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THE GROUNDHOG

Mentone, Valley Head, Hammondville, Menlo, Cloudland
P. O. Box 387, Mentone, AL 35984

Volume 36, No. 7

"Neighborly News from the Heart of Lookout Mountain"

August 2017

MENTONE ROCKS! BY ANNA MAE HORN

Colton Hadley, 9, and Gunner Hadley, 16, have been living in Mentone for approximately three years. Earlier this year, they decided that it would be nice to start a project here that was very popular when they lived in New Port Richey, Florida—rock painting and sharing. Across the country, it has many names: kindness rocks, friendship rocks, hidden rocks, etc. All these different activities have the shared goal of making a stranger's day a little better in some small way. Facebook seems to be the best way to stay current with the rocks. Their group is simply called "Mentone Rocks."

They started this project here in Mentone "to make people happy." The brothers hope their rocks will put a smile on the faces (and in the hearts) of those who see them. At first, the boys were a little disappointed that some of the rocks are just simply taken. They were worried that others wouldn't get happiness from those rocks. Then, they realized that each time this person sees the rock, it will bring a smile to the person's face and remind them of Mentone and when they found it. So, while it isn't bringing happiness to others, it continues to bring extended happiness to the one who now holds it, and that is fine with them.

The rules are easy enough. "Simply paint a rock, write Mentone Rocks Facebook on the back, and hide the rock somewhere in town. If you find a rock, you can choose to keep it, or re-hide it for another person to find." If you do find a rock, be sure to go to the Facebook page so that Gunner and Colton will



know they put a smile on your face. Have you seen any of the rocks and wondered what they were?

If you are just visiting Mentone, you can start a rockin' project in your own hometown with the rock you find. If you are fairly local, you can even participate in the DeKalb Alabama Rocks project that was recently started for the entire county.

The boys feel that Mentone is a special enough place that it deserves its own rock project though. (I agree!) They were quick to say that it isn't just for people in Mentone though. It's for everyone! There are multiple public places to hide rocks in the area where people gather or tourists visit. As Colton and Gunner said: "It's a great way to share how awesome and artsy and fun and creative Mentone is."

(cont'd on page 5)



MENTONE MARKET READY TO OPEN!

Kristen and Tom Emory are anxious to see all their valued customers again and can't wait to have the Mentone Market open for business. So much so, that even though everything won't be completely finished, doors will be open for business before August 1st. Once all the finishing touches are added, they will have a formal grand reopening with date and time to be determined.

They will do the usual BBQ and hotdogs for the World's Longest Yard Sale; plus, they have TWO pizza ovens now and will be able to keep all the pizza lovers happy. The restaurant side has been expanded. On the grocery side, they will have everything they carried before so all your usual favorites will be available when everything is complete. Kristen and Tome greatly appreciate everyone's support and are thankful to be part of such a great community.

Summer Music Series Concludes with Carla Russell and Kozmic Mama By Kelly Leavitt

The Little River Arts Council has enjoyed hosting its fourth annual summer music series, made possible in part by a grant from the Alabama Council on the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts. The final concert of this year's series is "Kozmic Mama," a Huntsville band which is well known on the live music scene in North Alabama and Southern Tennessee.

Formed in 1991, the band is steeped in the Roots tradition of Rock, Soul, Motown, and Blues. Kozmic Mama features jaw-dropping vocalist Carla Russell (who also performs with "The Muscle Shoals All Star Band," which includes members of the legendary "Swampers Rhythm Section"); Matt Shook (lead vocals, keyboard, piano); Bobby Love (drums, vocals); Matt Ennis (guitars, vocals); and Jimmy Clay (bass guitar, vocals).

The band ("an R&B rockin' machine") has performed with an array of internationally known artists and at many prestigious events including the Alabama Music Hall of Fame induction ceremonies, and has opened for Gladys Knight and Bob Dylan.

"As a female vocalist, Carla's definitely set the pace for the rest of us," says Huntsville musician Marge Loveday. "She's been here for years and is still killing it. She's very soulful and she's energetic and she just sings music that makes people have a good time. She's just cool, too. Genuine and humble."

"Kozmic Mama" will perform on Saturday, August 19, from 7 to 10 p.m. CDT at the Mentone Inn Pavilion in downtown Mentone. The concert is free and open to all ages. Visit the arts council's web site at littleriverartscouncil.org to learn more.



Carla Russell sings with soul.

THE GROUNDHOG

P. O. Box 387
Mentone, AL 35984

The Groundhog is published monthly by the Mentone Area Preservation Association, MAPA (Website: www.mapamentone.com; Email: mapamentone@gmail.com) and was first conceived on Groundhog Day, 1982, and organized April 5, 1982, for the purpose of preserving and protecting the heritage, natural environment and other unique qualities of life in the Mentone area, and is chartered as a 501c3 non-profit corporation.



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Send it to
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MENTONE MATTERS

By Mayor Rob Hammond



The council will soon adopt a comprehensive plan for the Town of Mentone. Kevin Bernard of the Top of Alabama Regional Council of Governments (TARCOG) has done an outstanding job in putting this plan together. This plan was funded through a matching grant from the Appalachian Regional Commission. "The plan

seeks to address questions about the path to the Town's vision—How to accomplish growth while maintaining an outstanding quality of life and retaining the assets that make Mentone special? How to add to the community while preserving its past? How to manage growth and make our land use more supportive of transit and walkable neighborhoods? How to sustain our environment for the present and renew it for the future? How to provide decent and affordable housing options? How to position Mentone to remain regionally competitive with a strong economy?" When adopted, we hope to have this plan posted on our website.

The police department is continuing to address the speeding issue in Mentone. Last week was the second effort where extra officers and vehicles worked together in a coordinated effort that resulted in 12 warnings, two tickets, and one felony arrest.

Letter To The Editor

Rick Fey, my beloved husband of 45 years, passed away after a five year battle with cancer on July 17, 2017. We had moved to Mentone from Atlanta just six months before he was diagnosed with cancer, and during these five years we opened our shop, The Graceful Giraffe, made lasting friendships, listened to some great music, ate some delicious food, discovered some of the natural beauty here "in God's Country" (as we called

"Absolutely not. I don't regret a thing. I love this one blinking light town."

I would just like to tell everyone in this precious town thank you for your friendship and hugs, concern and prayers, offers to help and help extended. You are the reason why Mentone is so special, and I will never forget your many acts of kindness toward Rick and myself during these last five years. I am also pretty certain that Mentone will be a place where grieving and joy can exist hand-in-hand and will be a place of healing for me.

Debra Fey



it), and came to love Mentone very, very much. Although it was difficult for Rick to make the trips to Rome for his chemotherapy or radiation treatment, and later for us to make weekly trips to Atlanta so that he could participate in the Emory University Winship Cancer Institute clinical trials, Rick said he never regretted the move to Mentone. When we would see the big "Mentone" rock Rick would say, "We're home!" When I'd ask him if he ever regretted moving to Mentone because of the long drives to Atlanta for his treatments, he said,



Join MAPA Today!
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and impact its future.

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Couples - \$30 a year

MAPA
P. O. Box 50
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THE MENTONE ARTS & CULTURAL CENTER IS AN INVESTMENT IN MENTONE'S FUTURE

By Randy Grider

Engagement, inspiration, motivation, creative thinking, and retention: those are just a few terms used to describe how art impacts youthful minds. Study after study—by research organizations, academics, and even school districts—come to the same conclusion. Art is an important tool in teaching, learning, and innovation.

A few examples:

- A 2002 report by the Arts Education Partnership revealed that school children exposed to drama, music and dance are often more proficient at reading, writing, and math.
- A 2005 report by the Rand Corporation called "A Portrait of the Visual Arts" argues that art education does more than just give students a creative outlet. It can actually help connect them to the larger world, ultimately improving community cohesion.
- The 2006 Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum study on art education showed a link between arts education and improved literacy skills.
- A study of Missouri public schools in 2010 found that greater arts education led to fewer disciplinary infractions and higher attendance, graduation rates and test scores.
- A 2011 study called "Reinvesting in Arts Education" found that integrating arts with other subjects can help raise achievement levels.

Despite these studies and many more, school district after school district have slashed art education program due to budget constraints. Wealthier school districts and a few determined rural schools like Moon Lake have continued the important legacy to maintain arts in the curriculum. But under the current political and economic environments, it's hard to imagine a public school

arts renaissance anytime soon. This reality leaves many, many students without the resources and opportunities to explore arts-related activities.

One of the main goals of the Mentone Arts & Cultural Center is to inspire current and future generations—to expose them to arts of all disciplines and give them the opportunity to express themselves in creative ways.

This exposure comes in many forms including being around trained artists, witnessing professional performances as well as active participation in arts-related events.

While we spend a great deal of our time working on securing funds to build a wonderful facility, we can't forget the ultimate mission is much more than a building. It's about people and especially younger people who will benefit the most from this arts center.

Your contributions will benefit Mentone, its citizens and visitors, and the Lookout Mountain region in many positive ways. It will give us a state-of-art facility for art education, art events, and traveling exhibits. It will showcase the talents of local artists and artisans. It will help preserve our arts and cultural heritage. It will enhance the tourism experience for visitors.

But maybe the greatest benefit will be center's potential to serve our younger citizens with opportunities to actively participate in creative projects and explore the possibilities of all the doors the arts can open for them. That's a return on investment that is priceless.

Randy Grider is the executive director of the Mentone Arts & Cultural Center. Contact him by calling 356-674-3366 or by emailing mentoneartscenter@gmail.com.

Letter From the Editor

Just over two years ago, this unique and fulfilling experience began for me as editor. I have gotten to know a lot of you personally. I've met advertisers and contributors, gotten acquainted with some of the readers, became friends with those I work with, and watched in admiration as festival committees make fun things happen. I have gotten to know many of the people in the community from being out and about on newspaper missions.

Through my position as editor, my eyes have been opened to the many opportunities to help in the community and the many organizations and people who make things happen. Community is togetherness; getting together to help others, to get things done, to celebrate, or to simply have a good time. Mentone is a true community. It has been enjoyable becoming a part of this community.

I look forward to continuing as an active community member and getting to know more people in the area. However, I will be stepping down from my duties as editor of this wonderful paper and plan to step into the role of MAPA President. You will still see my writings from time to time, and I would love to see you at our MAPA meetings. It is wonderful to witness the renewed participation in a 35 year old organization. I look forward to serving the Mentone area in my new role.

Many thanks to all who have helped me along this journey as editor. It's been a pleasure. I look forward to working with Kelly Leavitt next month during a transition phase as she comes on board as new editor.

~ Anna Mae Horn

Little River Arts Council News



Our summer music series has been a lot of fun, bringing locals and visitors together to enjoy some exceptional music. On July 1, "Lost in Tyme" thoroughly engaged a large crowd

in an intimate setting in the pavilion at DeSoto State Park. Lydia Randolph spread art supplies out across a couple of long tables, and children and their families enjoyed visually expressing themselves while listening to the music. Some truly creative artwork was born!

Rock Killough performed at the Mentone Inn Pavilion on July 22 to a crowd of about 100 folks, who were also treated to a few tunes by local

favorite Will Dooley. Thanks to Cynthia Stinson for the use of the pavilion, as well as for providing Rock with a room in her Inn. Five new members joined the Arts Council during the show, and others offered generous donations (one was \$400!).

We'll be announcing a LRAC membership drive soon, with some enticing benefits for new and current members. If you'd like to join today, visit littleriverartscouncil.org. Your financial support makes all of our programs possible, along with the efforts of our dedicated board of directors. The board welcomes Holley Midgley, who was installed as a member-at-large during our July meeting.

Meetings are held at 5 p.m. on the third Wednesday of each month. On August 17, we will meet at the Moon Lake Library. Our meetings are open to LRAC members and anyone interested in the arts. Join us as we explore ideas for potential events and educational opportunities, discuss upcoming events, and consider how Little River Arts Council can best further its mission for artists

By Kelly Leavitt

and appreciators of art in Mentone and the Little River area.





