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THE GROUNDHOG

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"Neighborhood News from the Heart of Lookout Mountain"

July 2018

Mentone's Covered Bridges

by Holley Midgley

In the June issue of The Groundhog, regular readers will recall a sweet story of the romance between Jim and Dallyne Tilley Jones, of Mentone. The piece was written by their daughter, Sharon Jones Harris. In her story, an old covered bridge in Mentone was a major player. The date of its collapse, June 23, 1945, also happened to be the date chosen by her parents to elope; that's not a date many would forget. The couple eventually did marry, but not that day.

While many folks around here are not aware there ever was a covered bridge in Mentone, Sharon Harris' story and the still visible remains of the bridge make clear that there indeed was such a structure. In fact, in the Mentone area, over the years, there have been three!

First, some background. Covered bridges have been around for centuries. They offered protection from the elements to pedestrians, and helped control the tendency of horses to "shy" when



Old Covered Bridge, River Park, 1931

crossing high places and water. If the bridge had solid sides and the horses were unaware they were crossing a river or stream, they stayed calm. Covered bridges frequently served as places for local communities

to hold dances and other social functions. But primarily they were covered to protect the bridge itself from deterioration by the elements. In the age before treated wood was available, ordinary wood had a tendency to rot, crack, or sag in 15 years or less. But covered bridges could last for decades. It isn't known when Alabama's first covered bridge appeared, but the first one constructed in America is said to be the 1789 bridge near Swanzey, New Hampshire. In her book Covered Bridges Today, Brenda Krekler estimates that there were once 12,000 in the United States alone.

The three covered bridges that were located around Mentone were the Mason Bridge, mentioned above; a bridge near Alpine Camp for Boys near present County Road 165; and, the Old Union Bridge, located near

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Moon Lake School Map Gets a New Coat

and other news from Little River Arts Council • by Kelly Leavitt



The students at Moon Lake School will return this August to a brightly colored map in their front yard. Ten years ago, Jeb Bunch originally painted a large map of the United States at the school as his Eagle Scout project. Since then, time has taken its toll, and some of the states became hardly visible.

Little River Arts Council (LRAC) board member Paula Tally brought this to the attention of the LRAC

board, and everyone immediately agreed to take this on as a group project. As luck would have it, when we told Moon Lake fine arts teacher Paula Easter about our plan, she told us the theme of her curriculum for the next school year is "Road Trip U.S.A.!"

First, we outlined the states in chalk, using existing visible boundaries and sometimes referring to an atlas. (I think we were all surprised by how large Alaska

is.) We bought traffic marking paint and mapped out the colors. We watched the weather forecast and coordinated when we could meet. It was a wonderful bonding experience for the board, and everyone feels fulfilled by the result.

The school's circular asphalt drive has other games — such as four-square, hop scotch, and

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THE GROUNDHOG



The Groundhog is published monthly by the Mentone Area Preservation Association (MAPA). First conceived on Groundhog Day, 1982, and then organized on April 5, 1982, The groundhog has been in continuous

publication for 36 years. MAPA is dedicated to preserving and protecting the heritage, natural environment and other unique qualities of life in the Mentone area. MAPA is chartered as a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation.

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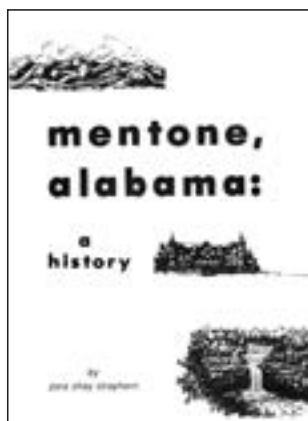
Do you have a story idea?

Perhaps a poem or recipe?

We welcome contributions!

Email groundhognews@yahoo.com

Learn about the History of Mentone



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

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

Mentone Matters • by Mayor Rob Hammond



been going out-of-state.

Clearing the right-of-way on the side of the mountain on AL 117 will begin soon. Residents along 117 have a little more time to maintain the right-of-way before ALDOT begins cutting back foliage in town.

A special referendum election will be held July 17. Voters will mark their ballots either yes or no to this question: Do you favor the sale of alcoholic beverages within the community development district for off-premise consumption?

Voters must reside within the town limits of Mentone. Absentee ballots will be available at Town Hall. Voting will be at Town Hall.

The town council is in favor of a yes vote. The sale of alcoholic beverages for off-premise consumption will boost local businesses and the town will be able to capture tax dollars that have

Letter from the Editor

Mentone is largely regarded for its beauty, with a sense of peace that is too-often unique in this 21st century world. This tiny town has been a “destination” since its earliest days, when folks would come for the healing qualities of the old springs. There’s a lot to love about the area. For more than a century, visitors have come to enjoy the cooler mountain breezes during the summertime. Little River beckons with its beauty; swimming, kayaking, canoeing, and fishing are popular ways to enjoy the river. Mentone’s neighbors are a state park and a national preserve, so visitors have easy access to world-class hiking, rock climbing, and rappelling. The brows to the east and the west afford spectacular views of the sun and moon rising and setting — and at night, we’re just a little closer to the stars.

On weekends, downtown Mentone is often bustling with visitors at the shops and restaurants. This can be fun for both visitors and residents. But it’s definitely a seasonal thing, and sometimes shop owners see little activity. (When an Alabama or Auburn football game is on TV, it can feel like a ghost town!) Most shops are not open during the early part of week, and visitors sometimes feel disappointed. These visitors enjoy shopping, as an activity. But, at least for now, Mentone is not that kind of town. It’s actually a town that offers respite from activity.

When the topic of growth in Mentone comes up in conversation among local residents, usually people say, “I don’t want it to become another Gatlinburg/Pigeon Forge.” Then they say, “I like Mentone just the way it is.”

Mentone is a place for visitors to experience “retreat” (and sometimes that takes a period of acclimation). It is a place to enjoy the simplicity of sitting on a porch’s rocking chair or swing...or lying in a hammock, watching the trees and sky...or soaking up the view from a hot tub on the brow. In short, Mentone is a place to do “no-thing”...a place to not “do”, but “be”.

Local residents appreciate the simplicity of life Mentone offers. When we turn from the distraction of the television, cell phone, or internet, and turn to a book, a blank canvas, our garden, making music, and visiting friends, life is good. It’s hard to feel bored.

For such a small town, we generally have lots of weekend activities to be entertained by, whether in Mentone or nearby Fort Payne. Concerts, workshops, and seasonal arts and crafts festivals are often offered by local organizations, and DeSoto State Park schedules a full slate of activities.

During the week, though, things slow down. Our greatest opportunity is to follow suit, remembering the simplicity of days

past, listening to the song of birds and frogs and crickets, watching the magical dance of fireflies, cooking a healthful meal, floating on the river, or engaging our own creativity.

This is the town local residents have created. People who visit or move to the area sometimes have ideas of how “Mentone can be better.” If and when residents want change, they will create it. It is theirs to implement. In the meantime, I wish you all the peace of Mentone.

— Kelly Leavitt



Mentone Area Preservation Association • by L. C. Moon



It has been a glorious spring in Mentone. As I write this, we are in the midst of the summer solstice. The light of the fireflies, the songs of the birds from dawn til dusk, blooms bursting and the temperate rain storms are creating a peaceful heaven on earth upon Lookout Mountain in Alabama.

MAPA is grateful to be a caretaker of this beautiful landscape and community. As always, we, as a board, encourage you to engage us with any ideas for projects or grants to keep the love and magic alive and present in Mentone. Grant applications can be found at mapamentone.com.

If you have ideas or are interested in being on the board, please contact us at mapamentone@gmail.com.

L.C. Moon is the parliamentarian of the Mentone Area Preservation Association.

Over twenty-five years ago,

I discovered Mentone. I can't remember how I came across the idea. My family consisted of six: myself, my wife, and our four children, who were at that time mostly teenagers. After some discussion, we made plans to visit and found a special place. For a number of years, we made annual trips to the area enjoying both sightseeing, hiking, and rest from the daily rigors of work and school. Also, over the years, we spent time there as a couple for our anniversary getaway.

Sadly, through no fault of our own, we experienced a devastating automobile accident. This caused economic troubles, along with ongoing physical limitations. We were no longer able to travel easily or to even afford to spend for vacations. This year, after not making a visit there for 12 years, we had some recovery of health and money. We also approached our 40th anniversary. Mentone had been so special to us that over the years I had kept the contact information for the agent we had used. Happily, I found her still active and she even had records documenting our visits there. Soon I had arranged a nice surprise getaway for my wife.

However, like any good and considerate husband, I was compelled to tell my wife about the pending trip. This was not only to impress her that I had remembered, but also so that we could plan to be away from our home and our 2 sons for a time. There are still considerable things that must be tended and we would need to ask extra of them.

Fortunately for us, we live reasonably close to Mentone, as we are also in Alabama. We are, however, still about 200 miles apart. One of the great things about our state is the variety of land. We live on the north edge of the Black Belt in west Alabama where the hills are beginning to settle into the mostly flats of central Alabama. Perhaps

that is why we love the views of the mountains, even in early summer. Because of this, we refused to drive on the Interstate System on our way. We enjoyed the side roads and the interesting things we observed along the way. It did cost us a little over 30 minutes in drive time, but that is nothing compared to the traffic we would have faced otherwise. Also, the frantic pace of the driving on the major highways always makes a person develop an attitude of rush, compete, and then, if you can, survive. We never liked that.

We came into town and found a few changes in the look, but the people we found were as friendly as ever. We enjoyed the Farmer's Market and some interaction about town. We went back to the city park on the brow and found it as enjoyable as in our memory. It made us envy the people who lived nearby. We spent the majority of our time at a cabin 'on the brow'. We found the road improved and the view unspoiled. I don't know if it is just a sad fact or a reflection on our home area, but we had better coverage for our phone than we do at home. We had no smart phones back in the earlier visits, so I was a bit concerned about what we

would find. One day we didn't start the engine of our ride. We walked along the property and on the roadside identifying plants. There were numerous ones in bloom. The orange blossoms of the butterfly bush were especially noted as being in prime condition. We came across a few that we could not identify immediately. However, we didn't come to labor over such things, just to enjoy the area and ourselves. We did make a venture down into the Little River Canyon. It was as unsullied as we remembered.

Thanks to all of the people who labor to keep the area a restful and pleasant place.



DeSoto Parkway / County Road 89

- Tony and Patricia Tilley, Reform, AL

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Rhododendron Garden Club • by Mellanie Tuttle



The Rhododendron Garden Club met on June 12 at the Boy Scout House. Hostess Brenda Cox served a delicious Fruit Pizza — chocolate cookie covered in sour cream icing and topped with blueberries, strawberries and peaches. Yum! The meeting was called to order, followed by the pledge to the flag and the meditation given by Madelon David. Quotes by William Kent, Gertrude Stein, David Hobson, Alfred Austin, and Claude

Monet all gave their perspective on gardening. The one that brought laughter was by Rudyard Kipling, “Gardens are not made by singing, ‘Oh, how beautiful,’ and then sitting in the shade.” Oh, if that were only true!

During roll call, members named plants in their yard which would yield seeds for sharing. Coneflowers, Columbine, Moneyplant and Sunflowers were mentioned. Members were also supposed to bring seeds for sharing, but only Rhea Pirch shared Velvet Sunflower seeds that produce a dazzling deep red flower. We welcomed guest Barbara Umland and hope she will be joining the club and sharing her artistic talents with us. (Her painting was one of the hot items at the MERF auction this spring.) Treasurer, Horticulture, and Conservation Chairs were absent, so President Mellanie Tuttle read Dianne Kuehl’s treasurer’s report — dues all paid and still some money left in the bank — and Martha Wood’s horticulture report on “Native Woodies (trees) and the Moths and Butterflies They Support.” Oaks lead in the number of species with a whopping 555! She also provided a handout that listed butterflies and the flowers and plants that attract them. Pollinators need nectar and host plants, so consider Dogwoods, Willows, Birches, Poplars, Crabapples, Maples, Hickories and Pines as well as annual and perennial plants for our Lepidopteran friends.



