserved for food vendors and those who require it to show and demonstrate their Art or Craft (not for fans, etc.). No generators will be allowed.

Requests Our Festival Venue is somewhat primitive with uneven ground, portapotties, no parking at vendor spaces, and outdoor weather. We will do our best to accommodate on a case-by-case basis.

Requests/Special Needs & Handicap Accessibility _____

Add additional pages as needed. **Questions?** Please email mentonecolorfest@gmail.com.

Performer Application — Deadline April 7, 2020

Apply online at mapamentone.com.

Notification of acceptance or waiting list by email on April 17. We pay a small stipend of \$50 per performing member of your group. Your performing time will be 45 minutes long. Performances will be spaced to allow time before performance and after performance for set up and take down. We will also provide a table close by where you can have someone to sell CDs, etc.

Contact Name _____ Email _____ Phone _____

Type or Genre _____ Group Name _____

Name/s of Performers _____

Website Address _____ Facebook Page _____

Address _____ City State Zip _____

We appreciate your effort to submit the following:

1. This application
2. A picture to be used for media. Email to RhododendronFestival@gmail.com OR Mail to MAPA, P.O. Box 50, Mentone, AL 35984
3. A performing sample. This could be a CD OR video OR a link to Facebook, or website, or YouTube. It will be used for our selection process.
4. A short biography (100 words or less) that we can use for promotional purposes.

Applications and pictures sent by regular mail should be addressed to MAPA, P. O. Box 50, Mentone, AL 35984.
Please email MentoneColorfest@gmail.com with any questions.

Call for Rhododendron Festival

**Saturday & Sunday
May 16 & 17**

by Sharon Habin

- **Mark your calendar now for the the Rhododendron Festival**, presented by Mentone Area Preservation Association, always held the third weekend in May.
- **Vendor and performers applications**, as well as **Miss Rhododendron Pageant (May 8) entries**, will be available online in February at mapamentone.com/festivals.html
- **"Many hands make light the work!"**
Our festivals are staffed by wonderful volunteers. The festival Committee meeting will be held February 12 at 1 p.m. in the Community Room across from Mentone Town Hall (5951 AL 117).
- **How can you help?** Come to the meeting; go to mapamentone.com and fill out an interest form; email rhododendronfestival@gmail.com; or join Volunteer Mentone AL Festivals on Facebook.
- **Sponsor Opportunities**
MAPA's two annual festivals, Rhododendron and Colorfest, depend on sponsors for paying the many costs that add up when putting on such large events. If you would like to be a sponsor for the 2020 Rhododendron Festival or Colorfest, forms and information will be available at mapamentone.com by mid-February. Email sharonhmapa@gmail.com with any questions.

SENIOR HEALTH

Inspector General Warns Public About New Twist to Social Security Scams

submitted by Lynn Hixon, DeKalb County Council on Aging

The Inspector General of Social Security, Gail S. Ennis, is warning the public that telephone scammers may send faked documents by email to convince victims to comply with their demands. The Social Security Administration Office of the Inspector General (OIG) has received reports of victims who received emails with attached letters and reports that appeared to be from Social Security or Social Security OIG. The letters may use official letterhead and government "jargon" to convince victims they are legitimate; they may also contain misspellings and grammar mistakes.

This is the latest variation on Social Security phone scams, which continue to be widespread throughout the United States. Using robocalls or live callers, fraudsters pretend to be government employees and claim there is identity theft or another problem with one's Social Security number, account, or benefits.

They may threaten arrest or other legal action, or may offer to increase benefits, protect assets, or resolve identity theft. They often demand payment via retail gift card, cash, wire transfer, internet currency such as Bitcoin, or pre-paid debit card.

Inspector General Ennis urges continued vigilance against all types of phone scams no matter what "proof" callers may offer. As we continue to increase public awareness of phone scams, criminals will come up with new ways to convince people of their legitimacy. Social Security will never:

- threaten you with arrest or other legal action unless you immediately pay a fine or fee;
- promise a benefit increase or other assistance in exchange for payment;
- require payment by retail gift card, cash, wire transfer, internet currency, or prepaid debit card; or
- send official letters or reports containing personally identifiable information via email.

If there is ever a problem with your Social Security number or record, in most cases Social Security will mail you a letter. If you do need to submit payments to Social Security, the agency will send a letter with instructions and payment options. You should never pay a government fee or fine using retail gift cards, cash, internet currency, wire transfers, or pre-paid debit cards. The scammers ask for payment this way because it is very difficult to trace and recover.

If you receive a call or email that you believe to be suspicious, about a problem with your Social Security number or account, hang up or do not respond. We encourage the public to report Social Security phone scams using our dedicated online form at oig.ssa.gov. Please share this information with your friends and family, to help spread awareness about phone scams.

WINDOW VISIONS

JELD-WEN
WINDOWS & DOORS
RELIABILITY for real life®

WE SELL ENERGY STAR

New Construction & Replacement Windows & Doors

256-845-3893

162 45th Street NE, Fort Payne
www.windowvisions.us

We BUY & SELL

- * Estate Jewelry
- * Gold
- * Silver
- * Diamonds
- * & Coins!

Free Ring Cleaning & Check
We Retip Prongs & Repair Jewelry

Same Location since 1959

Pruett Jewelers

69 Main Street East
Rainsville

256-638-3210

Dave's Antiques

in the old National Guard Armory

45+ Great Vendors in 15,000 sq. ft.

Mon-Sat 10am-4pm | Sun 12-4pm

256-418-4207

37669 US Hwy. 11 • Hammondville
Just off I-59 @ Exit 231

ADL Auctions, Inc.

Quality Consignments Welcome

See AuctionZip.com for
Monthly Auction Dates I.D. 36983

Manager Dave Stone
Auctioneer Roger Burton, Sr. A.S.L. #1834

256-418-2092

3615 Co. Rd. 322 • Henegar

daves-antiques.com
davestone2012@yahoo.com



**Charlotte
Gentry**
Broker/Owner
256-996-5995



"The Natural Choice"



Holly Watson-Houston
Assoc. BROKER®
256-996-0552



**Melody Sellers
Assoc. REALTOR®
256-996-5297**



Steve Manning
Assoc. REALTOR®
256-996-7624

Office: (256) 634-4767



GREAT VISIBILITY & TRAFFIC COUNT ON HWY 117 IN MENTONE! Work is completed 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. \$345,000 (1119821)



REDUCED! MENTONE RIVER-FRONT HOME w/beautiful garden areas; screened porch; large deck; gazebo & the sight & sounds of the W Fork Little River. Redwood great room, fireplace, e, wood floors, granite island & p. Large living area w/level. Large master suite; 2BR upstairs w/jack-n-jill BA. Inviting outdoor areas w/many native & transplant species & moss garden. Paths down to swimming hole w/ big rock river access. New deck. \$289,000 (1098813)



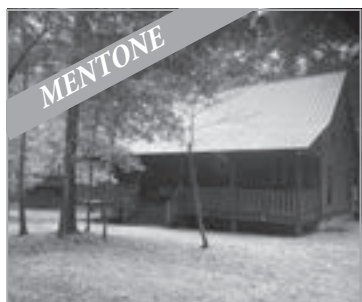
DIAMOND IN THE ROUGH ON NORTH COOL ST. This single-level cottage is plain on the outside, delightful on the inside! Great location, too. Just a couple blocks from Mentone's Brow Park, dining & shops. Built by local stone/block artisan Lee Crow, this place is virtually unchanged from its beginnings in 1962. Beautiful, wood-burning, mtn stone fireplace is central to LR/DR/KIT areas. Vaulted wood ceilings. \$185,000 (1119202)

LOTS and LAND

30 ACRES (+/-) IN MENTONE
of mostly hardy... some
pasture... offer a
great...s, a
farm... whatever your
Mentone... dictates. \$105,000
(\$3,500 per acre) (1067525)

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)



MAKE NATURE YOUR NEW NEIGHBOR! 3BR/2BA cabin is nestled into 3 acres of peace & quiet; just minutes from downtown. Large front porch, screened porch, full kitchen w/ hardwood floors, granite counter tops through out. Lots of windows throughout the main living area - a space you won't wanna leave! Main level MABR. Underground utilities, whole house generator, tankless water heater & custom outfitbuilding Fully furnished. \$229,900 (1129104)



KNOCK, KNOCK! Who's there?
Well, it could be you! Cute & cozy cottage w/private upstairs guest quarters. Furnished. Front & back porches w/benches & swings. Main level w/hardwood floors; 1BR/1BA; light & breezy living area; handy kitchen. Upstairs is a tree-house-feel, efficiency apt w/claw-foot tub nook, privy" closet, wood floors & multiple beds. Storage bldg. Near DeSoto Falls, State Park, Comer Scout Camp. Just off the parkway. \$119,000 (1124542)



A CABIN FOR EVERY SEASON. 2BR/2BA on 1.75 wooded acres. All wood interior; wood-burning fireplace 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)



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.. \$295,000 (1130640)

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)

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. \$137,500 (1128138)

SOUTH COOL STREET BROW-FRONT property w/old stone fireplace chimney, part of foundation, plus small garage. Owned by the same family since early '20s. Approx 0.45-acre lot in an area where properties are seldom available. \$118,000 (1070474)



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)



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)



Prices are up,
inventory is
down! How
much is your
property
worth? Let
Mentone Realty
help you sell!