MAPA NEWS

By L. C. Moon

Mentone Area Preservation Association Vote for 2017 Board

MAPA is excited to introduce a new enthusiastic board for the Mentone Area Preservation Association! As of August 1st, the board is ready to be a voice for all of Mentone and the Mentone Area.

In an informal meeting, the current and newly nominated board talked about ways we could support the Mentone area, projects that could include the Mentone Fire Department, Mentone Food Bank at St. Joseph's Episcopal, MERF, public restrooms, and other possibilities. In order to reach out to the community, several of us are willing to be liaisons, and MAPA will have a form to fill out for projects that can benefit Mentone and the Mentone area.

One of the great passions of the new board of MAPA is to help Mentonians and the Mentone area to thrive and maintain the quality of life we all live here for. All of the new board encourages support of the jewel that Mentone is and service for the best it can be for residents of the area. So as a result of being pragmatic and responsible, the board is planning to create a budget based on the past three year's profit and loss statements to set a base fund and a maximum donating fund to be evaluated annually. No votes were taken. Past and current nominated board members did take the opportunity of the informal meeting to get to know each other, talk about transferring duties, and what the nature of their roles entails.

The quorum of the current board had previously voted that the next board would be effective as of the next regularly scheduled board meeting on August 1st, 2017. The delayed starting date is a result of the bylaw requiring 21 days written notice to temporarily or permanently amend the bylaws and, also, to prepare for a smooth transition. MAPA is pleased to announce the newly elected board. Let me introduce them to you.

President Anna Mae Horn has displayed that she will be a good president during the time she has put in with the Groundhog, the Moon Lake Community

Library Board, and Moon Lake PTO, specifically through her dedication to Mentone, attention to detail with the current bylaws, outreach, passion for the community, ability to work well with others under pressure, and organizational skills.

Vice President Joe Piscatelli has been a member of the community for about 15 years and has lots of non-profit experience. He has expressed an interest in being a liaison to the other non-profits and to the community, some of which he has already done before nomination, which is a part of the VP role. The VP is the main one responsible for the membership drive. Membership is important to MAPA in order to support the community voice.

Current Treasurer Kayla Worthey temporarily rescinded her vote to resign at the previous meeting to revive MAPA on June 26th, as did Secretary Jerome Stephens. There were no nominations for their positions, so they agreed to remain in their roles again for a short time, so long as we are actively looking for their replacement. Jerome's position will probably be filled by Barb McCarthy at the August meeting. Kayla's position also needs to be filled as soon as possible. Due to other obligations, Kayla needs to hand her duties off to a new treasurer as soon as possible. Both Jerome and Kayla have been officers of MAPA and actively involved for several years. Kayla has also helped extensively with both MAPA festivals.

Parliamentarian Laura Catherine Moon, as per the bylaws, remains in this position as the most recent past president desiring to serve on the board. She is a member of the community, a business owner, and a Groundhog contributor since 1998, as well as a current supporter of Mentone.

There are two Members at Large on the MAPA board. Holley Midgley has been a member of the community for 70 years and a full-time resident for over 10. Domenic Fulginiti is co-owner of Mildred's Meadows Farm and actively involved with our local farmer's market and supporting the community.

Kerry Breithaupt has agreed to be MAPA's Festival Coordinator. Kerry has proven to be wonderful at networking, organizing, and bringing ideas and people together. This is not her first rodeo with coordinating a Mentone festival. Kerry's job and big responsibility will entail lots of volunteers, so please be thinking

of how you can help and who you may know that can. There are already some willing to help, but we need lots more so it can stay fun for everyone. PLEASE be involved in any way you can!

We give our thanks and are hopeful for the continued contribution of the amazing skills of Lisa Crow, Clare Donohue, Lisa Schad, Sharon Habin, Carolyn Nail, and others who have volunteered in the past. Mentone festivals are a group effort. With many involved, the duties can be divided so it's easy and fun for all.

At our next board meeting, we will vote on Barbara McCarthy as Secretary. If she is elected, the only remaining board position needing to be filled is the Treasurer. Please nominate yourself or someone else as Treasurer to complete our new board!

Additionally, Kelly Leavitt will be voted on as the new Groundhog Editor at the next meeting. She has an extensive background in many of the areas that are part of The Groundhog Editor duties. She has lots of experience with internet technology, editing, and marketing, as well as publishing and writing. Kelly is eager to contribute her best to Mentone, MAPA, and the other non-profits to continue our sustained efforts to preserve the quality of life for Mentone. She has recently also accepted the role of Little River Arts Council President.

Join us on Tuesday, August 1st, at Moon Lake Community Library for a MAPA meeting from 6 pm to 7 pm and meet our new board members. Feel free to bring light snacks and socialize after the meeting. Everyone is welcome to attend. Only members may vote. We would like to thank everyone who has expressed a renewed interest in MAPA and is willing to volunteer their skills to benefit MAPA and the Mentone community.

Mission: MAPA's purpose is preserving and protecting the heritage, natural environment, and other unique qualities of life in the Mentone area for current and future generations.

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Time for Colorfest Planning

By Anna Mae Horn

For more than 30 years, Mentone has carried on the tradition of Colorfest. We are already looking forward to having another great festival this year. Scheduling and organizing all those terrific vendors is one of the busiest tasks of each festival. MAPA starts early getting things lined up to ensure a smooth event. The deadline for this year's vendor application

has been scheduled for September 1st. Be sure to get your application in early so that it is eligible for the selection process. Festival goers expect better items every year and MAPA plans to deliver. Colorfest is always the third Saturday in October and that Sunday. When we are fortunate, Mother Nature shines all her beauty for the event with colorful leaves throughout Mentone. This year the festival at Brow Park will be October 21 and 22. Of course many events will be happening all over town and will start on Friday. Stay tuned for all the details, but for now submit your vendor application or get your room booked. Contact MAPA to help.

Mentone Rocks (cont'd from page 1)

It is a family project for the Hadleys. Colton's favorite that he painted has a strawberry on it. Gunner liked the rainbow he painted with black in the middle. Their sister Riley, 17, painted a nice sunset rock that you might find where a lot of people watch the sun set in Mentone. Their rainbows, fruits, sunsets, and birds are certainly joyful paintings. Remember, this is for fun; you don't have to be a professional artist. If you need some tips to paint your own rock, their mom Angela left some tips on the Facebook group page. "Successful Rock Painting 101" starts with finding a smooth flat rock that is just the right size. You can purchase them or "just as easily find rocks around town that seem to cry out for some happy painting." Use a fine tipped Sharpie to label it on the back with "Mentone Rocks FB." Use Modge Podge aerosol to weatherproof your painted rock and give it a day or two to dry well. When you hide your rock, you can simply leave it for someone to find, or you can go to Facebook and leave a clue as to where it is. Can you find the rocks Gunner and Colton have already hidden? Here are the clues—"two where the water falls; one where farmers sell their crops; two in the village of artists; and one in the round shelter in the middle of town. Good luck."

2017 COLORFEST
VENDOR APPLICATION
OCTOBER 20-22
\$100 FOR A 12' X 12' SPACE
APPLICATION DEADLINE IS SEPTEMBER 1

Contact Name_____

Business Name_____

Address_____

City, State, Zip_____

Phone_____ Cell Phone _____

E-mail_____

Website Address _____ FB Page_____

Type of Vendor: ___Art/Craft ___Food (see pg. 2) ___Business(promo only) ___Organization

Description of Art/Items_____

Electrical - Show number of outlets needed: ___110V Electricity (\$25) ___220V Electricity (\$50)

Water - ___Water (\$25)

Vendor Special Needs_____

Handicap Accessibility Needs _____

Number of Spaces_____ Amount enclosed_____

This year's Colorfest will be held all over Mentone, but the artists will be located primarily in and near Brow Park. Show hours will be 9am-5pm Saturday and 11am-4pm Sunday. You may set up your space on Friday, October 20, 12-5pm, or Saturday, October 21, 6:30-8:30am. Please be ready for the show to start at 9am. If you participate in the show, you MUST set up for both days. Cars MUST be moved to specified vendor parking area after unloading. You may break down beginning at 4pm on Sunday--no earlier.

If you require water or electricity, please indicate on the application. **There is an additional charge for electricity and/or water. To avoid outages, electricity is reserved for food vendors and artists who require it to show and demonstrate their art or craft. (i.e. not for lighting or fans). No generators will be allowed.**

You will be notified of your acceptance no later than September 15. We reserve the right to limit the number of vendors within a category. Spaces will be assigned the week prior to the show, but please check in with the information tent when you arrive as space numbers can change. No spaces can be reserved from show to show. We reserve the right to deny your application.

If you are an artist and this is the first time you have applied for Colorfest, please provide photos of your work or a current website or Facebook address. Your application will be declined if there is no way to view your work. **ALL ART MUST BE HANDMADE BY THE ARTIST. NO READY-MADE MERCHANDISE IS ALLOWED.** Colorfest is strictly an arts and crafts festival; therefore, no political or religious organizations will be accepted. Please contact **MentoneColorfest@gmail.com** if you have any questions. Thank you.

Send completed application form to:
MAPA, P. O. Box 50, Mentone, AL 35984
Make Checks payable to MAPA

For Food Vendors Only

Please specify exactly the type and quantity of electrical outlets you will require:
____ 110V Electricity (\$25)
____ 220V Electricity (\$50)
What amp do you need?_____

If bringing a food trailer:
Length (including tongue) _____
Service Window opens from : ____ Passenger Side ____ Driver Side

Please list all food and drink items you will be selling:

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Contact List_____ Rec'd _____ Ck#_____ Emailed_____ Approved_____ Declined _____

Reason_____

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Your Library News Your Library News Your Library News



By Barb Stoll

A Call for Volunteers... and we love them!

Hello everyone, hope you are having a wonderful summer full of fun and sun. Your Community Library is reaching out to its community this month asking for volunteers. Our volunteers are the best, and we sure do appreciate them, but we could use a few more to appreciate!

Your Community Library does such a great service but we can't do it without you. Being a volunteer allows our library to stay open and serve you. A volunteer helps behind the desk with the librarian checking books in and out, sorting books, stacking shelves, and getting a chance to meet our wonderful patrons. Computer work is simple, and we provide instruction. A volunteer always has the librarian or a board member with them, so they are never alone. If you are interested in volunteering and having fun with us, please contact Dianne Kuehl at telephone number 256-634-4538. We would love to have you on our team.

The library will be open on Friday and Saturday (August 4 and 5) of the longest yard sale for book sales inside the library. Take a break from the heat, come inside, get a drink from the water fountain, and look around.

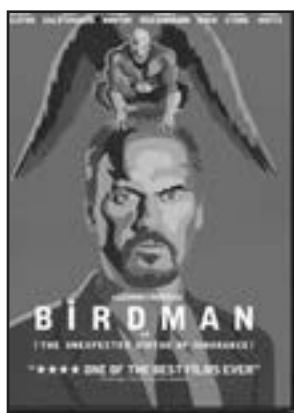
Moon Lake Community Library Board would like to welcome our newest addition, Kathy Norrell. She joined the board at our July meeting by an enthusiastic unanimous vote. Kathy brings to the library a total of 15 years of library experience and a love of Mentone. We are honored to have her expertise.

We want to give a big "thank you" to the anonymous donor who gave a generous cash donation tucked in a book they gave to the library. We sure do appreciate our angels.

Okay, onto our newest additions to the library. Hope you enjoy them.

DVDs

John Wick: When brilliantly lethal John Wick (Keanu Reeves) hunts down his adversaries with skill and focus, the underworld learns a lesson.