Old and new business was discussed. The schedule is out for the fall flower show, so members will be gearing up for that. Now is the time to start thinking about which plants to enter for horticultural consideration. Annuals, bulbs, houseplants, and perennials must have been in exhibitors’ possession for 90 days and combination plantings like hanging baskets, terrariums, and dish gardens have a six-week timeline. It’s time to get those entries ready. This year’s goal would be for every member and master gardener in the area to enter at least one item in the Horticultural Division. Sad business is that Brenda Cox resigned as Secretary. We will miss her wit and enthusiasm for getting the club out into the community. With relief and thanksgiving, Rhea Pirch offered to step into the Secretary shoes.

Member Sharon Harris graced us with several handouts on container gardening. The Southern Living website offers “122 Container Gardening Ideas”, providing gorgeous photos for plant combinations using tabletop, hanging, and free-standing containers in both modern and traditional designs. One plant in one pot is considered a container garden. Hostas and hydrangeas both enjoy container living, and in the pot become a feature plant. An advantage of containers is that they can be placed and moved for optimal sun exposure or shade. Tropical plants such as succulents or fruit trees that would not survive Mentone winters thrive through the summer and then need to be moved to a garage or basement to overwinter. Weeds, pests, and water are easily controlled. Sharon said that one of the biggest “no-nos” for containers is over-watering.

On the mountain, with rock six inches below the dirt, containers can give the grower multiple options for growing vegetables, annuals, or perennials. She also shared photos of containers around her house. She groups containers of like style or colors to give unity. Finding containers that will not crack or break can be challenging but well worth the hunt and Sharon admits she is a bit of a container junkie. She has learned from experience that dark colored containers can be too much for sunny areas, as plantings tend to burn or wilt. She uses them to soften the hardscape or as a focal point. She covers the bottom with pot shards or coffee filters to hold in the soil. Styrofoam peanuts or soda cans make a great filler, so less soil is needed, and the pot is lighter — so important if that pot has to be moved inside! Container gardening is also great for folks with limited space or flexibility — no getting down and dirty from digging in the earth. As William Kent said, “Garden as though you will live forever” — with container gardening, you just may!

The RCG meets next month at the Boy Scout House at 10 a.m. on July 10. The program is a hands-on learning experience — all fun, no pressure. Foliage, flowers and containers will be provided, and instruction given, so that everyone will take home a finished design — flower show worthy! Last quotes: “A garden is a grand teacher. It teaches patience and careful watchfulness; it teaches industry and thrift; above all it teaches entire trust.” And finally, “The love of gardening is a seed once sown that never dies.” Think about Johnny Appleseed’s legacy...

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



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Still just as busy as ever (and June is almost over!) • by Paula Easter

June has been just as busy as a school month is for me. Some of you might remember that I am one of those people who likes to still be a “student” from time to time. In the first week of June, I had just that opportunity to once more be a student at the Woodruff Arts Center Education Conference in Atlanta. (Thank you MERF for sending me!) It was a wonderful conference, from keynote speakers to my individual classes. It was also nice to see my friend, Rosemary Newcott, and visit with her. Believe it or not, I came away from “Finding Home” (Rosemary’s workshop) with my ideas and plans for my classroom this year! There



Summer fun in Camp Laney's Craft Cabin

is just nothing like being in a class of other teachers, like yourself, fully devoted to the Fine Arts, wanting to enhance the lives of our young students. Yes, I came back from Atlanta ready to teach. (I bet if any of my students read that...they rolled their eyes.)

Through our 21st Century program at Moon Lake School, June has been full of wonderful opportunities for area students. Mrs. Lance, Mrs. Ballenger, and Ms. Prestwood have worked very hard planning lessons and field trips for students. I have enjoyed getting to have art classes with them. We have studied the ocean and its inhabitants, gone on an imaginary trip in the jungle with our cameras, enjoyed Larry Beane and DeSoto State Park, and can't wait until the last week of June to visit the McWane Center in Birmingham.

For the last, I'm not sure, maybe five years, my summer begins in June with working at Camp Laney. Having raised boys, mine and others, I felt like I could conquer the Craft Cabin at Laney with ease. Right? Well...I'm still trying. The neatest thing is when from one year to the next, campers return to the Craft Cabin and they are as happy to see me as I am to see them. I have often felt like a “mom” figure to what I refer to as “Newbies” or “First Timers,” and I like to think that I sometimes bring comfort to one who might be a little homesick. Just recently, I had a little one who reminded me of kudzu as he stood next to me and said in my

ear, “You smell like my mommy.” (I hope that was a good thing?) It is such a joy to work with Rob, San, and the rest of the Camp Laney gang.

Finally, I would like to brag on a rising third grade Moon Lake student who I've had the privilege of working with in voice and piano. On June 14, Addison Lee took the stage at Northeast Community College, representing Moon Lake Elementary in the “Singing with the Stars” contest sponsored by the DeKalb County Advocacy Center. She took the stage as the youngest contestant that they had ever had, and she did an outstanding job as she wowed the audience. I'm so very proud of this young lady.

Well...it's the end of June folks, what will July bring?



Addison Lee performed at NACC.

Colorfest is the 3rd weekend in October! October 20-21

Call for Art & Craft Makers, Food Vendors, and Performers

- **Applications for Art & Craft Makers and Food Vendors** are available at mapamentone.com/colorfest2018-vendor-application.
- Spaces are \$100 for a 12x12 area. Electricity and water are each an additional \$25.
- Application deadline — August 28.
- Notification of acceptance — September 2.
- **Applications for Performers** will be available online July 25 at mapamentone.com.
- Application deadline — September 5
- Notification of acceptance — September 10.
- Applications will also be available in the August issue of *The Groundhog*.
- For additional questions, email MentoneColorfest@gmail.com.

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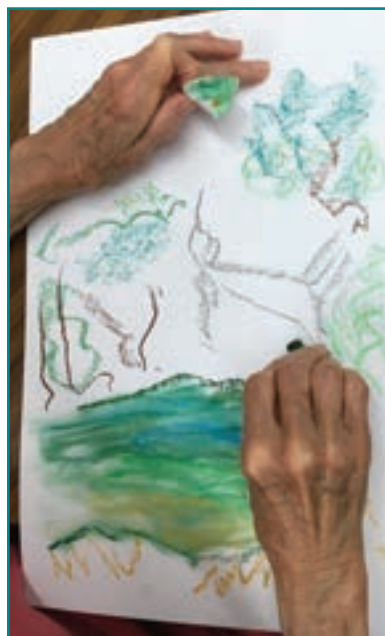
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This Old House: MERF Community House

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.



What's keeping you cool as a cucumber this summer? The senior lunch bunch crew is keeping busy and cool with gathering together and eating! On a stormy day, many braved the rain to join MERF for the first BYOL (buy your own lunch) of the summer at our ever faithful Tiger's Inn. All who came enjoyed a choice of Judy's famous meatloaf or chicken and rice, accompanied by a choice of veggies and a drink. And of course, the best part was the homemade banana pudding that cannot be turned down!

On June 14, the first art class taught by Paula Easter to the lunch crew was a great success. Mentone has artists all over. Paula talked to the group about the Freedom Riders and their artistic style, followed by how to produce a watercolor effect with pastels and baby oil. The table was covered with pastels of



clockwise from L: DeeDee Dunkerley, Vicky Patrick, Jan Wilkinson, Helen Pullen, Peggy Pullen, Barbara Blalock, Paula Easter



all colors and shapes, baby oil, cotton balls and Q-tips. Each artist produced a magnificent landscape. Some even morphed in front of our eyes from a house to a Mentone boulder. MERF and Paula hope to offer four summer art classes at the MERF house. The next one will focus on felting in July. If you want to join us, contact Sarah Wilcox. After the fun art class, several more joined us for an ice cream social — pure joy with ice cream, chocolate sauce, sprinkles and a cherry on top.

MERF is grateful for the support received from the community to fund Paula Easter for this summer and for another school year. She is ready for a road trip this year, so watch out. Sarah has been working on grants, too, to ensure at least partial support for the Moon Lake Elementary School students to see professional performances and to produce another book. Hopefully, the renovation of the MERF house will begin this summer. Fall will be here before we know it and the house needs to be ready for celebrating our community!



Sarah Wilcox is the "voice" of the MERF House. Mentone Educational Resources Foundation (MERF) is a local non-profit with the mission, "To enrich the learning and living of the community by identifying needs and coordinating resources." If you would like to support our programs, tax-deductible donations can be mailed to P.O. Box 107 Mentone, AL 35984 or contribute online at crowdrise.com/MERF. Contact us at merf.mentone@gmail.com or 256-634-4673.



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There's a Balalaika in Mentone

by Kelly Leavitt

People can be so interesting, once you get to talking. Peggy Pullen is one of these people, and she has quite a story to claim. If you ever wondered how Mentone might be connected to Russia's royal dynasty and the Bolshevik Revolution, Peggy is that connection.

She was born Peggy Tcherneshoff, daughter of Petr Ivanovich Cherneshov (Peter John Tcherneshoff) of St. Petersburg, Russia. Peter, his father, and uncle were upholsterers for Tsar Nicholas II. They lived and worked at the famed Winter Palace, where her grandfather was "head of furniture". As revolutionary rumblings became evident, her father escaped to the United States in 1910.

"Anyone who worked with the tsar, whether you agreed with him or you didn't — you were considered an enemy of the ones who were revolting and rebelling," said Peggy. Her grandfather, Ivan Dmitrievich Cherneshov, was arrested in 1923 and executed. Her uncle, Mikhail Ivanovich, was executed, as well. "Aunt Elena, my father's

sister, died during the 1920 siege of St. Petersburg. They had arrested her and put her and her children in a concentration camp, where they starved to death," Peggy recalled. "500,000 people starved to death. We don't know what happened to my grandmother, but we figure she was executed."

Peggy's father travelled on a ship destined for Ellis Island in New York. He was 21 years old. "He'd stowed away, but they found him right away and put him to work on the ship," said Peggy.

When young Peter arrived in New York, he was befriended by the Baird family of Denver. "Mr. Baird told Daddy, 'I'll take you to Denver and get you a job,'" said Peggy. "He gave Dad some land, where he tried to build a house, but all that would come up was black gook. It turns out that was oil, so he was in the oil business for a while, but got swindled out of all that because he trusted Americans."

Peter eventually landed a job with the Ford Motor Company and travelled around the west until he transferred to Jacksonville, Florida, where he met Peggy's mother, who hailed from Tennessee. They married in 1927 and had eight children, two of whom died as infants. In 1945, when Peggy was 8 years old, Peter died of cancer. "We spoke Russian for a while at home, but as Daddy got sicker and sicker, that stopped," said Peggy. "Once he got sick, we didn't use it as much, so we forgot it."

Peter had kept in touch with his relatives during his time in America. "Most of the letters that came to him from Russia were heavily censored. Things were marked out all through them," said Peggy. "Once Daddy's cancer got so bad, he

stopped writing them. He thought it was kinder to not tell them about his cancer, and to just fade out of the picture." His Russian relatives never knew what happened to him.