Rhododendron Garden Club

by Rhea Pirch



The Rhododendron Garden Club met for their first meeting of the new year at the MERF House, Tuesday, January 14, at 10 a.m. Thirteen members were present. Dianne Kuehl provided almond cake, fruit, and nuts as refreshments for the group. Marsha Merrell read the poem "Do Beasts Hear Music" by Alabama poet Helen Norris.

The business portion of the meeting commenced after pledging allegiance to the flag. The minutes and treasurer's reports were presented and accepted. During roll call, we were asked to name a bird visiting our birdfeeders this winter. Nuthatches, cardinals, wrens (including the Carolina wren) and pileated woodpeckers were seen most often, but there was also a bald eagle sighting, and a crane, mourning doves, hawks, titmouse, wood thrush, chickadees, and a red-breasted woodpecker. An attempt to attract bluebirds to a feeder with mealworms got the attention of a raccoon, who got the feed before any bluebird could find it. An albino squirrel was spotted in one of our member's yards, and most every one of us had spotted a turkey or two crossing the road.

Conservation chairperson Jan Wilkinson reported that Alabama's drought is officially over, at least for now. Let's hope it stays that way! Horticulture chair Martha Wood gave us some January gardening tips (what we can do in the garden as we all patiently wait for planting season). Her first tip was to find a good source for manure. I had to chime in here and remind the group that I have several piles of alpaca "beans" (as their poo is commonly called), perfect for fertilizing purposes. Martha also recommended testing leftover seeds to see if they are still viable. To do this, take the seeds in question and place them on a piece of damp paper towel. Fold over the paper towel, place it in a zipped plastic bag, then put the bag in a warm location (out of direct sunlight.) Check the seeds often to see if they need more moisture or if they are starting to germinate. If they need more moisture, carefully mist the paper towel to where it is just damp and not wet. After about ten days of checking, if the seeds aren't sprouting, chances are they're no longer any good.

Another good tip is to start keeping a record of what you are doing around the garden, especially what you planted where, and when. January is also a good time to take hardwood cuttings for propagation of trees or shrubs for your 2021 garden. (They wouldn't be ready this year.) More of these tip how-tos can be found online and will be posted periodically on our Facebook page.

Old and new business matters were then discussed and wrapped up. Once completed, Mellanie Tuttle presented her program on "Invasive Bushes and Natives to Replace Them."

What is an invasive bush or shrub? It is a non-native plant that begins to spread or expand its range from the site of its original introduction and has the potential to cause harm to the environment. They often take over native plants—those that normally live or thrive in a certain area and whose presence is the result of only natural processes, with no human intervention.

There are some invasives that might surprise us. The Amur Honeysuckle (*Lonicera maackii*), that sweet-smelling bush that may be growing in your yard, sends out a hormone that keeps other plants from growing. It was brought here from Asia in 1896 to be used as an ornamental, for wildlife cover, and for soil erosion. Its leaves are alternate, as opposed to the native honeysuckle which has opposite leaves.

The Butterfly Bush (*Buddleja davidii*) is also considered an invasive bush, although if maintained, you can prevent it from taking over native plants or bushes.

Other invasives Mellanie mentioned were the Autumn Olive, Buckthorn, Burning Bush, Japanese Barberry, Multiflora Japanese Rose, and the pretty, awful Privet.

Once you get rid of the invasives (pulling them up out of the ground is the most effective method), it's time to replace them with native shrubs, bushes, or trees. There are many to choose from, depending on your landscape wants and needs. If you want something to grow up to 10 to 20 feet tall, try the Red Buckeye, the Pagoda Dogwood, the Flowering Dogwood, or the Serviceberry.

Other native trees or shrubs to grow are the Downy Serviceberry, the Black Chokeberry, the American Beautyberry. Or, you might want to try one of the other 21 natives listed that add a variety of height, width, fragrance, and color to your yard.

The meeting adjourned after Mellanie's program. Our next meeting will also be at the MERF House on Tuesday, February 11, at 10 a.m., when we will make Valentine wreaths for the Senior Lunch we will host the next day. You are most welcome to attend this meeting. We hope to see you there!

Rhea Pirch is the secretary for the Rhododendron Garden Club.



Native Trees, Shrubs, & Bushes

Red Buckeye
Hop Tree
Downy serviceberry
Carolina Buckthorn
Black chokeberry
Fragrant Sumac
Buttonbush
Clove Currant
Pagoda Dogwood
American Elderberry
Flowering Dogwood
Sassafras
American Hazelnut
Arrowood Viburnum
Common Witch hazel
Nannyberry Viburnum
Spicebush
Blackhaw Viburnum
Ninebark
Rusty Blackhaw
Viburnum
Wild Plum

LAW OFFICES OF THOMAS J. SKINNER, IV, LLC

- Estate Planning, Wills, Trusts, & Probate Matters
- Business Law
- Real Estate Law
- Real Estate Tax Sales and Redemptions
- General Civil Litigation



**Open most
Wednesdays
from 9am to 4pm,
or by appointment.**

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.

Valley Head 166 Commerce Avenue | 256-674-1111
lawtjs.com

Moon Lake Community Library News by Kelly Leavitt

Open Tues. & Thur. 3–5, Sat. 9-1 • 4607 AL-Hwy 117, Mentone • moonlakelibrary.org



Many thanks to everyone who helped clean the library on January 20, as part of the MLK Day of Service! About 30 people came to help. It was a flurry of organized activity on both the community and school sides. Every counter, table, and chair was cleaned and sanitized. Each shelf was polished and each book was dusted off. Some helped with alphabetizing books. Others alphabetized DVDs, and, since we had so many helpers, we were able to individually clean each DVD case, and clean many of the individual discs. The wood baseboard looks brand new, now that it's been oiled. And the food! The potluck offerings were abundant and all delicious. THANK YOU, once again, to all of you who helped . . . You make a difference!

Moon Lake Book Club Saturday 2/15 @ 10:30 am

The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek by Kim Michele Richardson (2019) was chosen for our next Book Club discussion due to its popularity—many of our patrons have recommended it over the last few weeks.

Set in 1936, it tells the story of Cussy Mary Carter, a traveling librarian who was part of Roosevelt's Kentucky Pack Horse Library Project, a Works Progress Administration program that delivered books to remote regions in the Appalachian Mountains between 1935 and 1943. Being a "book woman" in a place like Troublesome Creek had its own challenges, including the dangers of travelling alone through the woods to remote cabins, disdain by those who didn't value books, and disapproval of those who didn't like the color of Cussy's skin. She is one of the true blue-skinned people of Kentucky, and Richardson uses her character to explore the racism and ignorance of the time.

Despite the challenges, Cussy is able to make a difference, both for school children and adults who lived in isolation in the hollers of Appalachia. In 1936, packhorse librarians—most of whom were women—served 50,000 families, and Richardson's story poignantly tells the story of one of these women, revealing the raw courage and sheer determination they each exemplified.

We have two copies of this book available to borrow. Everyone is welcome to be part of the discussion. Light refreshments will be served.



Community Game Nights Fridays 2/14 & 28 @ 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.

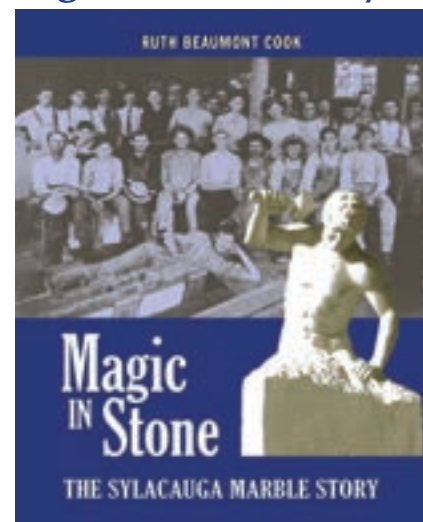
AUTHOR TALK: Ruth Beaumont Cook "Magic in Stone: The Sylcauga Marble Story" Monday 2/17 @ 6:30 pm

Did you know . . . Sylcauga, a town in central Alabama, is known as "Marble City"? Thirty-five miles long, 400 feet deep, and a mile wide, the Sylcauga Marble Belt yields crystalline white marble frequently compared to the Parian marble treasured by Greek sculptors and the Italian Carrara marble often chosen by Michelangelo.

Artisans have quarried Sylcauga marble for tombstones since the early 1800s, and architects prized it for years as dimension stone for buildings as the Alabama State Capitol and the United States Supreme Court. Because of its translucency, this marble was chosen for the ceiling of the Lincoln Memorial. In the early 1900s, Giuseppe Moretti and Gutzon Borglum both chose this marble for magnificent sculptures.