Rated R

Birdman: This movie won the Best Picture Academy Award. Has-been movie superhero (Michael Keaton) risks everything for Broadway and faces major hurdles along the way. Entertainment Weekly calls it "Electrifying", Cinemablend.com calls it "Hilarious". Rated R

Red: A former black ops agent lives a quiet life until a hit squad shows up to kill him. Stars Bruce Willis, Helen Mirren, John Malkovic, Richard Dreyfus, Mary-Louise Parker and Morgan Freeman. Rated PG-13

Hidden Figures: This is the story of the three brilliant African-American women working at NASA who served as the brains behind the launch into orbit of astronaut John

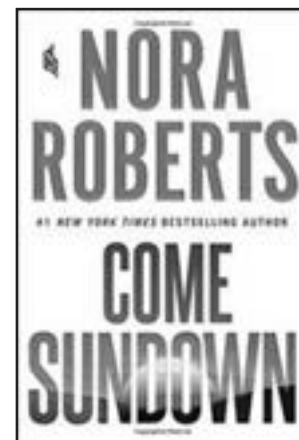
Glenn. Rated PG

Beauty and the Beast: The story and characters you know and love come to spectacular life in the live-action adaptation of Disney's animated classic. Rated PG

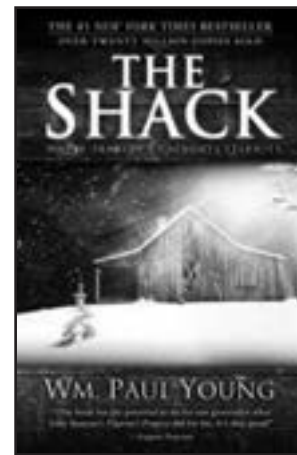
Hacksaw Ridge: The extraordinary true story of Desmond Doss (Andrew Garfield) who, in Okinawa during the bloodiest battle of WWII, saved 75 men without firing or carrying a gun. He was the only American soldier in WWII to fight on the front lines without a weapon. Rated R

Books

Come Sundown by Nora Roberts. The Bodine ranch in western Montana is a family business, an idyllic spot for vacationers who want to ride horses or for couples holding a wedding. Bodine Longbow does all she can to keep things running. One night, the staff find a young woman's battered body in the snow; it's the first sign of danger and not the last murder to unnerve the peaceful setting.



Camino Island by John Grisham. A gang of thieves stage a daring heist from a secure vault deep below Princeton University's Firestone Library. Their loot is priceless. When a young novelist agrees to go undercover to infiltrate a black market of stolen books, there's trouble in paradise as only John Grisham can deliver it.



The Shack - Now a major motion picture and a New York Times best seller. In a world where religion seems to grow increasingly irrelevant, *The Shack* wrestles with the timeless question: Where is God in a world so filled with unspeakable pain? This book is in LARGE print.

There you have it folks, some super fun-filled entertainment at your Community Library. Please stop by and check out our books for sale also, and remember, volunteer! We would love to have you on our team.



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Sat, 6am-2pm

Sun, 6am-10:30am

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MBA Mix: What is our Mission?

By Charlotte Gentry, MBA President



With all the changes in the Mentone area involving new businesses, re-opening of old businesses, old businesses closing, alcohol licensing & eminent sales, re-organization of MAPA, etc., MBA would like to clarify what we are attempting to carry out through our mission.

The leadership of MBA is not trying to promote ourselves or our businesses in what we do. We are a resource that, hopefully, can help

all businesses in the area succeed. We welcome ideas and feedback from every business owner and, also, from the public that is served by these businesses.

Our Facebook page is, essentially, an open forum for businesses to let us know what they have to offer as products and services, upcoming events, "Now hiring," when they are having a sale, interesting happenings or even photographs they've taken of customers (with their permission to post, of course), local concerns or where they need help... in short, anything of interest to those who visit the MBA page.

We believe that, working together with our town's mayor and council, we can make a difference for the betterment of our little town and make it a better business climate as well as a

safer place for the many folks who like to visit and spend time walking around the downtown shops. That's who we are.

MBA is proud to welcome our newest members, Claudia and Robert Pike of MountainWood Cottages. The Pikes are residents of Mentone and Florida and have a lovely cabin for vacation rental in Mentone. We look forward to their input and help with MBA in the future.

If you are a business person, or interested in the future of Mentone, the MBA meets every 2nd Monday of the month at 6:00 pm. There is no cost to join. Our next meeting will be August 14th, 2017, at the Mentone Inn Pavilion. Visit the MBA's Facebook page, and let's fulfill our mission!

HAMMONDVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT GIVES COMMENDATION



Dr. David Horton, a citizen of the Hammondville Fire District, received a "Letter of Commendation" from Chief Craig Hall of the Hammondville Volunteer Fire Department last week in recognition of his own volunteerism in assisting the HVFD and, indeed, the larger community.

After being made aware of the challenges that a fireman can have in locating hydrants that can become hidden or even inaccessible by overgrown vegetation, Dr. Horton took it upon himself to clear a problem hydrant on his street. The good doctor chopped down a large privet shrub and some scrub trees along with mowing down thick overgrowth. He has since 'adopted' this hydrant as his pet community project and continues to maintain the area so as to assure this hydrant's access and visibility!

Kara McMunn Wins Shopping Spree



Congratulations to Kara McMunn! One of Kara's two tickets was the winning entry for the North Lookout Mountain Fire Protection District shopping spree fundraiser held at PriceLess IGA. Kara's cart was filled with items ranging from steaks to coffee to diapers for her new baby. She was very thankful for both the opportunity to race the aisles and the opportunity to support our local volunteer fire fighters. The NLMFPD is also thankful to Kara and everyone else who purchased a ticket or donated money. They are also very appreciative of PriceLess IGA for hosting the event as well as selling tickets.



Fire Department Receives Car Donation

The Valley Head Police Department recently donated a car to the volunteer fire department for use primarily as a first call out vehicle for better efficiency than the big fire trucks. The Valley Head Volunteer Fire Department had the car adapted to fit its needs. The VHPD is honored to be able to help the fire department by donating this vehicle. "The fire department is a tremendous asset to us at accidents, not only concerning injuries but also with road blocks, general traffic control, and other miscellaneous activities." In the photo, Fire Chief Weston Fortner gladly accepts the vehicle donation from Police Chief Nick Welden.



Please consider supporting your local firefighters through a donation or by volunteering.

Shop 'til You Drop

The World's Longest Yard Sale officially starts on the first Thursday in August through the following Sunday. This year, it falls on August 3rd through the 6th and that means it will take place before the county schools start, so you won't have to fight that traffic. Parents, rest assured that you will be able to find something at this sale that your kids can use for school. I've seen everything from computers to clothes to desks, and even notebooks, for sale at this event in past years. Teachers, don't worry too much. There will still be plenty of goodies left when you get off work on Friday afternoon and probably still some good items on Saturday, but I won't make any guarantees about Sunday.

The good thing about Sunday shopping on the World's Longest Yard Sale is that folks desperately want to get rid of anything they have left. This is negotiating day, even more so than the other days. Who doesn't love a bargain, especially a marked down bargain? Even on the last day of the sale, you are bound to find any type of item you can imagine. Antiques, produce, dishes, furniture, baby items and more are always available. The men folk seem to be able to find tools, fishing equipment, golf clubs, and other items for their 'man cave' on any given day of this sale.

The official title is the 127 Corridor Sale, but at 690 miles long and covering several roads throughout several states, its nickname has been aptly given. Or maybe it's referring to the fact that it is the longest lasting yard sale event? The official event is from Thursday to Saturday, but many start before that. Jamestown, TN starts the weekend before in case you want to make the shopping experience a week long event.



For Lookout Mountain, the event runs the gamut of the scenic Lookout Mountain Parkway beginning in Gadsden, through DeSoto State Park on Highway 89, into Mentone and turning right onto Highway 117. The sale goes through downtown Mentone and across the state line into Georgia where the Parkway continues onto Highway 48. At the brow of the mountain, turn left onto Georgia Highway 157 then onto Highway 136 following the Lookout Mountain Parkway into Chattanooga where the 127 Corridor begins.

Most vendors are set up at 8 am and sell until the evening hours. Over one thousand vendors are expected to be set up just in Alabama. Some

people schedule their vacation days around this yard sale both to sell and to shop. It's definitely a unique experience, not only for the deals, but also for the experiences and personal encounters along the way. Have fun, and shop 'til you drop!

By Anna Mae Horn

World's Longest Yard Sale Around Town

Check MyMentone.com
for all business openings!

Moon Lake Library

Used Book Sale - Friday and Saturday, 9-5

Moon Lake School

Bake Sale at the Library - Thurs. Fri. & Sat.

St. Joseph's Church

Inside Fundraiser Sale

Th. & Fri. 8-5 Sat. 8-12

The Village Ice Cream Shoppe

open Aug. 2 through 6

Mentone Market

open Mon. July 31, in time for the Yard Sale!

Crossroads Antiques in Menlo

open at their shop location.

Mentone Realty

will have listed openings and times available.

Public Facilities

at the Mentone Inn and various places in town.

Farmers Market

will have vendors on Saturday.

There will be a port-a-potty behind the Hitching Post and five in Mason Park.

Antiques . Collectibles
Fabulous Vintage Treasures, Fabrics,
Attire & Accessories

**"S" - House
Antiques**

256-844-2995

**Open Tuesday-Saturday
10:00 AM-4:00 PM
& By Appointment**

**907 Grand Ave. SW
Fort Payne, Alabama**

TIGERS INN



Family Restaurant

**Hours:
Monday-Friday
5:30am-2pm**

**132 Commerce Ave.
Valley Head, AL 35989**

256-635-6800



THE
RECIPE
CORNER
~
August



Cool Summer Dish

Here’s a refreshing side dish that has been around for a long time. It has made the rounds at many pot luck dinners in the South for many decades now. It goes with anything. Plus it’s cool and crisp for the hot summer months, especially August. It keeps in the refrigerator for weeks. This particular recipe comes from the 1987 issue of the *Huntsville Heritage Cookbook*.

Copper Pennies

- 2 pounds carrots

1 onion, sliced in thin rings
- 1 bell pepper, sliced in thin rings

1/2 cup salad oil

3/4 cup vinegar

1 teaspoon Worcestershire Sauce
- Marinade:**

1 can tomato soup

3/4-1 cup sugar (personal taste)

1 teaspoon mustard

Salt and papper

In salted water, boil carrots that have been sliced into rings. Don’t over cook them. In bowl, alternate layers of carrots, pepper rings and onion rings. Combine and heat marinade ingredients just until sugar dissolves. Let cool a little and pour over vegetables. Cover and refrigerate. These look pretty served in a clear glass bowl or in a clear glass trifle dish. Serve cold.

Do you have a favorite recipe you would like to submit? We would love to share it. Mail it to us at P.O. Box 387, Mentone, AL 35984, email it to groundhognews.com, or send us a private message through Facebook. We look forward to featuring our reader’s recipes!

HAPPY DAY!