Being a young girl when he died, Peggy grew up with a simple understanding of her father's past. As it turns out, modern technology



Peter John Tcherneshoff in Denver, Colorado, holding a snowball and a bouquet of alpine flowers, 1910

was able to give her a much better understanding of his story.

In April, 2016, her niece, Rosemary, submitted a DNA sample to 23andME, and included the Tcherneshoff surname. Around the same time, a young man named Ivan Kuznetsov also submitted a sample, and 23andME informed the two of their possible familial relation. That changed everything.

"When Ivan found a picture in his grandmother's archives and sent it to me," Peggy recalled, "I knew he was family because it was a photo of my parents and eldest siblings. He also sent a photograph of my older sister, June, when she was about six months old."

A jubilant reunion of the two families was in order, and, last December, 2017, Ivan, his 10-year-old son, Nikita, and his mother, Tatiana Kuznetsova, came to Mentone for a visit. Ivan was born and raised in St. Petersburg and now works for Google in California. Tatiana teaches physics at the university in St. Petersburg. She speaks very little English, so Ivan acted as translator. "He brought me a book called Caught in the Revolution," said Peggy. "It starts in

1910 in Russia. It was kind of heartbreaking to read because I thought, 'My family is going through this mess.' It was awful."

Peggy explained that "Tatiana's mother, Antonia, is the reason that line survived. She was the daughter of my daddy's brother, Mikhael. I believe that makes her my second cousin. I can't



Tatiana Kuznetsova and Peggy Tcherneshoff Pullen, 2017

figure relationships, because I never had them to figure!" She continued, "My uncle Mikhael sent Antonia to Finland when things got so bad in Russia. She received her training in medicine and returned to St. Petersburg when things settled down. She worked as a pediatrician until the day she died in 1993."

After Peggy's father died, the six children were sent to her mother's sister and her husband because their mother was unable to care for them. The couple was eventually awarded legal custody of the children. Their uncle was a Baptist missionary, so they moved around a good bit; they lived in Powell Crossroads, Collinsville, Albertville, Pisgah, and Fort Payne.



L to R: Tatiana, Nikita, Ivan, and June

(continued on page 11)

Mentone Arts & Cultural Center • by Randy Grider

Daniel Foundation, Kids' Art Class and Clay States Concert



In May, the Daniel Foundation of Alabama awarded the Mentone Arts & Cultural Center (MACC) a \$40,000 challenge grant.

The grant matches dollar for dollar all donations made to MACC up to \$40,000. The money raised will be used to build a permanent multi-use community arts center on the three and half acres of land donated to MACC.

The Daniel Foundation is one of Alabama's most prestigious charitable foundations and has funded some of state's most recognized organizations and noteworthy projects. In 2017, the Daniel Foundation was No. 3 on Alabama's top givers list. Among its regular charities are: the McWane Science Center, Ronald McDonald House, Alabama Ballet, Teach for America, Children's Harbor, Southern Research, Alabama Shakespeare Festival, Tuscaloosa Symphony Orchestra and the Alabama Dance Theatre.

The backing of the Daniel Foundation adds to MACC's growing list of state and regional supporters that include the Alabama State Council on the Arts, the Alabama Tourism Department, Community Foundation of Northeast Alabama, Poarch Band of Creek Indians, and the Alabama Mountain Lakes Tourist Association.

There are opportunities to make donations "In Honor" or "In Memory" of a family member or distinguished citizen. These naming opportunities can be viewed at mentoneartscenter.org/support-us, where



Clay States will perform on July 4 from 7-9 p.m.

you can also make a donation online. Charitable gifts can also be mailed to: Mentone Arts & Cultural Center, P.O. Box 515, Mentone, AL 35984.

MACC will host two events on July 4 at its temporary home located at 5951 Alabama Hwy. 117 in Mentone.

From 1-3 p.m., Meg Richardson is offering a free Mandala Rock Painting Class for children ages 5-12. Class size is limited, so please call 256-635-8986 to reserve a seat.

Clay States will perform at the gallery from 7-9 p.m. Clay States is a renowned Birmingham musical act rooted in antebellum Americana, and experimental country sounds. Admission is a \$15 donation that benefits the Mentone Arts & Cultural Center.

For reservations or more information, call 256-674-3366 or email mentoneartscenter@gmail.com.

We also encourage you to visit mentoneartscenter.org for an overview of our organization and fundraising efforts or MACC-Kamama.com for more information about our temporary location.

Randy Grider is executive director of the Mentone Arts & Cultural Center.

July 4 Events!

Rock Painting Class
1-3 pm • children 5-12

Clay States Concert
7-9pm

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Moon Lake Community Library

by Kelly Leavitt

People are often surprised when they learn that Moon Lake Community Library is not a government-funded library, but that it's community-funded, solely relying on book sales and donations for its funding. As such, we don't enforce any geographic limitations, so we provide free library cards to anyone who would like one (no matter where you live). Come by the library to apply for a card, borrow a book or movie, or purchase a book from our sale shelves. Need a book for the beach? Come on in! Through July, we're offering a \$1 sale on our hardcover books. We have a large selection of fiction, history and other subjects.

Thanks to a generous grant from MAPA, the library now has two brand-new laptops for the community's use. The board has developed guidelines for use, which are posted on our community bulletin board.



We truly appreciate our volunteers who give a few hours each month helping check books and movies in and out, reshelving, and generally being of assistance. If you enjoy books and people, please consider volunteering. Call Dianne Kuehl at 256-634-4538 for more information.

We're excited about the Summer Community Gathering that we're hosting on July 28! (See the back cover of this issue for details.)

We continue to offer complimentary coffee and great camaraderie. Jerry Megli is at the library every Saturday morning to play chess — if you don't yet know how to play, he will gladly help you learn.

Our hours are Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3–6 p.m. and Saturday from 9am–1pm. See you at the library!

Kelly Leavitt is the community librarian.

Free Saturday Classes at the Library



Learn the Basics of Playing the Ukulele

with Wiley Selman & Don David

Saturday, July 7 & 14 • 12–1pm



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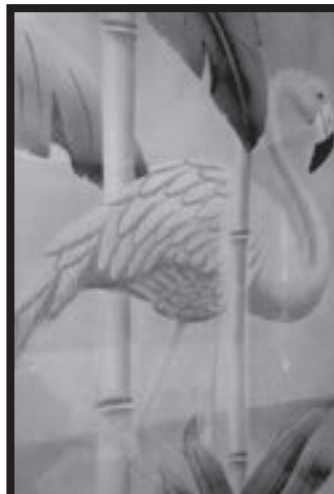
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SENIOR HEALTH: What Medicare May Not Cover • by Lynn Hixson

Original Medicare doesn't cover everything. If you need certain services that aren't covered under Medicare Part A or Part B, you'll have to pay for them yourself unless you have other coverage (including Medicaid) to cover these services or if you are in a Medicare Advantage Plan that covers these services. Some of the items and services that Original Medicare doesn't cover include:

- Eye examinations related to prescribing glasses
- Housekeeping services to help you stay in your home, such as shopping, meal preparation and cleaning (unless you are receiving hospice care)
- Non-medical services, including hospital television and telephone, a private room in the hospital, canceled or missed appointments, and copies of X-rays
- Personal care or custodial care, such as help with bathing, toileting and dressing (unless homebound and receiving skilled care), and nursing home care (except in a skilled nursing facility if eligible). You can choose to buy private long-term care insurance for these services.
- Cosmetic surgery (unless it is needed to improve the function of a malformed part of the body)
- Hearing aids or the examinations for prescribing or fitting them
- Most dental care or dentures
- Acupuncture
- Most non-emergency transportation, including ambulate services
- Long-term care
- Concierge care which is retainer-based medicine, boutique medicine, platinum practice, or direct care.

Although Original Medicare does not cover these services, a Medicare private health plan may cover them. These are commonly called Medigap policies, or Medicare supplements. You must check with your individual plan or policy to see which, if any, they cover.

If you have any questions or need assistance please call the DeKalb County Council on Aging at 256/845-8590 and make an appointment to see the State Health Insurance Program (SHIP) counselor to assist you.

Lynn Hixson is the SHIP counselor at the DeKalb County Council on Aging.

The Lookout Mountain Knitters



The Lookout Mountain Knitters meets on Tuesday afternoons at 3 p.m. at Moon Lake Community Library. You don't need to be a knitter to join, but if you enjoy any kind of needlecraft, feel free to bring your yarn and needles and enjoy time socializing while doing handwork.

Dirt Roads

by Paul Harvey

What's mainly wrong with society today is that too many Dirt Roads have been paved.

There's not a problem in America today, crime, drugs, education, divorce, delinquency that wouldn't be remedied, if we just had more Dirt Roads, because Dirt Roads give character.

People that live at the end of Dirt Roads learn early on that life is a bumpy ride.

That it can jar you right down to your teeth sometimes, but it's worth it, if at the end is home...a loving spouse, happy kids and a dog.

We wouldn't have near the trouble with our educational system if our kids got their exercise walking a Dirt Road with other kids, from whom they learn how to get along.

There was less crime in our streets before they were paved.

Criminals didn't walk two dusty miles to rob or rape, if they knew they'd be welcomed by 5 barking dogs and a double barrel shotgun.

And there were no drive by shootings.

Our values were better when our roads were worse!

People did not worship their cars more than their kids, and motorists were more courteous, they didn't tailgate by riding the bumper or the guy in front would choke you with dust & bust your windshield with rocks.

Dirt Roads taught patience.

Dirt Roads were environmentally friendly, you didn't hop in your car for a quart of milk you walked to the barn for your milk.

For your mail, you walked to the mail box.

What if it rained and the Dirt Road got washed out? That was the best part, then you stayed home and had some family time, roasted marshmallows and popped popcorn and pony rode on Daddy's shoulders and learned how to make prettier quilts than anybody.

At the end of Dirt Roads, you soon learned that bad words tasted like soap.

Most paved roads lead to trouble, Dirt Roads more likely lead to a fishing creek or a swimming hole.

At the end of a Dirt Road, the only time we even locked our car was in August, because if we didn't some neighbor would fill it with too much zucchini.

At the end of a Dirt Road, there was always extra springtime income, from when city dudes would get stuck, you'd have to hitch up a team and pull them out.

Usually you got a dollar...always you got a new friend...at the end of a Dirt Road!

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Arts Council News (continued from page 1)

checkers — which need to be repainted, as well. We invite community members to help us with this next stage of the project. We also plan to begin refurbishing the drop box at Moon Lake Library using a decoupage technique. If you

would like to participate in either of these projects which will begin mid-July, please join our email list at littleriverartscouncil.org or “like” our Facebook page. As our plans progress, we will keep you posted.

“Music for the People,” our summer music series, continues on Saturday, July 7, when Jerry and Pixie Bloom will perform from 6 until 8 p.m. at DeSoto State Park’s CCC Pavilion (near the Country Store). This is a free, family-friendly concert, and attendees will have the opportunity to make art during the show. Jerry Bloom is a vocalist, guitar player, and harmonica player who has been playing music for over 30 years. Some of his musical influences are Neil Young, Bob Dylan and Eric Clapton. Jerry



Jerry and Pixie Bloom will perform at DeSoto State Park on Saturday, July 7.

and his wife, Pixie, are local favorites in the Mentone/Fort Payne area. On August 4, we’ll host Lumbar Five, a band from Chattanooga, and on September 1, Mentone’s own Pierce Pettis will take the stage. These two concerts will be at the Mentone Inn Pavilion. Visit our website to learn about the performers in our summer music series, which is made possible in part by a grant from the Alabama State Council on the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts.