Magic in Stone: The Sylcauga Marble Story, released in October 2019 by NewSouth Books, chronicles the rich history of Alabama's state rock—pure white marble with a fine crystalline structure that rivals the finest statuary marble of Italy and Greece. Historically, Giuseppe Moretti and Gutzon Borglum chose it for magnificent sculptures. Today, Sylcauga resident sculptor Craigger Browne continues the artistic tradition with pieces like "The Warmth of Enlightenment," on the grounds of Helen Keller's family home, Ivy Green, in Tuscumbia, AL.

This is the story of quarry pioneers, investors, artists, and artisans. It also the story of their families, who fondly remember their lives along the edge of "the hole" that provided for them.



Moon Lake Logophiles (lovers of words!) Saturday 2/29 @ 10:30 am

Are you a 'word person' who finds the origins of words intriguing? If so, you're not alone! Many of our patrons have expressed interest in exploring the etymology of words, so we'll be hosting an informal session where we can all learn from each other. Do you know why the word "muscle" comes from the Middle French word for "mouse"? Come find out! Please bring a collection of words (10 or so) and their interesting origins to share with others. We'll gather round the tables and have fun exploring language on Saturday, February 29, at 10:30 a.m. Coffee and tea will be served.

Beginner's Needle Felting Class

Fiber artist Pamela Moniz will teach an introduction to the art of needle felting with wool on Saturday, February 29, from 1 until 4 p.m. at Moon Lake Community Library. You will start with a pre-made base and learn how to build a unique character face with expressive features. For those interested in learning to create larger character dolls, this is a great beginner class. The \$35 class fee includes all supplies needed, including needles and a foam base that can be reused for future needle felting projects, as well as sufficient wool to complete your project. This fun class fosters imagination and humor as these little creatures come to life. The class is limited to 10 participants, so pre-registration is required by contacting Pamela at 240-426-8317 or pamelamoniz@gmail.com. Bring a friend and receive a \$5.00 discount. Photos from a recent class can be seen under "News" at moonlakelibrary.org.



@ 519 Gault Ave N

Come see our new beautiful space.

Same great water & health market, only bigger
& continuing to grow, with even more new stuff
coming this spring!

Mentone Arts & Cultural Center News

Holidays include bids, donations and Sequoyah by Randy Grider



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.

The Mentone Arts & Cultural Center (MACC) held an official unveiling of the Sequoyah sculpture on January 18 to give the public a first look at the artwork and to honor its creators, Carl McCleskey and Betsy Scotts. A great crowd packed the former Kamama building for the event.

McCleskey and Scott gifted their artistic work on the sculpture to the Center. It will be placed in the planned sculpture garden, to be named in honor of Dr. Stephen Brewer.

MACC Board President Ben Shurett thanked

McCleskey and Scott, whose work is renowned around the country, for their donation of the sculpture. Sculptures created in their Wildlife Bronze Studio near Mentone can be found on display at the Greg Norman Golf Course in Florida, the Audubon Zoo in New Orleans, the Riverwalk in Cincinnati, and many other public locations, as well as in private collections.

Following the unveiling, MACC Executive Director Randy Grider presented McCleskey and Scott with a plaque of appreciation.

Shurett also recognized artist Sandra Comley, who created the molds for casting the bronze; Dr. Stephen Brewer; and all the supporters of the Center.

The sculpture depicts one of the Cherokee people's most revered citizens. Sequoyah has ties to this area, as he lived in nearby Willstown—now Fort Payne—when, in 1821, he completed his creation of a Cherokee syllabary, making it possible to read and write in the Cherokee language.

Donations can still be made to help cover the cost of casting. Donors' names will appear on a plaque that will accompany the statue once it's on permanent display at the Center. Any donation can be made "in honor" or "in memory" of a loved one or distinguished citizen.

We would also like to thank all the volunteers who helped with the event, Jimmy Rogers of the Green Leaf Grill for providing the food, and John Dersham for photos and video.



L to R: Mentone Arts & Cultural Center Executive Director Randy Grider, sculpture artists Carl McCleskey and Betsy Scott, and MACC Board President Ben Shurett.

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.



Dr. Stephen Brewer and Carl McCleskey

Mentone Wedding Chapel

*Candle Lite Ceremonies
Music • Photographs
Flowers • Reception
Lodging
Limousine*

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

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

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

Drive happier.

Mark Mitchell, Agent
17174 Broad Street
Henagar, AL 35978
Bus: 256-657-6252
mark.mitchell.b2g1@statefarm.com

Join the millions who protect their cars with us. It's one more way I'm here to help life go right.
CALL ME TODAY FOR A QUOTE.

State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company
State Farm Indemnity Company
Bloomington, IL

Texas County Mutual
Dallas, TX

1601561

Wilson

FUNERAL HOME
CREMATORY

Our staff members will take care of your loved one every step of the way.



Mike Leath, Caleb Roberts, Amy Justice & Ronnie Highfield

**CALL TODAY TO DISCUSS
YOUR FAMILY'S NEEDS.**

(256) 845-9150

3801 Gault Avenue North
Fort Payne, AL 35967

www.wilsonfhinc.com

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.

I can see clearly now! It's finally 2020! MERF had a busy December and January with great celebrations and exciting planning meetings. As always, the senior lunch Christmas party was a blast, with Santa coming despite some of the questionable behavior of our group (just kidding). The Kitchen Elves did a fabulous job of bringing joy, fun, goodies, and good food to all who came to the MERF house on December 4. The singing by the Moon Lake Elementary School and the reindeer antler toss were both a big hit. The students also did an awesome job in the school Christmas Program, directed and produced by Paula Easter.



Santa is impressed with the Christmas card created by a Moon Lake student for the Merrityme Artisan Market.

Thank you to everyone who stopped by MERF's table at the fabulous Merrityme Artisan Market co-hosted by the Little River Arts Council and Moon Lake Baptist Church. The students once again created great homemade Christmas cards and many "Leave Me in Mentone" fans purchased the new 1/4- zip fleece which looks good and is perfect for mountain weather. I also enjoyed getting to know the other artists and their creative work. The Goodie Dog Bags created by Christy Plunkett with her natural dog treats was a big hit with many of my four-legged friends.

Wow! On December 12, an energetic, knowledgeable, and creative community crowd

showed up for the first planning meeting for the Pathway to Community. There are seven areas of focus: Design and Placement; Fence; Musical Instrument Installation; Light Placement and Installation; Building Mural; Landscaping; PR and Social Media; and the Grand Opening. The fence team has already marked the placement of the fence



The Pathway to Community fence team marks the placement of the fence posts along the walking trail.

and painting of the posts will begin in a month or so as the pickets are prepared. Updates will be on the Facebook page (facebook.com/MERFWalkingTrack) or send MERF your email to receive updates and state what area interests you.

Congratulations to the MERF Sue McLaurin Henry Memorial scholarship recipients. The scholarship committee awarded Devin Leps (University

Gelfenstein (Northeast AL Community College), Julie Smith (Northeast AL Community College), and August Shanklin (Jacksonville State University) with a check to help offset school expenses for the spring semester. MERF looks forward to seeing these future college graduates making a difference in our community. Unless specified for other means, memorial checks sent to MERF are deposited in the scholarship fund.

Always amazing and fun, the Afternoon with the Artists at Moon Lake School on January 10 was another hit. Thank you to Don Pirch and Craig



Hendricks for sharing your art and your stories. Don brought examples of his drawings and his barn quilts, as well as a hands-on quilt board for the students to design their own. The students were awed by his ability. A fifth-grader was so impressed and went to look for Don's designs at the Wildflower Café and the pavilion. A teacher is going to incorporate the quilt designing in her math class! Craig is a local singer/songwriter who taught the students how music allows us to express and experience our feelings. A lot of the songs that he writes are not the Country style that he sings, but what will be attractive to another singer. He has written over 300 songs. He had great questions for the kids and they had great ones for him such as, "Does it make you nervous to perform?" from a first-grader, which allowed Craig to discuss the difference between fear, nervousness, and butterflies. He emphasized that practicing a skill helps to eliminate the fear and nerves. The students loved hearing him perform and singing with him. See craighendricksmusic.com to catch him performing locally, especially at our festivals.

MERF moms continue to meet regularly at the MERF house on Thursday mornings with a monthly art/music class with Paula Easter. "Shake



Artist Don Pirch allows students to design their own barn quilt during Afternoon with the Artists.

of North Alabama), Brooke Leps (University of North Alabama), Saddler Emory (University of North Alabama), Avion

out the Sillies" is one of the fave songs for dancing and singing. In January, the group bid farewell to Wallis and Titus Faught as they head to Thailand for missionary work through Nehemiah teams. Although they were with the group for only six months, their friendship and great smiles will be truly missed. We will enjoy keeping up with their impact in a new place.