August Birthdays

- Aug 2 – Logan Goza
- Aug 2 – George Raley
- Aug 2 – Ginger Lee
- Aug 2 – Heather Dutton
- Aug 2 – Ashley Simpson
- Aug 2 – Ella Kay Bell
- Aug 3 – Halle Hilyer
- Aug 3 – Adriana Grace Hall
- Aug 3 – Wendy Haynes
- Aug 3 – Chance Pearson
- Aug 3 – Mary Frances Randall
- Aug 3 – Daniel Vest
- Aug 3 – Chet Perky
- Aug 4 – Phyllis Stephens
- Aug 4 – Savanna Goza
- Aug 5 – Hope Martin
- Aug 5 – Amanda Pilotte
- Aug 5 – Elizabeth Meadows
- Aug 5 – Amy Jones
- Aug 5 – Laura Easler
- Aug 5 – Matt Hilliard
- Aug 6 – Casey Stott
- Aug 6 – Dallas Bowman
- Aug 6 – Chris Collins
- Aug 6 – Josey Noles
- Aug 7 – Samantha Blalock
- Aug 7 – Destiny Watters
- Aug 8 – Alex Gifford
- Aug 9 – Martha Browder
- Aug 9 – Carolyn Martin
- Aug 9 – Brayden Hughes

- Aug 9 – Cynthia Connor
- Aug 9 – Decker Jones
- Aug 10 – Alex Whatley
- Aug 11 – Dianna Carden
- Aug 11 – Lila Jane McElhaney
- Aug 11 – Harlee Wooten
- Aug 12 – Kinsley Worthey
- Aug 12 – Amber Smith
- Aug 12 – Frances McNutt
- Aug 13 – Stephanie Potts
- Aug 13 – Brittney Barkley
- Aug 13 – Cindy Tipton
- Aug 14 – Jennifer Ferguson
- Aug 14 – Alan Black
- Aug 14 – Hannah Manning
- Aug 14 – Ryan Hicks
- Aug 14 – Matthew Sword
- Aug 14 – Emilia Shores
- Aug 15 – Michael Langston
- Aug 15 – Dallas Gregory
- Aug 16 – Ashton Jones
- Aug 17 – Sandra Pruitt
- Aug 17 - Mattie Belle McGee
- Aug 17 – Jacob Bain
- Aug 18 – Kinsley Mitchell
- Aug 19 – Michael Flannigan
- Aug 19 – Lee Pierce
- Aug 19 – Blake Villarreal
- Aug 20 – Carla Warren
- Aug 20 – Shane Ingram
- Aug 20 – Joseph Goza
- Aug 20 – Jesse Jones
- Aug 21 – Chloe Bell
- Aug 21 – Eddie Langston
- Aug 21 – Emma Crawford
- Aug 21 – Christina Stokes

- Aug 21 – Michele Black
- Aug 21 – Hannah Neel
- Aug 22 – Casey Gregory
- Aug 22 – Haven Downer
- Aug 22 – Keith Langston
- Aug 22 – Anthony McKenzie
- Aug 22 – Hazel Hilliard
- Aug 22 – Sinjhin Smith
- Aug 22 – Candice Wilbanks
- Aug 22 – Heather Williamson
- Aug 23 – Slade Carden
- Aug 23 – Lukas Boehringer
- Aug 23 - Phillip Pannell
- Aug 23 – Bandy Johnson
- Aug 24 – Dana Pangle
- Aug 24 – Tammy Larock
- Aug 24 – Nicole Callahan
- Aug 25 – Carolyn Coots
- Aug 25 – Jason Gregory
- Aug 25 – Aubrey Baker
- Aug 25 – Georgia Mae Baker
- Aug 25 – Kelly Johnson
- Aug 25 – Crystal Haynes
- Aug 26 – Brantley Hughes
- Aug 26 – Tom Shanklin
- Aug 27 – Sadie Carden
- Aug 27 – Howard Hilyer
- Aug 27 – Crystal Lee
- Aug 27 – Tamara Hawkins
- Aug 27 – Luke Durham
- Aug 27 – Jack Chambers
- Aug 27 – Charlotte McGee
- Aug 27 – Jaymie Ballard
- Aug 27 – Todd Godwin
- Aug 27 – Donna Johnson
- Aug 28 – Larry Gray

- Aug 28 – Hunter Izell
- Aug 28 – Courtney Roden
- Aug 28 – Jase Gregory
- Aug 29 – Kayla Worthey
- Aug 29 – Donna Willingham
- Aug 29 – Susan Cheronos
- Aug 29 – Isaac Browder
- Aug 31 – Wesley Rhodes
- Aug 31 – L.C. Bone
- Aug 31 – Mark Battles
- Aug 31 – Ian Norman

August Anniversaries

- Aug 1 – Carolyn & Eddie Coots
- Aug 1 – Kirk & Mikhaila Watkis
- Aug 6 – John & Amy Kirby
- Aug 8 - Jim & Beverly Bates
- Aug 11 – Rayford & Cindy Bethune
- Aug 17 – Bobby & Sandy Blalock
- Aug 20 – Heath & Lindsey Blalock
- Aug 24 – Dwayne & Laura McKenzie
- Aug 24 – Matthew & Taylor Smothers
- Aug 25 – Mike & Stephanie Potts
- Aug 26 – Will & Lori Blackburn
- Aug 28 – Joseph & Mandi Goza
- Aug 29 – John & Kim Johnson
- Aug 30 – Richard & Christy Harrison

What To Do Around Here!

August 2017 Community Calendar

Aug 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 - Wildcrafting

Wednesdays. A program brought to you by a partnership between One World Adventure, Seven Pines Survival and DeSoto State Park. Wildcrafting is a term for the age-old practice of collecting plant materials in their natural habitat for food, medicine, and craft. What to bring: Water bottle, notebook and pencil, camera. 10 a.m. DeSoto State Park \$12 per person - 1 hour class. Pre-registration is required-limited to 10 participants. Email angie@oneworldadventureco.org. For questions, contact Robert at sps@sevenpinessurvival.com.

Aug 2, 19 - Night Zip Line Adventure.

All our zip lines are set up just before the adventure to ford a gorge or cross from one high point to another. Pre-registration required at True Adventure Sports by 6 pm the day before the adventure. 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. 256-997-9577.

Aug. 3, 4, 5 - Fundraiser Yard Sale at St. Joseph's.

Stop by to shop during the World's Longest Yard Sale. We will be selling inside under the AC to raise funds for our community outreach ministries for food, medical, and local children. Located in Mentone at the intersection of Highways 89 & 117. Open Thursday and Friday 8-5 and Saturday 8-noon for the yard sale.

Aug 4 - Rock Climbing / Rappelling Adventure Combo.

Come experience first-hand what rock climbing and rappelling is all about with guides who are fun, safe and energetic. This trip includes all the gear plus basic instruction. No prior climbing experience is needed. Other events throughout the month. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. 256-997-9577.



Aug 4 - Dusty Smith Live at Vintage 1889.

Come out to Vintage 1889 in Fort Payne for some fun and some good tunes! 7 pm to 10 pm 256-845-3380.

Aug 5 - Introduction to Yoga. A four part work shop style series with Bret Brown and Sharon Totten. For new students and for those who wish to deepen their personal practice by focusing on yoga

fundamentals. The class will delve into all aspects of yoga! Classes will be held at Chris Roberts School of Music on four Saturdays in August beginning Sat 8/5 and concluding on Sat 8/26. Classes start at 9 am and will run for 1 hr and 15 min. Cost will be \$10 per workshop or pay \$35 at the first workshop for all 4.

Aug 5 - Live Music at Vintage 1889.

Headliner The Dozens, a southern rock, soul and blues band with their Swampy and Roots R&B influenced sound in the Muscle Shoals tradition, will follow local artist Keegan Bost, a young singer-songwriter with a very bright future. 7 pm 256-845-3380.

Aug. 8 - Town Hall Meeting with Livingston and Ledbetter.

Everyone is invited out to Valley Head for a town hall style meeting with Senator Steve Livingston and Representative Nathaniel Ledbetter at the Tigers Inn Restaurant at 6 pm.

Aug 10 - Lunch and Learn with Chasley Bellomy.

Held at the Vintage 1889; \$15 ticket includes training session, choice of a house special lunch with drink. For every ticket, \$5 is also donated towards funding Fort Payne Main Street project initiatives. 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. 256-845-3380.

Aug 11, 21 - Extreme Night Hike. This end-of-day adventure does not slow down just because it's dark. Intended for a large group team-building exercise, this hike has a bit of bouldering, some scrambling, some spelunking, and a whole lot of required working together. True Adventure Sports. 7:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. 256-997-9577.

Aug 12 The DeKalb County Genealogical Society.

Member, Gwen Williams will explain the procedure for applying for membership in the United Daughters of the Confederacy (UDC) and explain the documentation that is required. Anyone interested in genealogy or the UDC is invited to attend this free meeting. If you have questions please email us at dekalbcoalgenealogy@gmail.com or mail The DeKalb County Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 681087, Fort Payne, AL 35968. DeKalb County Public Library, 10:00 am.

Aug 12 - National Model Aviation Day.

General radio control flying in support of the AMA Foundation. Fun event to

promote model aviation. DeKalb RC Flyers 8 am to 6 pm.

Aug 12 - Sylvania Football Team Wingfest.

Come and enjoy as 16 competitors cook 10,000+ wings. You taste to decide who's are the best. Tickets are \$10 in advance at Sylvania Pharmacy! They are \$15 day of event. There will be live music, a kid zone, dunk tank and more. Sylvania High School Football Stadium. 5 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Aug 12 - Northeast Alabama 4-H Solar Eclipse Workshop.

The 4-H programs of Cherokee, DeKalb, Madison, Jackson, Etowah, St. Clair, and Blount County are partnering with Jacksonville State University Field Schools and the National Park Service to bring you the NORTHEAST ALABAMA 4-H SOLAR ECLIPSE WORKSHOP! This workshop will be fun and educational, so you can learn all about this once in a lifetime phenomena and be prepared to safely view it from your very own backyard. We will be learning the science behind eclipses, making solar viewers, & having tons of fun! 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Little River Canyon Center; \$5 per participant Ages 9 to 18 welcome (Although most of the activities ARE geared toward this age group, younger siblings may attend WITH an adult, and will need to pay the \$5 registration fee.)



Aug 12, 14, 18 - Night Sky Swing Adventure.

This is an adventure of a lifetime. Enjoy the thrill of the swing at night. Pre-registration required at True Adventure Sports by 6 pm the day before the adventure. Meet at True Adventure Sports 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. 256-997-9577.

Aug 16 - Orienteering Class. Basic yet essential skills for survival navigation are brought to you in map reading, compass reading, and topography. 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. 256-997-9577.

Aug 16 - Knot Class & Application.

Introduction and instruction to essential knots and their application for camping, rappelling, rock climbing, outdoor survival, and other applications. 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. 256-997-9577.

Aug 17, 22 - Afternoon Zip Line Adventure.

All our zip lines are set up just before the adventure to ford a gorge or cross from one high point to another. Pre-registration required at True Adventure Sports by 6 pm the day before the adventure. Noon to 2 p.m. 256-997-9577.

Aug 18 - Music On The Mountain.

Featuring Shenandoah. Held in the Tom Beville Lyceum and on the grounds at Northeast Alabama Community College, this will be a fun day filled with local artist booths, food vendors and inflatables for outdoor activities. Festival will start at 6 p.m. 256-638-4418, ext 248.

Aug 18 - Campfire Talk: Insects of Little River.

Campfire Talks are a series of educational & entertaining programs located in the great outdoors. Join guest speaker Larry Beane from Little River Canyon National Preserve for this fun program about the flying, crawling, creeping, and even swimming insects that can be found on Lookout Mountain. Butterflies, wasps, bees, moths, and much more! Seating is limited, bring your chair if you wish. DeSoto State Campfire Ring in the Improved campground, next to campsite 93. Gate will open 30 minutes before program starts. (Held in Nature Center in case of inclement weather) Free to the Public; Great for all ages! 8 pm to 9 pm For details, 256-997-5025.



Aug 19 - Summer Music Series: Carla Russell & Kozmic Mama.

Sponsored by Little River Arts Council, made possible in part by the Alabama State Council on the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts. Musicians: Carla Russell & Kozmic Mama 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. Mentone Inn Pavilion.

Aug 19 - Scholarship Tournament. The Rainsville Chamber is hosting their 6th annual Scholarship Tournament. The cost is \$150 per team or \$50 per player. Player package includes entry fee, cart, 18 holes of golf, custom event t-shirt and cap, plus other gifts. Breakfast and lunch

What To Do Around Here!

August 2017 Community Calendar

are also provided. 8 a.m. shotgun start. Sign-in/registration starts at 7 a.m. The format will be a 3-person scramble with 2 flights. Contests will be held on several holes. Compete for a \$1,000 hole-in one prize plus nice prizes for closest-to-the pin and longest-drive on select holes. 256-638-7800.

Aug 19 - Third Saturday Downtown Cruise-In. You can come out and enjoy an afternoon of family fun activities in downtown Fort Payne. This public event will include food, live music, a car show, and more from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. 256-996-3857.

Aug 19 - Sunflower Exhibition. In addition to Third Saturday Sunset Cruise-In, Big Wills Arts Council Arts in Education Program is presenting the first annual arts and crafts exhibition that will take place in The Courtyard. The theme for the exhibition is sunflowers. All area artists are invited to exhibit and/or sell their handiworks. Artisans of photography, paintings, sculptures, needlework, jewelry-making, ceramics, floral designs, and other art forms are invited to show off their talents. There will also be an artist on site to help children, up to the age of 12, paint their own sunflower masterpiece. 5 pm to 7 pm Contact: Donna Chesser at d.chesser@yahoo or 256-997-6995 by Aug 14, 2017, if you are interested in participating.