We invite the public to another meeting to further discuss creative placemaking on Thursday, July 12, at 6:30 p.m. at the pavilion at Brow Park. (By the end of the meeting, we’ll be able to enjoy the sunset together.) Also, keep an eye out in Mentone this summer for various “pop ups” which the Arts Council will facilitate.

The mission of the Little River Arts Council is to encourage individual creativity and to broaden community participation, appreciation and support for the visual, performing, and literary arts in the Mentone area. Visit littleriverartscouncil.org.

Peggy Pullen (continued from page 7)

The children fared well in their adult lives. Peggy had a long career as an elementary school teacher and taught in schools on Sand Mountain and in northwest Georgia. Her brother, John, received his master’s degree in business and founded DeSoto Mills in Fort Payne. Peggy’s brother, Pete, obtained his master’s degree in theology and spent his life as a Baptist missionary in Brazil. One sister,



*The Tcherneshoff siblings, 2000
L to R, front row: Pete, John
middle row: June, Peggy; back row: Bill, Martha*

June, was a cardiac intensive care nurse, and her other sister, Martha, worked in office work. Her brother, Bill, trained to be a dentist. “Bill got a job in a bronze factory to pay for college,” Peggy said. “He enjoyed it so much, he made it his career.”

Bill, an accomplished bronze sculptor living and working in Santa Fe, New Mexico, has a strong presence in Fort Payne. “Buck

Borders was the accountant for the band Alabama and also a very dear friend of my brother John,” said Peggy. “Buck wanted statues of the Alabama boys and when he learned that Bill worked in bronze, he gave the job to him.”

As fate would have it, one of the family’s newly-discovered Russian cousins, Dimitri Kuznetsov (Ivan’s brother), also works in bronze. Peggy and her husband, Walt, hope to meet other relatives during a trip to Russia next summer.

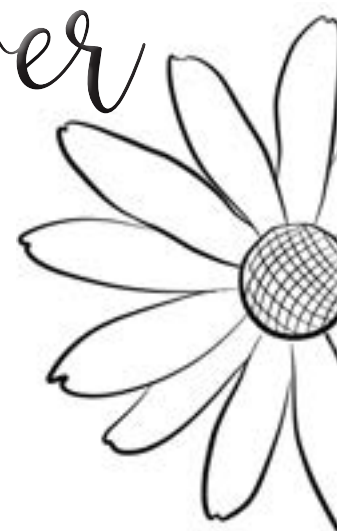
I enjoyed spending a pleasant afternoon in the Pullen home as Peggy told me her story. When I was leaving, I noticed an interesting musical instrument leaning against the wall. Peggy explained that it was a balalaika, a traditional Russian stringed instrument. “My father went to school with the tsar’s children. Even though my grandfather was a

laborer and of a lower social class, his children were allowed to attend classes with the royal family,” said Peggy. One advantage is that he received musical training, unlike other children of his class. “I remember Daddy playing his balalaika. I bought this from Mickey Luck one day,” Peggy said, “with dreams of learning to play it.”

I was struck by this connection, musing that Peggy’s early days listening to her father play the instrument of his homeland may indeed have influenced the role music has played in her life. She spent many years of her career teaching music to elementary school children, and has long been the director of the Mentone-area community choir which performs a Christmas cantata each year.

Connections are everywhere...once we get to talking.

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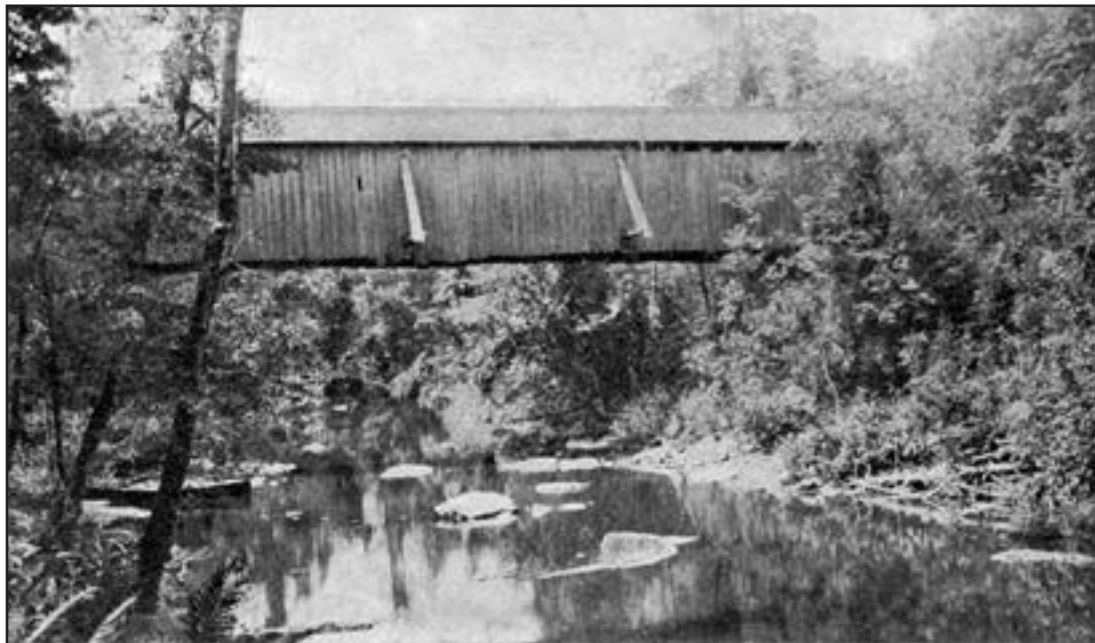
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*Tcherneshoff / Pullen Family Reunion
December, 2017*

Covered Bridges (continued from page 1)

*"Mentone, Ala. Bridge over DeSoto River"
We are calling this the Mason Bridge.*

Cloudmont Golf and Ski Resort, beside Riverview Camp for Girls. Two structures remain: the supports for the Mason Bridge and the Old Union Bridge.

The Old Union Bridge originally spanned Otter Creek, near Lincoln, Alabama. Built by Union troops during the Civil War, it was purchased and moved in 1972 by Mentone's Jack Jones, founder of the golf and ski resort. Over the years, it has been damaged by storms, rebuilt, and modified. Only part of the bridge is actually covered, and it's difficult to tell if any of the original bridge remains. [NOTE: for the curious among you, this bridge is on private property, so stop at the Ski Resort's main building and ask permission before wandering down to see it.]

The bridge near the current Alpine Camp crossed the river from the west to River Park, an area which was developed in the 1920s and 30s by the legendary Colonel Milford Howard. (The road did not yet extend to the east.) It was the Colonel who built the Sally Howard Memorial Church (the church in a rock) on County Road 165. Over his lifetime, Howard was at various times a lawyer in Fort Payne, a developer, a movie producer, a two-term U. S. Congressman, and a newspaper columnist [see his biography, *Vagabond Dreamer*, available at the Moon Lake Community Library]. He personally surveyed, on foot, the entire length of what is called the Lookout Mountain Parkway, which ran on top of Lookout Mountain from Noccalula Falls above Gadsden to Point Park above Chattanooga.

Mentone resident Don Pirch has memories of this bridge from his early childhood. His father owned a small store built of stone near the southwest side of the bridge. Don recalls that the bridge had built-in tire tracks that drivers had to maneuver. General information on this bridge is practically nonexistent.

The third bridge is what might be called the Mason Bridge, the star of our story. It crossed over the river near the current bridge on Highway 117, about three quarters of a mile south, connecting West River Road to East River Road, which was the Valley Head to Summerville Road in those days. John Mason, Mentone's founder, and his son, Ed, were early movers and shakers in Mentone. Ed was an entrepreneur and beginning in the 1870s, he owned and operated a mill

on the banks of the river at Moon Lake, near where the bridge would eventually be built. Mason was interested in promoting Mentone as an appealing town with great natural beauty and a moderate climate. He built a shallow, rectangular lake behind a low dam on West River Road; the lake extended to about where the current U. S. Post Office sits. It was bounded by what is now Highway 117 (then called Lake Street) on one side and Cutler Avenue (Mentone's main drag in those days) on the other. He had the surrounding land platted, then promoted the lots which he created as home sites. He attempted to develop it (with only moderate success), as he later did at Moon Lake (the location of the future summer home of educator Martha Berry, founder of Berry College in Rome, Georgia). Sometime in the 1960s, the dam holding back the lake was breached, and today any water that accumulates in the old lake bed drains down to the Little River, about 150 yards away. Today there are plenty of houses located around the lake site.

Getting across the Little River a hundred and fifty years ago was a difficult proposition. This was long before the dam at DeSoto Falls was built by A. A. Miller (in the mid-1920s), which significantly raised the depth of the river. Before the dam, the river looked more like a typical Appalachian mountain stream than the way it looks today. One account says that there was a ford across the river in the old days, approximately where the Mason Bridge was later built. Other sources say there was

once a ferry on the river, but it is difficult to imagine where a ferry could have found water deep enough to make it work in the days before the dam raised the water level in the river. Still, from Mentone's earliest days, people had to get across the river from one side to the other just to conduct their daily affairs. Even decades after the Mason Bridge was built, getting over the river at places other than the covered bridge was a challenge. The late Homer Crow, life-long Mentone resident, remembered that in the 1920s he would cross the river over a thick board, where Highway 117 is now, so he could go to Moon Lake School.



"Old wooden bridge across Little River, Mentone, Ala."

(continued on page 13)

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Covered Bridges *(continued from page 12)*

In around 1880, the Masons decided to donate all the materials necessary to construct a wooden, single-lane covered bridge, which local people then built. Perhaps not coincidentally, the bridge made access to Ed Mason's home and mill, just yards away, pretty darn convenient. The bridge was anchored on either side of the river by stone abutments, and supported by two columns in the middle, nearer the water. One of those columns still remains; the other collapsed during a hurricane in the early 1990s. Since its demise, many of its stones have been pilfered by those eager to acquire building materials the easy way.



The Old Union Bridge

An early photo which appeared in print identified the bridge as "the bridge over the DeSoto River" (see page 12). However, long before the invention of photography the official state of Alabama map commissioned by Congress and printed in Philadelphia in 1836, clearly identifies the stream as Little River. Probably whoever wrote the caption for the picture assumed that a river behind DeSoto Falls must surely be the DeSoto River.

There are still a number of people in Mentone who remember this bridge. Amelia Kirk was born here, and recalls crossing over many times in the late 1930s with her uncles and grandfather. "We never had any problem at all," she says. A former owner of the Mentone Inn, Ms. Lolly recalls an attempt to raise funds by the Mentone Area Preservation Association (MAPA) several years ago to rebuild the bridge. However, some residents of West River Road didn't like the prospects of increased traffic, so the project was shelved.

Evelyn Jones, age 93, was raised just a few hundred yards from the bridge. She remembers well the trips she made over it with her father. "I never felt like it was unsafe at the time," she reports. The bridge also accommodated foot traffic. "My father told a story about when he was a boy, walking across the bridge and dropping a stone on a snake sunning itself on the rocks below."

Walt Pullen was born in Mentone three years after the bridge collapsed. "Even in the early 1950s," he says, "some of the floor of the bridge still extended from the east bank out to the first support column. We'd walk out on it as far as we could go, like adventurous kids will do. I remember being there once with my father, and he had told me to stay in the car while he was talking to some men. I snuck out on the bridge's planks and stepped on a nail, so I gave myself away pretty easily," Walt said with a chuckle.