Fabulous February means the resurgence of senior lunches! If it's sleeting or snowing, don't come, but on Wednesday, February 12, senior lunches will begin and last until April 29. Thank you to all the businesses, organizations and individuals that allow MERF to offer such a fun community event. The meal will be served at 11:30 a.m., followed by fun entertainment and fellowship. Sadly, we lost two of our regular senior lunch friends in December—Charles Hammonds and Mattie Lee Golden. We



The MERF Moms group celebrates their friendship, wishing Wallis and Titus safe journeys



The students enjoyed looking at Don Pirch's art portfolio.



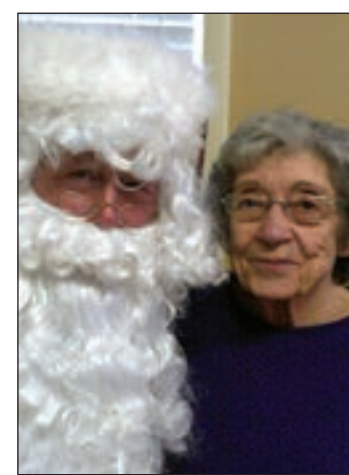
Charles Hammonds (1940–2019) celebrating his birthday during a MERF senior lunch



Musician Craig Hendricks played his guitar and spoke with the students about songwriting during Afternoon with the Artists.



Congratulations to the MERF Sue McLaurin Henry Memorial scholarship recipients.



Mattie Lee Golden (1931–2019) visiting with Santa at a MERF senior Christmas party

will miss their friendship, big smiles, caring hearts, and loyalty.

The 8th annual Taste of the Mountain and Art Auction committees have begun planning for another great evening on Saturday, April 4. Ticket sales will begin in March and tickets must be purchased in advance. Keep up with news on our Facebook page @merfhouse. If you are interested in volunteering (especially set up and clean up), being a sponsor, or donating artwork, this is the time to contact Sarah at 256-635-8193 or merf.mentone@gmail.com. The program needs to be compiled by March 20, so please don't delay. MERF is grateful for all the time, energy, organization and support

that makes this such a fun community event.

March Madness is happening with MERF and Moon Lake Elementary as the entire school is headed to see Mo Willem's book "The Naked Mole Rat Gets Dressed" turned into a musical by the Alliance Theater in Atlanta on March 10! Can't wait for the fun and excitement as the students see a story come to life and learn great lessons as Wilbur navigates the pressure to fit in. Funding for this trip



is made possible by all of you who financially support MERF and by a matching Art in Education grant from the Alabama State Council

on the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts. MERF is grateful for the many ways this community supports the work of MERF.

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.

Valley Head Drugs

114 Commerce Avenue
Valley Head, AL 35989

256-635-6812

Cynthia and Wayne Wooten, Owners

"We appreciate your business"

Mentone
Mountain
Getaways

Cabin Rentals
I-888-920-8445

LET ME MANAGE YOUR CABIN FOR YOU - Ron Waits

Moon Lake Fine Arts News by Paula Easter

I hope that the holidays were wonderful for everyone. I have to say, my holidays were not quite what I expected, as I dealt with Type A flu. So, having been sick during the entire holiday season, I was actually anxious to get back to school and begin the New Year in good spirits and health and hopeful that my Moon Lake students would be, too!

Before I say anything else about all the things that have been happening in the Fine Arts classroom, I would like to take a moment and congratulate all my Moon Lake students for the incredible job they did in their Christmas play, "The Christmas Wish." Every class

did a fabulous job with their country's song, Pachelbel would be proud of how well they played the hand bells to his Canon in D, the solos were wonderful, and the actors went above and beyond expectations as we also dealt with the flu at school and students being unable to perform at the last minute. If you missed this play, you really missed a treat. Their hard work and their performance certainly made me one proud teacher. I would also like to say a special "Thank you" to Mrs. Krista Sims, Mrs. Lea Long, and Mrs. Jennifer Gorham for their extra help, which was greatly appreciated.

The students came back to school ready to work, and that is just what we have done. Each class has started new projects and everyone is excited to be trying new art techniques and new supplies. Would you believe that boys like to sew and are enjoying felting? Pictures will follow once these projects have been completed, and you will be surprised, just like I have been. Bingo daubers have become a new favorite tool to use in the Fine Arts classroom with their artwork, and all the students want to use the Arteza paint pen brushes. Have you ever used modeling clay to paint with? I hope you are curious and anxious to see the results from these new projects, because they are wonderful.

There is an upcoming event in which you can see all the wonderful artwork our Moon Lake students have created, and see how talented these students really are. The 6th Annual Moon Lake Fine Arts Night is Thursday, February 20, at 6:00 p.m. in the Moon Lake gymnasium. There will be plenty of artwork, musical performances, art activities to try, and refreshments for everyone. Be sure to mark your calendar for this wonderful event and come share in all that we do in the Fine Arts classroom.

Paula Easter is the Fine Arts teacher at Moon Lake Elementary School.



2nd-grade performers in the Moon Lake Christmas play



Flashlights and music



5th-grade performance



Ready to play bells



Kindergarten & 1st grade perform "Celebrate with Joy"

you are
invited to
moon lake
school's
6th annual
fine arts night!

music
refreshments
art
fun for all!
thursday, feb. 20
6 p.m.
moon lake gym



Self-portrait by
Paula Easter



256-634-4757

256-634-4105 fax

5190 AL Highway 117
Mentone, Alabama 35984

littleriverhardware.com



Little River Arts Council News by Rhea Pirch

The board of directors of the Little River Arts Council met on January 8 to review the activities of 2019 and discuss plans for the new year.

We enjoyed a rewarding year of bringing arts to the Mentone area, thanks to the support of members, donations, grants, and the community as a whole. In 2019, we were able to:

- Host the Alabama Shakespeare Festival for their performance of "As You Like It" at Moon Lake Elementary School;
- Finish painting the game squares on the driveway at the school;
- Help to finish "A River Runs Through It," the community mosaic art project installed on the steps leading down to DeSoto Falls;
- Provide artists with opportunities to show and sell their art over the summer months with the Linger Longer Pop-up Series event;
- Provide financial assistance to send two board members to the Creative Placemaking Summit in Columbia, SC, last spring. The information gathered there directly led to the "Big Idea" grant, a community collaboration for turning the walkway in front of the MERF (Mentone Educational Resource Foundation) House into an artistically enhanced pathway for the community to enjoy;
- Host the 7th annual Summer Music Series, offering free concerts and art play during the summer months;
- Hold our annual Home Tour and Silent Auction fundraiser;
- Offer a watercolor Christmas card-making class, led by artist Caroline Nucholls;
- Host the 4th annual Creative Spirit Market at DeSoto State Park;
- Host, in collaboration with Moon Lake Baptist Church, the Merrityme Artisan Market, donating the vendor fees, a total of \$500, to the Moon Lake Parent-Teacher Organization to help with school expenses.

We also held our annual meeting at DeSoto State Park, which included food, music, and artists who demonstrated and exhibited their work.

In December, we received notification from the Alabama State Council on the Arts that we were chosen to receive a grant in the amount of \$1820. This grant will allow us to continue the tradition of bringing the Alabama Shakespeare Festival to

Moon Lake School in 2020. On February 27, the troupe of actors will again win the hearts of the students with their performance of "A Midsummer's Night Dream."

A second grant in the amount of \$1850, also from ASCA, was awarded to us to help bring music to the Mentone community once again during our 8th annual Summer Music Series. Keep watching as we book the dates and announce a diverse selection of talented bands and musicians for the summer concerts. This year, we plan to stir in a little fun along with the music, and as always, we will include our popular "make art" tables at each concert.

Planning has started for our annual meeting, to be held on Saturday, March 14, from 5 to 7:30 p.m. at DeSoto State Park Lodge. We will introduce new members of the board, install new officers, accept new membership and membership renewals, and give an update on anticipated programs for the new year. There will be appetizers, music, artists, a cash bar, and the camaraderie of fellow art supporters. We expect to continue our support of the arts, artists, and the Mentone community in this new year. We look forward to seeing you there!

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



LRAC board member Jessica Harper-Brown, organizer of the Merrityme Artisan Market, presented a check in the amount of \$500 to Moon Lake PTO Secretary Stephanny Spraggins.

Wildflower Café & Country Store



Original painting by Andreea Brandon

mentonewildflower.com

256.634.0066

6007 AL Hwy. 117, Mentone

Local Art & Live Music

Dinner reservations suggested, not required

Dine-in, Take-out & Catering



"Matching people to the property of their dreams"

HEATHER NICELY
REALTOR®

Alabama • Georgia • Lookout Mountain

256.276.8422

BelloraRealtors.com

hnicely11@gmail.com



256-634-4686

Local Goods
Eatery
Draft Beer
Wine

Fresh salads & sandwiches to go

\$1 Tacos on Tuesdays 4-8

Check out our Deli Case!

5872 AL Hwy 117
Mentone, AL 35984

February Community Calendar

February 1 & 22—Painting Party. In celebration of Valentine's Day, we will be painting Gnomeo on an 8x10 canvas. \$25/person. Reservations required by paying in advance on Facebook or in store. Boxed Leaf Co., Fort Payne. 10–11:30am.