Aug 21 - Observe the solar eclipse. Go to eclipse2017.nasa.gov for details.

Aug 21 - Zip Line Adventure. All our zip lines are set up just before the adventure to ford a gorge or cross from one high point to another. Pre-registration required at True Adventure Sports by 6 pm the day before the adventure. 10 a.m. to Noon 256-997-9577.

Aug 24, 30 - Rock Climbing Adventure. Come experience first-hand what rock climbing is all about with guides who are fun, safe and energetic. This trip includes all the gear plus basic instruction. No prior climbing experience is needed. 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. 256-997-9577.

Aug 25 - The Underwood Family. The Underwoods will sing gospel and Motown favorites at St. Joseph's on the Mountain in Mentone on Friday, at 6:30 PM. This is a FREE concert open to everyone in the Mentone area. Papa Joe's is proud to present this special event. Refreshments will be served.

Aug 25 - Forest Discovery Walk. Hosted by One World Adventure Company & DeSoto State Park. This walk started in 2014



and is one of One World Adventure's most popular activities in DeSoto State Park. 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 point out the many native plants of the southern Appalachians, and teaching facts about important uses of particular plants for food, medicine, and craft. Walk will not exceed 1 1/2 hours and is limited to 10 participants. What to bring: Water bottle, notebook and pencil. DeSoto State Park; 8 a.m. \$7 per person with kids free. Pre-registration is required-limited to 10 participants. Email angie@oneworldadventureco.org to pre-register. For questions, contact Robert at sps@sevenpinessurvival.com

Aug 26 - RUN to RAISE 5K. Our agency is vested in raising awareness and support for individuals and families living with autism. We would greatly appreciate you getting involved in our RUN TO RAISE Event- as a runner/walker or even becoming an honored sponsor. coffeyagencies.com/causes/run-raise-autism-awareness-campaign-5k-event. 7 am.

Aug 26 - Fyffe UFO Days 5K Twilight Run. The Fyffe High School Cheerleaders sponsor this event, and the group is now a 5-time Alabama High School State Champion. Proceeds from the event will

go towards the practice facility for the Fyffe Cheerleaders. 5k registration begins at 7 a.m. Race at 8 a.m. NEW THIS YEAR-- ELECTRONIC



TIMERS! This is a fun and challenging course with cash prizes for top male and female runners. Kids fun run afterward for kids 10 and under. Sign up for fun run the day of race. You can register at racesonline.com or call Mary Katherine Carroll at 256-601-1224.

Aug 26 - Bouldering Adventure. Come experience first-hand what bouldering is all about with guides who are fun, safe and energetic. No prior climbing or bouldering experience is needed. Meet at True Adventure Sports. 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. 256-997-9577.



Ongoing Calendar

The Little River group of Alcoholics Anonymous will meet every Saturday AND every Tuesday night at 6pm at St. Joseph's on the Mountain Episcopal Church, Mentone, AL. Both meetings are Open AA Discussion Meetings. Anyone who thinks they might have a problem with alcohol is welcome. The meetings are also open to members of AA Anon. Questions? call 256-634-3060.

AL-ANON family and friends support group. Meets every Tuesday at 6:00 pm at St. Joseph's on the Mountain Church in Mentone, AL. Same time and location as the AA Meeting. Come join us and help us grow!

Ballroom dancing lessons offered at DeKalb County Council on Aging on Monday nights from 6pm to 8pm. 256-845-8590.

Line dancing lessons offered at DeKalb County Council on Aging on Tuesdays from 1:30 to 3:30pm. 256-845-8590.

Mentone Town Council meets the 2nd Tuesday every month at 6pm in the town council room. Everyone is welcome.

MAPA Board meets on the First Tuesday of every month at 6:00 P.M. at Moon Lake Library.

Gluten Free/Diabetic All Natural Cooking classes with Brenda Trace will be held at Little River Hardware at 6pm on Wednesdays. Classes \$10.

Lookout Mountain Parkway Association meets every 3rd Wednesday of the month at 11am. Call to find out how to get involved! 256-845-3957.

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

DeSoto Rescue Squad meets the 1st Saturday of the month at 9am at the MERF house in Mentone.

Free Square Dance Lessons offered most Thursdays, 6:30pm, at Tom Bevill Center in Rainsville by Duos and Solos Dance Club. 256-638-2780.

FREE FOOD for eligible persons and families. Hours: Wednesdays, 9 to 11:30am. New

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

The NLMFPD Board meets the 3rd Monday of every month at 7pm.

The Lookout Mountain Wholistic Center meets the 1st & 3rd Wednesday of every month at Rock Ridge Retreat Center in Valley Head at 6:30pm. Everyone is welcome!

Mentone Farmers Market open year round every Saturday, 10am-1pm.

Storytime at the Canyon Center every first Saturday of the month. 11am-Noon. Free. 256-782-5697.

The Mentone Business Association (MBA) will meet the second Monday of each month from 6-7pm.

The Rhododendron Garden Club meets on the second Tuesday at 10:00AM at the

MERF House. 'Green thumbs' and 'brown thumbs' welcome! For more information, call 256-634-4403.

The DeKalb County Genealogical Society meets the second Saturday of every month in the DeKalb County Public Library, 10 AM.

JHH & CLC meet at 9am each Friday at the DeKalb County Council on Aging followed by a quilt making class that is open to the public.

Exercise Room open at the DeKalb County Council on Aging Monday through Friday (except for certain holidays) from 8 am to Noon..

Little River Arts Council meets the third Wednesday of each month at 5 pm at Moon Lake Library, Newcomers welcome.

The Farm at Windy Hill hosts an Open Farm Friday Market every Friday from 3-6 pm, March through November. 445 Road 942, Mentone.

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

Buy Local.

Generations of Lookout Mountain residents have looked to Fletcher Bright Realty for an unsurpassed caliber of real estate service.



Cloudland Park

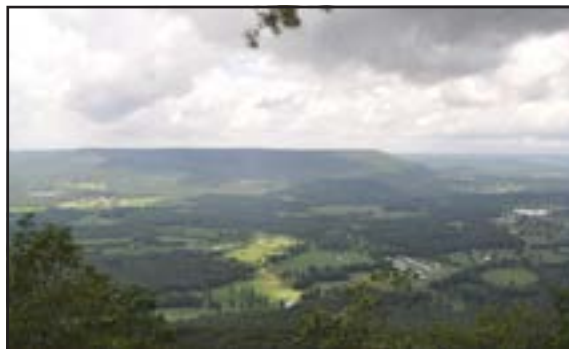
1001 County Rd 106, Mentone, AL 35984 - 3 bedroom, 2 bath home on Lake Lahusage. Heart pine floors, walls and ceilings. Great screen porch and outdoor fireplace, perfect for entertaining for family and friends. \$349,000. Jeremy McDowell - 706-506-0715.



Bright Bluff

0 Highway 157 Lots 8 and 9, Rising Fawn, GA 30738. Beautiful brow lots on the Eastern side of Mountain. Lots are wooded. Lot #8 has been surveyed and is 6.3 acres with 303 feet of brow frontage. Lot #9 has been surveyed and is 5.95 acres with 303 feet of brow frontage. \$134,900 each.

John Martin - 423-903-2450. Jeremy McDowell - 706-506-7015.



Lookout Highlands

1 Pennington Pt, Cloudland, GA 30731

This Western Brow lot hosts a beautiful view and unique rock outcroppings. Lookout Highlands is located right across the street from Canyon Ridge Golf Club and the Canyon Grill is only 10 minutes away. The Lookout Highlands development is a 1,500 acre gated community with 400 acres set aside for parks containing hiking trails, canyons, waterfalls and 4 stocked lakes. \$100,000

John Martin 423-903-2450



Eastern Brow

0 Brow Haven, Rising Fawn, GA 30738

Build your dream home on this spectacular 5 acre brow lot on the Eastern Brow of Lookout Mountain with views to the Blue Ridge Mountains and Chickamauga. Come build your mountain home on this beautiful lot. Property is located near Canyon Ridge Golf Club and the famous Canyon Grill Restaurant. \$79,900

Jeremy McDowell 706-506-7015

John Martin 423-903-2450



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VALLEY HEAD JR. BETA GOES ABOVE & BEYOND AT NATIONALS

By Sarah Blalock

In June, more than 15,000 attendees gathered in Orlando, Florida for the National Beta Club Convention. Schools from all around the United States sent their clubs to showcase their talents and academic abilities. On June 23rd, twenty-two members of the Valley Head Jr. Beta, along with a host of chaperones, boarded the bus to compete for 8 national titles. This was the first opportunity for the club to attend a national convention, as a group, and be able to interact with fellow beta members as a way to enhance leadership skills, share service ideas, and have a little free time at Disney World as well. The club broke a school record and earned 3 national placements and 1 Top 10. Individual and club categories winning on the national level:

Woodworking Division I
Chance Pearson- 5th place
Sketching Division I
Lila Jane McElhaney-5th place
Banners Division II
Club Win- 2nd place
Essay Division I-
Catherine Gifford - Top Ten

"Beta, above and beyond" was the convention theme and was highlighted in much of the artwork presented at nationals. VH Beta sponsor Christi Black oversaw the banner that came in 2nd place and stated that the very first sketch made for the banner, a theme of space and Disney, ended up being the finished product they used- "There were no edits or revisions, the first idea and the very first sketch was the banner



that made nationals!" Other categories that the club entered at nationals were:

Recyclable Art Division II
Ellie Cox
Special Talent Division I
Lila Jane McElhaney
Hand-made Jewelry Division II
Allie Pritchett
Songfest Division II
Club

Tara Kirby, VH Beta sponsor, adds that "this trip was the undertaking of too many to



count. Our Beta parents, community, alumni, local businesses, school faculty, and so many others—not affiliated with little VHS—showed tremendous support through donations, encouragement, and participation in our events. Thank you seems like such an underestimated choice of words to use in this situation. From the bottom of my grateful heart and the bottom of these students' joyous hearts—much love and thanks! It takes a village.



(cont'd on page 14)

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Summer Program at the Library

Thank you to everyone who let their children, or grands, participate in our summer program at Moon Lake Community Library. We read poetry and made books, learned about our Native American heritage and crafted, made our own dragon eggs after reading a dragon story, and much more. Special thank yous go out to Bill Rutledge, Kathy Norrell, and Barbara Umland for presenting programs for the children. It is wonderful to see the smiles on the children, watch them while they listen intensely, and to share their feeling of accomplishment as they get their project just right! Also, congratulations to Rose Cox. She was the first winner of our reading incentive program and chose a book on magic tricks as her gift. We look forward to hosting more great events at the library. Maybe we shouldn't wait until next summer.



(cont'd on page 14)

Valley Head Jr. Beta (cont'd from page 13)

Thanks for making the dreams in our little village a reality!" Beta parents and chaperones would also like to give a huge heartfelt thank you to Mrs. Kirby and Mrs. Black for their tireless work with the kids and the fundraising goal that seemed, at times, impossible to meet. The VH Jr. Beta Club members and parents would like to say to everyone that bought a raffle ticket, joined us for Bingo, came to the Wizards Game, ran in the 5k, attended the Quarter Auction, donated to the GoFundMe account, dropped money in our buckets at Wal-Mart or anywhere, and gave back to your school in the alumni letter drive--we share this with you. All of you helped get these kids here to compete and not just represent our school, but our county and our great state. We, together, did this.

*Summer Program (cont'd from page 13)*

Moon Lake School would like to welcome students, teachers, and staff back for a fabulous 2017-2018 school year! Teachers will have professional development and work days the first week of August. Open House will be on Thursday evening, August the 3rd, starting at 6 pm. Everyone in the community is welcome to come out and meet the teachers and staff. We will be welcoming Krista Sims as our new second grade teacher.

The school will be having a bake sale at the library during the World's Longest Yard Sale, August 3, 4, and 5 in front of the library. This will be in conjunction with the Community Library Board Book Sale. If you can donate items for the bake sale or volunteer a little time to work during those days, please call the school or send us a message on facebook.