According to Clay Stiles, who lives just a few hundred yards from the bridge site, starting in 1913 his mother's family (the Culps) owned what was then called Riverdale, at the end of West River Road. It was a summer retreat, and was eventually bought by former Alabama Assistant Football Coach Malcolm Laney in the late 1950s. Since then, it's been known as Camp Laney for Boys. Stiles says his uncle, Billy Culp, told him that ironically, in June of 1945, a truck loaded with building materials needed to fix the aging bridge tried to cross over and never made it to the other side. The truck and materials crashed into the river, spilling its supplies, which included a large number of iron spikes. "My uncle and everybody nearby quickly went to the site and scooped up all the spikes they could carry," he says. "For years, people would dive into the river and look for those spikes!"

Rome physician Dr. Soc Sennett owns the house and property immediately adjacent to the old bridge. Although he didn't start coming to Mentone until the late 1960s, he says Mentone's unofficial historian, Jimmy Jones, used to tell him stories about the goings on around the bridge. This is the same Jimmy Jones who was set to elope with his future wife, Dallyne, on June 23, 1945, as mentioned in the preface to this story. Jones told Dr. Sennett that there were two, perhaps three, general stores adjacent to the bridge. Farmers taking cotton from Valley Head to Rome used to stop at the stores and buy "linament", which was heavily laced with alcohol. Maybe it made the two-day trip to Rome more tolerable? "For years when I would do landscaping around my house, I used to find lots of old linament bottles; that stuff must have been pretty popular," Dr. Sennett remembers.

If you'd like to see the ruins of the old Mason Bridge, it can be found about one and three-quarters miles up-river from DeSoto Falls. You can't miss them, but please just look; leave those historic stones where they lay, silent testimony to a time when moving from place to place in Mentone wasn't nearly as easy as it is today.



The remains of a stone column where Mason Covered Bridge once stood.

[If you have any bridge stories you'd like to share, pass them on to *The Groundhog* and we will share them in future issues.]

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St. Joseph's on-the-Mountain Episcopal Church would like to thank all the Mentone post office staff, Brenda Nelson, Amy Brooks, Jennifer Davis, and Debbie Batty for collecting over 500 pounds of food donated by postal customers during the National Mail Carriers Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive held in May. The donations will be used to help provide food to the families who shop our weekly food pantry. To the folks who donated food and to the post office staff who collected the donations, we greatly appreciate your generosity.

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Valley Head Junior Beta Club

The Valley Head Junior Beta Club recently attended the National Junior Beta Convention in Savannah, GA. The students exhibited exceptional talent in the areas of visual arts, group projects, and essay. Two students placed nationally. Cooper Kirby placed sixth in sculpture and Chance Pearson placed second in woodworking. The students enjoyed visiting the many historical sites of Savannah, and a few enjoyed a personal meeting with Mrs. Paula Deen. The club would like to thank the communities of Valley Head and Mentone for their continued support.



L to R: Sponsor Tara Kirby, Cooper Kirby, and sponsor Christi Black



L to R: Kensley Worthey, Cooper Kirby, Kowen Worthey, Jase Kirby



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SHILE



...d at the Savannah College of Art and Design



Chance Pearson placed 2nd in Woodworking.



L to R: Allie Pritchett, Marco Mendoza, Ella Holloway, Finley Darwin



...: Allie Pritchett, Chance Pearson, Marco Mendoza, ...olloway, and Ellie Cox enjoyed meeting Paula Deen and her sons at Lady & Sons Restaurant.



Cooper Kirby placed 6th in Sculpture



L to R: Finley Darwin, Ethan Smith



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

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

To arrange your wedding or renewing of your wedding vows, call

256-634-4181



River Voice • by Bill Shugart

Remember when you were an eight-year-old kid swimming with your friends, racing each other across to the other side of the river? Remember that feeling of absolute freedom as you felt the water move across your skin? Remember the smile it put on your face? I never thought I would feel that way as a grown-up until the time I swam underneath DeSoto Falls.

For a long time, I was not interested in swimming in the basin. I had an imaginary risk assessment list of things that could go wrong. (I firmly believe that

like the perfect place for Nessie, Jaws or someone's pet anaconda that escaped the Everglades and traveled north.

Because I am gifted with such an extraordinary imagination, I've had to become really good at ground-truthing things I dream up. I figure, if my mind is telling me silly stuff like that, I should probably go check it out.

So, one spring morning, I grabbed a life jacket and headed down the trail that leads to the beach. I was really excited. When I got there, I waded into the cold water and started to swim across the huge pool towards the endless downpour. The bottom quickly disappeared and I was nervous. My skin was a little blue and I had a shiver as my body adjusted to the adrenaline and the cold water. The sandstone

program Little River Waterkeeper. We are a licensed member of the Waterkeeper Alliance. There are over 400 of us, now, each working to protect a body of water from pollution. In Alabama, there are eight organizations and their staff members. I feel lucky to say that I love and respect every single one of them for the people they are and the work they have chosen to take up. We are lucky to have some of the best and brightest folks in these roles who could make a lot more money doing less demanding and more popular work. But they chose water advocacy, and we Alabamians are all lucky for that.

One of the things we do as Waterkeepers is test the quality of the water. We publish weekly test results on our website, littleriverwaterkeeper.org. For a simple version, a quick Google search for "Little River



if my current occupation doesn't stand the test of time, I'd make a great insurance agent.) Anyway, I was concerned about strong currents and things underneath the water. I heard stories from the old timers that there was a hole in the middle of the basin crisscrossed with sunken logs that had washed over the falls in the high water. I knew of old docks that were washed away during floods and imagined them with boats attached in a life-size aquarium scene across the murky bottom of the pool. It seemed to me

cliffs towered above me like cathedral walls. The falls created a powerful roar that reverberated through my chest as I swam closer to it. I felt like I was in the church of the creator and the river was the choir.

The current I worried about wasn't all that bad. Still, I was thankful for my life-vest. The water was cold, clean and dark. I didn't think the swim would take as long as it did but the pool is huge! The falls came closer and the mist from the waterfall made rainbows as I swam around behind it. The experience

of looking up to see the water rushing over me was something I can't find the words for. But I tell you this, I laughed out loud in pure elation. It was incredible.

I've had the opportunity to take a handful of people to have that experience since then. It's experiences like these that connect us to a place. When we care about a place, we want the best for it. That's why we started the

Swimguide" should pull up a link to theswimguide.org/affiliates/little-river-waterkeeper.

We test nine key spots every week throughout the swim season. The tests cost about \$14 a piece, so if this kind of work means something to you and you have a little money to invest in clean water, please contribute. I'd like to thank Rudy Fowler for his recent contribution of \$100. Hey, Rudy, we really appreciate it! Thank you! Dad says, "Hello," and hopes you are doing well. You can send questions, comments, or donations to our office at 215 Grand Ave. SW Fort Payne, AL 35967.

I'd love to hear about your river experience, so please share your stories. Shoot me an e-mail to wyshugart@littleriverwaterkeeper.org.

I'll close today with a reminder that Little River is one of the cleanest rivers in the state of Alabama. We can be proud of it. Just to be clear, I am not saying you should go out and drink a big cup full. The river is not without threats that can take it down a notch or make you sick, so we have to stay on top of issues that arise. Water quality changes. After a heavy rain, we see bacteria levels increase, and that can last a couple of days. Most importantly, we want people to be safe when they use the river, so do your part to "be in the know before you go." Check water levels and pollution reports. To report pollution issues, call 256-516-2877 and let us know. Thanks!

Bill Shugart is the Little River Waterkeeper.

Great tasting alkaline water for \$1/gallon

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NEW



WORKING POULTRY FARM with approx. 16 acres! Two 42x500 operating Pullet houses built in 2006. Houses operate on well water with city water back-up. Contract currently with Pilgrim's Pride. Property has pond and fencing. 25x50 3-bay shed. 3BR, 2BA house with carport built in 1970 also on the property. \$299,000. MLS #1096127

REDUCED



THE HISTORIC CRAGSMERE MANOR, on 5+ acres serves as rental lodging and/or event hosting. Perfect setting for large or small groups, 6BR/4BA, Large kitchen, dining, and living area, covered pavilion. \$699,000. MLS#1066488



UNBELIEVABLE brow home on 1.95 acres. 4BR/3BA, open living/kitchen area, formal DR, numerous decks and screened porch. Many gorgeous rock formations, a detached 2-car garage/workshop and more. \$323,900. MLS#1048899.

REDUCED



THE VERY BEST of both worlds awaits you in this custom built home situated on beautiful Lake on the Brow. Breathtaking views of the valley below in sight from your front porch. \$324,500. MLS #1088251

REDUCED



FIRST TIME offered in forty years! Unbelievable brow frontage that includes two lots overlooking the valley below. Call for your private tour. \$325,000. MLS #1089656



CHARMING CABIN IN MENTONE - Tongue and groove vaulted ceilings, wood floors and exposed beams gives this custom log cabin that rustic feel. Peacefully situated among the large rock formations on the north brow with 110 feet of frontage overlooking the valley below. Selling furnished with all appliances, plus washer & dryer. \$265,500. MLS #1094088



A MUST SEE! Downtown Mentone 1BR/1BA fully furnished, redecorated log cabin! Walk to every event, festival, restaurant, then mosey to the front porch of your retreat and enjoy the music! \$159,000. MLS #1087805



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



REDUCED

ENJOY SUNRISE & SUNSET VIEWS in this cozy Mentone home located on Scenic Hwy. Open family room, dining and kitchen. Call for appointment today! \$299,900. MLS #1069365



LIVE & PLAY ON THE WATER! Enjoy 200 feet of frontage on the East Fork of Little River in this waterfront home. \$197,500. MLS #1090616



BEAUTIFUL Mountain Get-Away with gorgeous view year round. 3 bedrooms, 2 bath, shake-sided outside w/low maintenance metal roof. Deck. \$235,000. MLS#1000691



JUST MINUTES FROM MENTONE & 1.5 mi. from DeSoto State Park. "Stone's Throw" offers 3BR/2BA with tons of extras! \$189,000. MLS #1089979



A WELCOMING ESCAPE from the city bustle! One bedroom, one bath cottage on 2.6 acres with BROW VIEW! \$195,000. MLS #1085360



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



REDUCED

BEAUTIFUL COTTAGE with open floor plan. Fully remodeled spacious 2 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath. Comes completely furnished! \$189,900. MLS #1085122



PRIVATE MENTONE COTTAGE! You'll love this gorgeous Mentone cottage that feels like a private retreat. Hardwood & tile floors, woodburning FP, covered porches, & more! \$154,900. MLS #1072513



REDUCED

SWEET LII' MENTONE HOME! Life is sweet in this two bedroom, two bath home! \$104,900. MLS #1068148



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



REDUCED

FARMHOUSE WITH LOTS OF CHARM AND CHARACTER! You'll love coming home to this 2BR/1.5BA home near Camp Desoto in Mentone. Situated on 2.7 acres with partially fenced pasture! \$152,000. MLS #1087613



REDUCED

COME HOME TO PEACEFUL SURROUNDINGS in this large brick ranch-style home. 3BR/2.5BA situated on 2 acres with 2-car garage. \$145,000. MLS #1087213



MENTONE BROW HOME! 2BR/2BA brow home with tons of character! Enjoy all the extras like hardwood floors, rustic wood walls, gas log fireplace & more. Being sold furnished. Call today! \$329,000. MLS #1076700



YOU WILL LOVE COMING HOME to this unique and one-of-a-kind Log Home minutes from DeSoto State Park, Alpine Camp, and Mentone. Built in 2006 and constructed of 6x12 Pine Logs with Dovetail cornering, this home has over 2,000 sq. ft. and boasts tongue & groove ceilings, exposed beams and beautiful oak floors. \$199,900. MLS #1092849



Happy 4th of July

LOTS and LAND

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

#1027934 - Lot on River Lane. \$29,900.

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

#1032720 - 2.8 acres on East Fork of Little River with easy access! \$44,900.

