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# THE GROUNDHOG

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

Volume 36, No. 6

"Neighborhood News from the Heart of Lookout Mountain"

July 2017

## Local River Hero -- Angie Shugart

By Anna Mae Horn

Local environmental educator Angie Shugart was recognized with the lifetime achievement award as a 2017 River Hero by the Alabama Rivers Alliance. Mrs. Shugart works aggressively to promote local outdoor education as well as environmental stewardship. She is a proponent of ecotourism- visiting pristine areas of nature without disturbing them.

The River Hero lifetime achievement award is given to an individual who has spent the better part of their lives working to protect and defend Alabama's waterways. They go above and beyond the average calling to ensure that all Alabamians can enjoy clean, healthy water and that both government and industry are held accountable for enforcing water policies and polluting our waterways.

This year marks 20 years of river protection throughout the state by the Alabama Rivers Alliance. The Alliance builds partnerships, empowers citizens, and advocates for sound water policy and its enforcement through a network of groups. This network's purpose is the protection of Alabama's streams and rivers; the state has more than 132,000 miles of them. Alabama has more types of plants and animals living in the



*One World Adventure's Angie Shugart and ARA's Cindy Lowry. Photo by John Wathen/Hurricane Creekkeeper*

streams and rivers than any other state in the nation. However, we also have one of the highest extinction rates in North America.

Angie Shugart was raised in rural Cherokee County and now lives in DeKalb County.

She continues to be active for both Cherokee and DeKalb through her participation in organizations such as the Environmental Education Association of Alabama, Thrive 2055 (a sixteen county regional planning committee), and the Alabama Clean Water Partnership. In 2015, Angie was recognized by the Times Journal as one of the DeKalb County's Top 40 Under 40 for her service and commitment to progress in the county.

Mrs. Shugart is a founding member of The Lookout Mountain Gateway Trail Project. Along with her husband Billy, she also co-founded the One World Adventure Company. One World is a nonprofit with a focus on environmental literacy through adventure day camps, environmental education outreach, and ecotourism. They offer camps, hiking, water adventures, field trips, and more. One World Adventure participates in local Earth Day events and coordinates programs with local schools.

Thank you Angie for your selfless dedication to keeping our waters clean and educating the public about using our natural resources responsibly.

## Fire Department Hosts Shopping Spree

By Anna Mae Horn

Local firefighting volunteers (NLMFPD) have teamed up with Price Less IGA to raise money for a fire engine repair. For every \$10 raffle ticket you purchase, your name is entered into the drawing for a 3 minute shopping spree at IGA in Fort Payne. If you win, don't bring anything that will slow you down. This shopping spree is estimated to be worth \$1,200, so the holder of the winning ticket will be getting a lot of value for their money.

The North Lookout Mountain Fire Protection District has an engine that had to be repaired in Mississippi. This is highly unusual, because they typically perform repairs and maintenance themselves. Sometimes though, it just isn't possible. IGA has graciously agreed to host this shopping spree, sell tickets at the store, and help promote the event. The fire dept will have some expense invested, though, with the



cost of the groceries, so they need to cover this cost and have enough left to go toward the engine repair.

Locals, if you would like to help with this or future fundraisers, please stop by the fire department or go to their webpage. For those who live out of town, please consider donating a ticket on someone else's behalf or making a

donation. Any amount is most appreciated.

One winning ticket, with an estimated value of \$1,200, will be drawn on July 5th at 9:30 AM at the main fire station located at 5907 Highway 117, Mentone, AL. The public is invited and encouraged to attend the drawing. The Grocery Shopping Spree will be held on at 10 am July 11th at the Price Less IGA located at 2000 Gault Avenue north in Fort Payne.

The NLMFPD website ([northlookoutmountainfpd.com](http://northlookoutmountainfpd.com)) contains all the information about the shopping spree, a link for raffle ticket sales, volunteer information, and a donation link. The fire department is always most appreciative of community's support. The NLMFPD is an all volunteer fire department serving Mentone and the surrounding area with three fire stations.

# MACC Update: Jazz, Jam and New Video

By Randy Grider

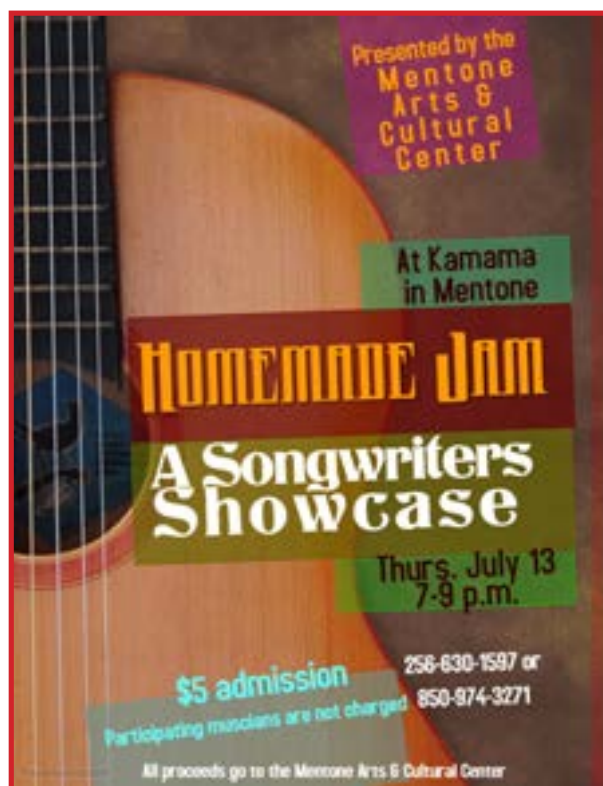
July is shaping up to be a hot month for the Mentone Arts and Cultural Center. We have two great events that are being presented by MACC.

First, we have Clare Donohue in concert on Sunday, July 2 from 1-3 p.m. at Kamama. Donohue will be accompanied by Stephen Powers on guitar, Dave Schwab on the upright bass, Jim Crumble on drums, and Ken Watters on trumpet in what promises to be a great afternoon of jazz.

Donohue's unique sultry sound easily reminds one of the greats such as: Sarah Vaughan, Ella Fitzgerald, Nancy Lamott, Anita O'Day, Diane Schur and Keely Smith. Her two greatest influences were Billie Holiday and Doris Day and you can hear both of them in her voice. She performs jazz, torch/cabaret, standards and much of the Great American Songbook. She has the clarity of Frank Sinatra as well as the heavy NY accent when she speaks!

Donohue's debut CD was "Torch Baby Torch." Her second CD "Here I Go Again" was released in June. (For more info, visit [www.claredonohue.com](http://www.claredonohue.com)). She is also recording in Nashville with session drummer Harry Wilkinson and Co. Another CD of originals will be released at the end of 2017!

Growing up in Brooklyn, N.Y., Donohue sang back up for a couple of rock bands and performed all over NYC. She sang with "The Real Joey Leone" in his original act 911 and was in the studio at 19 years of age improvising. She later teamed up with Bonnie Cameron (known for her soundtracks) doing



"acoustic soul" around the village and the upper west side. The smoothness of her voice/sound had her singing soundtracks, commercials, and voice over work as well as singing background for many national rock and blues acts. In Ft. Lauderdale, the late great Fred Silver (Billboard Magazine's Audition Doctor) accompanied her and wrote songs for her. She was the featured vocalist with the Doc Rogers

Big Band and had her own duo, trio, and quintet. Since moving to the Deep South, she is a featured vocalist with The Rocket City Jazz Orchestra and has a power duo and quintet!

Admission is \$15. Call 256-674-3366 or email [mentoneartscenter@gmail.com](mailto:mentoneartscenter@gmail.com) to reserve your seat. The event is sponsored by Kilgore Express Pharmacy. For those wishing to have a meal at The Wolves Den before the show, please call 256-634-3001 for reservations.

On Thursday, July 13, from 7-9 p.m., be sure to turn out at Kamama for Homemade Jam. The regular monthly event features local songwriters performing original songs in an interactive fun-filled evening. Admission is \$5 per person, but participating songwriters are not charged. Proceeds will benefit the Mentone Arts and Cultural Center. Call Lydia Randolph 256-630-1597 or Ray Padgett 850-974-3271 for more information.

As the center itself, fundraising is gaining traction. We now have a new promotional video – courtesy of Alabama Mountain Lakes Tourist Association and Freedom Light Productions. This is a wonderful tool for our fundraising efforts. You can see it by visiting our website at [mentoneartscenter.org](http://mentoneartscenter.org). We are also in the process of building the entryway into the property where the center will be built. We will update the project in the near future.

*Randy Grider is Executive Director of the Mentone Arts & Cultural Center.*

## "Music for the People" Concert Series Continues

By Kelly Leavitt

The Little River Arts Council is grateful for our community's support of "Music for the People," the organization's fourth annual summer music series which provides free concerts for all ages. In June, close to 100 Mentone residents and visitors enjoyed memorable performances by local singer/songwriter Craig Hendricks and "Backwoods Revival," an



Americana/bluegrass ensemble from Geraldine.

The series continues on Saturday, July 1, with a concert by "Lost in Tyme," a self-dubbed "traditional bluegrass band with a sense of humor." The band hails from middle Tennessee and features Larry Groce (fiddle); Tim Blankenship (vocals and rhythm guitar); Jerry Tyrone (vocals and rhythm guitar); Don Stacy (banjo); Ron Stacy (mandolin); and Carole Stacy (vocals and upright bass). "Lost

in Tyme" will perform from 6 to 8 pm at DeSoto State Park, at the Campfire Ring in the Improved Campground (next to site 93; the gate will be open to the public).



During this concert, LRAC will offer a program called "Art for the Children." Mentone artist Lydia Randolph will be on hand to help children make art during the show. They'll make a collective piece of art that will serve as a backdrop for future LRAC concerts, and children will be able to make art to take home with them, as well. All art supplies will be provided.

On Saturday, July 22, legendary singer/songwriter Rock Killough will perform at Kamama Gallery in Mentone. Rock performs "Cotton Belt music" — a classic fusion of blues, country, gospel and comedy with a touch of rock-n-roll. He plays guitar, piano, and harmonica, and uses poignant humor to present songs and stories that relate to the journey of the

heart and soul.

Originally from Alabama, Rock spent 10 years in Nashville, where his songwriting successes grew to include singles by Randy Travis and Brenda Lee, two gold albums by the Oak Ridge Boys, as well as gold and platinum albums by Hank Williams, Jr. and Sammy Kershaw. He has cuts by Waylon Jennings, Jerry Reed, Carole King, Jerry Jeff Walker, Mickey Newbury, Johnny Rodriguez, and numerous others. Rock has opened concerts for Willie Nelson, John Prine, and Townes Van Zandt, to name a few.

Mark your calendar now for the final concert of the series--the ever-popular Carla Russell and "Kozmic Mama" on Saturday, August 19 at the Mentone Inn Pavilion. All concerts are free and open to all ages. This music series is sponsored by Little River Arts Council and made possible in part by the Alabama State Council on the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts. To learn more, visit [littleriverartscouncil.org](http://littleriverartscouncil.org).



## 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](http://www.mapamentone.com); Email: [mapamentone@gmail.com](mailto: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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## From The Editor

Mentone has a dynamic all its own. Maybe it's magic; maybe it's in the music; maybe it's in the water. Regardless, it's a special place. It draws special people, and it keeps special people.

Recently, I have witnessed the amazing dynamic that is Mentone. People who want to give to the community. People who want to be a part of something greater. People who don't want to see a treasured piece of community lost.

MAPA stands for the Mentone Area Preservation Association. It cut straight through to my heart when I read the words "The board approved the dissolution of MAPA." I asked myself: "How did this happen?" It's partly my fault. I let my membership lapse. I didn't step up and be on the board. I didn't bring new ideas to the meetings.

For a few years, a few officers have carried MAPA on their shoulders. They have done an astounding job. Festivals have had record attendance as well as increased participation from vendors and volunteers. This brings income for the town, for businesses, and for the organizations and crafts people who set up at the festival. It brings the community together. These few people, along with the festival committee members, have worked for the better part of the year planning and carrying out these plans. They are tired.

The board members of MAPA all have a special place in their heart for the Mentone area and strive to do what is best for the community. It must have been difficult to place a vote to dissolve the very organization that was founded to preserve the area they love and all it stands for. Desperate times call for desperate measures.

The dynamic of Mentone has brought people together to step up and be involved. The public spirit has been re-invigorated. People are stepping forward to help each other hold this treasure

in place. People are recognizing their unique qualities that they can use for the Mentone area. If everyone gives a little, no one has to give a lot.

As a community member, I am very thankful to those who founded MAPA and all those who have served on the MAPA board over the years, especially those who served during difficult times when they were alone in the struggle. Thank you to Sandra, Bruce, and those who started MAPA; starting something is never easy. Thank you to Ray, Kayla, Jerome, Jeff, Courtney, Kathryn, Moon, and those who have preserved the preservation association when times were difficult. It's easy to help when times are good, but the people who help when times are hard are to be commended.

To those who are willing to help continue the tradition of preserving the Mentone area, organizing festivals, producing *The Groundhog*, and supporting the roots of Mentone: it's never easy to accomplish great things, but together, anything is possible. Each of us has some talent or some idea that we can contribute. In Mentone, we can all be a part of something. There is a great foundation in an organization that is 35 years old. Use this foundation to preserve buildings and organizations and the character of Mentone. Fill in the cracks; mend the broken bricks; sturdy up the frame; build onto that great foundation to continue the heritage. If we all work together, great things will happen.

Everyone is welcome to the MAPA meeting on Monday, July 3rd, at 6 pm at Moon Lake Library.

~Anna Mae Horn

# TIGERS INN



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Join MAPA Today!  
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Mentone's history  
and impact its future.

Individuals - \$20 a year  
Couples - \$30 a year

MAPA  
P. O. Box 50  
Mentone, AL 35984

Have a Letter to the Editor  
or a story idea?  
Send it to  
The Groundhog  
at [groundhognews@yahoo.com](mailto:groundhognews@yahoo.com).



# MAPA NEWS

By Ray Padgett, MAPA President

Thirty-Six years ago, a small group of neighbors shared the idea of celebrating and preserving the heritage and culture of our Mentone community. Together they created a vision to share Mentone’s past, people and places with the world. Some of those creations survived and prospered over the past few decades. The Rhododendron and Colorfest festivals and The Groundhog newspaper are now an integral part of our Mentone Community.