School starts back on August the 7th. We are looking forward to seeing how the kids have grown over the summer, hearing their stories, and meeting the new students. The 21st Century After School Program will begin the same day from 3 to 5 pm each evening. We are excited to announce an expansion of the program to include a morning portion. From 7 to 7:30 am each morning, we will be doing yoga, reading, and other activities followed by breakfast. Details and sign up will be available at Open House, so be sure to join us!



Worship

The Sunday morning services at **Winston Memorial Presbyterian Church** are held at 9AM each Sunday, except no services on 5th Sunday. Rev. Jerry Davis is our minister for these services.

Valley Head Baptist Church invites you to come and worship with us. On Sunday, Bible Study is at 11:00 AM & Morning Worship is at 11:00 AM; Kidz Connection is at 5:00 PM, Evening Worship at 6:00 PM. Kidz Connection & Youth meet on Wednesday from 5:00 – 6:00 PM & a snack supper is provided. On the second Wednesday of the month, there is a church wide covered dish Fellowship Meal at 6:00 PM.

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 to 18); 6:30pm Praise and Prayer time. Located at 4212 County Road 751, Valley Head. 635-1001.

Visitors are always welcome at the **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.

Wildwood Seventh Day Adventist Church, Mentone Chapter, is currently holding services in the Woodmen of the World Hall in Valley Head. All are invited to attend! Sabbath School and Song Service: 9:30-10:45AM, Worship Service 11:00-12:15. Pastor - Wilbur Atwood; Lay Pastors - James Hartley and Ryan Bunnel.

Our Lady of the Valley Catholic Church on N. Gault Avenue in Fort Payne holds Sunday mass in English at 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. in Spanish. Tuesday at 6:00 p.m. in English, Wednesday at 5:00 p.m. bilingual, Thursday at 6:00 p.m. in English, Friday at 9:00 a.m. in English and Saturday at 6:00 p.m. in bilingual.

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 1519 Smith Gap Road (County Road 85), Fort Payne. Regular Worship Services are at 10AM Sunday. Bible class or Lent/Advent services every Wednesday at 6:30PM. Steve Schrader, Pastor - 845-4314. Everyone welcome.

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.

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. God Bless You.

Grace Presbyterian Church (PCA), 5760 Gault Ave. NE, Fort Payne, AL. Sunday School 9:45AM; Sunday Worship 10:55AM. Church office: 256-845-4756.

Menlo Church of Christ invites you to attend the 10AM and 11AM services and evening services are at 5PM on Sundays and Wednesdays. Visitors are always welcome.

Mount Calvary Baptist Church, Cloudland, GA, welcomes everyone to come and take part in our church services. Sunday School at 10AM; Worship Service at 11AM, Sunday evening at 6PM, and Wednesday evening at 7PM.

DeSoto Church of Christ invites you to attend Sunday Bible Study at 10AM, Worship at 11AM, Wednesday Bible study at 5PM.

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

St. Joseph's On-The-Mountain Episcopal Church, 21145 Scenic Highway, Mentone. Everyone welcome to 10:30AM Sunday service of Holy Eucharist. Open for daily prayer and thanksgiving. Supporting our community with outreach. Call for more information, 256-634-4476, <http://stjosephmountain.dioala.org>

Mentone United Methodist Church, 415 Cutler Avenue, Mentone, Alabama invites you to come and worship with us. Each Sunday, our Worship Service is at 11AM and Sunday School is at 10AM. Tony Gunter is the pastor. The service of Holy Communion is celebrated the first Sunday of each month, the second Sunday is Youth Sunday and Fifth Sunday is a service of music and pot-luck lunch. Bible Study Wednesdays at 6:00PM.

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.

Alpine Community Church, 115 Hwy. 337, Menlo, GA. Pastor and Rev. Rodney Blaylock welcome each and everyone to worship service Sunday morning at 11AM GA time; Sunday School 10AM GA time; Wednesday night Bible Study 7PM GA time.

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

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

Mentone Church of God of Prophecy - regular service times are 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.

Mentone Community Church, 90 Summerville Rd, Mentone, AL 35984. Pastor Tim Miller; Crosswalk Sunday School K through Adult - 9:15am; Adult Worship Service - 10:30am; JC Kids Worship Service - 10:30am. Van Ministry for Children pick-up/take home, ages k-12, for all surrounding areas 8:15am. For children pick-up and drop-off van, please call Donna Bunn 706-398-0720. Wednesday small group study - 6:30pm.

Cloudland Presbyterian Church welcomes everyone to come join us for services, with Pastor Roger Kvam. Bible Study Sunday at 9AM (EST) and Worship at 10AM (EST).

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

New Oregon United Methodist Church: Located just off Desoto Parkway 1/4 mile south of Fischer Crossroads. We would like to 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. Address 1204 New Oregon Drive NE, Fort Payne, AL 35967. phone 256-845-7446.

The Church of God 7th Day in Hammondville located just off Hwy. 11 N. at corner of Hwy. 117 and Palmer Road. Sabbath School classes at 9:30AM and Worship Service at 11AM. Visitors are always welcome.

Gravel Hill Baptist Church, 14701 Hwy 11 South, Ft Payne, AL 35967 has Sunday School 10 AM & Worship Service at 11 AM each Sunday. All welcome! Wednesdays at 6PM we have supper and a brief devotional time together. Pastor George Moses.

Greater Vision Ministries Church of God, 38623 US HWY 11, Hammondville, AL 35989. Come as you are . . . LEAVE CHANGED! Sunday School 10 am, Sunday Worship *10:45 am, (*Nursery & Kid's Church). MidWEEK re-charge Wednesday 6:30pm. Loving God & Serving Others. Pastor Tim Coppock. 256-601-0679.

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

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



In Memoriam

Remembering Richard Alan Fey November 13, 1951–July 17, 2017

Mentone lost a beloved member of our community when Rick Fey, co-owner of The Graceful Giraffe, passed away on July 17, 2017. Rick and his wife of 45 years, Debra, visited Mentone in the 1990s and bought wooded acreage on the brow, where they began building their home in 2007. Rick's keen interest in art, interior design, and contemporary architecture was rewarded with the opportunity to design his and Debra's dream home, which Debra calls an "amazing feat in contemporary design."

Rick was a life-long lover of animals, and he spent over 10 years working at The Atlanta Humane Society. In 1982, he started a pet sitting service in Atlanta, only the second of its kind in the area at the time, and Debra joined him in the business in 1989. They enjoyed working together and caring for the animals, and continued the service until they moved to Alabama in July of 2011.

Rick and Debra opened The Graceful Giraffe in 2013, a delightful gift shop located in the heart of Mentone. Rick's design aesthetic is evident in the shop's interior. Friends living in Kenya provide many of the items for sale in the shop, and local artists are featured as well. The shop was named after the couple's beloved dog, Grace.

After experiencing minor symptoms, Rick was diagnosed with parotid cancer in June of 2012. Following numerous surgeries, radiation and chemotherapies, he eventually participated in three phase I clinical trials at Emory's Winship Cancer Institute. Rick's good humor, bravery and character, along with his willingness to give of himself in order to help others, was recognized by many during his five-year battle with cancer. Rick was a talented poet with a gift for words and a gentle spirit. He was a very tall man, and whenever I visited the shop, he always seemed, to me, a bit like a graceful giraffe himself...

He will be missed by the Mentone community. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to the Tri-State Humane Society or to the Winship Cancer Institute of Emory University.

~ Kelly Leavitt



Mr. James "Jim" Barnett Chidester September 25, 1954 – July 12, 2017



Jim Chidester is survived by his wife Kimberly Chidester, children Stephanie Brinegar, James Chidester, Brooke Morris, Benjamin Morris, Joshua Otting (Vanessa), Zachery Otting and Abigail Otting, mother Emma Jean Chidester, brothers Darryl Chidester, Jeffery Chidester and Michael Chidester, sisters Vannessa Bolourfovosh, Bonnie Saddler, Roseanne Boren and Dana Chidester, grandchildren Alexis, Logan, Dominique, and Kastan, and several nieces and nephews. Jim was preceded in death by his father Joseph Aaron Chidester. He is buried at Bankhead Cemetery.

"Heaven" by Rick Fey

I lost my nerve
They took my smile
Then they left me thin
Heaven could you take me in?

A few more days
But at what cost?
The deck's been stacked
The game is lost
Heaven could you take me in?

This mortal coil
Is slipping fast
Now my future
Is my past
Heaven could you take me in?

I've read the Book
I've got no mark
I've lost my taste for sin
Heaven could you take me in?

I don't need a golden bed
Nor diamonds in the street
Just a place to lay my head
And still my restless feet
Heaven could you take me in?

Stephanie Denise Worthey March 26, 1981 – July 4, 2017

Many thought of Stephanie Worthey as a friend, others called her family, and many more knew her as a cook at the Outpost. At the young age of 36, she has gone from this life and left her legacy of love and hard work behind for others to remember her by and to be carried on. "In the end it's not about how much you have, it's about a life well lived."

Funeral services were held at the Valley Head Chapel of Burt Funeral Home with interment at Mt. Olive cemetery in Cloudland, GA. In lieu of flowers, the family requested donations be made in her name directly to Burt's.

Stephanie is survived by her daughter Annabelle Grace Grider (age 5), son Hudson Lee Grider (age 1), the children's father Shane Grider, her parents Jimmy and Gaynell Worthey, her sisters Stacie (Wink) Painter and Melissa (Phillip) Simpson, fourteen aunts and uncles, 21 cousins, and a host of friends.

The Worthey family is very grateful for all the love shown to our family during the time of the loss of our daughter and sister, Stephanie Worthey. The outpouring of love and generosity shown to us during our grief is so humbling to us. Knowing how much Stephanie was loved gave us strength and continues to give us comfort. We have tried to thank everyone personally, but if we missed anyone, please know it was not on purpose. We ask that you please keep her children, Gracie and Hudson, in your prayers. God bless each and every one of you.

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A Day at the Races

By Pat Johnson

Cloudland Community's second annual 5K Fun Run took place on July 1st at Cloudland Community Park. There were over 40 runners, many more than last year, and the weather was perfect. The Cloudland Volunteer Fire Department handled traffic control. The winners were: Madelyn Smith – youth winner, Kendra Stallings – female winner, Lance Stallings – male winner, and Reed Smith – youth winner. The oldest participant (91) and the youngest (5) were a great grandmother with her great grandchild. Both finished the race.

Fun was had by all, and we hope that our 5K Fun Run next year will be even bigger and better. Our annual Fun Run will be on the first Saturday of July every year, so be sure to mark your calendars.

The Burning Leaf Festival will be held, as it is every year, on the last Saturday in October, which is the 28th this year. Like the Fun Run, it will be held at the Cloudland Community Park. It will include vendors, music, food, and games.

All monies raised by our festivals go directly to the upkeep and improvement of our community park in Cloudland. So far we have added a safety

railing along the back of our pavilion and a flowerbed along the outside. We have also added many new picnic tables. Future money will go toward upgrading our bathrooms and possibly adding basketball goals to our tennis courts.

Cloudland Park is the center of our small community where community meetings are held and families gather to enjoy special occasions. There is a pavilion with a kitchen and lavatories, a walking track, picnic tables, a tennis court, and playground equipment.



Valley Head Cemetery Run



What: Valley Head Cemetery In Memory Of... 5k Run/ Walk and Fun Run

When: Saturday, September 30, 2017 at 8:00am

Where: Valley Head Cemetery

**Contact: Sherryl Lewis
256-657-1616**

An Existential Question and An Answer

By Kathy Gaston

Why are we here? Have you ever asked yourself that question? Why are we here? I've actually been asked that question a lot lately and, ladies and gentlemen, I have an answer.

Now, in my case this question has been asked in the form of, "Why are you here? How on earth did you end up here... in Mentone, Alabama?" And my short answer is always, "Good luck, good karma, the blessing of God..., and a heck of a lot of research."

The good luck... well, have you looked around recently? This place is gorgeous! And the climate is wonderful.

The good karma... well, it's about time all my hard work earned me some good rewards!

The blessing of God... well, isn't everything?