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

#1038089 - 6 1/2 acres with approx. 250' of road frontage and 1-1/2 acres of level land for a secluded home site. \$138,000.

#1039769 - 6.32+/- waterfront building lot in Mountain River Estates! \$49,950.

#1056358 - 3.2 acre lot on the brow in Mentone near DeSoto State Park. \$269,500.

#1057429 - 4 acres in Valley View Forest. \$79,900.

#1065542 - 90 acres on Co. Rd. 89 in Mentone. \$360,000.

#1065504 - One acre on Co. Rd. 89 in Mentone. **REDUCED TO \$139,900.**

#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. \$104,000.

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

#1076286 - 1.75 acre building lot in West Fork Subdivision. \$42,000.

#1076577 - Lot 6, Hunter's Ridge. **REDUCED TO \$13,900.**

#1078002 - Brow view, 4.4 acres. **REDUCED TO \$125,000.**

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

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

#1080922 - .54 acres, Mentone Bluffs. \$59,999.

#1081506 - 7 wooded acres within walking distance to DeSoto State Park. \$70,000.

#1083789 - 2.11 acres with 300' of waterfront in beautiful West Fork Subdivision. \$44,900.

#1085244 - 1.5+/- acres in Mentone! Wooded tract with paved road frontage. \$19,000.

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

#1092172 - Spend your summertime on the LAKE... or spend forevermore! 1.70 acres with over 200' of waterfront at beautiful Lake on the Brow. \$49,000.

#1094616 - ON LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN. Lakefront lot in Gated Community. \$32,500.

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July 2018 Community Calendar

All Times are Central. This calendar is subject to change.

July 2—Fort Payne Independence Day

Celebration. The City of Fort Payne presents the annual Independence Day Celebration at 5pm with music starting at 5:30pm. *Rain date will be Tuesday, July 3.



July 4—Mandala Rock Painting for Kids. Led by Meg Richardson. Free. 1–3pm. Sponsored by Mentone Arts & Cultural Center, 5971 Ala. Hwy. 117.

July 4—"Clay States" Concert. Admission is \$15 donation that benefits Mentone Arts & Cultural Center. 7–9pm. 5971 Ala. Hwy. 117.

July 4—35th Annual Sand Mountain Potato Festival. Sand Mountain is well known for its rich diversity of agricultural products, including potatoes. Celebrate our heritage with live music, arts and crafts, entertainment, games and fireworks. Event begins at 10am and culminates with a beautiful fireworks display. 256-657-6282.

July 5—Art in the Alley. Bring your friends and let's have some fun! Join us after work for Art in the Alley, and enjoy local food, music, and art in Fort Payne's Entertainment District—and Boom Town Makers Market. Look for the festival lights at Boom Town Makers Market and view our Summer Art Opening. 5–8pm.

July 6—6th Annual Splish & Splash Pool Party at DeSoto State Park. Join the fun and cool off in our Olympic-size pool, play pool games, eat homemade ice cream, and enter for door prizes! Admission \$1/person. 6:30–9:00pm. DeSoto State Park Pool. 256-997-5025.

July 6 & 28—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. Join us for some in-depth discovery at Orbix Hot Glass. Reservations required. \$145/person. 9am–1pm. 256-523-3188.

July 6 & 7—Guided Backpacking Trip:

Overnight Survival. Learn the basic survival skills needed to survive in the wilderness (don't worry, this trip you will have your backpacking gear to fall back on!) DeSoto State Park. Contact Seven Pines Survival for

reservations 209-559-0040 or email sps@sevenpinesurvival.com.

July 7 & 14—Learn Basic Ukulele Skills. Come to the library and learn the basics of playing the ukulele with Wiley Selman and Mickey Luck. 12–1pm. Moon Lake Community Library, Mentone. moonlakelibrary.org.



July 7—Concert: Jerry & Pixie Bloom. Part of Little River Arts Council's Summer Music Series. Free for all ages. Enjoy free art activities during the show. DeSoto State Park's CCC Pavilion (near the Country Store). 6–9pm. For more info: littleriverartscouncil.org.

July 7, 14, 21 & 28—Mountain Biking! Mountain Biking is a great way for the family to spend time together. We will meet at the Family Loop Trailhead at DeSoto State Park and explore an easy, 3.5-mile loop trail. FREE—includes Bike and Helmet. To register, contact One World Adventure at 256-634-8370 or by email at angie@oneworldadventureco.org.

July 7—Rappelling for Beginners with One World Adventure. Explore scenic rock outcroppings near DeSoto Falls. No previous experience is necessary to go deeper into nature in this exciting activity! We have different skill levels from families to adventure seekers and everyone in between. Dress in light, fitted clothing with hiking boots or tennis shoes. Long hair should be pulled back. Pack a reusable water bottle and snacks. Great for ages 12 to adult. 9am. Meet at the DeSoto Falls Picnic Area (7 miles from the main park area of DeSoto State Park). \$40/person. Call Angie Shugart at 256-634-8370 or email angie@oneworldadventureco.org for any info. www.oneworldadventure.org.

July 7—Rawhide Rattle Making. Join Grandma Lulu for a day of creating rawhide rattles. She has created and crafted these rattles for more than 25 years and is excited to once again share this teaching. You are welcome to bring any special small stones or treasures you would like to put into your rattle along with what will be provided. Bring a bag lunch or food to share. \$65. Materials included. Pre-register, as space is limited. Contact Grandma Lulu for more info at 256-364-9105.

July 7—Annual Farm-to-Table BBQ. We want to welcome friends and neighbors to The Farm at Windy Hill for our Farm-to-Table BBQ. We will be serving BBQ plates featuring our own pastured pork, fresh-picked-vegetable sides, and homemade pound cake. We will also have more of those great local musicians as well as

lawn games for all! We will be selling plates of food (BBQ plates and sandwiches, with a senior discount offered on plates), and the event is free for all to attend. 10am–7pm.

July 7—Annual Independence Day Parade at DeSoto State Park. Fun for both children & adults! Decorate your vehicle to show your spirit. Parade starts at 3pm at DeSoto's State Park Headquarters and ends in DeSoto's Improved Campground in time for the Ice Cream Social at 4pm. If you wish to ride along, meet at DeSoto's Park Headquarters or the Improved Campground gate a few minutes before 3. We would love to have you join us in celebrating our country's Independence Day! Free to participate! 256-997-5025.

July 7—Ice Cream Social at DeSoto State Park.

Sit around, relax, eat home-made ice cream, and socialize at DeSoto State Park's Improved Campground. You are welcome to bring your own favorite homemade ice cream recipe or other desserts to share with everyone. Bring your own comfortable camp chair, as seating is limited. Free to participate and open to everyone! Social begins at 4pm. Campground gate will be open. 256-997-5025.



July 7—Alabama Forest Classroom. Seven Pines Survival wants to get you outside in both an instructive educational setting and in a self-educational setting, to learn about the outdoors. You will be learning about local animals and plants that can be found in the park. DeSoto State Park. 9–11am. \$25/family. Contact Seven Pines Survival for reservations 209-559-0040 or email sps@sevenpinesurvival.com.

July 7 & 27—Sculpt Your Own Flower. Have you ever wanted to actually sit at the gaffer bench and feel what it is like to shape hot glass? It's all about hands-on experience in a safe and fun atmosphere with a final product we know you will love. There is a minimum of 3 people and a maximum of 5 in each class. Orbix Hot Glass. 10:30am & 12:30pm. Reservations required. 256-523-3188.

July 9–12 & 16–19—Adventure Day Camp. This fun and active camp builds self-esteem and skills in all things adventurous. Activities range from rock climbing, kayaking and thrill-seeking hikes. Campers gain valuable knowledge about the importance of preserving our abundant recreational opportunities. Led by trained and certified Outdoor Instructors. One World Adventure-Mentone. 8am–3pm.

Ages 7–13 (boys & girls). To register, contact Angie Shugart: angie@oneworldadventureco.org or 256-634-8370.

July 9 & 23—Tiny Tots: Adventures in Nature.

Join the JSU Field School for fun filled classes just for little kids. Your kids (ages 3–5 years) will learn about animals, plants, bugs, and more all while having fun! 9–10am. JSU's Little River Canyon Center. \$5 per child (Limit 10 children). Parents remain with children for this program. Pre-registration required by the Friday before the program is scheduled. Call 256-845-3548.

July 11 & 25—Canyon Creative Kids Day:

Adventure in Nature. Bring your children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews and neighbors to creatively learn about animals, plants, bugs, and more with JSU Field Schools. Your children (ages 5–10) will want to attend ALL of these hands-on outdoor adventures! 10am–12pm. Little River Canyon Center. \$5 per child; pre-registration required by the Monday prior to the program (Limit 15 kids). Parents remain with children for this program.

July 12—Creative Placemaking Meeting.

Hosted by Little River Arts Council. Brow Park Pavilion. 6:30pm. littleriverartscouncil.org.

July 13–15 & 20–22—"The Nerd" @ MACC

Theatre. A bumbling, hopeless "nerd" – with little intelligence and less tact – comes to dinner! Antics ensue! Friday-Saturday evening performances begin at 7pm, and Sunday matinees begin at 2pm. All seats are reserved, and tickets are \$8 each. This show is best enjoyed by audiences ages 13 & up due to mild language. Don't forget the patron receptions at intermission on both Saturdays of the production!

July 13 & 14—Best of British. Join us for a weekend of Rock 'n Roll featuring tributes to 5 of the greatest! Best of British will kick-off Friday, July 13, with Judas Maiden, an incredible tribute to two of the greatest heavy metal bands of all time: Judas Priest & Iron Maiden. Headlining Friday night will be Absolute Queen: The Tribute Experience. The music continues on Saturday, July 14, with the Ultimate Def Leppard Tribute and Highway to Hell – AC/DC: The Ultimate AC/DC Tribute Experience. *Tickets are available for each night individually or purchase both nights together for a discounted rate! 8–11 pm. \$20–\$30. 256-997-0396. dekalbtheatre@fortpayne.org.

July 14—Learn to Play Mah Jongg. Come to the library and learn to play an exciting game that relies on skill and luck. To get the feel of the game, you will get hands-on play time with your two coaches explaining the options that are available as you discard tiles after picking

July 2018 Community Calendar

All Times are Central. This calendar is subject to change.

up new ones. We will teach you how to play 3-handed and 4-handed, so you can practice on your own. Everything needed to play this ancient Chinese game will be supplied. Taught by Edna Fortner and Donna McComb. Moon Lake Community Library. 10am–12pm. Free.

July 14—Learn Basic Ukulele Skills.

(See July 7.)

July 14—Yoga on the Mountain. Start your morning off right with Dee Brown. Classes are held from 8–9am. at DeSoto State Park. Cost is \$5. To register, call 256-634-8370.

July 14—“The Nerd” @ MACC Theatre.

(See July 13.) 7pm.

July 14—YES, I CAN!

Canning Fruits & Vegetables Workshop.

Learn all about home canning using a hot water bath technique. This is a “hands-on” workshop with Mary Alice Stout and at the end of the day you will leave with two jars of finished product, recipes, confidence and knowledge of how to can at home. You may recall Mary Alice from Mama’s Craft and Rock Shop in Cloudland, GA. Bring a paring knife and a brown bag lunch. 10am–3pm. DeSoto State Park; \$20/person. Workshop is limited to 10, so pre-registration is required. 256-997-5025.



July 14—Mountain Biking! (See July 7.)

July 14—Blow An Ornament. Come design and blow your own ornament with the help of one of our glass artists. No reservations are needed, it is on a first come, first serve basis. 9am–4pm. Orbix Hot Glass. Cost is \$38 per ornament blown. 256-523-3188.