Since its inception, hundreds of Mentonians have kept the dream alive by volunteering thousands of hours to MAPA projects. It is impossible to list everyone here, but I would be remiss not to mention some of the key creators of MAPA, its festivals and The Groundhog - Bruce Bon Fleur, Bernice and Homer Crow, Dr. Charles McGehee and his wife Jean, Donna Buckley, Maggie Cordell, Mabel Kirk and Sandra Padgett.

As many of you may know, the MAPA Board voted to dissolve the MAPA organization at its June board meeting. However, a few interested citizens stepped up to the plate and volunteered

to join MAPA and carry on the long tradition of community involvement that began those many years ago. We commend their spirit and dedication.

It is with great joy that I write this letter instead of the letter about MAPA’s demise. This renews and reinforces my belief that Mentone has the greatest group of volunteers in the world – totally focused on working together to make their community a better place to visit, work, and live.

The outgoing MAPA Board wishes this new group of volunteers the very best of luck and success in keeping MAPA alive and growing stronger each year. They have now dedicated their time and energy to carrying on MAPAs festivals (Rhododendron and Colorfest), newspaper (The Groundhog) and its financial commitments to our community. As one of Mentone’s finest, Stan Lawton, would say “we appreciate you”.

I would like to say thank you to all the volunteers who worked tirelessly on MAPA projects for our community over the past four years. It was my pleasure and honor to work with you and help preserve and promote our community and its cultural heritage.

Please join me in giving a salute to all the great, hardworking volunteers and dreamers who shared and enhanced the history, culture and indomitable spirit of Mentone and to those committed to carry this legacy into the future.

# MBA Mix: Who’s To Say!



By Charlotte Gentry  
MBA President

When it comes to what is best for Mentone, who is it that should make that determination? Would it be the town council? Would it be the business owners? Would it be the property owners? Does anyone even know what is best for Mentone?

The MBA is not an organization whose goal is to try and establish rules or dictate the future of Mentone’s businesses, residents or other organizations. We certainly don’t know what is best for Mentone. We see our role as a facilitator for businesses to have a forum to improve their ability to do business, provide services, and create a stronger economy in the Mentone area.

We welcome input from and seek to be of help to the other vital groups here as needed. Groups such as Mentone Area Preservation Association (MAPA), Mentone Education Resources Foundation (MERF), the volunteer fire department, the DeSoto Rescue Squad, Mentone BSA Troop 106 and the Moon Lake School are just a few of the organizations that have historically played a role in improving the quality of life for this little mountain town and its environs.

The MBA enjoys hosting events such as Mentone Free Outdoor Movie Nights, music concerts and other events free to the public. Local businesses pitch in to fund these events. The MBA does not have membership dues, and we do not receive any funds from any other entity. We are NOT a non-profit. We aren’t a “for profit,” either. It is our hope these events will produce a more cohesive business community, draw attention to the resources of our area, and provide fun, family-friendly activities for those who live in or come to visit our little town.

We encourage folks who want to make a real difference here to contribute their time, money, and talents to one or more of the non-profit organizations. That being said, if you find you are interested in the business of Mentone, we welcome you to join us for our monthly meetings. These are generally held on the second Monday of each month at 6:00 pm. Our next meeting will be July 10th at Mentone Realty’s office at 6037 AL Hwy 117. Also visit our MBA facebook page for details and information about upcoming events.



# MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

The Mentone Area Preservation Association is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, dedicated to the preservation and protection of the heritage, natural environment and other unique qualities of life in the Mentone area. MAPA is responsible for the Rhododendron Festival and Colorfest and also oversees The Groundhog publication. MAPA meets at 6 pm on the first Tuesday of each month at the Moon Lake Community Library.

Join MAPA today and help preserve Mentone’s history and impact its future.

☐ Individual - \$20 a year                      ☐ Couple - \$30 a year

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

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Please mail your application and payment made payable to MAPA to:

**MAPA, P.O. Box 50**  
**Mentone, AL 35984**

# This Old House: MERF Community House - July



*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 heat and summer showers are here but that is not stopping the Senior lunch bunch crew from getting together!

Tiger's Inn in Valley Head hosted MERF for our first BYOL (buy your own lunch) for the summer with a choice of meatloaf or parmesan chicken with three veggies and a dessert. It was more than filling and wonderful getting together.

On Flag day, the group gathered together at the MERF house for a picnic lunch of sandwiches, pickles, chips and brownie ice cream. So happy that Martha Sprayberry was able to join us again and play some great music. Before anyone could get too comfy, the next Monday, the crew headed over to the Farm at Windy Hill for a fun afternoon with the oldest campers from Camp DeSoto (Project Phoebe). After delicious zucchini bread prepared by campers and some visiting with each other, the girls did some singing and the crew joined in.

The campers are working again on a project this summer of interviewing some of our locals. A podcast of stories from our local folks will be put together by the campers and their counselors. MERF loved the Mentone Collective that was done several years ago so we cannot wait for another fun project with these girls.

If you want to join our lunch bunch group for any of our outings, make sure Sarah knows you are interested and give her a good way to contact you.

At MERF's June board meeting, Ms. Paula Easter was hired for another school year of providing art, music and Spanish to Mentone's children at Moon Lake Elementary School-Yay! MERF is so fortunate to have someone who absolutely loves her job and is incredible at inspiring the children to stretch, to create and to express themselves. MERF is also sending Ms. Paula to arts camp this summer sponsored by Paintbrush Rocket with the mission "to launch creative confidence through exploring art." Thanks to your financial support, MERF can provide an innovative and creative Arts program for our local students and keep our teachers growing too in their gifts. MERF is thankful that Ms. Paula has been MERF's Arts program director at Moon Lake Elementary School for 14 of the 20 years MERF has funded this position.

MERF appreciates Valley Head High School's class of '96 for remembering their classmate Julie Yates and her daughter Libby Patterson with a memorial donation to MERF. The gift is treasured as Libby flourished in her time with Ms. Paula this year singing in the Christmas

program and creating some great art pieces.

As you enjoy summer breezes on the mountain, please remember to support our local artists and our restaurants that support so many organizations in Mentone such as MERF. A piece of artwork is a memorable wedding, graduation or birthday gift. Time spent having a wonderful meal at a local restaurant or cooking with fresh, locally-grown vegetables and meat is well spent. Let's support our artisans in the studio, in the kitchen and on the farm so they can keep creating and filling us with new experiences.

*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](http://www.crowdrise.com/MERF). Contact us at [merf.mentone@gmail.com](mailto:merf.mentone@gmail.com) or 256-634-4673*

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## 60th Wedding Anniversary Celebration

Please join us to celebrate the 60th Wedding Anniversary of Charles and Amanda Kirby Gray on Friday July 21 at the Mentone Community Church Life Center. Informal fellowship and refreshments will be between 4:00pm and 7:00pm. Your love is a treasured gift, we request no other. Hosted by Daniel Gray, family and friends.



# Your Library News Your Library News Your Library News



By Barb Stoll

## Happy July 4th!

Hello everyone; hope you are having a wonderful summer so far. It is a great month for getting out and enjoying family. Here at your Community Library we have loads of summertime fun books and DVDs. This month we are focusing on family fun with the following DVDs that the entire family can enjoy. Do I smell s'mores? Oh, the joys of summer, and here are a few.

### *Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory*

Join the expedition visiting legendary Candy Man Willy Wonka in a splendiferous movie

that wonderously brings to the screen the endlessly appetizing delights of Ronald Dahl's classic book. Coated with flavorful tunes, this effervescent musical never fails to enchant young and old.

### *Stuart Little*

He's clever, enthusiastic, a 'can-do' guy with attitude, and he's a mouse. Based on the classic book by beloved author E.B. White (Charlotte's Web) that has been entertaining families for 50 years. This DVD has many special features like a Stuart Little game and Read-Along with Stuart.

### And for older family members...

### *Casablanca*

Winner of three Academy Awards including Best Picture. Rick Blaine (Humphrey Bogart) "sticks his neck out for nobody." Then she (Ingrid Bergman) walks back into his life...with her Resistance-leader husband. This one is an all time classic.

### *Mrs. Miniver*

One of Hollywood's most memorable spirit-lifters about an idealized England confronting

the terror of WWII. Greer Garson (in her Oscar-winning Best Actress role), Walter Pidgeon, and Teresa Wright star.

### *Gigi*

Thank heaven for the bubbly fun and glorious Lerner and Loewe music! Gigi goes from girlishness to glamour and desires more than the lush life of suitor Louis Jourdan. With Maurice Chevalier and Hermione Gingold.

### *An American in Paris*

Winner of six Academy Awards. Gene Kelly plays an ex-GI who loves Paris and an alluring (but engaged) shop clerk. Dazzling dances and a stunning ballet finale are spun around songs and music by Gershwin.

There you have it folks. Just fun, fun and more fun for a July of good times with the family. Have a fun one and don't forget to come visit your Community Library for even more from our ever-expanding collection. Have a fun and safe 4th.

## Cool Library Program for Hot Summer Days By Anna Mae Horn

The Moon Lake Community Library will be hosting a Cool Summer Program for the month of July. This free program is a cool way for kids to enjoy the hot days of summer. The program will kick off on July 1st with 'The Pagemaster' movie (rated G) inside the library at 1 pm. Small blankets or towels are welcomed, as the kids may want to get comfortable on the floor.

The movie is all about the adventures a library can provide. Macaulay Culkin plays Richard, a boy who takes shelter in an empty library to escape a storm, only to be transformed into an animated illustration by the Pagemaster. He has to work through obstacles from classic books to return to real life. Fantasy, Adventure, and Horror books help him along the way. Nothing that outrageous will happen at our library, but kids will find this movie delighting and,

hopefully, be inspired to take a book home for some summer reading.

For the remainder of the July, we will have a variety of activities to entertain children. Younger groups, geared toward Kindergarten through third grade, will meet on Thursday afternoons from 3 pm to 6 pm. Activities for students in fourth grade and older will be on Saturday afternoons from 1 pm to 4 pm. Please feel free to bring children to the group they will be most comfortable with based on maturity level and interests. Everything is free, even library cards and book rental!

We have some exciting things planned including a Native American Day with interesting archeological items to see. Younger children will write letters to Disney characters and the older group will enjoy a scavenger hunt one Saturday. There will be arts and crafts

and guests throughout the program. If you are interested in helping or presenting a program, we still have some openings.

This program is open to all children regardless of school or residence. For last year's program, there were several from out of town and one from out of state who was visiting with her grandmother- the more, the merrier. For details, you can find Moon Lake Community Library on facebook or give me a call (256-635-8775) if you have questions. Moon Lake Community Library is happy to offer this program, and welcomes everyone

### Librarian Position Opening

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## For the Beauty of the Earth

Caroline Homes Nuckolls, a native of Bramwell, West Virginia, currently resides in Marietta, Georgia. She studied at Sullins College in Bristol, Virginia where she was the recipient of the Amelia B. Martin Art Scholarship.

In June of 2001 she arranged for a private painting lesson in Monet's Garden in Giverny, France with Gale Bennett, the founder of Art Study Giverny. Following that life-changing event, Caroline has returned to Giverny annually, at first to study with Mr. Bennett, then to work as his assistant. When Mr. Bennett died in 2008, Caroline became the Resident Manager of the Art Study Giverny school. After Art Study Giverny closed, she founded Art Colony Giverny in 2011, sponsoring Artist's Workshops in Monet's Garden in Giverny, France.

Having taught private students in the United States and Europe, Caroline has the honor of continuing the legacy of Mr. Bennett's "Observation with Imagination", an artistic style that emphasizes observation of real-world settings and creativity; utilizing warm and cool colors, brush strokes, and composition techniques developed during the Impressionist movement. Caroline was a member of the Bennett book committee that organized and contributed to the



posthumous publication of "Eyes Into Art," Gale Bennett's book outlining and illuminating the principles Gale taught about art in general and painting in particular.

Caroline received the "Premier Prix" for the "Fete de la Peinture" in Giverny in 2014 and had a

show of her works in Giverny in November of that year. Her paintings are in private and corporate collections in the United States, Canada, Germany, Finland, and France. She also has paintings in Vision Gallery in Summerville, Georgia. Caroline was recently invited to exhibit paintings in "Audubon Inspiration," a collection of works based on the Audubon Nature Collection that was held in Sanibel, Florida. Her next public exhibition will be at WellStar Cobb Hospital in Austell, Georgia beginning on June 28th.

Caroline returns for her third painting workshop in Mentone to be held on Friday, July 28th and Saturday, July 29th, 2017 at St. Joseph's on the Mountain Episcopal Church, 22245 Scenic Hwy. Participants will gather at 9am for registration, coffee, and light refreshments prior to beginning their painting adventure.

Tuition is \$125 for both days and may be paid in advance by contacting Art Colony Giverny. Pre-registration is recommended as class size is limited. For workshop information, go to [artcolonygiverny.com](http://artcolonygiverny.com) or call 770-977-3434. All painting mediums are welcome, demos will be in acrylic. Participants will provide their own lunch and painting equipment and supplies. A suggested supply list will be provided to registrants.

## NEW LIFE TO OLD MEMORIES

BY ANNA MAE HORN



Around eighty years ago, C.E. Bell owned the Valley Head Mercantile. In 1949, he built a rock home on a hill not far from the train tracks that looked across

onto the mountain of Mentone. It has recently been transformed into a quaint local shop. Julia Capps and Linda Raughton are co-owners of the shop that carries treasured vintage and new items, Julia's hand crafted jewelry, and Linda's redecorated furniture.

The ladies carefully chose the name, Bell Battelle, Inc. They are paying homage to the first resident of the home as well as the old mining town that was booming north of Valley Head at the turn of the 20th century. The old home turned new shop with old things has a special collection of items in a little cubby hole. There are two old bricks from a brick oven in Battelle and a third brick donated was unearthed by Louise Johnson. They also have a folder full of collected historical photos and items including an invoice from the Mercantile dated 1937, a photo of Mr. Bell, and a copy of an envelope postmarked "Battelle, ALA 1907" and mailed with a 2-cent stamp. Some antiquated lamps were found in one of the closets. A coat of paint throughout, a handicap entrance, and few minor things here and there had the home ready to open.