The research... well, now you're asking yourself, "What on earth does research have to do with it?" And I will tell you...

A little over a year ago, I was living at the end of four miles of dirt road, at the end of a dead-end canyon in the Black Hills of extreme northeast

Wyoming. And I considered myself lucky to be there. Have you ever been there? It's beautiful! Although, it didn't always feel so lucky or so beautiful when the toilets froze every winter when it was thirty-five or forty degrees below zero (yep, every winter!), and you're sitting there waiting for someone to come and plow thirty inches of snow out of your driveway so you can four-wheel into town for some groceries.

When we first moved there, our landlord said we could stay there forever. Wonderful! We had finally found a home. But then, just over a year ago our landlord came to us and said, "We changed our minds. We want the house for our kids." I have to tell you, the bottom fell out of our world. We did not know where to go or how we were going to afford to go there. So, being me, I channeled my inner Hermione Granger and started doing research. Lots and lots of research. Honestly, if Hermione had had the Internet, she could have conquered the world!

I researched every state, and I researched

everything. At least, everything I could think of, which was a lot. The first thing I researched was elevation because, if we had to move, I wanted to get my Daddy to a lower elevation. Surprisingly, that ruled out pretty much every place in the western part of the US, except for the coast, and who can afford the coast? I researched cost of living, food costs, fuel costs, housing costs, property tax rates,

frequency of tornadoes, frequency of earthquakes, frequency of forest fires, water tables, water quality, radon levels, average temperatures, rain fall, crime rates, school drop-out rates, political leaning, medical facilities... you name it, I researched it. What would you research if you had to find a place to live? Yep, I researched that, too. And all of that led me to Alabama which, honestly, surprised the heck out of me. The one thing I had not added into my criteria for a place was proximity to family. But, happily, Alabama meant that for the first time since the sixteenth century, our extended family would all be within a day's drive of each other. Amazing! I'm not so sure how my cousins all feel about that, but I think it's great!

So, the next step was boots on the ground. I arranged care for Dad, and I made a couple of trips out here. At first I looked around the Florence area because that's where my cousin lives. But my desire for cooler summers led me to northeast Alabama... and Mentone. And folks, when I saw Mentone, it was pretty much all over for me. Remember what I said earlier about "gorgeous"? This place had it all! So I found a little house that we could almost afford, and I informed Dad that we were moving.

Now we live in a funky little cabin just down the road in Mentone, Alabama. Yes, our little cabin needs a lot of work and I will probably spend the rest of my life wielding a hammer and saw, but it is our little piece of paradise. However, the one thing we've found here that I could not possibly have researched is the people. Everyone here has been so nice! We've never experienced anything like the welcome we have found here. And, truly, that has been the biggest blessing of all. We've found paradise, and now we call it "home."

So, ladies and gentlemen, that is why we are here.

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Shopping For Good

By Anna Mae Horn

One of the heart warming things about Mentone is the way folks do things for others. The people here are great about that. During the World's Longest Yard Sale, some of the ladies from St. Joseph's On-The-Mountain will be having an indoor yard sale at the church. It's actually a fundraiser, though, for the community outreach programs offered at St. Joseph's. They offer all of their services based on need, not religious affiliation, and they serve all ages.

St. Joseph's is a partner with the Food Bank of North Alabama, which is funded from the national Feeding America Program. They have an emergency food and shelter program, the Snack in a Back Pack program that gives food to school kids for the weekend, and weekly food distribution. Applicants must meet income requirements to qualify. In this rural area, many families who work yet struggle from week to week actually qualify but may not know it unless they apply. Thanks to a kind individual donating a freezer, the weekly distributions can now include meat products.

St. Joseph's also has a medical transportation program as well as a fund for dental emergencies. In the spring and fall, they join several other Mentone churches to offer events for the children. They have recently started an animal ministry, distributing donated pet food. Other local churches strongly support these outreach ministries, both financially and in many other ways; and they coordinate services in order to best serve the entire community.

None of this would be possible without the help of others. Volunteers are needed to do tasks as simple as unloading groceries or stocking shelves. If you would like to volunteer or apply for services, call 256-635-4476 or stop by their office. You can sponsor Snack in a Back Pack during the school year for \$4 per week.

Shopping at their yard sale is also a way to support their efforts and give back to the community. Any excuse to shop is a good one, right?

When Medicare Covers Home Health Care

By Lynn Hixson

Home Health Care is care provided for you in the home to treat an illness or injury. Medicare covers home health care as long as you meet all of the requirements. In order for Medicare to cover your home health care, you must:

- Be homebound, meaning it is extremely difficult for you to leave the home and you need help doing so.
- Need either skilled nursing care on a part-time basis or skilled therapy services. Skilled care is care that can only be provided by a licensed nurse or therapist.
- Have an office visit with your doctor within 60 days before you begin receiving home care or 30 days after you start receiving home care.
- Get your doctor to sign a home health certification, confirming that you qualify for home care because you are homebound and need skilled care. The certification must also

state that your doctor has approved a plan of care for you and that you have had the required office visit.

- Receive care from a Medicare-certified home health agency.

If you meet all of the requirements, Medicare should pay for skilled care you receive in the home as well as services you receive from a home health aide. Know that Medicare will not pay for home health aide services (e.g., help with bathing or dressing and using the bathroom) if you do not have a need for skilled care. If you have a Medicare Advantage plan, you should contact your plan directly and ask which home health agencies work with the plan and are in the plan's network of providers. If you have Original Medicare, you can locate a Medicare-certified home health agency by calling 800-MEDICARE.

For more information, please contact your SHIP Counselor, Lynn Hixson, at the DeKalb County Council on Aging at 256-845-8590.

Mental Health Snippet

By Karole Ohme

People Need People

The month of August signals summer's end and fall's beginning. Many fall activities involve groups of people planning and working together. Without organizations and group projects, our world would be much more chaotic. People with common goals draw upon each other in their efforts to create a richer environment for everyone. Individually, each of us gains mental health benefits from sharing purposeful as well as recreational interactions. Despite the many benefits of group projects, involvement can be a two-edged sword. So, it helps to have group guidelines.

People work well with people when they:

- Plan together.
- Encourage each other.
- Openly share concerns.
- Put their ideas "on the table."

Lean on each other for advice and help.
Enter into the task with their eyes open.

Nurture each other.
Engage in less talk and more action.
Express appreciation to each other often.
Develop the courage to say "Yes" or "No" and act accordingly.

Participate fully once committed.
Enjoy themselves as they get the job done.
Overcome their modesty and claim their talents.
Project respect for each other.
Learn to appreciate individual differences.
Examine outcomes and use what was learned for future projects.

Karole is a Licensed Professional Counselor, Counseling Supervisor, Thanatology Certified and member of the AL Board of Examiners in Counseling. She can be reached at kkohme@gmail.com.

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SAGE ADVICE: A MOON GARDEN



By Susan Seago

We had a moon garden when we lived in Douglasville and enjoyed it very much. What is a moon garden, you ask? Well, it is composed of white or light colored flowers, usually pale pink with gray and silver foliage. When the moon is full, it fills the yard with beauty. One can walk through its paths without assistance from a flashlight or other light fixtures. When the moon is not full, solar or other forms of light help to showcase the moon garden. Some of the flowers do not even open until dusk or dark. Others bloom continuously so they can be appreciated in daylight, too. Many of the night blooming plants are fragrant, sending sumptuous scents throughout the evening hours.

To begin, determine the location of the moon garden. Do you want it to be seen by others and planted at the front of the house? Perhaps you want to linger on the backyard patio after darkness falls. Simply plant where you can enjoy it most at night. You may want to locate it where light shines both day and night (sun in day and moonlight at night). A sunny day area with surrounding trees for those shade plants would be good also.

Think about planting a variety of shrubs and

flowers that will make your moon garden bloom and shine from spring through winter frost.

Even a water garden with night-blooming water lilies such as 'Texas Shell Pink' and 'Trudy Slocum' could be included. Other night bloomers include evening primrose, four o'clocks, angel's trumpet, and moon flower (very fragrant).

For spring, plant Freesia, snowdrops, white tulips, creamy daffodils, dogwood trees, and fothergilla shrubs. Other white blooming

shrubs include spirea and viburnum, even pale pink rhododendrons. Summer blooming flowers include white bellflower (*Campanula persicifolia* 'Alba'), baby's breath, and astilbes. Late summer might include monkshood, bugbane, and boltonia. Shasta daisies will flower from spring through summer.

Other fragrant flowers are flowering tobacco and



Summersweet, a mid-size shrub. Plant fragrant plants a distance from one another so they will fill the whole garden with delicious smells in July and August.

For night glowing foliage, use *Artemisia*, variegated hostas and caladiums, even variegated liriope grass. I like the annual Dusty Miller and the pastels of impatiens. Lamb's Ear has that silver gray foliage and feels so soft to the touch. Lavender's fresh scent adds to the pleasure of the night.

It's summer! Enjoy your moon garden!

MOON OVERSHADOWS SUN

On August 21, There will be a solar eclipse throughout the United States, when the moon casts a shadow on Earth blocking the sun's light. Nashville, TN will be in the path of 100% totality. Locally, we should still get a pretty good view. From Brow Park in Mentone, a partial eclipse will start around noon with a peak of 98% totality at 1:33 pm. A partial eclipse will remain until about 3 pm. Never look at the sun directly without protection. Go to eclipse2017.nasa.gov for all the information and an interactive map.

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Rhododendron Garden Club

By Mellanie Tuttle

The Rhododendron Garden Club met at the MERF House on July 11th for its monthly meeting. Martha Wood

provided delicious refreshments. President Mellanie Tuttle called the meeting to order, the pledge followed, and members read the Collect for Gardeners as a meditation. During roll call, members shared plants that were thriving in their gardens: basil, Greek oregano, rosemary, creeping rosemary, zucchini, and an unusual deep purple cherry tomato were mentioned.

Committee reports were given. Marsha Merrell, Conservation Chair was once again dismayed that foliage under the power lines coming into Mentone was brown due to spraying of pesticides—no more beautiful Queen Anne's Lace, daisies and other wild flowers. Martha Wood, Horticulture Chair, introduced the Baptisia australis as the perennial plant of 2010. The genus name comes from the Greek word bapto which means to dye and the common name, False Indigo, indicated that early Americans used the plant as a substitute for the true indigo used for making a purple dye. The native plant, easily grown in dry to

medium soil in full sun to part shade, is also deer resistant. Its showy purple lupine-like flowers attract butterflies and then form charcoal black seed pods which were used for baby rattles in former times and are now valued in dry flower arrangements. Baptisia has no insect or disease problems but may need to be staked since plants typically grow 3-4 feet tall. Design Chair Mellanie Tuttle brought a construction design and explained its characteristics and new requirements for flower show entries. New and old business followed and the meeting was closed.

Member Dee Kelley gave an informative program on hanging baskets and Geraniums and had several examples for viewing and smelling! Construction of a

hanging basket uses the same format as making a container—have a Thriller, something tall; a Filler, something shorter than tall in the middle; and a Spiller, something to trail over the side.



Add rope or chain for hanging, and now the container is a hanging basket! Any plant can be used but the average life for a hanging basket is two months before the plants outgrow their containers. Ferns make good hanging baskets since they last longer but to survive winters must be brought inside. Containers should be watered weekly. In Dee's opinion, with the exception of the fern, hanging baskets (though beautiful) are pricey and high-maintenance. Dee brought a variety of Geraniums which is actually a misnomer but too confusing to try to explain in this article. The true geranium is also known as the hardy geranium, flourishes in semi-shade and woodland areas, and will survive winter temperatures. Most plants commonly called geraniums are actually Pelargoniums. Both the hardy geranium and the Pelargoniums are perennial but Pelargoniums are tender and will not survive temperatures below 30 degrees and come from southern Africa and Australasia. Members were most impressed with the scented varieties Dee displayed. The variety sold as a 'Citronella' plant is actually a scented leaf Pelargonium! Other leaf-scented types include rose, lemon, mint, fruit, nut, and spice cultivars. "A rose by any other name would smell as sweet" applies to these plants. Geraniums, Pelargoniums, hardy geraniums, zonal, regals, ivy leaf, scented leaf uniques, et al by any name are wonderfully complex and a valued addition to any garden, porch or hanging basket.