February 1—Beaver Pond Trail Hike with Ranger Kaleb. Learn to identify evergreens and mosses and discover the winter season of Little River Canyon. Meet at the Beaver Pond Trail parking lot on 176/Little River Canyon Rim Parkway at 10am. Plan for a 1-hour, moderate (roots, rocks, and wet bridges) 1.5-mile hike. For information contact the Little River Canyon National Preserve at 256-516-0286.

February 1—Confederate Railroad. The Pickin' Post. 6pm. \$30. 256-657-3817 or 256-845-4115.

FEBRUARY 2 Happy Groundhog Day!

February 6, 13, 20 & 27—Duo & Solos Square Dance Club. Come and join us for laughter and fellowship. New Square Dancing classes start. The month of February is Free. 6:30pm–8:30pm. Call 256-714-4515 for details.

Feb 6, 7, 8, 10, 13, 14 & 15—Children's Advocacy Center Dinner and Play. Children's Advocacy Center presents their annual dinner and play written and directed by Eddie McPherson. First United Methodist Church Life Center, Fort Payne. Ticket prices vary and are by reservation only. For information or tickets, call 256-997-9700.

February 7—Canyon Kids: "Canyon Animals." Bring your children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews and neighbors to creatively learn about animals, plants, bugs, and more with JSU Field Schools. Your children (3 years–4th grade) will want to attend ALL of these hands-on outdoor adventures! Pre-registration is required by the Monday prior to the program by calling Niki Wayner at 256-845-3548. Limited to 15 children per class. Little River Canyon Center. 9–10am. \$5. Call 256-845-3548 for details.

February 8 & 22—Ukulele for Beginners. Free classes. 1pm. Moon Lake Community Library, 4607 AL Hwy. 117, Mentone. moonlakelibrary.org.

February 8—Paperweight Class. This class is designed for those who really just want to see what molten glass is all about. Feel the heat, gather from the furnace, sculpt the glass into your own design. Orbix Hot Glass. Reservations

required. \$145 per person. 256-523-3188.

February 8—20th Anniversary Meeting of the DeKalb County Genealogical Society. The DeKalb County Genealogical Society will have a 20th anniversary meeting at the DeSoto Country Club located at 502 Crystal Lake Drive Fort Payne, AL. The meeting will be from 10am–12pm. There will be drawings for door prizes. Mrs. Helen Wells will present our program on "The Past 20 Years." Everyone is welcome!

February 8—Beaver Pond Trail Hike with Ranger Kari. Learn about Wilderness versus wilderness, different types of parks in the National Park Service, and the importance of them all. Meet at the Beaver Pond Trail parking lot on 176/Little River Canyon Rim Parkway at 2pm. Plan for a 2-hour, moderate (roots, rocks, and wet bridges) 1.5-mile hike. For more information, contact the Little River Canyon National Preserve at 256-845-3548.

February 8—Series Skills Series: Long Leaf Pine Basketry. Explore the beauty of basketry—one of the oldest and most varied art forms in the world. DeSoto State Park Naturalist Brittney Hughes will demonstrate and have examples of coiling, twining, and plaiting using materials like Longleaf Pine needles, natural threads, reed, and White Oak splints. JSU's Little River Canyon Center in Fort Payne. Class limited to 12 students. 10am–3pm. \$25 supply fee due day of class. Pre-registration required by calling or emailing Brittney Hughes (NOT via Facebook: 256-997-5025 or Brittney.Hughes@dcnr.alabama.gov).

February 8—Civilian Conservation Corps History Hike: The CCC Quarry. In celebration of DeSoto State Park's 81st Anniversary of its dedication day in 1939, join DSP Staff & volunteers on a moderate hike to the CCC Quarry. Learn how the Civilian Conservation Corps constructed the original structures that you can still see in the park today. Moderate hike along mountainous terrain, some rocky terrain. Approximately 2 miles round trip. 1–3pm. DeSoto State Park. Meet at Country Store & Information Center on County Road 89. Free and open to everyone. For details, contact Brittney Hughes at Brittney.Hughes@dcnr.alabama.gov.

February 8—Gold City at the Pickin Post. LIVE recording of gospel group Gold City. 6pm. \$15 tickets available at Black's Tire in Rainsville and Rogers Pawn, Music & Jewelry in Fort Payne. For information, call 256-657-3817 or 256-845-4115.

February 9—Dutch Oven Cooking. Dutch ovens have been in use for hundreds of years; especially when our country

was expanding, and families were on the move. Unable to bring their large cook stoves with them, women learned how to cook entire meals from stews & soups to bread & desserts, in their Dutch ovens. Learn the basics about Dutch ovens, how to clean & care for your cookware, AND cook (& eat!) dinner & dessert at the same time! Starts around 10am. Located at JSU's Little River Canyon Center. This is a demonstration, so the best part is when food is just coming off the fire. Drop in whenever you like & check out the food! JSU's Little River Canyon Center. 10 am until the food runs out. Free. Call 256-845-3548 for more details.

February 12—Rhododendron Festival Volunteer Meeting. Come learn the many ways you can help at this year's Rhododendron Festival. "Many hands make light the work!" 1pm. The Community Room, across from Mentone Town Hall. 5951 AL 117. Questions? Email rhododendronfestival@gmail.com or see mapamentone.com.



FEBRUARY 14 Happy Valentine's Day!

February 14—"Romeo and Juliet" Presented by the Alabama Ballet. Tickets \$10/person. Visit nacc.edu or showclix.com/event/nacc-romeojuliet to purchase your tickets online, or call Heather Rice at 256-638-4418, ext 2301.

February 14—The Primitive Quartet. The Primitive Quartet will perform at the Cricket Theater in Collinsville, along with the Baileys. Show starts at 6pm. Tickets on sale now. 256-524-2555.

February 14—Valentine's Day Game Night. Bring your friends and family for an evening of playing a variety of board games at Moon Lake Community Library. Finger food potluck dishes are welcome (and chocolate!). 6pm. 4607 AL Hwy. 117, Mentone. Free. moonlakelibrary.org.

February 15—Moon Lake Library Book Club. Discussion of "The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek" by Kim Michelle Richardson. Please read the book in advance and come join in the discussion. 10:30am. Moon Lake Community Library, 4607 AL Hwy. 117, Mentone. moonlakelibrary.org.

February 15—Blow an Ornament. Come design and blow your own ornament with the help of one of our glass artists.



MERIT BANK

BETTER BUSINESS BANKING.

Member FDIC | Equal Housing Lender



First Fidelity Bank

The finest traditions of community banking

Fort Payne 256-845-1077 Rainsville 256-638-6342 Ider 256-657-6255

www.bankffb.com

Telephone Banking 800-436-5103

Member
FDIC

"We're more than bankers, we're your neighbors and friends."



February Community Calendar

No reservations are needed, it is on a first-come, first-served basis. 9am–4pm. Orbix Hot Glass. Cost is \$38 per ornament blown. 256-523-3188.

February 15—Road 1 Hike in Wildlife Management Area with Ranger Matt. Learn about some year-round flying residents of Little River Canyon. Meet at Hunter Check Station parking lot on County Road 103 at 10am. Plan for a 2+ hour moderate (longer distance with a creek crossing) 4-mile hike. Please wear bright colored clothing. For more information, contact the Little River Canyon National Preserve at 256-845-3548.

February 15—Trail Trekker Hike Series: Neverland Loop Trail. Can you say, “I Hiked Them All”? 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, no time limit) and collect your prize, a Trail Trekkers Patch. Log your hikes in the Trail Trekker log and record the date for each trail listed. Sign completed form and turn in to DeSoto State Park Country Store or Lodge to receive your patch! This hike series is designed for those that 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! The Neverland Loop Trail hike is approximately 3.5 miles roundtrip, moderate along mountainous terrain. 10am–1pm. DeSoto State Park. Meet at DeSoto’s Country Store & Information Center. We will caravan to Lost Falls Trailhead. Free and open to everyone. No pre-registration required.

February 15—Valentine’s Dance at The Pickin Post. \$45 per couple. Catering and live music provided. 6pm.

February 17—Author Talk: “Magic in Stone: The Sylacauga Marble Story.” Author Ruth Cook will give a presentation on her newly released book. 6:30pm. Moon Lake Community Library, 4607 AL Hwy. 117, Mentone. Free.

February 20—Moon Lake School’s 6th Annual Fine Arts Night. Come see the students’ art work from this school year. Music, refreshments, fun for all! 6pm. Moon Lake School Gymnasium, Mentone.

February 20–23—BAMA BASH. It will be our 2nd Annual Bama Brawl at Fort Payne Motor Speedway. Practice Thursday and Friday. Heat races and qualifying on Saturday.

February 21—Midnight Special: A Tribute to CCR. Credence

Clearwater Revival is an iconic band that shaped the sound of the 60s and 70s, delivering hit song after hit song. Join us as we pay tribute to the veterans of that classic sound, with songs as legendary as the era that inspired them. Doors open at 6pm, show begins at 7pm. DeKalb Theatre. Advance tickets: \$10, Day of show: \$12, VIP tickets: \$20 (includes select reserved seating, snacks, and drinks).