Julia and Linda offer a unique experience for the locals, and to visitors. Stop by to

browse the items or look over the historical memorabilia. Either way, you are sure to be delighted.



Pictured: Mike Key, Jacob Brown, Julia Capps, Linda Raughton, Lamar Bray, Shannon Beasley, Adele Phillips, Debra Rhodes, Raymond Beasley, Nick Welden

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# Lucas Putnam Wins Space Camp Scholarship From EAA890

By Carla Bryan



experience will help him “grow as a student” and decide what he wants to become.

Lucas explained in his essay that he is “a team player, a leader, a great problem solver.” These qualities will be great assets for his space camp activities.

Members of EAA Chapter 890 were honored to be able to give the experience of Space Camp to a student. The goal of the scholarship competition was to inspire students to learn

honored to see Lucas as he proudly accepted his certificate from Chapter President Wilburn Hall.

The aviation group is not only for pilots. Anyone with an interest in flying is more than welcome to join, even if you have never been in a plane. All the details about the organization and their meetings are on their website (EAA890.org) or find them on facebook.

EAA Chapter 890 even hosts Young Eagles events specifically for children. These events are held to teach children about aviation and to spark their interest. Young Eagle events also include a ride in an airplane as co-pilot in the skies about our beautiful scenic area nestled here in the foothills of the Appalachians. Young Eagles even get their own log book!



*Left: Lucas Putnam receives his scholarship certificate from EAA 890 President Wilburn Hall.*

*Right: Fort Payne Mayor Larry Chesser, Matt Putnam, Lindsay Putnam, Lucas Putnam, EAA890 President Wilburn Hall, and Secretary Carla Bryan*

Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) chapter 890 is a local group of aviation enthusiasts who enjoy getting together, tell stories about planes, and compete to see who finishes their personal projects first. They are dedicated to promoting aviation in all its forms- including space travel.

EAA 890 recently held a competitive scholarship opportunity for students (ages 9-14) living in DeKalb County. Sylvania 5th grader Lucas Putnam wrote the winning essay explaining why he wanted the scholarship.

Lucas explained in his essay that he is curious to learn what it's like to be an astronaut and learn about rockets being designed for his generation of astronauts. Lucas feels this

about aviation and to let them know that local pilots are willing to support them as they expand their aviation interests.

The meeting room seats in Fort Payne Municipal airport were filled with members, and guests, including Fort Payne Mayor Larry Chesser. As always, all pilots are welcome to fly in for meetings; a couple from Texas were at this meeting and very

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# News From the Little River Arts Council

By Kelly Leavitt



The Little River Arts Council believes the arts are for everyone, beginning with our children and continuing throughout lifetimes. We promote big dreams in a small town, nurturing artists, building audiences and bringing the arts to the community and the community to the arts. Our goal is to encourage individual creativity and to broaden community participation, appreciation and support for the visual, performing, and literary arts in the Mentone area.

The first concert of our "Music for the People" summer music series was well attended, with close to 100 people gathering to enjoy some mountain music. Visit our website ([www.littleriverartscouncil.org](http://www.littleriverartscouncil.org)) for the schedule of the rest of the series, which is made possible in part by the Alabama State Council on the Arts and the

National Endowment for the Arts.

We're beginning to plan our popular annual Home Tour and Silent Auction, which will be held the weekend of October 28 and 29. If you're interested in featuring your home on this year's tour, or if you'd like to donate a product or service to the silent auction, please email [info@littleriverartscouncil.org](mailto:info@littleriverartscouncil.org). We appreciate our community's support, and welcome volunteers!

This fall, we will again join DeSoto State Park as co-sponsor of the second annual Creative Spirit Market, to be held the weekend of November 11-12 at the park's pavilion. This event was very well received last year, by both artists and shoppers, and we're looking forward to another successful event this year, with artist demonstrations, performances by local musicians, and booths featuring hand-made items from local artists and craftspeople.

We're excited to announce that we will host a troupe of actors from the Alabama Shakespeare Festival who will perform Shakespeare's "Much Ado About Nothing" for the students of Moon Lake School on Friday, March 16, 2018. Paula Easter, the art and music teacher, will help prepare the children for the performance, and the actors will lead a discussion and workshop afterwards which will explore language, plot, and character.

All of these programs are made possible with the support of our community. If you'd like to

learn more about Little River Arts Council, become a member, and/or financially support our mission, please visit our website. We also have an active email list which you may subscribe to on the site and on our Facebook page.

The Little River Arts Council extends our gratitude to Sandra Padgett for her many years of membership and service on our board of directors. Sandra has recently resigned her post as president and looks forward to spending time with her family and friends. We truly appreciate Sandra's dedication through the years.

The current LRAC board members are: Kelly Leavitt, president; Rhea Pirch, secretary; Tammy Beane, treasurer; Cynthia Stinson, treasurer; Hank Willett, Brittney Hughes; Craig Hendricks; and Bill Rutledge. Board meetings are held at 5 p.m. on the third Wednesday of each month. On July 19, we will meet at the MERF House.

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 and appreciators of art in Mentone and the Little River area. If you have any input on how to further our mission, feel free to join us!

## There's No Substitute for Experience

By Ben Shurett



Experiences are the foundation upon which we build our life, our character and the fabric of who we are. Experience is also an excellent teacher, a professor of life.

Vern Law is quoted as saying, "Experience is a hard teacher because she gives the test first, the lesson afterward." Law was quite observant, don't you think? I didn't learn until researching this quote that Law was a major-league baseball pitcher, a Cy Young Award winner in 1960 who won two games in that year's World Series when he helped the Pittsburgh Pirates defeat the New York Yankees.

That Series was memorable for Bill Mazeroski's ninth-inning home run to win the game and the world championship for the Pirates. It was the first time a winner-take-all World Series game ended with

a walk-off home run.

Ironically, Law injured his ankle a couple of weeks earlier during a celebration of the Pirates winning the National League pennant. Law tried to fight through the injury and he kept playing in the Series, but he was forced to change his pitching motion to compensate for the pain.

That change of motion led to an injured pitching shoulder, which effectively ended his baseball career and, likely, gave birth to his now famous quote.

Even more ironically, Law is also credited with originating the quote, "A winner never quits and a quitter never wins." I assume he came up with this one first and the experience quote later. That only makes sense, doesn't it?

One experience we've all had, and each one is a teacher, is that of having our first job and early work experiences that shape who we become, who we are.

This column isn't about my first job, not really. It serves only to jog your memory, to give you the pleasure of remembering your early days.

Did you have an early start earning your own money, as I did? I sold Christmas cards door to door in 1959, if memory serves. The ad on the back of my Boys Life Scout magazine convinced me I could sell a box of holiday good wishes to everyone in my territory for both fun and profit.

You know, it was true. I had significant sales success--I just needed a larger territory. Mom wouldn't let me leave our street. Myrtlewood Drive is a cul-de-sac now. It was a dead-end street back then with about 15 houses. I sold enough cards to earn a

bow-and-arrow set. It was my first taste of success.

My newspaper career began a few months later, as I became a substitute paperboy for a friend. I went with him every day as a nine-year-old lad. I had to learn his route and memorize which houses had paid for The Tuscaloosa News and which didn't.

I was a poor negotiator then, I suppose. I was paid nothing unless I delivered those newspapers by myself, but when I did, the money rolled in. The minimum wage in 1960 was a dollar an hour. I earned about half that per hour to deliver 150 papers -- and there were no benefits.

I hit the bigtime with my next job. I began to work in corporate world of production and distribution of dairy products.

I was 14 and I worked in a milk and ice cream plant. I started out at the easy end of a production line making popsicles and ice cream and truly worked 40 a week. Don't laugh. The minimum wage was up to \$1.25 an hour and that's \$50 a week any way you cut it. That's big money when gas was 29 cents a gallon and you could get a Coke and a candy bar for 11 cents, if you had a bottle to return from your last foray into luxury.

By the next summer, I had been promoted and the hourly wages increased to \$1.60 an hour. My raise came due to a federal law, not my own proficiency I must admit, but now I had a specialty skill. I loaded milk trucks and, that promotion came with extra responsibility. There were times I had a clipboard and I had to be certain each truck received its correct

(cont'd on page 25)

THE

RECIPE

CORNER

~

July



# Potato Cakes

By Fontana Stinson

The Potato Cake is one of the most popular items at The Wolves Den. We serve them as a side, and they are featured with our Not So Sloppy Joe dish. Really, there

are so many dishes that work with the Potato Cake. For example, we also top it with our pulled bbq pork, cole slaw, and fried onions. This is a great spin for those who are grilling

out this 4th of July, because the creative possibilities to this classic southern treat are endless. This recipe was co-created by Julia Ross and myself. Happy cooking : )

## Potato Cakes -Serves 10

- 5 jumbo potatoes

1/2 stick of salted butter

1/2 cup of minced onions (I use red onion)

3/4 cup all purpose flour
- 2 cups sour cream

1/2 cup minced garlic

1 large egg

salt, pepper, onion powder& garlic powder to taste

Peel potatoes and cut into fours. Bring to a boil until soft. Drain potatoes. Add sour cream, butter, salt, pepper, onion powder, and garlic powder. I always season heavily, but you can season to your preferred taste. Mash potatoes with a smile. Cover and refrigerate overnight. The next day, add minced garlic, minced onion, egg, and flour together along with love. We use a flat top grill at 350, but I did test this in a cast iron skillet on the stovetop, and it does work. Spray with non stick spray. We use an ice cream scoop to scoop potatoes, and then, flatten out. Let cook for about 7 minutes then, flip for another 7 minutes. Both sides will be golden brown and delicious. Remove and plate. We put a pad of butter and a dash of parsley to make it look “fancy.” Enjoy.

# Happy Day!

## July Birthdays

- July 1 – JohnTyler Lawton
- July 1 – Marilyn Slaton
- July 1 – Patrick Coots
- July 1 – August Shanklin
- July 2 – Karen Potts
- July 2 – Byrum Emory
- July 2 – Virgil Battles
- July 3 – Nick Black
- July 3 – Jared Webb
- July 3 – Allison Powell
- July 3 – Josh Rosson
- July 3 – Craig Hughes
- July 3 – Mason Tuberville
- July 3 – Reba Coleman
- July 3 – Johnnie Lewchuk
- July 3 – Randy Fowler
- July 3 – Luke Milford
- July 4 – Jack Carden
- July 4 – Bennett (BJ) Browder
- July 4 – Deb Smith
- July 4 – Ashley Hulkan
- July 4 – Lana Miller
- July 5 – Steven McElhaney
- July 5 – Chris Underwood
- July 6 – Dawson Crow
- July 6 – Dustin Burt
- July 6 – Corey Powell
- July 7 – Jim Blalock
- July 7 – Loretta Bain
- July 7 – Marcus Crider
- July 7 – LaShae Jones
- July 8 – Daniel Phillips
- July 8 – Kathy Gray
- July 8 – Eian Bain
- July 8 – Doug Kiker
- July 8 – Donna Bailey
- July 8 – Sheila Smith
- July 9 – KayLee Tucker
- July 9 – Skylor Dutton

- July 9 – Mia Woods
- July 9 – Braylie Callahan
- July 10 – Steve Lanier
- July 10 – Addison McClure
- July 10 – Ryan Tramel
- July 10 – Caroline Baty
- July 11 – Kanissa Smith
- July 11 – Brooklyn Carroll
- July 11 – Lacie Keith
- July 11 – Kori Willingham
- July 11 – Dylan Carter
- July 11 – Garrett Collins
- July 11 – Clare Donohue
- July 12 – Charles Gray
- July 12 – Cindy Harrison
- July 12 – Juliegh McKenzie
- July 13 – Jordan Goza
- July 13 – Sissy Crider
- July 13 – Brody Battles
- July 13 – Myles Battles
- July 14 – Will Blackburn
- July 14 – Dave Vest
- July 14 – Jeffrey Hopper
- July 14 – Paul Crawford
- July 14 – Teena Bain
- July 14 – Bella & Ava Harrison
- July 14 – Dylan Flannigan
- July 14 – Sheila Meadows
- July 15 – Jason Dean
- July 15 – Tatum Lanier
- July 15 – Paul Zulker
- July 15 – Will Battles
- July 15 – Chelsea Stephenson
- July 15 – Lana Harris
- July 16 – Nathan Hargrove
- July 16 – Margie Daniel
- July 16 – Tricia Shankles
- July 16 – Kendall Shankles
- July 16 – Johnny Lewchuk
- July 17 – Christopher Black
- July 17 – Valerie Burt
- July 17 – Justin Battles

- July 17 – Waylon Burton
- July 17 – Nolan Stinson
- July 17 – Kristen Wilborn
- July 18 – Loy Langston
- July 18 – Lily Cash
- July 18 – Kaye Kiker
- July 19 – Anna Bobo
- July 20 – Becky Langston
- July 20 – Lindsay Black
- July 20 – Bailee Carter
- July 20 – Jeff Clure
- July 20 – Craig Hulkan
- July 21 – Tonya Hilyer
- July 21 – Paxton Harper
- July 21 – Brianna Powell
- July 21 – Peggy Johnston
- July 21 – Tony Hammonds
- July 22 - Jim Bates
- July 22 – Linda Clark
- July 22 – Ian Hilyer
- July 22 – Emily Norman
- July 22 – Charlie Runnels
- July 23 – Amanda Smith
- July 23 – Taylor Blalock
- July 23 – Logan Chambers
- July 23 – Emmie Chambers
- July 23 – Reid Davis
- July 23 – Marc Pardue
- July 23 – Chris McMahan
- July 23 – Sandra Ward
- July 24 – Phyllis Bailey
- July 25 – Rylee Vest
- July 25 – Bill Berry
- July 25 – Jeremy Webb
- July 25 – Kali Haynes
- July 25 – Austin Cuzzort
- July 25 – Jenny Lewchuk
- July 25 – Tyler Filmore
- July 26 – Claire Wilkinson
- July 26 – Pam Dean
- July 26 – Gracie Carol Butler
- July 26 – Megan Smith

- July 26 – Maggie Chaney
- July 27 – Dexter Smith
- July 27 – Kelley Hughes
- July 27 – John David Nelson
- July 28 – Debbie Flannigan
- July 28 – Kelly Owen
- July 28 – Sam Shanklin
- July 29 – Eli Shanklin
- July 29 – Trip Battles
- July 30 – Zack Dean
- July 30 – Zach Bain
- July 30 – Rachel Collins
- July 31 – Hunter Battles
- July 31 – Matt Lee
- July 31 – Paige Wright
- July 31 – Gunnar Elkins
- July 31 – Koopar Elkins

## July Anniversaries

- July 1 – Casey & Tracy Cartwright
- July 2 – Jerry & Merle Stokes
- July 3 – Will & Cecily Goza
- July 3 – Brooks & Haley Moore
- July 7 – Justin & Jamie Shankles
- July 9 – Al & Vickie Blackburn
- July 13 – John Paul & Teresa Verdon
- July 16 – Josh & Ashley Coffman
- July 16 – Gene & Karen Potts
- July 18 – Zach & Tamara Bain
- July 20 – Charles & Amanda Gray – 60th Anniversary!
- July 22 – John & Lisa Moore
- July 23 – John & Alisha Lawton
- July 24 – Jamie & Gequetta Darwin
- July 24 – Don & Yvonne Brock
- July 25 – Donald & Karen Saferite
- July 27 – Trey & Allison Kincer
- July 29 – Heath & Amy Jones

# What To Do Around Here!

## July 2017 Community Calendar

**July 1 - Summer Music Series: Lost In Tyme & "Art For the Children" with Lydia Randolph.** Sponsored by Little River Arts Council, made possible in part by the ASCA and the NEA. DSP Campfire Ring in the Campground. 6-8pm. See page 2 for more details.