Our next meeting is 10:00 AM on August 8 at the MERF House. We will be gearing up for the Fall Flower Show in September. Remember now is the six-week window to be making terrariums, dish gardens and planters to enter. A new rule this year is that terrarium and dish gardens must have naturalistic accessories (rock, wood) in scale to plantings. Fairy gardens are now in a botanical arts category and the fall show does not include that division.

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



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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.



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.



LIKE-NEW CABIN, 3BR/2.5BA on 11+/- acres. Living area w/wall of windows and wb fireplace. Open kitchen & dining area. Screened porch & a deck accessible from 3 rooms. Workshop/Storage room below. \$283,500. MLS #1056091.



TWO-STORY Mentone cabin w/2 BR/2BA,, loft, dining area & lge. living. Screened front porch, 9' ceilings, pine floors, & fresh paint! Sleeps 10 comfortably. Great rental investment. \$169,900. #1062659.



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.



2 BR/2 BA with full appliance package, storage building, screened front porch, back deck. TOTALLY remodeled with an addition within the last 5 years to include windows, doors and wiring. FURNISHED! \$139,900. MLS #1056385



GORGEOUS 11.27 acre lot with fabulous view of the valley. Included is a 2BR/1BA mobile home with a screened porch and deck. 2 rock bluff points with trails for easy access. \$139,900. MLS #1052557



ENJOY THE BROW VIEW from porch of this Two-story home with vaulted and open living has 3BR/2BA, furnished and gas log fireplace. \$268,900. MLS#1048786



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. \$749,000. MLS#1066488.



CUSTOM CABIN w/vaulted great room and kitchen, oak flooring, and wood burning fireplace in this 2BR/2 1/2BA home. Sleeping porch w/FP. Secluded w/ gated entrance near downtown Mentone. \$247,500. MLS #1051679.



Furnished Cabin on Parkway! Minutes from DeSoto St. Pk. & downtown Mentone. Approx. 650 sq ft w/loft BR and downstairs BR, 1 BA, wood floors/walls, fully-equipped kitchen, W/D, CH&A, 5-person hot tub. Currently in rental program. \$125,000. MLS #1059325.



LAKEFRONT LIVING! Custom decks & walkways to your dock on Lake Lahusage. 2BR/2BA, pine floors, gas or wood burning fp and screened porch, 2-story. 2-car garage w/apt. potential. \$247,500. MLS#654813.



Cabin overlooking the water features pine walls & floors, vaulted 23' ceilings and fireplaces. Enjoy your own relaxing paradise w/plenty of Mountain Laurels and rocks. Built to preserve the property's natural beauty..\$459,900. MLS #1019610



LIVE & PLAY ON THE WATER! 200' of frontage on East Fork of Little River featuring 3BR 2BA, rock floors, some carpet, all appliances, WB fireplace, & storage building. Call for more details. \$239,999. MLS #902940.



In the heart of Mentone, this updated 3BR/2BA home features hardwood floors, custom cabinets, FP & storage space. New carpeting upstairs. Barn w/storage & workshop. \$214,900. MLS #1051222.



WHIPPOORWILL FARM. 2BR/2BA rock/log home w/sunroom, FP, updated kitchen. Historic barn, stable w/1BR/1BA apt. Screened sleeping cabin, garage, fenced pastures, trails, rock walls/patio, gazebo, outdoor shower, old spring house & fire pit. \$995,000. MLS#1042624



GATED COMMUNITY! 3BR/2BA in cul-de-sac of Hidden Lake Sub. Access to 14-acre lake. Living w/hardwood floors & FP, open kitchen & breakfast, formal DR, screened front porch, back deck, 2-car garage. Property adjoins Little River Canyon Preserve. \$215,000. MLS #1025640.



Golden Opportunity! Let the tenants pay your mortgage. 5 apartments, large retail space and storage building located on Hwy 117 just minutes from downtown Mentone. Sitting on 1.5 acres, totally fenced. Appointment only! \$187,500. MLS #1013991.



WATER FRONT Vacation Home. 2BR/2BA 1-1/2 story cabin located in the Laurel Lake subdivision, Mentone. Open floor plan. Master Suite has its own entrance to a large screened in back porch that could serve as a whole new living area in pleasant months. \$174,500. MLS #1017650.



FURNISHED CABIN on Parkway! Minutes from DeSoto St. Pk. and Downtown Mentone. Approx. 864 sqft with 2BR/2BA, wood-burning FP, wood floors/walls, fully equipped kitchen, W/D, CH&A, 5-person hot tub. \$135,000. MLS #1026581.



BEAUTIFUL MENTONE CABIN w/2BR, 2BA, oak flooring and woodburning fireplace. Extra's include large screened porches, large walk-in closets, marble bathroom floors. \$199,900. MLS#1066473.



SECLUDED MENTONE CABIN. 2BR/2BA home on 3.25 acres in West Fork Sub. Pine floors & walls, vaulted ceilings, wood burning FP, lots of windows. Lge. deck, screened porches. \$179,900. MLS#1065642.

LOTS & LAND

#656265 - 7+ WOODED ACRES in Mtn. River Estates. \$35,000.
#665968 - 1 ACRE LOT in Hidden Lake Sub. \$40,000.
#762331 - 1.02 ACRE lot in Hidden Lake Sub. \$40,000.
#1011734 - .69 ACRE wooded lot on Brush Creek. \$27,900.
#1014183 - 1.5 ACRES. Brow Lot on CR 89. \$124,900.
#1021165 - 2 ACRE LOT offering lake and brow footage. \$59,900.
#1027934 - Lot on River Lane. \$29,900.
#1032720 - 2.8 acres w/ travel trailer, water, septic, dock. \$82,500.
#1034997 - Approx. 6 ACRES on middle fork of Little River. \$48,900.
#1038089 - 6.4 acres on Co. Rd. 89, Lot 8, in Mentone. \$138,000.

#1039769 - 6.32+/- waterfront building lot in Mountain River Estates! \$49,950.
#1053367 - 9.93 acres in Mentone. \$45,000.
#1056358 - 3.2 acres on Co. Rd. 89. \$369,000.
#1057228 - 5 acres overlooking Little River Canyon. \$69,999.
#1057429 - 4 acres in Valley View Forest. \$79,900.
#1061651 - 1.5 acres in Eagle Rock Subdivision. \$89,000.
#1061943 - 5 acres on Hwy 117 just before GA line. \$40,000.
#1065542 - 90 acres on Co. Rd. 89 in Mentone. \$360,000.
#1065504 - One acre on Co. Rd. 89 in Mentone. \$149,900.
#1069783 - Building lot with possible view. 2.11 acres. \$38,000.
#1070628 - 3.01 acres. 152' on west Fork of Little River. \$49,700.
#1070629 - 3.01 acres. 152' on West Fork of Little River. \$59,500.



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



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#1071359 - Water views! .37 acres. \$35,000.
#1072189 - Lake on The Brow, \$39,000.
#1073204 - 18.60 acres. \$68,000.
#1073207 - .62 acres. \$23,500.
#1073434 - 27.4 unrestricted acres. \$106,860.
#1073864 - Brow Lot! .78 acres. \$109,500.

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Your Groundhog

The Groundhog newspaper was started by MAPA as a means to share the local culture, the heritage that is Mentone. It was designed for local events and personalities. It is a way to show off the talent of artists and craftspeople that this area has been blessed with.

Do you enjoy writing? Do you enjoy talking to others about local history or memorable events? Do you recall with fondness certain people who made Mentone what it is today? Do you treasure the talents that new people bring to the area? If so, consider writing for The Groundhog and carrying on the tradition. If you are worried about your writing skills, everything is edited before print. The Groundhog staff and MAPA board are here to help you if you will help us get these fabulous stories and biographies written down to share and save for posterity.

Do you enjoy attending local events like the Rhododendron Festival? What about taking photos? Our readers enjoy reading about events and seeing pictures of what’s going on. Our subscriptions go all over the country to people who want to see what is happening here in Mentone while they are away and what is being planned so they can attend.

If you like The Groundhog and want to contribute, let us know. Email us at groundhognews@yahoo.com or give us a call at 256-465-1107 to let us know how you would like to be a part of this great paper.

ATTENTION GROUNDHOG READERS!

Copies of The Groundhog are available at the following locations:

FORT PAYNE Alabama Fan Club Big Mill & Vintage 1889 Brown’s Cleaners Bruce’s Foodland Chow King Days Inn DeKalb Library DeKalb Tourism First Federal Ft. Payne Chamber of Commerce Hampton Inn Holiday Inn Huddle House Priceless IGA Quality Inn “S”-House Antiques Southern Gold & Silver Southern Properties The Spot Coffee Shop The Strand The Wishing Well Waffle House Waffle King	VALLEY HEAD Alabama Organics Bell Battelle Burt Funeral Home Citizens Bank Coffee Shack by the Tracks Dave’s Antiques Hammondville Quick Stop Headquarters Beauty Salon Miracle Pottery Tigers Inn Valley Head Drug Valley Head Food Mart Valley Head Town Hall Victory Fuel Water Board MENTONE Body Maintenance Clip Joint Community Library GracefulGiraffe Gourdie Shop Hair @ The Village Kamama’s Little River Hardware	Lookout Mountain Realty Lookout Mountain Trading Post Mentone Inn Mentone Realty Moon Lake Trading Company Mountain Properties Southern Style Log Furniture Town Hall Wildflower Cafe GEORGIA Auto Parts (Menlo) Little River Escape Menlo Healthmart Menlo Lucky’s Mountain Top Country Store Restaurant (Menlo) State Line Store OTHER Alabama Welcome Center DeSoto St. Park Lodge DeSoto State Park Store Fisher X-Roads Store Little River Canyon Center Ralph’s Grocery
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This Old House: MERF Community House - June



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.

Summer is coming to an end with the World's Longest Yard sale and the beginning of another school year. It is wonderful in the summer to hear the sounds of campers enjoying the mountain



with songs, laughter and robust tribe cheering. The MERF seniors have enjoyed gathering at The Farm at Windy Hill with the Camp DeSoto Project Phoebe girls and receiving cards from the Skyline Camp girls during their Summer Christmas. Soon the joy of Moon Lake Elementary School students will tickle my walls again. MERF is a volunteer based organization so volunteers will be needed again for MERF's after school tutoring program and senior lunches. Volunteer tutors commit to one day a week to work with the same student for the entire school year. Tutoring sessions last approximately one hour immediately after school. Tutor subs are also needed if you cannot make a weekly commitment. Senior

lunches need volunteers to sponsor a lunch or come help setup and cleanup. If either of these opportunities interests you, contact Sarah at merf.mentone@gmail.com or 256-634-4673.

Ms. Paula has had a busy summer with MERF and all of her camp duties. Thanks to Sandra Padgett for inviting Ms. Paula to be the speaker at a recent Rotary meeting in Fort Payne at the Western Sizzlin. Ms. Paula spoke about the impact of Art Education for our students and brought the "Mentone" book written by Moon Lake Elementary School students and some of the artwork produced this year. One rotary member even made a donation in exchange for a wonderful African landscape since he was unaware of the fabulous spring Taste of the Mountain and Art Auction. Why is an Arts program so important? It improves academic skills, develops visual and audio skills, gives students confidence, develops decision making and perseverance, increases creativity and responsibility, enhances working with others, and improves motor skills. And most importantly, Ms. Paula's class is full of energy and fun! MERF is very thankful for all that Ms. Paula creates with the Moon Lake Students through art, music and Spanish. And MERF cannot wait to see all that Ms. Paula learned at her workshop Art Scouts Camp funded by your donations. Here are some pictures of her creations in fabric arts and with baby oil and pastels. Maybe we should add some of her work to the Art Auction in 2018!

MERF: Mentone Educational Resources Foundation 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 POB107 Mentone, AL 35984 or contribute online at www.crowdrise.com/MERF. Contact us at merf.mentone@gmail.com or 256-634-4673.

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

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