February 22—Path to Learning Trail with Ranger Kevin. Learn about wildlife and the importance of stewardship. Meet at the Canyon Center Information Desk at 2pm. Plan for a 30–45-minute, easy half-mile hike. For more information, contact the Little River Canyon National Preserve at 256-845-3548.

February 22—Canyon Concert: Winter Jazz Dinner Show. Featuring TAD of Jazz and a New Orleans style dinner. \$50. canyonconcerts.com.

February 22—The Art of Woodburning: Welcome Sign. 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 a 6x9” welcome sign piece. Ages 14–adult. Limited to 10 students. 10am–12pm OR 1pm–3pm. JSU’s Little River Canyon Center. \$25 supply fee. Pre-registration required. For details and pre-registration, call 256-845-3548 or email jwayner@jsu.edu.

February 22—Tumbler Glassblowing Class. This introductory glassblowing class teaches many fundamentals through the process of making a small tumbler (cup). Some safety material is provided before the class for you to review. Call 256-523-3188 or email info@orbixhotglass.com for more information or to make a reservation. Reservations and full payment required. \$145. Limited to 2–4 students. Minimum age is 13 years old with parent.

February 28—Community Game Night. Bring your friends and family for an evening of playing a variety of board games at Moon Lake Community Library. Finger food potluck dishes are welcome. 6pm. 4607 AL Hwy. 117, Mentone. Free. moonlakelibrary.org.

February 28 & 29—“A Midsummer Night’s Dream” at the Fort Payne Opera House. Landmarks of Fort Payne hosts performances by troupe members of the Alabama Shakespeare Festival of one of Shakespeare’s most

popular plays. Tickets are now available by visiting the landmarksdekalbal.org, calling 256-845-6888, or mailing landmarksdekalb@bellsouth.net. Tickets can be purchased on the day of the show in the lobby box office.

February 29—Moon Lake Logophiles. Interested in word origins? Come to Moon Lake Community Library with a list of 10 interesting words to share. 10:30am. 4607 AL Hwy. 117, Mentone. Free. moonlakelibrary.org.

February 29—Beginning Wool Felting Class. Bring your friends and family for an evening of playing a variety of board games at Moon Lake Community Library. Finger food potluck dishes are welcome. 6pm. 4607 AL Hwy. 117, Mentone. Free. moonlakelibrary.org.

February 29—Eberhart Trail with Ranger Kaleb. Take a nature walk and learn about some of the history of Little River Canyon. Meet at Eberhart Point parking lot on 176/ Little River Canyon Rim Parkway at 10am. Plan for a 1-hour, strenuous (steep climb into and out of the canyon) 1.5-mile hike. For more information, contact the Little River Canyon National Preserve at 256-845-3548.

February 29—Sculpt Your Own Flower. Have you ever wanted to sit at the gaffer bench and feel what it is like to shape hot glass? It’s all about hands-on experience in a safe and fun atmosphere with a final product we know you will love. There is a minimum of 3 people and a maximum of 5 in each class. 10:30am & 12:30pm. Reservations are required. 256-523-3188.

February 29—Feeding Backyard Wildlife. Swing by and create a snack for your wild neighbors! With just pipe cleaners and Cheerios, you can design a fun and funky feeder to delight the birds and squirrels that share your backyard jungle. All materials are provided (this activity is peanut-free). 11am–2pm. Stop by anytime! DeSoto State Park; Country Store & Information Center on Co. Rd. 89. Free and open to everyone. Great for all ages! No pre-registration required. For details, call 256-997-5025 or email Brittney. Hughes@dcnr.alabama.gov.

February 29—Ties & Tiaras. The Fort Payne Three Arts Club invites you to our 3rd annual Ties & Tiaras Daddy Daughter Dance! Coal and Iron Building in downtown Fort Payne. Online tickets are \$25 per daddy and daughter plus an extra \$5 for any additional daughter. 6–9pm. Proceeds go towards college scholarships for Fort Payne High School seniors and various art programs. All ticket sales final. eventbrite.com.

“Continuous service by the same family since 1933”

BROWN’S CLEANING & LAUNDRY

“An old company with new ideas”

Vault Storage for Furs & Woolens • Drapery Cleaning with Machine Decorator Fold • Suede, Leather & Fur Cleaning • Fire Restoration & Odor Removal • Wedding Gown Preservation • Alterations • Pillow Cleaning

817 Gault Ave. N.

(256) 845-3241

Full Laundry Service

DIXIE SALVAGE

Discount Building Materials

3630 Gault Ave. N.
Fort Payne, AL 35967
Business (256) 845-5475
Fax (256) 845-5475

www.dixiesalvage.com

SOUTHERN PROPERTIES

Agency, Inc.

256-845-6000

www.southernpropertiesagency.com

311 Gault Ave. N., Fort Payne

NEW



UNIQUE MENTONE CABIN in walking distance of DeSoto Falls. Detailed rustic finishes. 2BR/2BA cabin with stainless steel appliance package, leathery granite countertops, stacked stone wood burning fireplace and amenities to numerous to mention! \$275,000. MLS#1132320

NEW



SURROUNDED BY NATURE IN MENTONE. 2.3ac lot w/ 2 bedrooms, large kitchen w/ cooking bar, sun room, laundry room, covered side porch, screened side porch, detached garage & carport, lots of landscaping and room for more. \$115,000. MLS# 1132899

NEW



FURNISHED CRAFTSMAN HOME in the Heart of Mentone! Family room & Master bedroom include rock fireplaces! Screened back porch and all-seasons room for enjoying the outdoors year round. Property is RESIDENTIAL or COMMERCIAL and included in the downtown business district. \$169,900. MLS# 1134273



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



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



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

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! \$199,500. MLS #1125898



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



REDUCED

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! \$182,000. MLS #1127846



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



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

LOTS & LAND

#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 \$83,900.

#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.

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

#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 2.41-acre property just steps away from downtown Mentone. Build your wooded home-site, develop a tiny home community, or invest in the rental business. \$47,500

REDUCED



NEW CONSTRUCTION IN MENTONE! 3-bedroom 2-bath cabin. Tongue and groove walls and ceilings, act quickly and you can finish customization. Sitting on over 2 acres lightly restricted. \$129,900. MLS #1125546



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. \$259,900. MLS #1122165

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

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

#1133689—3.58-acre property just steps away from downtown Mentone. Build your wooded

home-site, develop a tiny home community, or invest in the rental business. \$69,500.

#1133690—4.0-acre property just steps away from downtown Mentone. Build your wooded home-site, develop a tiny home community, or invest in the rental business. \$78,500.



www.southernpropertiesagency.com

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.

Tai Chi for Seniors

FREE Tai Chi classes for seniors, aged 60 and older, will be held weekly in Fort Payne from February 25 through June 09. Tai Chi is an ancient Chinese tradition that today is practiced as a graceful form of exercise. It involves a series of movements performed in a slow, focused manner. Tai Chi will teach you patience, give you confidence and inspire you.

Come make new friends and expand your social network. The next FREE 16-week session meets Tuesdays, 9:30–10:30 p.m., at the DeKalb County Council on Aging Senior Center, 600 Tyler Ave SE. Contact the Center at 256-845-8590 to register.

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 normbaker194@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.

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

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

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

Line dancing lessons are offered at the Fort Payne Senior Center on Tuesdays from 1:30–2:30pm (beginners) and 2:30–3:30pm (experienced). 256-845-8590. (No session on 9/10.)

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

Round Dancing is held at the Fort Payne Senior Center on Tuesdays 5–8:30pm. 600 Tyler Ave. SE, Fort Payne. Call 256-244-5320 to register.

Duos & Solos Square Dancing Club meets at the Fort Payne Senior Center on Thursdays 6:30–8:30pm. 600 Tyler Ave. SE, Fort Payne. Free Classes in February. Call 256-244-5320 to register.

Groundhog T-shirts



**\$15 short-sleeve
Available at Moon Lake Library
Tues & Thur 3–5, Sat 9–1**

Free Ukulele Class (continued from page 3)

laughter and a lot of fun.”

“There was a quiet voice, in Mentone, slumbering just beneath the surface patiently waiting, longing to open so it could rise up and sing. That would be the voice of the ukulele.”

“Plus,” Debra added, “it encourages us to sing (off key) along with it.”

“We plan to start a Facebook page for this group,” she said, “and we might soon name the group, fostering sense of identity and community and even the continuity of our group. There are lots of musical groups in Mentone and we want to be a part of that community.”

For more information, please call Debra Fey at 404-630-2918 or debrafey@gmail.com.