**July 1 - Independence Day Parade & Ice Cream Social.** Decorate your vehicle to show your spirit! Parade will start at 3pm at DSP Headquarters & ends in DeSoto's Campground in time for the Ice Cream Social at 4pm. Bring your own chair. Free to participate & open to everyone!

**July 1 - Free Movie at the Library.** Moon Lake Library kicks off its Cool Summer Program with a free movie for kids of all ages. We will be watching *The Pagemaster* inside the library. Details are on page 6 of this issue!

**July 1 - Cruise-In.** Scottsboro, AL behind 50 Taters on Co. Park Rd. at 6pm. There will also be giveaways and a 50/50 drawing. Money raised benefits the Backpack for Kids Program.

**July 1, 15, 17, 29 - Rappelling Adventure.** Come experience the thrill of rappelling down the sheer sandstone gems of NE AL. Each trip includes all the gear plus basic instruction. 10am-2pm. 256-997-9577.

**July 1 - 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. 7:30-9:30 pm. 256-997-9577.

**July 1-2 - NBHA District 01 Barrel Racing.** At the Northeast Alabama Agri-Business Center in Rainsville. National Barrel Horse Association AL district 01. 256-638-1650.

**July 2-7 - Teen Camp Week.** "Next Step Camp" for Teens is designed for the adventurous teenager with a passion for the outdoors and a desire to learn more about God's word! Week is filled with exciting off-campus adventures including white water rafting, rappelling, zip-lining, and more. Hosted by Ponderosa Student Ministries, Ponderosa Bible Camp. \$725 for the week.

**July 2 - Claire Donohue in Concert.** Come enjoy the sultry voice of Clare Donohue, accompanied by Stephen Powers on guitar, Dave Schwab on upright bass, Jim Crumble on drums and Ken Watters on trumpet for a great afternoon of jazz. Admission \$15. Kamama. Call 256-674-3366 or email mentoneartscenter@gmail.com.

**July 4 - Independence Day**

**July 4 - 34th Annual Sand Mountain Potato Festival.** Celebrate our heritage with live music, arts and crafts, entertainment, games and fireworks. Event begins at 10am and culminates with a beautiful fireworks display. 256-657-6282.

**July 4-6 - High Adventure Trip.** This is a 3-day adventure including a Wild Cave Tour, Rock Climbing, An Extreme Night Hike and end with a relaxing canoe trip. Price includes all activities, attractions, permits, fees, gear, and guides. 10am. 256-997-9577.

**July 5 - Get Tickets Now! 3 Minute Shopping Spree.** The NLMFPD presents their 1st annual fundraising raffle. Win a grocery shopping spree estimated at \$1,200. Drawing will be held on July 5. Tickets are \$10 each and are available at the PriceLess IGA or may be purchased online at NorthLookoutMountainFPD.com

**July 6-9 - Alabama State 4-H Horse Show.** Northeast Alabama Agribusiness Center in Rainsville. 256-638-1650.

**July 7 - GPS Basic Training and Navigation Class, Part 1.** Learn how to use a map, compass, and a handheld GPS. Learn basic navigation and how to pinpoint a location for quick return, or quick rescue. Also learn how to search by waypoints or coordinates. True Adventure Sports. 10am-4pm. 256-997-9577.

**July 7 - Winedown with Yoga.** We will be Pairing a wine tasting by Maraella Winery and Certified yoga Instructor Bret Brown to help you discover the balance of mind, body and spirit with a relaxing talk followed by a class in yoga fundamentals. \$5 if you rsvp before the 7th; \$10 admission the day of the event. 5-8pm, Vintage 1889.

**July 7-9 and 14-16 - NACC Theatre presents "Almost, Maine."** Join the NACC Theatre Department as they present "Almost Maine". Held at the Tom Bevill Lyceum on the campus of NACC. Friday-Saturday, 7 pm, and Sunday matinees at 2pm. All seats are reserved, and tickets are \$5 each. Phone the theatre department at 256-638-4418 or 256-228-6001 x 2218.

**July 21, 22 - Extreme Night Hike.** 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. 7:30pm-10pm. 256-997-9577.

**July 8 - Blow An Ornament.** Come design and blow your own ornament with the help of one of our glass artists. First come, first serve basis. Ages 5 and up. 9am-2pm. Orbix Hot Glass. \$38 per ornament blown. 256-523-3188.

**July 8 - 'Creek Kids' Watershed Workshop.** Learning about our water....not just for kids! Experience a view of Little River's watershed and how it connects to the rest of Alabama and our oceans. A VERY fun way to explore and cool down at the same time! Meet at the DeSoto State Park Nature Center on County Road 89. Participants should bring a lunch/snacks/water, clothes & footwear suitable for the river. 10am-3pm. Free &

open to ages 8 to adult. Pre-registration is required, please call 256-997-5025.

**July 8, 14, 18 - Rock Climbing/Rappelling Adventure Combo.** Come experience first-hand what rock climbing and rappelling is all about with guides who are fun, safe and energetic. This trip includes all the gear plus basic instruction. No prior climbing experience is needed. 10am-2pm. 256-997-9577.

**July 8 - 2nd Annual Farm-to-Table BBQ.** The Farm at Windy Hill. BBQ plates featuring our own pastured pork, fresh-picked-vegetable sides, and homemade pound cake. Great local musician and lawn games for all! (senior discount on plates); event is free. 10am-1pm.

**July 8 - YES, I CAN! Canning Fruits & Vegetables Workshop.** This is a "hands on" workshop and at the end of the day you will leave with two jars of finished product, recipes, confidence and knowledge of how to can at home. Instructor is Mary Alice Stout, who has canned and taught canning for over 50 years! Bring a paring knife and a brown bag lunch. 10am-3pm. DeSoto State Park; \$20 per person. Workshop is limited to 10, so pre-registration is required. 256-997-5025.

**July 8 - Cruising the Park.** Every second Saturday from April to October. Enjoy corn-hole tournaments, inflatables, 50/50 drawings, food and live music. 5pm-8pm at the Rainsville City Park. Contact Gene Wright at 256-996-4846.

**July 10 - Rappelling Certification Class.** This class covers rappelling basics indoor and outdoor. Meet at T.A.S. Training Center \$165/person Note: You will receive a class 1 rappelling certification photo ID card upon request and successful completion of this class and exams for a card processing fee of \$15.00. 10am-6pm. 256-997-9577.

**July 10-13 - Southeastern Survival Camp.** Activities range from basic nature/environmental education. Campers will gain confidence and comfort in being outdoors. Led by a certified Alabama Naturalist & survival expert. One World Adventure-Mentone 8:30am-4:30pm. Ages: 7-13 (Boys & Girls) Cost: Based on income. To register contact Angie Shugart angie@oneworldadventureco.org or 256-634-8370.

**July 11 - Wild Cave Tour.** This 2.5 hour adventure is for those of you ready to explore on your knees, on your belly, in the mud and through tight tunnels. Adventure includes helmet, cave lamps plus a fun informative guide. True Adventure Sports. 5-7:30pm. 256-997-9577.

**July 12 - Anniversary Dinner.** Lookout Mountain Wholistic Center.

**July 13 - Lunch and Learn with Melissa Ledbetter.** Eat, chat and enjoy a dynamic speaker. 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. 11:30am-12:30pm. 256-845-3380.

**July 13 - Poisonous Plants of Alabama Class.** This class is a brief overview of many poisonous plants in Alabama. Learn how to spot them and what to do if you are affected by them. True Adventure Sports Training Center. 2-4 pm. 256-997-9577.

**July 14 - Campfire Talk: Amphibian Reproduction.** Come and join Dr. George Cline (aka Dr. Frog) as he tells the truer story of how frogs breed. Seating is limited, so bring your own comfortable camp chair. 8-9pm. DeSoto State Park's Campfire Ring; Free & open to the Public; Great for all ages! 256-997-5025.

**July 15 - Sculpt Your Own Flower.** It's all about hands on experience in a safe and fun atmosphere with a final product we know you will love. Minimum of 3 people and a maximum of 5 in each class. 10:30am or 12:30pm. Orbix Hot Glass. Reservations and full payment are required. \$75 per person. 256-523-3188.

**July 15 - Serious Skills Series: YES, I CAN! Pressure Canning Class.** Hosted by DeSoto State Park. The Serious Skills series is a variety of classes and workshops that provide opportunities to discover a hidden talent or learn a new skill for personal enrichment. Classes are open to local residents, overnight guests and park visitors. We are offering this class to participants that attended the canning workshops held in DSP this year, as well as folks that already have experience (prerequisite: hot water bath canning). Taught by Mary Alice Stout. Bring a paring knife and a brown bag lunch. \$20 per person. Workshop is limited to 7 participants, so pre-registration is required. 10am-4pm. 256-997-5025.

**July 15 - Patient Appreciation Party.** Join us in watching "Despicable Me 3" as we celebrate our patients! Fort Payne Cinema. RSVP here on our event page or email info@skeltonbraces.com to reserve your ticket! Popcorn & drinks will be provided! Hosted by Skelton Orthodontics. 256-844-8221.

**July 15 - Tennessee Valley Roping Association Competition.** At the Northeast Alabama Agri-Business Center in Rainsville. Visit the Tennessee Valley Roping Association. 256-638-1650.

**July 15 - Third Saturday Downtown Cruise-In.** 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 5-9pm. 256-996-3857.

**July 15 - Campfire Talk: Herps Around Your Home.** Join us for a fun campfire talk in the

# What To Do Around Here!

## July 2017 Community Calendar

Great Outdoors! Come join Dr. George Cline (aka Dr. Frog) and his friends as he presents this talk about these 'friends' that live among us. Bring your chair if you wish. DSP 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) Fee: Free to the Public; Great for all ages! For details, 256-997-5025.

**July 16 - Tri-State Paper Crafting.** Join us to learn, create and be inspired while crafting with papers, stamps, inks, punches, and die cuts. No experience needed. Kamama Gallery in Mentone AL 1-2:30pm. Reserve by noon Sat the 15th. Cost is \$7.50. To learn more or reserve a spot send an email to [cottagepaper@bellsouth.net](mailto:cottagepaper@bellsouth.net) or call 205.349-4026.

**July 17 - Adventure Day Camp, Session 2.** This camp for ages 7-13 builds self-esteem and skills in all things adventurous! Activities range from rappelling, rock climbing, kayaking, and thrill seeking hikes. Children will gain valuable knowledge about the importance of preserving our abundant recreational opportunities. Led by trained and certified outdoor instructors. To request more information, email [angie@oneworldadventureco.org](mailto:angie@oneworldadventureco.org)

**July 17 - 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 6pm the day before the adventure. Meet at True Adventure Sports 7:30-9:30pm. 256-997-9577.

**July 17 - Tiny Tots: Adventures in Nature--**

**Fantastic Frogs and Tiny Tadpoles.** Join the JSU Field School for fun filled classes just for little kids. Your kids (ages 3-5 years) will learn about animals, plants, bugs, and more all while having fun! 9 am-10 am (CST) At Little River Canyon Center. Fee: \$5 per child (Limit 10 children) Parents remain with children for this program. Pre-registration required. Call 256-845-3548.

**July 17-20 - Adventure Day Camp.** This fun and active camp builds self-esteem and skills in all things adventurous. Activities range from rock climbing, kayaking and thrill seeking hikes. Campers gain valuable knowledge about the importance of preserving our abundant recreational opportunities. Led by trained and certified Outdoor Instructors. Where: One World Adventure-Mentone When: Monday July 17-Thursdays July 20. Time: 8:30am-4:30pm. Ages: 7-13 (Boys & Girls). Cost: Based on income. To register contact Angie Shugart. [angie@oneworldadventureco.org](mailto:angie@oneworldadventureco.org) or 256-634-8370.

**July 19 - Radical River--Canyon Center Creative Kids Days: Adventures in Nature.** Bring your children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews and neighbors to creatively learn about animals, plants, bugs, and more with JSU Field Schools. Your children (ages 5-10) will want to attend ALL of these hands-on outdoor adventures! 10:00 am - Noon (CST) Little River Canyon Center. Fee: \$5 per child; pre-registration required (Limit 15 kids) Parents remain with children for this program.

**July 19, 22 - Afternoon Rock Climb.** Come experience first-hand what rock climbing is

all about in the afternoon with guides who are fun, safe and energetic. This trip includes all the gear plus basic instruction. No prior climbing experience is needed. TAS 2-6pm. 256-997-9577.

**July 20 - 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 6pm the day before the adventure. 10am-Noon. 256-997-9577.

**July 22 - Summer Music Series: Rock Killough.** 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. (6-9pm) Kamamas in Mentone.