July 14—Christmas in July Experimental Glass Sale.

Every August at Orbix Hot Glass, we shut down our furnaces for a bit of a breather from the summertime heat. Just before this break, we want to offer one more opportunity for everyone to step into the mesmerizing world of glassblowing. Watch as we craft many of our favorite Christmas items, including candy canes. We pull long twisted canes of glass across the studio floor that later become bent and polished to our final glass treats. Also, we offer the last Blow Your Own Ornament class of the summer. Finally, if you want to get a jump on holiday shopping, we will have a slew of seconds or discontinued pieces on the porch to purchase at reduced prices. 9am–4pm. 256-523-3188.

July 14—BBQ Cook-Off & Car Show. Ribs & Chicken Cook-Off - \$100 entry fee. Cash Prizes

for 1st, 2nd, & 3rd Place! We will have official KCBS Car Show - \$25 entry fee. BBQ Lunches will be sold for \$5 each. Live Music & Fun! Proceeds go to Cornerstone Christian Academy in Rainsville. Contact Melissa Mays for more details: 256-899-5454.

July 15—“The Nerd” @ MACC Theatre.

(See July 13.) 2pm.

July 16–19—Adventure Day Camp.

(See July 9–12.)

July 16 & 17—Camping 101 for Kids. Kids ages 7–9 will learn the basics of camping with One World Naturalist Robert Wilson of Seven Pines Survival. Participants explore the trails, learning native plants and trees and wildlife along the way. They will cook over an open fire and sleep under the stars in the primitive campsite at DeSoto State Park. Kids will come away with knowledge to pitch a tent, hang a hammock, and start a campfire, learn Leave No Trace ethics and more. \$125/child. To register, contact Angie Shugart at angie@oneworldadventureco.org or 256-634-8370.

July 17–20—Canyon Camp. Join us for this nature- and art-focused camp for kids. Children will get to meet local artists and learn from them all. Along the way, nature time and the Canyon will provide inspiration and time for exploration. Remember that all camps fill quickly, so please register early. 5th–7th graders (grade just completed). 8am–4 pm. (Drop-off begins at 7:30am). \$150 per child (includes materials and lunch). Little River Canyon Center. Limit 10 kids. 256-845-3548.

July 18 - Plant Identification Walk. Join naturalist Robert Wilson for an experiential journey within the forest, taking in every opportunity to learn more about the natural world. Your guide will identify many native plants of the southern Appalachians and teaching you how to recognize these plants. DeSoto State Park. 9–11am. \$5/family. Contact Seven Pines Survival for reservations 209-559-0040 or email sps@sevenpinesurvival.com.

July 20—Alabama Forest Classroom. Seven Pines Survival wants to get you outside in both an instructive educational setting and in a self-educational setting, to learn about the outdoors. You will be learning about local animals and plants that can be found in the park. DeSoto State Park. 9am–3pm. \$25/family. Contact Seven Pines Survival for reservations 209-559-0040 or email sps@sevenpinesurvival.com.

July 20—Campfire Talk: Canyon

Constellations. Join us for fun campfire talk in the Great Outdoors! Campfire Talks are a series of educational & entertaining programs located in the great outdoors. For

those who live in the northern hemisphere, the summer nights are simply dazzling, filled with hundreds, indeed thousands of stars. Learn all about the summer night sky with Jacksonville State University’s Astronomer Dr. Laura Weinkauff. 8–9:00 pm. DeSoto State Park – CCC Pavilion in picnic area (across road from the Country Store on Co. Rd. 89) Held in DeSoto’s Nature Center in case of inclement weather. Free to the public, great for all ages! For details, 256-997-5025 or email Brittney.Hughes@dcnr.alabama.gov.

July 20—“The Nerd” @ MACC Theatre.

(See July 13.) 7pm.

July 21—Mountain Biking! (See July 7.)

July 21 Serious Skills Series: YES, I CAN!

Pressure Canning Class. Hosted by DeSoto State Park. The Serious Skills series is a variety of classes and workshops that provide opportunities to discover a hidden talent or learn a new skill for personal enrichment. Classes are open to local residents, overnight guests and park visitors. We are offering this class to participants that attended the canning workshops held in DSP this year, as well as folks that already have experience (prerequisite: hot water bath canning). We will be canning meat as well as soup. Taught by Mary Alice Stout. Bring a paring knife and a brown bag lunch. \$20 per person. Workshop is limited to 7 participants, so pre-registration is required. 10am–4pm. 256-997-5025.



July 21—Campfire Talk: Stars, Moons and Planets.

Join us for fun campfire talk in the Great Outdoors! A solar system is a star and all the objects that travel around it—planets, moons, asteroids, comets and meteoroids. The solar system we call home is located in an outer spiral arm of the vast Milky Way galaxy. Learn more about the stars, the planets and the moons of our solar system with Jacksonville State University’s Astronomer Dr. Laura Weinkauff. 8–9pm. DeSoto State Park-CCC Pavilion in picnic area (across road from the Country Store on Co. Rd. 89) Held in DeSoto’s Nature Center in case of inclement weather. Free to the public, great for all ages! For details, 256.997.5025 or email Brittney.Hughes@dcnr.alabama.gov.

July 21—“The Nerd” @ MACC Theatre. (See July 13.) 7pm.

July 21—Third Saturday Sunset Cruise-in.

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

July 22—“The Nerd” @ MACC Theatre.

(See July 13.) 2pm.

July 23—Tiny Tots: Adventures in Nature.

(See July 9.)

July 23–26—Adventure Day Camp. This fun and active camp builds self-esteem and skills in all things adventurous. Activities range from rock climbing, kayaking and thrill-seeking hikes. Campers gain valuable knowledge about the importance of preserving our abundant recreational opportunities. Led by trained and certified Outdoor Instructors. One World Adventure-Mentone. 8am–3pm. Ages 7-13 (Boys & Girls). To register, contact Angie Shugart at angie@oneworldadventureco.org or 256-634-8370.

July 27—Sculpt Your Own Flower. (See July 7.)

July 28—Summer Community Gathering at Moon Lake Community Library. 12:30–2:30pm.

July 28—Mountain Biking! (See July 7.)

July 28—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 you own design. Join us for some in-depth discovery at Orbix Hot Glass. Reservations required. \$145/person. 9am–1pm. 256-523-3188.

July 28—Plant Discovery Walk. Join Robert Wilson for a short nature hike around the boardwalk area identifying some common plants. This is a short basic plant identification class with some basic info about medicinal, edible, and utilitarian uses. It is suggested to bring a camera and note book. Meet in DeSoto State Park Country Store & Information Center 9am–12pm. Free & open to everyone. 256-997-5025.

July 30—Back-to-School Clothing Closet.

Free men’s, women’s and children’s clothes for those in need. 4–8pm. Ryleigh’s Closet at Mentone Community Church. 90 Summerville Rd. 256-634-4210.



Zesty Shrimp Avocado Salad

Submitted by Sue Schwartz

1 pound cooked shrimp, peeled and cut to bite-sized pieces
 2 avocados, peeled and diced, 1/2 inch dice
 1/4 cup red onion, finely diced
 Juice of 2 limes
 1/2 jalapeño, finely diced
 1/2 cup cilantro, chopped (optional)
 1 cup cherry tomatoes, halved
 Salt and pepper to taste

Place diced onion in bowl with lime juice and allow to sit while prepping other ingredients. Add remaining ingredients and enjoy.

Fresh Peach Turnovers

Submitted by Cynthia Stinson, Mentone Inn

"This is a guest favorite. For summer, you can add fresh berries. Granny Smith apple wedges also work well. So good."

2 fresh peaches, peeled and sliced
 2 cans crescent rolls (original)
 1 cup butter, melted
 1 cup sugar
 1 cup Sprite

Roll each peach wedge in crescent roll triangle. Arrange in oven-proof dish. Mix butter and sugar. Add Sprite. Pour mixture over peaches. Bake at 375° until crescent rolls are brown. (Halfway through cooking, take out of oven and spoon mixture over top of crescent rolls.)

Pasta with Sicilian Pesto

Submitted by Sarah Lockhart

"This Western Sicilian recipe relies on summer garden goodies like tomatoes and basil, and requires almost no cooking besides the pasta. Busiate is a Sicilian ribbon pasta traditionally served with this pesto, but fusilli, penne, or even linguini will do in a pinch."

2 lbs fresh tomatoes (or 28-oz can of Crushed Cento or Red Gold tomatoes)
 Handful of fresh basil leaves
 4 oz raw almond slices (or blanched)
 4 oz grated Pecorino Romano cheese
 3-4 large cloves of garlic
 Olive oil
 Salt & pepper
 1 lb. Busiate pasta (or fusilli, penne, linguini, etc.)

If using fresh tomatoes, begin by preparing them: Cover tomatoes with boiling water and let sit for 2 minutes. Remove from water, allow to cool, and then peel. Cut in half and remove seeds.

Toast the almonds and whole, peeled cloves of garlic on a low heat on the stove, or in the oven at 300°. Watch them closely and remove from heat when fragrant.

In a blender or food processor, add almonds, garlic, and basil leaves, along with salt (a pinch or so) and olive oil (a drizzle or so). Pulse until the texture is like breadcrumbs.

Add the tomatoes (fresh or canned) and about half the grated cheese; blend until the sauce is rough creamy. Add pepper to taste, and more olive oil if it seems too dry, or more cheese if it seems too runny. It should have a thick, coarse consistency, but not too dry.

This pesto sauce is absolutely best if it sits for a while, even overnight. When ready to eat, toss with hot pasta, adding a little pasta water if it needs to be thinned out.

Watermelon Limeade

Submitted by Kelly Leavitt

8 cups cubed watermelon (seeds removed)
 1 cup freshly squeezed lime juice
 1/2 cup sugar, or more to taste
 Lime slices, for garnish, optional

Place half of the watermelon cubes in a blender and process until smooth. Strain through a fine-mesh sieve set over a large bowl; discard the solids. Repeat with the remaining watermelon cubes; you should end up with about 1 quart of watermelon juice.

Add the lime juice and sugar to the watermelon juice, and stir until the sugar has dissolved. Taste, and add more sugar if necessary. Transfer the limeade to a non-reactive (glass, plastic, etc.) pitcher and refrigerate until chilled. Serve over ice in tumblers with lime slices for garnish. 4-6 servings.

Pineapple Angel Food Cake

Submitted by Mary Agricola

"This is a favorite of ours. Easy and light."

1 (16 ounce) package angel food cake mix
 1 (20 ounce) can crushed pineapple with juice
 1 (12 ounce) container frozen whipped topping, thawed

Preheat oven to 350°. Spray a 9x13" pan with vegetable oil spray. In a large bowl, combine cake mix and pineapple (with juice). Mix until well blended. Pour batter into prepared 9x13 inch pan. Bake at 350° for 25 minutes or until golden brown. Let cool. Serve with whipped topping.

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SAGE ADVICE: SUMMER GARDENING IDEAS

by Susan Seago

Summer brings long pleasant evenings for being outside. Many of you have beautiful gardens that can be enjoyed with some extra special attention. I was thinking of plants that flower in the evening and could only think of one or two. So, I did some research and came up with five night-blooming plants, two of which are perennials (those that return every year) and two are annuals (those that only last one growing season and should be replanted each year). I am going to give the basics of each and let you decide which ones you want in your landscape. Some are available at garden centers and all can be planted as seeds.