Menlo Restaurant

American Family Style

Friday Night Special 7.99
Hamburger Steak w/ 2 sides, Texas Toast & Drink

Saturday Night Special 13.99
Ribeye Steak w/ 2 Sides, Texas Toast & Drink

Choose from these sides:
tossed salad • slaw • baked potato • baked sweet potato • okra
tater tots • french fries • onion rings • pintos • corn nuggets
onion strings with jalapeno buttons • fried or grilled squash

*Featuring delicious homemade desserts including
pecan pie, chocolate chess pie, and the Menlo Brownie.*

“Best Burgers Around”

Mon–Thu 6am–8pm ♥ Fri–Sat 6am–9pm
7807 Hwy. 48, Menlo, GA 30731
706/862-2281

**Full Country Breakfast
featuring Homemade Biscuits**

SOUTHERN GOLD • SILVER & JEWELRY

*Full Service Jewelry Store
Specializing in Engagement Rings
& Custom Designs*



We buy estates, diamond jewelry

256.997.7591

Layaway & Financing Available

**1706 GLENN BLVD. FORT PAYNE
9–5 M–F (SAT BY APPT. ONLY)**

February

A decorative header featuring a row of seven balloons of varying sizes, each with a wavy string, set against a light gray background. Below the balloons, the text "Happy Day!" is written in a large, elegant, black cursive font.

Happy Day!

- Long-time friend and former owner of the Mentone Springs Hotel Sandra Padgett said, “Lucy

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 Bunnel.



There is no fear in love.

1 John 4:18

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

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

Classified Ads

COTTAGE & CABIN RENTALS in Mentone, AL, high atop LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN near the attractions and downtown. Best Brow Views, River Front and more. See us at cottagesofmentone.com. Call or text anytime 504-481-8666.

HAND-CARVED cottage signs, walking sticks, figurines, and more. Woodcarvings by Don Highfield. Contact Don at 256-634-4222 or 706-340-3124. bit.ly/donhighfield

FURNITURE REPAIR • Restoration • Refinishing • Repainting • Heirlooms • Almost antiques • Mid-century modern • Flea market finds. In-home work on cabinets, panelling, mantles, staircases, all trimwork. 35 years' experience. Pick up and delivery available. Call Allen Treadaway at 706-857-4977 or 706-528-3476.

COX TILE—Sunrooms, marble, baths, shower pan repair. James Pleas Cox, 706-766-2758, jpcoxtile1@gmail.com.

RENT A HUSBAND—A complete handyman service. Decks, painting, pressure washing, sheet rock repairs, carpentry, bath & kitchen, remodeling, windows, doors, fences. Ask for monthly discounts. Free estimates. Home or office. Call Brian at 256-505-9841.

WALL BEDS (Murphy Bed style)—We have all size Wall Beds. Great for spare room and small areas. Come see our showroom in Collinsville, AL on Hwy 68 at the Alabama Mattress Outlet. Store 9–5 Mon.–Sat. Call 256-523-3622 or Andy Crow 256-490-4025.

Advertise in
The Groundhog!

Current Rates & Sizes
All sizes are width x height and measured in inches.

1/8 page \$50 / \$65* (3.25 x 5 OR 5 x 3.25)
1/6 page \$75 / \$95* (3.25 x 6.75 OR 5 x 4.5)
1/5 page \$87 / \$110* (3.25 x 8 OR 5 x 5.25)
1/4 page \$100 / \$125* (5 x 6.5)
1/3 page \$150 / \$185* (5 x 8.75 OR 10 x 4.25)
1/2 page \$200 / \$250* (10 x 6.5)
Full page \$300 / \$375* (10 x 13)

*up charge for color

Layout Charge 10% of ad cost

Classified Ads 45 words or less. \$10/advance

Design services available

mapamentone.com/groundhog-ads
GroundhogAds@yahoo.com
(256) 289-2002

Read
The Groundhog
online at
mapamentone.com

• SUBSCRIBE! Don't miss an issue •
Have The Groundhog delivered to your mailbox.
Just \$20 a year.

Subscribe to The Groundhog
OR become a member of the
Mentone Area Preservation Association
and receive a free subscription!

Name _____ Date _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Email _____ Phone _____

- ☐ New Subscription \$20 ☐ Renewal \$20
Make check payable to The Groundhog, PO Box 387, Mentone, AL 35984.
- OR**
- ☐ I wish to become a member of MAPA and receive a free subscription.
Individuals: \$20 • Couples \$30
Make check payable to MAPA, PO Box 50, Mentone, AL 35984.

Is there someone special in your life who would appreciate a Groundhog subscription?
Just fill in their information above and fill in your name below.

From: _____



The Groundhog is available
at these locations...

- MENTONE**
- Artisans
 - Body Maintenance
 - Clip Joint
 - Fort Payne Water
 - Gourdie Shop
 - Green Leaf Grill
 - Hair @ The Village
 - Helena's Gas & Deli
 - Kaw-liga's Wood Carvings
 - Little River Hardware
 - Log Cabin Village
 - Lookout Mountain Realty
 - Magnolia Rose
 - Mentone Farmers Market
 - Mentone Inn
 - Mentone Market
 - Mentone Mountain Getaways
 - Mentone Realty
 - Mentone Town Hall
 - MERF House
 - Moon Lake Library
 - Moon Lake Trading Company
 - Rocky Top Pottery
 - Southern Style Log Furniture
 - Tip Top Bakery
 - Wildflower Café

- VALLEY HEAD/
HAMMONDVILLE**
- Alabama Organics
 - Bell Battelle
 - Dave's Antiques
 - Merit Bank
 - Miracle Pottery
 - Nena's Produce
 - Tiger's Inn
 - Valley Head Drugs
 - Valley Head Food Mart
 - Valley Head Town Hall
 - Water Board
 - Winston Place
- FORT PAYNE**
- Alabama Fan Club
 - Bargain Depot
 - Big Mill & Vintage 1889
 - Blue Jug
 - Boom Town Makers Market
 - Brown's Cleaners
 - Bruce's Foodland
 - Chamber of Commerce
 - Days Inn
 - DeKalb County Library
 - DeKalb Tourism
 - DeSoto State Park Lodge
 - DSP Country Store
 - First Fidelity Bank
 - Fischer X-Roads Store
 - Fort Payne Senior Center
 - Hampton Inn
 - Holiday Inn

- Huddle House
 - Kilgore Drugs North
 - Priceless IGA
 - Quality Inn
 - "S"-House Antiques
 - Southern Gold & Silver
 - Southern Properties
 - The Spot Coffee Shop
 - The Strand
 - Waffle House
 - Waffle King
- GEORGIA**
- BJ's State Line Store
 - Ingles
 - Jim's Family Restaurant
 - Judy's Herb Shop
 - River Ridge Escape
 - Menlo Handi Mart
 - Menlo Healthmart
 - Menlo Lucky's
 - Menlo Town Hall
 - Menlo Restaurant
 - Mountain Top Country Store
 - Paradise Garden
 - Reece Tire
- OTHER**
- Alabama I-59 Welcome Center
 - Little River Canyon Center
 - Rim of the Canyon Café
& Grocery

... In Memoriam ...

DOLORES EMMA ALLISON
August 30, 1924 – December 28, 2019

Dolores Emma Allison, age 95, of Mentone, passed away on December 28, 2019. She was born on August 30, 1924, in Buffalo, NY, and retired as an administrative assistant in Land Development.

ROY BARKLEY, JR.
December 19, 1946 - December 8, 2019

Roy Barkley, Jr., age 72 of Valley Head, passed away on Sunday, December 8, 2019. Mr. Barkley was born on December 19, 1946, to the late Roy Barkley and Ova Blankenship Barkley in Fort Payne. He worked as a security guard for Allied Security. Mr. Barkley is survived by his wife of 55 years, Sherry Bell Barkley; daughter and son-in-law, Annette & Alan Hughes; son and daughter-in-law, Richard & Donnis Barkley; and son, Roy Barkley, III; grandchildren, Travis Hughes, Blake and Anastasia Hughes, Sarah Barkley, Roy and Shannon Barkley, IV, Akela Barkley, and Patrick Barkley; great-grandchild, Avy Hughes; sisters, Brenda McNutt and Anita Berry; and several nieces, nephews and cousins. He was preceded in death by his parents; sister, Elaine Gray; and brothers-in-law, Roy McNutt and Robert Berry. In lieu of flowers the family requests memorial contributions be made to the Ronald McDonald House, 1700 4th Ave. S, Birmingham, AL, 35233.

CLARA BELL BRIDGEMAN
March 4, 1938 - December 12, 2019

Clara Bell Bridgeman, 81, of Valley Head, passed away on December 12, 2019. She was born March 4, 1938, in South Carolina to the late General Ladd and Mildred Rackley Ladd. Mrs. Bridgeman was a member of Valley Head Baptist Church. She is survived by her sons, Richard Bridgeman and wife, Lisa, Michael Bridgeman, and Gary Bridgeman; daughter, Sarah Thomas; brothers, Bill Ladd and Marvin Ladd; grandchildren, Cathy Hatfield and Katie Bridgeman; and great-grandson, J.P. Bourdon. She was preceded in death by her husband, Haskell Bridgeman, and sister, Cora Mae Parham.