**July 22 - Paperweight Class.** This class is designed for those who really just want see what molten glass is all about. Feel the heat, gather from the furnace, sculpt the glass into you own design. Please join us for some in-depth discovery at Orbix Hot Glass. Reservations Required \$145 per person. 9am-1pm. 256-523-3188.

**July 22-23 - Pioneer Saddle Club Quarter Horse Show.** At the Northeast Alabama Agri-Business Center in Rainsville. 256-638-1650.

**July 24-August 1 - Teen Leadership Camp.** An opportunity for teens ages 13-17 to take on meaningful outdoor leadership roles within all areas of their life. They will push their limits on a nine-day expedition in the wilderness and grow their outdoor skills, building lasting knowledge and

experience they can use throughout their lives. This program is ideal for youth who are going into education or plan to work with youth in any capacity. \$675.00 Additional Siblings \$650 each. 256-634-8370.

**July 28 - Forest Discovery Walk.** Join naturalist Robert Wilson for an experiential journey within the forest, taking in every opportunity to learn more about the natural world. Your guide will 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, camera. DeSoto State Park; 8 a.m. \$7 per person with kids free. Pre-registration is required-limited to 10 participants. Email [angie@oneworldadventureco.org](mailto:angie@oneworldadventureco.org) to pre-register. For questions, contact Robert at [sps@sevenpinessurvival.com](mailto:sps@sevenpinessurvival.com)

**July 29-30 - Northeast Alabama Cutting Horse Show.** At the Northeast Alabama Agri-Business Center in Rainsville. Northeast Alabama Cutting Horse Association. 256-638-1650.



## Ongoing Calendar

**The Little River group of Alcoholics Anonymous** is adding another meeting. They 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 Al 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** meets at 6 pm on the first Tuesday of each month at the Moon Lake Community 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 Kamama Art Gallery, newcomers welcomed.

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

# AREA STUDENTS WIN SCHOLARSHIPS!

## Vann McCary Scholarship Recipients for 2017

St. Joseph's-On-the-Mountain is proud to announce eleven well deserving winners of the Van McCary Scholarship. The scholarship was set up many years ago by the generosity of two families, the Vanns and the McCarys, who chose to support the community by providing help to area students toward their higher education goals. It can be received 4 years, provided the student applies and adheres to the level of excellence required by the scholarship criteria. St. Joseph's strives to keep each recipient in their prayers to support and encourage them in their perseverance toward their personal goals.

### Morgan Faith Blalock

Morgan is as athletic as she has been studious at Valley Head High School. She will continue her basketball career at Gadsden State where she will begin her scholastic preparations toward becoming a Nurse Practitioner.

### Bailey Kira Kirby

Bailey is a senior at Valley Head High School and plans to begin her college career at Northeast Alabama Community College where she will begin working on her major in Psychology. Bailey would like to be a child psychologist and believes her natural gift of determination will help her realize that goal.

### Brooke Lynn Moore

Brooke is the Salutatorian of 2017 Valley Head High School graduation class. She has numerous activities and honors on her high school resume, and it looks as if the list will continue to grow. Brooke will be going to the University of North Alabama in Florence, AL where she plans to major in finance with plans to become a financial manager.

### Ronald Devin Leps

Devin is a Scholar Athlete and 2017 graduate at Valley Head High School. Among many other honors he was the recipient of the Wendy's High School Heisman Athletic Award. He plans to begin working toward a nursing degree at University of North Alabama then to progress to a master's level program in nursing.

### Byrum Thomas Emory

Byrum is excited to be headed to the University of Alabama this fall with an interest in obtaining majors in Business and Theology. He graduates this May



Left: Graduating seniors at Valley Head High School who received the Vann McCary Scholarship (L to R) Morgan Blalock, Bailey Kirby, Brooke Moore, Devin Leps.

Scholarship recipients not pictured are Bleu Stone, Josie Crider, Liz Meadows, Angela Hadley, and Rylee Randolph.

Below: (L to R) Byrum Emory and Noah Waters, graduating seniors at Fort Payne High school who received the scholarship.

from Fort Payne High School. We will miss him among us at St. Joseph's.

### Noah Grant Watters

Noah is a first time Vann McCary Scholarship recipient and senior at Fort Payne High School where he was president of the FFA chapter. He plans to seek a major in Computer Science at the University of Alabama in Huntsville. Noah is interested in Cyber Security.

### Bleu David Stone

Bleu is a very active and accomplished Jr. at Auburn University, majoring in accounting. He is a Beta Alpha Psi honors recipient, Eagle Scout and Save First Volunteer. We congratulate Bleu for his perseverance and commitment to excellence as this is his 4th year to receive our scholarship.

### Josie Marie Crider

Josie is a Jacksonville State University student in her junior year majoring in Secondary Education for English Language Arts. She hopes to continue to work toward a Masters in English. Josie works at Little River Canyon while she is a full time student at JSU and is receiving the Vann McCary Scholarship for the 3rd year.

### Elizabeth Diana Meadows

Liz is completing her freshman year at Northeast Alabama Community College where she is a student in the Pre-Veterinary Medicine Program. We hope the Vann McCary Scholarship will help her move closer toward her goal of Veterinary Medicine.

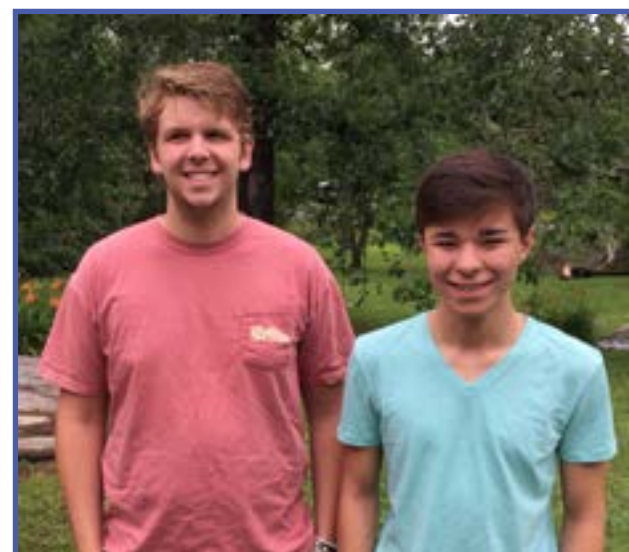
### Angela Marie Hadley

Angela has been working hard the past year at Northeast Alabama Community College both as a student in the Nursing Program and as a Biology tutor and lab assistant. She has earned a spot on the Presidents Honor Roll and is a member of Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society. This is Angela's first year to receive the Vann McCary Scholarship.

### Rylee Renee Randolph

Rylee was a full time student this year at Northeast Alabama Community College. She has been diligently working on a General Liberal Arts Degree in preparation to transfer to the University of Alabama to pursue a Bachelors Degree in Hotel and Restaurant Management. This is Rylee's first year as a Vann McCary Scholarship recipient.

**More Scholarship Information on  
Page 15**



## Amber Alexis Owen Awarded NACC Scholarship



Miss Amber Alexis Owen of Fort Payne has been awarded an Academic Scholarship to Northeast Alabama Community College where she will major in Nursing. Amber is a 2017 graduate of Fort Payne High School where she is a member of National Honors Society, National Technical Honors Society, Mu Alpha Theta, Spanish Honors Society, FBLA, FCCLA, SADD, and HOSA and received awards in Mathematics. She has participated in the several community activities including Mount Caramel Wesleyan Youth Group, Save-a-Life Foundation, and the Race to Embrace. Amber is the daughter of Greg and Lorilyn Owen.



CONGRATULATIONS, GRADUATES!



Matthew Bain



Morgan Blalock



Justin Blansit



Lukas Boehringer



John Brown



Dylan Bryant



Kyle Carden



Noah Durham



Laura Easler



Brayan Estrada



Major Frost



Ricardo Gutierrez



Ethan Harrison



Samantha Harrison



Braden Henderson



Dakota Henderson



Mason Hester



Dale Howard



Madison Hunt



Phyllis James



Bayle Jordan



Bailey Kirby



Trevor Landers



Justin Langston

**Mentone Wedding Chapel**

*Candle Lite Ceremonies  
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Flowers • Receptions  
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Limousine*



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

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

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

CONGRATULATIONS, GRADUATES!



Devin Leps



Crisanta Lopez



Alyssa Lugo



Esmeralda Martinez



Juan Mendoza



Gavin Millican



Brooke Moore



Angeles Moreno



Carol Rosales



Juan Santiago



Benjamin Sudberry



Sydney Vest



Savannah Wallace

Laura Dean Easler  
Awarded NACC  
Scholarship

Miss Laura Dean Easler of Mentone has been awarded an Academic Scholarship as well as the Cleo Smith Scholarship to Northeast Alabama Community College where she will major in Nursing. Laura is a 2017 graduate of Valley Head High School where she is a member of HOSA at the DeKalb County Technical Center, FCCLA, Senior Beta, TFFT, and Science Club. Laura received awards in 11th grade Honors English, Honors Chemistry, and Algebra 2. She also has her CPR License as well as her CNA License. Laura is the daughter of Jake and Melinda Easler.



- MOON LAKE GRADUATES -



- Sophia Blair

Kendra Burgess

Alexis Burt

Olivia Burton

Nick Ferguson

Emma Harrison

Daniel Hawkins

Harley Helton
- Kaden Johnson

Isabella Kincer

Emily McElhaney

Tyler Perrydore

Jamison Rhodes

Cody Smith

Ethan Smith



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## MLS Students Enjoy Week of Summer Activities

By Anna Mae Horn

The 21st Century Moon Lake School Summer Program packed a lot of activities into one week! Students did tie-dye shirts, made a book, and formed boats out of foil, and that was just on Monday.

Tuesday was a trip to the McWayne Science Center that left the kids very excited. Wednesday the students stayed local with "Hands on Art." A

trip to the Huntsville Space and Rocket Center on Thursday left them very inspired. Friday, they had plenty of exercise and enjoyed the natural beauty of DeSoto State Park with a wrap up video and awards on Friday afternoon.

Moon Lake School would like to thank the local businesses and artists who coordinated programs and activities. Many thanks to the

staff, support personnel, and parents who helped out as well. If you or your organization would like to be involved in next year's after school program, please email [melance@dekalbk12.org](mailto:melance@dekalbk12.org). The summer program is made possible through a renewable three-year grant from the 21st Century Community Learning Centers.



## Sweet Home Alabama

By Anna Mae Horn

The Alabama Tourism Department sponsored a week long series of events and displays that gave New York City a taste of "Sweet Home Alabama." The local area's natural beauty was represented well through Little River Canyon.

In the Flatiron Pedestrian Plaza, a 20-foot-wide replica of a mountain stood 20-foot-

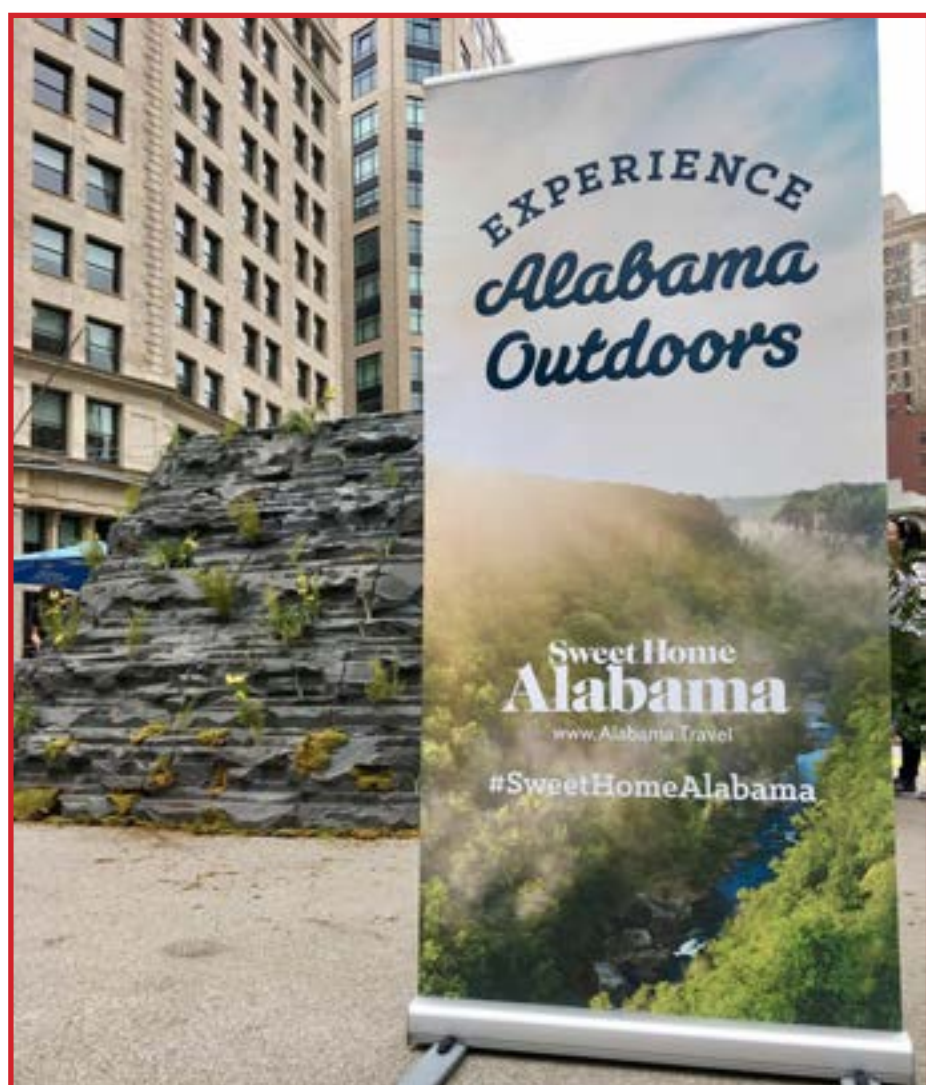
tall. The mountain display had steps where people could 'climb' to the top of the platform to experience Little River Canyon through a virtual reality headset. Each mountain climber also received a selfie of their 'visit' to Little River Canyon. DeKalb County Tourism's own John Dersham was on hand to help promote the area.