My favorite night bloomer is the moonflower, *Ipomoea alba*, a large tulip-shaped white flower with an intoxicating fragrance. They grow on a climbing vine with heart shaped leaves, so give them a porch column or trellis to wind around. They can grow to 20 feet! I grew one on a metal gate that was tall with a curved arch. Oh, my, what a beautiful sight in the evening! The fragrance could be enjoyed throughout the yard. These lovely blooms produce a good many seeds which can be saved for new plants the next year. They have very hard shells, so I suggest you scratch the surface a little and soak for three days in clear water before planting. This gives them a head start on growth. The flowers begin to open in late afternoon and by darkness, they are in full bloom. Grow them on a porch rail or around a patio so everyone can enjoy their beauty and fragrance.

Oenothera macrocarpa, or evening primrose, is an herbaceous perennial. It dies back in the fall but reappears each spring. Its blooms can be yellow, pink, or white. I received two plants from a friend a few weeks ago and one of them is now about four feet tall! They love full sun and are very low maintenance, needing little water once planted in the ground (still have mine in the pot but hope to have it planted this week!). It will tolerate drought, clay soil, dry soil, and shallow rocky soil (the mountain!). The blooms open as dusk approaches and last until the following morning. It takes about 30 minutes for them to open but it is a wonderful scene to behold. Primroses self-seed easily. They also have a long spring-to-summer bloom period.

Next is the flowering tobacco, *Nicotiana glauca*. This is a tender perennial, which means it will return in south Alabama but not in north Alabama. New seeds will have to be sown each year, so it is really an annual in our neck of the woods. Set out seedlings or purchased plants after the last frost date, usually between April

15 and May 1 on the mountain. It is a spindly plant that can grow 3–5 ft. tall and opens in the evening with fragrant, long-tubed, yellowish green to white flowers. Some compact cultivars (to 2' tall) are not fragrant and include colors in red, pink, lime green, and white.

Number four is the night-scented stock, *Matthiola longipetala*. This is an annual garden flower which is very attractive. It is compact in its growth, producing small, lilac-colored blooms with a lily-like fragrance. It also opens in late afternoon and fills the evening air with fragrance. Bees and butterflies really enjoy the nectar of these flowers. This is a good plant for the small garden and needs to be planted near doors or windows, so their scent can be enjoyed by all who pass. The night-scented stock (sometimes called evening stock) thrives in dry soil and sunshine, with some occasional watering. It grows 6" to 12" in sun/partial shade and blooms from spring through fall.

Number five is the night-blooming Cestrum (*Cestrum nocturnum*) or night-blooming jasmine. Alas, it could only be a house plant on the mountain. It's grown in Zones 8 and 9, lower Alabama or Florida. It is a white flower, very pretty, and can grow 8 to 10 ft. tall. I really would not recommend it as a house plant unless you have a LARGE sunroom. I just thought you would like to know the number five night bloomer I discovered.

One more thought for an evening garden is to plant white, pink or other light-colored bloomers. With a few lights in the trees, your garden will speak for itself!

Two tips for you as I end this article:

Start your gourds and pumpkins now. They will be ready for the fall season. Give them a big space and just let them grow!

On July 4, if you have chrysanthemums growing, cut them back to about six inches. Then, when they have new buds, before they get ready to open, cut off every two out of three buds. The remaining buds will produce much larger flowers and be magnificent!

Happy Gardening!



Night-blooming jasmine

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Menlo News • by Pat Johnson



Menlo School Graduation

Menlo School’s 8th grade graduation was held on May 31 at 6 p.m. in the Menlo School Gymnasium. Ellen Thompson, an alumnus of Menlo School, was the guest speaker. She delivered a very inspiring speech about the joys of growing up in a small town, the importance of the relationships you build along the way, and the

positive effect Menlo School has had on her life. The valedictorian, Aleigha Satterfield, and the salutatorian, Aubree Evans, also gave heartwarming recounts of their time at MES. As the 8th grade class was dismissed, they literally danced out the doorway to a musical mix created by one of their fellow classmates, Yohann Agulair. Refreshments were served

afterwards by some of the 6th and 7th grade students, along with parent volunteers. Principal Mark Pickle took the entire graduating class out for a celebratory lunch at The Crushed Tomato on Thursday afternoon. Most of the 8th grade graduates will be attending Chattooga High School next year. Following are their names in alphabetical order.

Yohann Agulair	Chayse Culbert	Gavin Jarrett	Mayzie McKenzie	Ryan Storey
Blake Austin	Ramsey Elrod	Anastasia King	Alyssa Morgan	Adrian Tidmore
Tanner Battles	Aubree Evans	Seth Kirk	Elizabeth Patterson	Madison Ward
Austin Brown	Kayle Godfrey	Chandler Laney	Issac Ratledge	James Wester
Alyson Christol	Audry Sertell-Hall	Skylar Laney	Aleigha Satterfield	Katie Williams
Nerissa Church	Madison Hampton	Keeth Long	Caden Smith	Olivia Young
Benjamin Colbert	Zoe Hart	Carter Lowenberg	Hannah Smith	
Isabella Cooper	Katelynn Holbrook	Emma Marshall	Brylie Stancil	



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Ryleigh's Closet is open the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month. Donations of shoes and clothing are welcome. Contact Gwen Stone for details.

Mentone Community Church Life Center is located at 90 Summerville Road.

256-634-4210 / mentonecc.org



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Mentone Area Church Directory

Mentone, Alabama

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

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

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

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

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

Moon Lake Baptist Church invites you to worship with us. Sunday School begins at 9:45am, with classes for all ages. Morning Worship is at 11am. The Lord's Supper is observed on the first Sunday of September, December, March and June at the morning worship hour. Discipleship Training is at 5pm and Sunday Evening Worship at 6pm. On Wednesdays, Team Kids, Youth Bible Study, Adult Bible Study and Prayer Meeting are all at 6:30pm. Pastor Mike Ellis. 4671 AL Hwy. 117. 256-634-4568.

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.

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.

*As I have
loved you,
love one another*
John 13:34

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

Fort Payne, Alabama

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

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

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

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

New Oregon United Methodist Church is located just off DeSoto Parkway, 1/4 mile south of Fischer Crossroads. We invite you to worship with us on Sundays. Sunday School for all ages 9:45am, Traditional Worship 11am, and Sunday Evening Service 6pm. Sunday Evening youth meet at 5:30pm. We have Wonderful Wednesdays during the school year with Bible

studies for all ages, meal at 5:30pm and classes at 6:15pm. We also have Wednesday morning Bible study at 8:45am, and knitting every Tuesday at 9am. Pastor Ian Conerly. 1204 New Oregon Drive NE. 256-845-7446.

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

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

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

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

Cloudland, Georgia

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

Menlo, Georgia

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

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

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

Summerville, Georgia

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

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

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SOMETHING TRULY SPECIAL. Lovely, 3BR/2BA, custom brick home on 50 rolling acres, mostly pasture, fenced and cross-fenced with two stocked ponds (one is spring-fed); large shop; barns; feed lot; garden area with tall, chain-link fence, and so much more. Fabulous kitchen with granite counters, lots of cabinets and two pantries. Beautiful hardwood floors; 10' ceilings; spacious laundry/sewing room w/office area; cozy and inviting sunroom den. A place where you find that perfect combination of elegance and homey comfort. Home has partially-finished upstairs to create whatever space you find yourself needing. 3-car, attached garage with lots of storage. Winding drive with meadow views. \$685,000 (1067586)



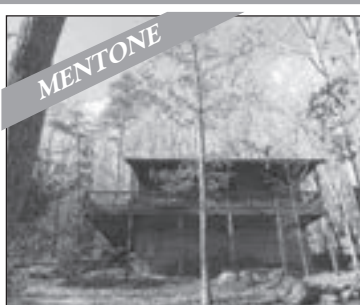
CUTE LITTLE LOG CABIN, on a little over an acre. Small in size, big on what you'll want in a retreat or in a place to live life more simply. Wood interior; new kitchen; 1BR/1BA (new tile shower); rocking chairs on the front porch (it's being sold fully furnished); metal roof; wooded backyard; lovely front yard w/fruit trees & garden areas; flower beds; quaint "outhouse-look" well house. (Public water avail.) Great rental possibilities, too! Fantastic price of only \$79,900 (1053288).



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OH MY! THE POSSIBILITIES! What could one do with this marvelous old Mentone heritage property, with approx 210' of brow frontage and spacious gardens & walkways?! At one time, this was a tea house where Mentone society reportedly gathered on the porches or inside to catch up on all the news. Currently 3BR/2BA, with formal dining room, sitting room, den & sun porches. Unfinished "grandma's attic" area with intriguing angles and nooks. Wood floors throughout. Mostly wood walls & ceilings, some sheetrock. Situated on 2.66 ac (+/-), with plenty of room for an additional cottage to be built. Wildlife love the natural setting. \$235,000 (1074930)



CABIN ON 5 ACRES WITH OVER 300' ON W FORK LITTLE RIVER with a nice launch site for kayaks; river-side deck; and level areas for picnicking, camping, outdoor adventures of all sorts. One-owner cabin has 3BR/2BA, approx 1800 sq ft; wood-burning masonry fireplace with stone hearth; open living/dining; spacious kitchen with lots of cabinets & counter space. Beautifully furnished, including locally-crafted dining table & benches. Full front porch and side deck. Land is covered with gorgeous native holly trees, huge boulders, large hardwoods. A place to use as a cozy mountain retreat or a family gathering spot. What are you waiting for? \$248,500 (1086017)



MENTONE SWEETHEART! Here's your chance to own this sweet little 2BR/1BA cottage sitting on over an acre (with great garden spot and lotsa flowers!) off Cutler Avenue. New CH/A, insulation & light fixtures. Vintage pine cabinets; new laminate floors; wood interior walls; lots of windows for natural light. Mountain stonework inside & out. Wet-weather stream, split-rail fencing & quaint garden shed add to the charm. This one is a must see! \$90,000 (1086304)



GET AWAY TO YOUR OWN CABIN IN THE WOODS! 2BR/2BA; on 3 wooded acres; away from it all, but within minutes of downtown Mentone. All wood interior w/vaulted ceilings; wood-burning Fplce; master suite w/jetted tub & sep shower. Great outdoor places, too, including a large screened porch on the side, covered front porch & sweeping open decks. There's also a 10x20 detached building for storage or a workshop for the tinkerer. New siding 2018. Priced well at only \$170,000. (1083660).

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Sanctuary in Mentone

I hadn't visited the Memorial Prayer Garden at St. Joseph's on-the-Mountain Episcopal Church in a few months, and I recently went by to see the progress. Wow!

Mike Keracher, Memorial Prayer Garden chair and volunteer, has worked with other Master Gardeners to truly create a sanctuary of peace and beauty right in "downtown" Mentone. Many species of birds were singing from the trees, cloaking the highway sounds from 117. It's a lovely space to sit in silence, or chat with friends. Our community has received a true gift!

Plans are still being implemented, including the construction of a sacred labyrinth. Stay tuned! — Kelly Leavitt



There is always music amongst the trees in the garden, but our hearts must be very quiet to hear it.

— Minnie Aumonier

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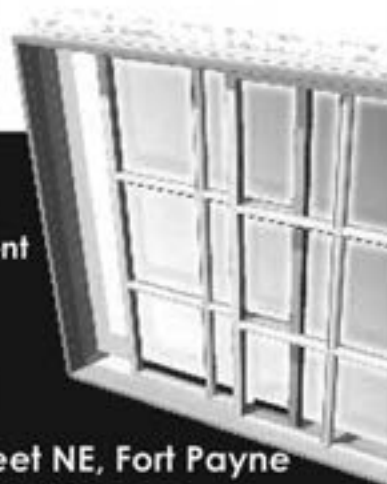
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