MATTIE LEE GOLDEN
March 22, 1931 – December 20, 2019

Mattie Lee Golden, age 88 of Mentone, passed away on December 20, 2019 at her residence. Mrs. Golden was born on March 22, 1931, to the late Huey and Clara Spruill Dickey, Sr. in Pell City, AL. She graduated college from the University of Montevallo and went on to teach school in the DeKalb County, GA and Sylacauga, AL School Systems. She was a member of Mentone Community Church. She is survived by her son, Keith Golden; daughter and son-in-law, Rachel and David Lee; grandchildren, Andrew McCole, Ashley Ferguson, Wesley Ferguson, Abby Lee, Amelia Lee, and Andy Lee; great-grandchildren, Hallie Grace Lee, Logan Shephard, Andie McCole, and Avery McCole.



ALFRED W. GROGHAN
February 12, 1940 – January 10, 2020

Alfred W. Groghan, 79, of Mentone, passed away on January 10, 2020, at his home. He was born February 12, 1940, in West Virginia to the late Ree and Mary Ruth Pyle Groghan and was one of six children. Al spent his career in real estate and construction. He is survived by his children, Michael Cruse, Dan Groghan and wife, Jana, Sherri Groghan, and Terri G. Carter and husband, Todd; and grandchildren, Cade and Layla Groghan and Dawson and AnnaRae Carter.

CHARLES W. HAMMONDS
March 22, 1940 – December 8, 2019

Charles W. Hammonds, age 92, of Valley Head, passed away on December 8, 2019, at Erlanger Hospital. He was a retired truck driver, a veteran of the United States Army, and longtime and faithful member of Valley Head Baptist Church. He is survived by his children, Tony Hammonds, Pam Burge (Bucky), Tim Hammonds, and Amy Kirby (John); seven grandchildren and five great-grandchildren; sisters Nadine Shipp and Kathleen Purcell; and son-in-law Bobby Owens. He was preceded in death by his wife, Mary Louise Hammonds, and daughter, Debra Hammonds Owens. Pallbearers for his service were Ben Kirby, Riley Hammonds, Heath Burge, Alan Hammonds, David Hammonds, Richard Ellis, Latha Kilgore, and Donnie Wagner.

BONNIE SUE KEY HARRIS
January 30, 1946 – January 22, 2020

Bonnie Sue Key Harris, age 73, of Cloudland, GA, died Wednesday, January 22, 2020, at her daughter's residence. Mrs. Harris was born January 30, 1946, in Cloudland, daughter of the late Gordon Phillip and Helen Jewell Rebecca Holbrook Key. She was a member of Pleasant Grove Baptist Church, and prior to her retirement, she was employed with Menlo Elementary School, where she had worked in the school cafeteria and had previously worked as a janitor. In addition to her parents, Mrs. Harris was preceded in death by her husband, James F. Harris; a son, Jamie Harris; and a brother, Phil Key. Survivors include her daughters, Janet (Dennis) Hartline, Jenny (Franklin) Jones, and Jill (Robby) Neal; a sister, Mary Lou Hegwood; grandchildren, Melody (Rickey) Turberville, Sara (Skylur) Cascella, Bobby Neal, Macy Neal, Devin Dodd, and Dylan Dodd; and great-grandchildren, Wyatt Cascella, Avenly Turberville, and Evin Dodd.

ELOISE FLANNIGAN LANCE
April 26, 1923 – January 13, 2020

Eloise Flannigan Lance, 96, of Mentone, passed away on January 13, 2020. She is survived by several nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her husband, Arnold Lance. Her siblings were William Flannigan, Emma Jean Pena, L.M. Flannigan, Charles Flannigan, and James Flannigan.

I ♥ Reading @ Moon Lake Library

Show how much you ♥ reading throughout the month of February in this fun and friendly reading competition! Students and adults will be competing to see who can read the most books during February. Adults, when you return a book to the library, pick up a white paper heart from

the librarian. Write the title of the book and your name on the heart and turn it in to the librarian. Students will do the same with blue hearts, and they'll all be put on the library windows, so watch the hearts on the windows grow to see who's in the lead!

FAQs

- *Do you have to be a Moon Lake student to participate as a student?* No, this competition is open to everyone—homeschoolers, middle and high school students. As long as you are 17 or younger, you can participate as a student.
- *Does any book count? Even picture books? Graphic novels?* Yes!
- *What if I read a book to my child? Does that count?* Yes. That would count as a book for your child and also for you. Be sure to pick up your hearts at Moon Lake Library.

Serving Northeast Alabama for 50 Years!

877-272-1451



BUILDERS SUPPLY CO., INC.

Fort Payne
(256) 845-1451

www.bsupply.net

Sylvania
(256) 638-2244

Andersen WINDOWS - DOORS
In-House Factory Certified Technician

Concrete Block
Roof and Floor Trusses
Clark + Kensington Paint
Lumber and Building Materials

Pallets & Crates
Plumbing & Electrical
Window and Screen Repair
Industrial Janitor Supplies

Lucy Mitchell (continued from page 20)

she was just one of the crowd. She didn't make any judgments, ever, which is phenomenal. She had very strong opinions, but always an open mind."

One day, Lucy took her daughter Nancy for horseback riding lessons at Shady Grove, where she met Zeke Smith, one of the caretakers. "He was so different from anyone else she'd ever known," said Max. "He didn't put any expectations on her. He let her be her, 100 percent. And that set her free. So, she fell in love with him. He was just a scruffy old biker who liked to read books. Very calm, very intelligent. And he was crazy about my mama." Zeke died around 1994 and is buried at Bankhead Cemetery, where his grave is marked by a rock which Lucy painted with an Indian design and a wooden cross carved with the verse: "I am part of the sea and stars...the Winds of South and North of the Mountains & Moon & Mars and the Ages sent me forth." Lucy loved and missed Zeke so much that after he died, she moved his Triumph motorcycle into her bedroom, where it sat next to her bed for many years, with a rag under the engine to catch any drips.

Lucy often spent winters in Florida, and in the winters of 1997 through 2001, she wintered in Mexico. (In fact, it was on the back of Zeke's motorcycle that she took her very first trip to Mexico.) "You can see the different transitions that happened in her work during that period," said Max. "She painted

a lot of the brightly colored Mexican churches. Because the Mexican sun was so intense, she started painting more boldly, using opposing colors so the colors would pop off the canvas. This added a lot more life to her paintings, most of which she did on site. Sometimes, especially down in Mexico, she'd begin a painting in

acrylic, let it dry, roll up the canvas and bring it home, and then finish it in Mentone with oil paints. When she got to where her knees and heart were bothering her more, she'd work from photographs and books. Her more recent Indian warrior series was based on a lot of research, mostly from books."

"Mom had a heart arrhythmia that got worse and worse," Max said. "I think part of her reason for moving to Florida was so she could feel better. Her arthritis hurt her less and her

sinuses didn't bother her so much when she was by the sea. I think, also, that she didn't want anybody to be bothered with her stuff after she was gone. She sold her house, gave away or sold most of her belongings, and rented an apartment near the water. She could feel that her heart was beginning to fail her and knew her time was running out. So, she made all these preparations for it. It's amazing, really."

An hour before she died, she quietly went to sleep, and then began making motions in the air with her hands. "I think she was painting that last canvas," said Sandra.



Indian Dancer by Lucy Mitchell



Painting by Lucy Mitchell from the collection of Katie Bird Cobble

"Lucy loved so many people in Mentone. She really missed these folks," said close friend and local potter Katie Bird Cobble. "I don't feel like anyone else in my life knew me like she did, because she was so intuitive. Honestly, I think she was entertained by people. I've found lately that I often hear the sound of Lucy's laughter when others laugh, even myself."

Artist Scott Thomas said of Lucy, "Though she has left this world, her art, and the memories of her friendship and unique personality will always remain with the ones of us that were blessed to know her. Lucy's life was her greatest masterpiece."



MOUNTAIN SUN FARM CSA

SIGN UP NOW TO ENJOY A BAG OF FRESH PRODUCE WEEKLY ALL FROM OUR FARM FOR JUST \$18/WEEK



**MOUNTAIN
SUN FARM
MENTONE, AL**



VISIT OUR WEBSITE
MountainSunFarm.com

CSA runs from mid Apr - mid Nov. We have pick up sites in 5 cities, including Mentone and Ft. Payne! Visit our website to see share and farm photos, learn about our growing practices, and to join!



TWO LEFT FEET STUDIOS

Take your wool felting skills to the next level!*

Join Pamela Moniz for a 10-week doll making class and explore figure shapes, whimsical design, and finishing techniques. Classes are \$10 per session with a \$40 material fee. Materials supplied include wool, wire armature, and wood base or wings, depending on your choice of dolls. Felt the outfits or bring some of your favorite materials to dress your figures. For more information and class registration, please contact Pamela at pamela.moniz@twoleftfeetstudios.com. Class size is limited to 10.

*You must have completed the beginner course or have intermediate felting skills to enjoy this class.

BARGAIN DEPOT

Online Returns and More

YOU WILL SAVE MONEY!!



Follow us on



12 months same as cash available

256-273-6877 | 1/4-mile south of Fort Payne High School
thebargaindepot.net | thebargaindepot.fp@gmail.com