Go to [seal360.com](http://seal360.com) to view the video presented.

Another big part of the tourism promotion was an eight story tall Little River Canyon billboard display located approximately near Madison Square Garden. There was also an event

that included a Mardi Gras parade representing Mobile where the first ever Mardi Gras was held in 1703. Beads and Moon Pies were tossed to the crowd as is Fat Tuesday tradition. Also, "36 hours in Birmingham, Ala." was a feature article in the travel section of the New York Times in the June 15 edition.

Last year, a beach was displayed, including half a ton of sand, a beach chair, an ocean background and, of course, pails for sand castles. Tourism is big business. It brings in dollars for Alabama businesses, big and small. Last year, Alabama's tourism industry generated close to fifty million dollars in lodging taxes. It pays off to encourage people from all over to come to our little piece of paradise.



### My Home, Alabama

*My home, Alabama, is waiting for you,  
Green forests, lush meadows, the sky, clean and blue.  
Great cities, small towns, country lanes, and the lakes,  
With beaches and mountains, my lifesong awakes.*

*Recording hit music, manufacturing, and farms.  
It's "hey y'all", it's football, unique southern charm.  
Fine dining and picnics and Grandma's cuisine.  
We're patriots, statesmen, with pride in between.*

*It's space flight, it's night life, it's high tech mainstay.  
It's bowstrings and porch-swings, it's nature's display.  
It's home and it's family. It's life at its best.  
You're home, whether resident here or a guest.*

-Jim Hatcher

# 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@aol.com](mailto:groundhognews@aol.com) or P. O. Box 387, Mentone, AL 35984.*

# Vacation Bible School

*Lea's Chapel  
Hammondville  
July 9th - 14th  
6 to 8 pm*

# Mental Health Snippet

By Karole Ohme

## *Independence: Granting It and Receiving It*

For Americans, July is the month in which we celebrate our country's July 4, 1776 Declaration of Independence from Great Britain. History teaches us that gaining independence was not easy for our forefathers. Yet, they persevered and today we enjoy the privileges they secured for us. Families experience similar ups and downs, though on a much smaller scale, as children enter adolescence and begin their quest for individual independence. Even though, most parents claim to want their children to be independent and self-sufficient when opportunities to grant independence arise, many parents have second thoughts. Perhaps,

we only want our children to think and act independently if they mirror our thoughts and actions?

The family enters one of its most memorable life stages when the eldest child attains the age of thirteen. Adolescence is a distinct stage in human life with biological, mental, emotional, and social implications. As a family member begins the transition from childhood to adulthood, the impact is felt by each family member. The impact is not necessarily negative, but it can be confusing to both parents and child. In this period of human life, we are in the process of individuating, or developing an inner self with emphasis on creating our own unique identity. We also begin the process of differentiating as we develop personal autonomy through more independent decision-making separate from parent-directed decision-making. Hopefully, as these changes

within the adolescent child develop, parents provide support and guidance. Parents who approach their child's reach for independence with flexibility and humor can expect to experience pride in their child's growth rather than confusion and hostility as he/she moves into adulthood. Never forget that independent children are still our children.

Creating independent, self-sufficient human beings requires those who are granting it to let go and those who are receiving it to understand that independence and personal responsibility are forever intertwined.

Karole is a Licensed Professional Counselor, a Counseling Supervisor, Thanatology Certified, and a member of the Alabama Board of Examiners in Counseling. She can be reached at [kkohme@gmail.com](mailto:kkohme@gmail.com).

# Durable Medical Equipment and Competitive Bidding

By Lynn Hixson

Durable Medical Equipment (DME) is reusable medical equipment designed to help treat or provide relief for a medical condition or injury, and includes walkers, wheelchairs, and oxygen equipment. If you are in a skilled nursing facility (SNF) or nursing home or are a hospital inpatient, your DME is covered under Part A. Medicare Part B covers DME when your provider prescribes it for you to use in your home (although you can also use it outside your home). Medicare also covers certain prescription medications and supplies that you use with your DME, even if they are disposable or can only be used once. For example, Medicare covers medications used with nebulizers as well as lancets and test strips used with diabetes self-testing equipment. Once you have a prescription for DME in your home, you must take it to the right supplier to get coverage. If you have Original Medicare, you will pay the lowest cost by using suppliers that are Medicare-approved or who are contract suppliers. If you have Medicare Advantage, you will pay the lowest cost by using suppliers that are in network. Always follow your Medicare Advantage Plan's rules for DME.

The Competitive Bidding program for DME under Medicare Part B is designed to reduce your out-of-pocket expenses and ensure that you have access to quality equipment and items from suppliers you can trust. This program is formally known as the Durable Medicare Equipment, Prosthetics, Orthotics, and Supplies (DMEPOS) Competitive Bidding Program. Under this program, suppliers are required to submit bids to supply select DME products to a geographic area. Contracts are awarded to the Medicare suppliers that offer the best price and meet applicable equality and financial standards. If you

have Original Medicare and live in a competitive bidding area, Medicare will usually only pay for DME received from contract suppliers. Contract suppliers must agree to accept assignment (accept the Medicare approved amount as payment in full) for all claims for bid items, and will be paid the bid price amount. In other areas, you can use any supplier that has signed up to bill Medicare. If you have any questions on Durable Medical Equipment or Competitive Bidding please call the DeKalb County Council on Aging and speak to Lynn Hixson, the SHIP Counselor, at 256-845-8590.

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# When One Door Closes--A Thank You to the Community

**By Fontana Stinson**

When life landed me in Mentone four years ago, I recall being so angry that I told my mom, "I will never live here." But there is a magic about Mentone that attracts those who belong, and I didn't know it then, but Mentone was and is my home. Once I stopped fighting change, life here started opening up for me. Valinda Miracle gave me a job working at J Spencer's, allowing me the freedom to cook my dishes and learn about my talents. I met Rob and Cyndy who gave me a beautiful house to rent. I started meeting people in the community and making connections with people who loved my food. I realized that I ended up right where I was meant to be. So, when the door on my job at J Spencer's closed, I thought "What now?"

Then, I met Moon, owner of The Wildflower Café. She gave me a job that changed my life. The Wildflower and Moon have a way of bringing out the best in you. I fell in love with everything, but most of all--I fell in love with Mentone. I started to grow and change, I could feel myself transforming into who I was suppose to be, because I finally knew what it meant to feel alive. The energy at The Wildflower houses what the spirit of Mentone is all about. I learned more about the talents that I possess and that I could multi-task like no other. I knew I was on the right path and developed a passion for serving others. I knew one day I would own my own restaurant because, in doing so, I would be living out my purpose.

But once again, change came. The door on my time at The Wildflower closed, only to be met with a phone call from Ray Padgett. He wanted me to come work with Jimmy Rogers in the kitchen at Kamama. I declined at first, thinking I could fight change, but soon after accepted his offer. Working with Jimmy taught me a lot, and I will always be grateful for his knowledge he shared with me in the kitchen.

Soon, JR was off on his new adventure with the Green Leaf Grill, and here I was again not knowing what the future held for me. It was then that Ray offered to lease the café space to me and, without giving myself time to even think about it, I said yes. I knew chances like this didn't come along often, and I was being presented with an opportunity to live out a dream. So, mom loaned me the first month's rent. With \$500 to my name, I bought

my license and groceries, and we became The Wolves Den café. A lot of people questioned the name. To me, it held deep meaning, not only in a spiritual sense but also for the community. Wolves are amazing creatures. They travel in packs; they stick together. They take care of each other, and accept other wolves into their pack. And that is what Mentone is to me--acceptance. It doesn't matter who you are or where you came from, when you are here you are home. So, I wanted to bring that to the café.

For the past year and a half, I have put my heart and soul into it. Some mornings I would jump out of bed ready to get the day started; others, I just wanted to pull the covers over my head and hide from the world. Running your own business is no easy task; it takes hard work, dedication, and passion. I never cared about making money. My reward was the people, their smiles, and the excitement in their eyes after coming in without knowing what to expect, but being blown away by the food. People ask me, "Fontana, what is your secret?" The only answer I have is "Love" and, well, Greek seasoning (thanks JR). I absolutely love cooking food and serving people, which is why our motto became, 'Made with Love'. If you come into my kitchen, we are dancing, singing, joking around, and just having fun. That energy goes into every dish we serve. People can taste the difference, and that, to me, is what doing this was all about. But the only thing constant in life is change.

So, it saddens me to announce that July 9th will be our last day in business. This was not my choice, but if I have learned anything through past experiences, it's that when one door closes, another does open. I know the next door opened will lead me to my highest path.

Emotions have overwhelmed me recently, because of the love, support, and kindness I have received from my customers, my family, and the community. It is times like this that Mentone really shines. I do not know what is in store for me next, but I will never forget those who helped me get there, through all of the changes.

I would like to thank all the special souls that have been a part of my journey. I appreciate my staff, past and present; without them, I would be nothing. Amazing friends have stuck with me through thick and thin and will be with me to the end, and I owe them a debt of gratitude. There are

those who stopped whatever they were doing to help, and those who helped after a full day's work of their own. I couldn't have made it without dear friends who held me together emotionally and spiritually to keep my light shining. I will be forever grateful to Ray and Sandra who allowed me to live out this adventure for a year and a half. I wish you luck and success on whatever new endeavors you create. I was blessed with the musical talents of Larry Joe Hall, Rob and Curtis, and David and James who brought musical magic to the café for much less pay than they are worth.

My family has supported me in many ways: from recipes to babysitting to financial help, and so much more. I am especially thankful for my son Nolan's patience and support. Without his acceptance of what I wanted to do, it would have never been possible. Thank you son; you are the best. To love, my special ingredient, you inspired me from the start to believe in myself. I worked hard every day for you because you give me something to believe in. Without you, life doesn't make sense, so I share you with everyone.

Last but certainly not least, to my customers and community, y'all are the reason I was a success. I have always felt supported by the local people, and I loved meeting new friends from all over. Thank you isn't enough for the wonderful customers who have made this adventure a success. There is a group of some of Mentone's finest gentlemen who always make it a pleasure to start each week at the café. Many regulars have made The Wolves Den their favorite place to eat; that is the most rewarding feeling. I've truly had some special customers.

To express my heartfelt appreciation, I would like to invite everyone to the café July 8th. Rob and Curtis will play some music followed by James and David. I will offer a taco bar, free to anyone who wants to attend. I want to celebrate you, and thank you for helping me make my dream a reality. Even if you can't stay long, come by and just let me give you a hug. Follow The Wolves Den Facebook page to see where the next door opens. Life is a journey, and I intend to live it to the fullest. I encourage others to follow their hearts and work hard to make their dreams come true. I am living proof that it is possible. I love you all so very much, and will keep this chapter in my heart forever.

Here's to the next door opening.

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**LOTS and LAND**

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

**REDUCED! RARE, PRIVATE CAVE PROPERTY!** 44 acres of woodland, with mountainside views, abundant wildlife and a registered cave: Tally Cave. This special bit of earth is looking for a special owner. Don't let this one pass you by! Fantastically priced at only \$99,900. (785767)

**REDUCED! DESOTO FALLS AREA LAKEFRONT LOT** with approx. 94' frontage on the prime part of W Fork Little River, the truly navigable part where you can canoe, kayak or pontoon all the way to Mentone! So much natural beauty, so rarely available. Adjacent cabin and 0.9 acres also available. \$155,000 (355152)

**OH MY GOODNESS! COOL Street!** Wouldn't that be an awesome address? Just under a half-acre lot with a downtown location & fabulous brow views! The great thing is, it isn't perched on the edge of the mountain, yet it still offers that "WOW!" view! Design it right, and those gorgeous sunsets can come right into your cabin! Mentone's Brow Park is steps away across the road. A unique opportunity. \$87,500 (1062252)

**BROW-FRONT LOT WITH STUNNING SUNSET VIEWS;** a panorama of the valley & mountains beyond. Ready for your mountain getaway on the brow! Just a mile from downtown Mentone along the parkway. Quaint split-rail fence. Seven lots available. Lot 14 offers 0.68 acres; approx 90' brow frontage. \$107,500 (1055392)

**READY FOR YOU TO BUILD YOUR DREAM CABIN!** 2.75 unrestricted acres with underground utilities, & septic tank! Minutes from downtown Mentone; tucked privately into the woods! \$35,000 (1054586)

**2 WOODED ACRES** with a tiny little rustic "cabin" (no plumbing). Build your getaway cabin here amongst the hardwoods, picturesque boulders, wild turkey, deer...most any kind of wildlife found in these hills. Restricted. \$39,700. (1034503)

**4.33 ACRES ON SMALL LAKE.** Property consists of two lots being sold as one on Full Moon Lake in Laurel Creek Lakes, Mentone, \$45,000 (1048869)

**2.2 UNRESTRICTED, WOODED ACRES** Mentone. Corner property; excellent areas to walk, bicycle or keep a few chickens. Public water & power at the road. \$18,000 (1011111)

**BACK ON MARKET! DAY SPRING.** One seldom hears of lots for sale in this private, gated community with its common areas of massive, dramatic boulders; walking paths and access to East Fork of Little River. Lot 14, 3.25 acres. Beautiful hardwoods and level-to-gently-rolling topography. A place to build your mountain retreat. Restricted. \$40,000. (1068485)



**HERE'S THE DEAL:** Intriguing, mostly-finished, 3BR/2BA cabin on 10 acres w/Small pond where you can get into that place with elbow room you've been wanting at a great price! Hilltop location offers excellent views of the valley & Lookout Mtn. Beautiful, large-growth trees on property. Well water currently in use, public water available in near future. Easy drive, maybe 40 minutes, to Chattanooga on Highway 11 or I-59. \$90,000 (1072407)



**A CABIN ON THE WATER AT DESOTO LAKE!** This cabin has been in the same family since it was built in 1945. Oh, the stories of summertime fun it could tell! This is a rustic, true cabin with approx 130' of frontage on the lake at DeSoto. You can hear the falls; swim and fish in the lake, or paddle a kayak all the way to Mentone. Make your own memories of DeSoto Falls and the Lake. There's an old rock boathouse still in place that might be salvageable. Stone pathway down to the water. Screened porch on 2 sides; wood interior and exterior. Private road, so there's no traffic. Approx 0.9 acres. Adjacent lot (0.9 ac) also available. \$195,000 (1072406)



**JUST PLAIN ADORABLE!** "Carpenter Gothic"-style cottage w/the steep gables, pointed arches, wood moldings, charm & quaintness that is the hallmark of this style of architecture. Naturally-landscaped yard; wildflower gardens; wet-weather stream; peaceful woods. Built to be energy efficient. Screened back porch to enclose for add'l living area if you choose. Comfortable, cozy & so, so cute! 2BR/1.5BA. \$115,000 (1006846)



**CEDAR-SIDED HOME ON 6.3 EQUESTRIAN-FRIENDLY ACRES.** Rugged good looks, inside & out, with all the creature comforts. Full, covered front porch; screened back porch. Pine walls & ceilings; vaulted living w/stacked stone, gas-log Fplce; tile kitchen; 3BR/2.5BA. Main-level Master suite. Property is open & gently rolling w/perfect site for barn & pens. Add'l acreage avail. 5 min from downtown Mentone. \$215,400 (1060588)



**NOT YOUR AVERAGE HOUSE!** 4BR/2BA, open floor plan, 2240 sq ft home; 2-car garage; lg covered front porch; rear deck; 1.4 acres level land w/fruit trees. Add'l office & lg laundry room. Open kitchen/dining/living area w/great cabinetry, work island & plenty of counter space! Industrial-grade, dual CH/A units. 2x6 construction. Cement board exterior. Lotsa features, lotsa space, lotsa savings! Mentone \$150,000 (1067538)



**TIMBER-FRAME CRAFTSMANSHIP** in a cabin, privately nestled in 9.5 acres, surrounded by state park land, with small pond, rock outcroppings & majestic woods. Gated drive. Post & beam construction with vaulted, open, living/dining/kitchen. 3BR/3.5BA. Wide-plank pine floors throughout. Mountain stone, wood-burning fireplace with raised hearth. Full front porch, extra-large back porch with ramp. Everything one could want in a mountain escape or residence. No light pollution, no traffic noise...just you, woodland wildlife, and privacy. Worlds away, not miles away. Custom-built, one-owner cabin now priced at \$259,900 (1062482)



**IT'S ALMOST MAGICAL!** 1950s brow-front lodge, surrounded by boulders, punctuated with rock work by stonemasons of yesteryear. (The rock work alone would cost this much if done today!) Privately situated in downtown Mentone; board-n-batten exterior; stone-floored sunroom; 3BR/2BA; stone, wood-burning Fplce. Brow-side, in-ground pool & pool house. Screened gazebo/sleeping porch. Awaiting a resurrection back to a glorious getaway. \$375,000 (1068806)

**COOL MOUNTAIN BREEZES & casual elegance** of an "old" downtown Mentone brow-front cottage, expanded & updated. Metal roof; vinyl "cedar shake" siding; "smart" system to control utilities remotely; 3BR/2BA. Beautiful pine-plank floors; mtn stone & masonry, WB fplce w/rock wall & raised hearth. Gorgeous kitchen! Quaint white picket fence. Near Brow Park & so close to everything Mentone. Now \$289,000 (1022983)



**SOMETHING TRULY SPECIAL.** Lovely, 4BR/3BA, custom brick home on 50 rolling acres, mostly pasture, fenced & cross-fenced; two ponds (one is spring-fed); large, fully-equipped shop; barns; garden area w/tall, chain-link fence, & so much more. Fab kitchen w/granite counters, lots of cabinets & two pantries. Beautiful hardwood floors; 10' ceilings; spacious laundry/sewing room; cozy & inviting sunroom den. A place where you find that perfect combination of elegance & homey comfort. Partially-finished upstairs to create whatever space you find yourself needing. 2-car, attached garage w/storage. Winding drive w/meadow views. Mentone. \$685,000 (1067586)



# SAGE ADVICE: NATIVE PLANTS



**By Susan Seago**

Many people ask me about 'native' plant availability in and around the Mentone area. Yes, native plants are available, but mostly where they grow--and that's a good thing. A lot of them can be transplanted as growing plants. Many others can be grown from seed. It is not impossible to get them from the nursery growers but it can be a challenge to find them.

Flower seeds are found in the flower itself. Some flowers have seeds in 'bags' or 'sacks' at their stem base. Some are found in the center of the flower, and others are located at the center end of the petals. (For example, zinnia petals have their seeds at the end of the petal as do marigolds.) Many of the 'sacs' will 'explode' to disburse the seeds. That is why you see so many columbines and hardy geraniums in the shady areas. I always find 'two fors' in my pots, where seeds have landed in a potted perennial and grow along

with that perennial. I have a couple at the shop that have variegated Solomon's seal with columbines growing alongside.

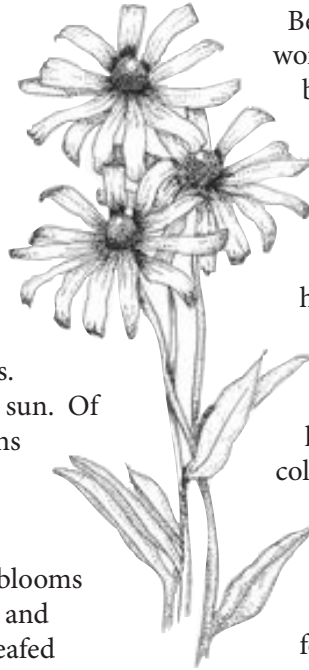
I'm going to list some of the native plants that grow locally. As do many of you, I have a lot of them growing freely in my woodland yard. The first to come to mind is the black-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia hirta*). It is blooming now with its bright golden yellow blooms. The black-eyed Susan is a native of the prairie and plains states and was brought to the rest of the states with shipments of red clover seeds. They grow in most any soil and love the sun. Of course, there are now hybridized versions but the native is still one of the best.

The serviceberry is one of the most beautiful shrubs/trees growing in the mountains of Alabama in the spring. It blooms early to dispel the darkness of the forest and starkness of the trees that have not yet leafed out. Because of cross pollination, there are many species of the *Amelanchier alabamica*, from a large shrub to a tree growing forty feet tall. The flowers produce purple fruit that is edible. It can be used

in pies, jellies, etc. or eaten as a berry by itself. A combination of the redbuds in bloom with the serviceberry is a beautiful springtime scene!

Bee Balm (*Monarda didyma*) has such a wonderfully strong scent that it can be smelled before it can be seen. It has been used in cooking and perfumes for years. A tea can be made to help alleviate chills and fever. It is called Oswego Tea. Its long tubular petals are so deep that bees cannot get the nectar; however, hummingbirds are able to withdraw the nectar easily. If you want hummies to visit your gardens, grow some bee balm. It is so popular that it has been hybridized and now is available in other colors of pink and purple. But, I still prefer the native plant. Nothing is ever as good as the original!

Also, look for dwarf crested iris, trillium, spiderwort, Solomon's seal, bluets, foamflower, and ginseng. These are just several of hundreds of native flowers in our part of the woods. Get a book on native flowers of the Southeast, and take a walk in your part of the forest to see them for yourself.



## Rhododendron Garden Club

**By Mellanie Tuttle**

On June 13th, the Rhododendron Garden Club met at the MERF House at 9:00 to be ready for a 9:30 departure to tour the Shinbone Valley

home of Gloria and John Majors. Before leaving, Martha Wood, Horticulture Chairman, gave each person a potted Anemone x hybrid 'Honorine Jobert' which was the Perennial Plant of 2016. The wind-flower, or Japanese anemone, is a vigorous, low maintenance plant that is deer resistant with no serious disease problems and forms dense, compact mounds of foliage. This Plant of Merit grows in full to part shade and produces blooms over 5-8 weeks in late summer into early fall with clusters of showy white flowers held above the foliage on long, wiry stems. The blooms are bee and butterfly attractors and make good cutting flowers. Avoid wet, poorly drained soil. Plants are slow to naturalize and spread by rhizomes.

'Honorine Jobert' is an old garden hybrid discovered in Verdun, France in 1858.

The RGC convoy departed with nine current members, two former club members and four other guests including a sister, a sister-in-law, a granddaughter and new neighbor/friend. The group was treated to a delightful tour of the Major's garden. Gloria told amusing anecdotes while identifying plants and telling the history of surrounding out-buildings, but like Vegas, what happens in Shinbone Valley, stays in Shinbone Valley. With the removal of several trees, the former shade garden plants were being replaced with sun-loving varieties. Gloria generously gave Tibetan marigolds, as well as succulent and groundcover pieces for rooting to anyone who was interested. She also had her garden notebook with photos of plants and bushes in all their seasonal flowering glory. Husband John joined the group and shared old family photos and stories of his own. The pride and joy that Gloria and John have in their property and the teamwork involved lives

in a quote by Darlene Schacht, "Marriages are like a garden, they take time to grow. But the harvest is rich unto those who patiently and tenderly care for the ground." The group hated to leave, but The Willow Tree restaurant in Summerville was on the agenda for lunch.

Now is the time to choose plants for entry to Fall Flower Show at the VFW Fair in September. Annuals, bulbs, perennials, and houseplants must have been in the exhibitor's possession for 90 days so fertilize, trim and groom in readiness to receive those blue ribbons! The next meeting of the RGC will be on July 11 at the regular time of 10:00 am at the MERF House. Member Dee Kelley will be sharing her knowledge. Join us.

*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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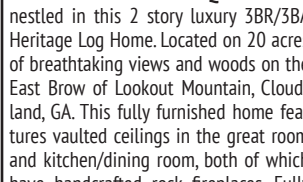
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|  <p><b>CEDAR CABIN</b> in the woods, open floor plan with great room, eat-in kitchen, 2 bedrooms, 2 tiled baths, pine floors, tile counter and island in kitchen, loft, tung and groove walls, covered deck with hot tub. Fireplace. Stainless appliances. Nice quiet setting. Appt Only. \$219,000 (22973)</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |  <p><b>LEVEL WOODED LOTS</b> in Crestline Park Subdivision in Mentone. Lot 25. 1.27 acres. Great area to build that getaway cabin in the woods. \$25,000 (23184).</p>                                                                                                       |  <p><b>TUCKED AMONG THE RHODODENDRONS.</b> Hemlocks, Oak trees is a rustic 1 3/4 story, 3 bdrm, 2bth home. on 3.85 acres Listen to the creek run over the rocks from the screened porch. Open floor plan, wood burning FP. Hot tub. Furnished. Located in Cloudland, GA. Seasonal views. \$182,000</p>                        |  <p><b>REDUCED</b><br/><b>TREETOPS</b> is a wonderful rustic log cabin nestled amongst giant boulders and hardwood trees. A large stone fire-place is the centerpiece of this cozy cabin. The timber walls and antiques add more charm to this mountain get away. The large bedroom has a vaulted ceiling and expansive views of the tree tops. A full width screen porch and multilevel decks provide plenty of room for outdoor enter-taining. Fully renovated bath with stack w/d. This charming cabin comes fully furnished and includes all appliances. It's ready for your enjoyment! \$107,000.</p> |  <p><b>6 ACRES</b> with 200 ft on West Fork Little River. Hard-woods, hollies, and easy ac-cess to river. Level to rolling terrain. \$74,900 (23183).</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |  <p><b>REDUCED</b><br/><b>1940s VINTAGE BUNGALOW.</b> 2 bdrm, 1bth. T &amp; G walls, beamed ceilings. Stone gas log fireplace. Heart Pine Flooring, Brow Views, Sun porch, vinyl siding. Old Mentone Charm. \$170,000 (1059858)</p> |
|  <p><b>SOLD</b><br/><b>PRIVATE PRESERVE</b> on 64.26 acres with great views! 3BR/3BA with full, mostly-furnished basement bonus areas &amp; garage, barn, and equipment shed. Charming guest cottage/studio over workshop. \$250,000 (1060287)</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |  <p><b>6.7 ACRES</b> on the east brow overlooking Shinbone Valley. Weiss Lake in the distance. \$30,000. (1061387)</p>                                                                                                                                                    |  <p><b>NESTLED AMONG LARGE ROCK FORMATIONS</b> is a quaint 2 bdr, 2bth cottage with open living/ dining room with gas fp. Sun-room/office off master suite. Screened front porch multi level decks, outdoor shower, garage workshop. Quiet and Serene this setting makes for a great getaway or home. \$143,900 (23164)</p> |  <p><b>COTTAGE ON LITTLE RIVER CANYON.</b> What a peaceful set-ting and private. 2 bdrm with sleeping loft, 2 baths. Great room with Rock Fireplace. Covered front porch and grilling deck. Adjoins on the back side Wildlife management and in the front the canyon preserve. Private access. Appt Only. \$140k (22865)</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |  <p><b>3.77 ACRES</b> located at Canyon View Forest Subdivision. Wooded and joining the bluff of Little River National Preserve. \$60,000</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |  <p><b>1.8 ACRES</b> on East Fork of Little River. Easy access to river from common trail that runs along the banks of the river. Bluff views. County water available. Gated community. \$85,000 (1063624)</p>                    |
|  <p><b>3.89 ACRES</b> at Mtn River Estates. Hwy 117 frontage. Wooded, Rock formations, lev-el along the river. Over 200 ft on Middle Fork of Little River. \$38,000. (1060565)</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |  <p><b>NEW</b><br/><b>HIGH RD., CLOUDLAND, GA.</b> 5.5 acres with stream and small waterfall. 3bdrm, 2bth, ranch style home. Living room, new flooring, kitchen with built in pantry, CHA. Guest cabin with 1 bdrm, 1 bth. 3 bay garage/ workshop. 2 wells. \$148,000</p> |  <p><b>LAKE WINDMILL ESTATE..</b> 103 ft. on 13 acre lake on the brow. Wooded, sloped. Build your home here restricted. \$45,000.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                       |  <p><b>Hidden Brow Tract.</b> 5.1 acres of level, wooded East brow views of Shinbone Valley. Located in Cloud-land, GA. \$127,500 (23213)</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |  <p><b>SECLUSION AND TRANQUILITY</b> are nestled in this 2 story luxury 3BR/3BA Heritage Log Home. Located on 20 acres of breathtaking views and woods on the East Brow of Lookout Mountain, Cloud-land, GA. This fully furnished home features vaulted ceilings in the great room and kitchen/dining room, both of which have handcrafted rock fireplaces. Fully equipped kitchen with granite and con-crete countertops, stainless steel appli-ances, and eat-in bar. Amenities include 4 CHA units, laundry room, and separate potting shed/workshop. The detached 2-car garage has a full upstairs 1BR/1BA and extra storage room. An ideal moun-tain escape! Craftsmanship and atten-tion to detail makes this property one of a kind. Appointment only. \$825,000. (23208)</p> |  <p></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <div><div><div>LOTS AND ACREAGE</div><div><div><div><b>Oakwood Subdivision</b> - 6.1 acres. Wooded, level, lightly restricted. \$39,500</div><div><b>5 ACRES</b> on the East brow tract overlooking Pleasant Valley. Rock pallacades, wooded. See Weiss Lake in the distance. Private gated area. Joins National Preserve &amp; Forever Wild protected property. \$55,000 (22866) - <b>SOLD</b></div></div><div><div><b>LEVEL BUILDING LOT</b> in downtown Menlo, GA. Great site for Residential or Commercial use. Non-restricted. Many possibilities! \$14,000</div><div><b>WOODED 3.4 ACRES</b> located in established subdivision called Oak-wood in nearby Mentone. Restrictive covenants. \$22,000. <b>NEW</b></div></div></div></div><div><div><div><b>ESCAPE</b> to the mountains in this beautiful 4BR/4BA home, with full basement in Cloudland, GA. The main level offers a great room with vaulted ceiling and wood burning fireplace. Equipped kitchen with granite countertops and stain-less steel appliances. The master bedroom has a walk-in closet, along with a large bathroom with separate tile shower, Jacuzzi tub, and double vanity. Hardwood floors and ceramic tile throughout. Sit and enjoy the sunrises from the covered porch or deck that overlooks the bluff. The lower level offers 2BR/2BA with a large centered family room that leads</div><div><p>out to the backyard and hiking trails. The unfinished portion of the base-ment is perfect for extra storage and is equipped with a safe room. Amen-ities include CHA, laundry room, and alarm system. The detached 2-car garage has a full upstairs 1BR/half bath. A must see! Appointment Only. \$275,000 (1061190)</p></div></div></div></div> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |

# Menlo Notes: Quilters Celebrate Anniversary

By Diane Smith-Mealer

The Menlo Quilters (Q-Bees) celebrated a one year anniversary at the May 8th meeting with sixteen girls present. The past year has flown by and much has happened in our group. Several ladies underwent surgeries; we gained new members and lost some members. But on the positive side, we will have a quilt to be auctioned soon. The funds from this quilt will benefit a local charity for the Community Holiday Project which the Menlo Fire Department holds each year. Our hope is that the community will support this effort when all is presented. Stay tuned so you will not miss the opportunity when notices are posted at City Hall.

The year has also been spent on learning new tips and techniques, color blending, piecing, using tools and lots of other neat ideas. The programs are events that enhance our knowledge, togetherness, and opportunities to reach out to others. We appreciate each person who has taken time to share with us their knowledge and expertise. A "Show and Tell" time gives each person the floor to show their finished or in-process projects.

The June meeting program was presented by Susan Fowler of La Fayette, GA. The topic covered was the "Quilts of Valor" Foundation which is a program to honor and comfort our Nation's Veterans. It started with one woman's dream, and the movement has spread across the nation and beyond through the word-of-mouth and the internet. I recently saw a quilt made by a guest on the Fons and Porter program on PBS. It was to be presented to a Navy Veteran and done in beautiful blues and white. If you would like to know more about this project, go to QOVF.org.



The group also voted to make lap quilts for the Oak View Health and Rehabilitation in Summerville, to be presented in December. We will also be doing a quilt for the Veteran's project.

This group of women is an assortment of all ages, with our oldest being ninety-

one years young. (Bonnie can still bend over and put her hands on the floor!) She challenged all the younger girls to follow, and you can imagine how that went. We laugh, we cry, we work, we play. We are blessed to have so many talented women to share this time. The July meeting will be July 13. Barbara Gail Goodwin will be presenting a program on her recent Quilt-Retreat in South Alabama, and we will also enjoy a presentation of "Colors that Blow Your Mind" with deJoly LaBrier.

All women, and men, are invited to join us the second Thursday of each month at the Menlo Presbyterian Church 5-7 pm EST. Happy Quilting!



## And In Fort Payne...



*The Alabama band was honored with a bronze star on the sidewalk in front of the DeKalb Theatre.*



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**MENTONE CABIN!** Delight yourself in this furnished two bedroom, two bath cabin with screened porches, pine floors & more! \$164,900.



**SWEET LII' MENTONE HOME!** Life is sweet in this two bedroom two bath home! \$109,900. MLS #1068148.



**ADORABLE MENTONE HOME** with-in feet of Mentone Brow Park and walking distance to downtown. 3 bedroom/3bath, hardwood floors, screened porches & more! \$257,600. MLS #1067063.



**ENJOY SUNRISE & SUNSET VIEWS** in this cozy Mentone home located on Scenic Hwy. Open family room, dining and kitchen. Call for appointment today! \$325,000. MLS #1069365



**TWO Residences on the Brow** with 45 +/- acres! Rock walls, walkways and patios. Call for more details. \$495,000. MLS #815966



**CUSTOM** log cabin, 2+ acres. 2 fireplaces, log/wood walls, floors & windows, lge. loft, sleeping porch, kitchen w/6-burner gas range, detached storage bldg, additional small cabin. \$305,000. #332033.



**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



**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. \$144,900. MLS #1052557



**UNIQUE CABIN** with a VIEW in Valley View Forest. 3BR/3BA, Den and Formal living area with lots of rustic features. Open kitchen and Den. Living area w/rock FP and built-ins. \$269,900 MLS #1054116



**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.



**2BR/3BA** 3+/- year old roof. Garage apt w/BR & BA. Balcony, gallery w/storage, winter sunsets, downtown location, gas heater in kitchen, garage and apartment. WB fireplace. 2-car garage. Built in 2004. \$289,000. MLS#1029587.



**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#1042674



**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.



**MENTONE BROW HOME!** Beautiful views in this 3BR/2BA home. Woodburning fireplace, sunroom and large deck! Guest House with a garage! \$299,900. MLS#1066454.

### LOTS & LAND

#403694 - 106' of prime brow view. \$109,500.  
#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.  
#845943 - 200' of water frontage \$42,000.  
#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.



**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.



**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.



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



**One of the most photographed landmarks in Ala.**...The iconic "Red Boat-house" on Little River is less than 500' from Desoto Falls. One-acre w/186' on navigable part of the river. Mid-century wood cabin w/living & dining, 3BR/2BA, eat-in kitchen, rock FP, & screened porches. \$389,000. MLS #1054645.

#1053367 - 9.93 acres in Mentone. \$45,000.

#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.

#1071359 - Water views! .37 acres. \$35,000.

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LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS IN THE MENTONE AREA

BY KELLY LEAVITT

The Mentone area is truly fortunate to have a variety of organizations which serve our community's needs. Following are brief descriptions of some of these organizations, each of which appreciates volunteer and/or financial support. Did you know that research has shown that people who volunteer live longer? In the words of Martin Luther King, Jr., "Everyone can be great because everyone can serve."

**DeSoto Rescue Squad**  
The DeSoto Rescue Squad is an all-volunteer organization which provides emergency and non-emergency medical services for the communities of Mentone and Valley Head. [desotorescue.com/](http://desotorescue.com/)

**Little River Arts Council**  
The Little River Arts Council strengthens cultural resources for the visual, performing and literary arts in the Mentone area by raising funds, sponsoring events, and providing educational opportunities. [littleriverartscouncil.org/](http://littleriverartscouncil.org/)

**Lookout Mountain Wholistic Center**  
The Lookout Mountain Wholistic Center offers bi-monthly a variety of presentations for the holistically-minded at Rock Ridge Retreat Center in Valley Head. The group also raises funds that directly benefit the Valley Head schools. They have a facebook group.

**Mentone Area Preservation Association**  
The Mentone Area Preservation Association (MAPA) is dedicated to the preservation and protection of the heritage, natural environment and other unique qualities of life in the Mentone area. [mapamentone.com](http://mapamentone.com)

**Mentone Arts and Cultural Center**  
The goal of the Mentone Arts and Cultural Center is to fund and build a multi-use facility to preserve, display, and foster the rich heritage of creative arts in the Mentone area. [mentoneartscenter.org](http://mentoneartscenter.org)

**Mentone Business Association**  
The Mentone Business Association (MBA) supports activities that will benefit businesses and business growth in the Mentone area. The organization meets monthly and is open to business owners and anyone interested in the downtown area and the future of Mentone. [mentonebusiness.com](http://mentonebusiness.com)

**Mentone Educational Resources Foundation**  
The Mentone Educational Resources Foundation (MERF) supports our town's youth and senior citizens by funding and organizing a variety of programs, including funding Moon Lake School's Art/Music/Spanish teacher, providing after-school tutoring for Moon Lake students and workshop funding for Moon Lake teachers as well as weekly lunches which provide

fellowship and healthy food for our area's seniors. MERF also maintains the "Merfhouse" (the Mentone Community House located behind the community library), which is available for the use of local citizens. [merfhouse.com](http://merfhouse.com)

**Moon Lake Community Library**  
The Moon Lake Community Library is a non-profit, volunteer-funded organization which operates jointly with Moon Lake Elementary School. They have a facebook page.

**North Alabama Food Bank Agency**  
St. Joseph's-on-the-Mountain Episcopal Church is an agency of this well-respected regional food bank. Many members of our community rely on the food bank, which is partially supplied by several of our local farms. [stjosephmountain.dioala.org](http://stjosephmountain.dioala.org)

**North Lookout Mountain FPD**  
The North Lookout Mountain FPD is our area's all-volunteer fire department. An "all-risk" department, they respond to not only fire calls, but also hazardous material incidents, motor vehicle accidents, and special rescue calls. [northlookoutmountainfpd.com](http://northlookoutmountainfpd.com)

Other local organizations include the Rhododendron Garden Club, the Moon Lake PTO, the Valley Head Area Women's Club, and Boy Scout Troop 106.

Experience (cont'd from page 9)

order of whole milk, skim milk, buttermilk and the occasional order for orange juice and chocolate milk.

Working conditions were great--I spent most of all summer days inside the refrigerated warehouse where it was a brisk 35 degrees. Things got tougher when I had to retrieve an order of ice cream for the milkmen. Ice cream was stored in a warehouse that stayed at a constant negative 22 degrees. No one tarried while on duty there.

That work was quite a contrast to the following summer. To get ready for summer workouts for my football team, I took a job loading railroad boxcars with ammunition boxes made for our soldiers in

Vietnam. To quote my father, it was hotter than the hinges of hell in those boxcars.

That experience was a great teacher. I harkened back to my sales career and began an advertising sales career that led to a 34-year newspaper career.

I'd love to hear about your first job and, if you'll write me at [bhs51@charter.net](mailto:bhs51@charter.net), I might be able to share some of your experience in a future column here.



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## Chamber Executive Director Position

From Chamber Board President Amy Justice: Carol Beddingfield is retiring after 11 years of service to the Chamber of Commerce. We are seeking an individual who has a heart for the business community of Fort Payne, both the large businesses and the small. The main focus of the Chamber of Commerce is to recruit and retain businesses. Our participation or coordination in any event or program is with that goal in mind--Recruit and Retain. The new executive director must share that vision, as well as bringing his or her ideas on how to accomplish that task.

- Partial list of qualifications:
- Degree in administration or five years of experience
  - Knowledge of Fort Payne service and business community
  - Able to work with the public in a warm, friendly and professional manner
  - Willingness to develop rapport with business and community leaders
  - Willingness to develop rapport with local, state, and nationally elected officials
  - Willingness to attend training at local and state levels
  - Possess a valid Alabama Drivers License with clear five-year driving record
  - Agreeable to participate in drug testing program
  - Motivational skills to create interest in the Chamber functions
  - Possess communication skills both verbal and written
  - Verbal communication skills to create support for the Chamber goals and objectives
  - Writing skills to communicate ideas, create promotional literature, and communicate with elected officials and community leaders

If you are the person we are looking for, we would love to see your resume. You can submit your resume electronically via email to [chamberdirectorfp@gmail.com](mailto:chamberdirectorfp@gmail.com) or drop off a hard copy in a sealed envelope at the Times Journal office, 811 Greenhill Blvd. NW, Fort Payne, AL. Deadline is July 15, 2017.



## Classified Ads

**COX TILE** - 706-766-2758 - Sunrooms, marble, baths, shower pan repair. James Pleas Cox, [jpcxotile1@gmail.com](mailto:jpcxotile1@gmail.com).

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

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

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# Love and Restoration

By Kathy Gaston

Forty-four-year-old Stephen Silvani, my son, has always loved working on cars and, happily, found a home over three years ago at Soneff's Master Garage in Denver, Colorado, where he is Restoration Coordinator. Serious car collectors such as Jay Leno have found their way to Soneff's showroom where car lovers can find their classic car and muscle car dreams come true. For the last several months, however, Stephen has been working many extra hours of overtime on one special car to make his own dream come true; to create a personal tribute to his grandfather, a WWII hero.

Stephen's grandfather, my father, 93-year-old Lt. Col. John Gaston (USAF, ret.), was a P-51 Mustang pilot in the European arena during WWII. Returning from the war, he was an instructor in the P-47 Thunderbolt, sending dedicated fighter pilots into the war. After the war, Gaston continued his flying career in the Air Force for

over twenty years; after which he flew jets in the private corporate sector, ending his flying career in the French Falcon 50. The P-51, however, remains his favorite of the forty-eight vastly different airplanes he flew during his lengthy career in aviation.



During his military career, Gaston purchased a new Karmann Ghia Volkswagen while overseas in 1962 and had the car shipped stateside when he rotated back to the United States. A year ago, he requested that his grandson restore the car, giving him carte blanche to do what he wanted, all the while expecting the car would be restored to its original color and appearance. Stephen, however, being the car restoration artist he is, had a different idea...a tribute to his hero, his grandfather.

For months Stephen worked seven days a week,

laboring to faithfully restore the car. He wanted it to reflect the P-51 Mustang that so faithfully brought his grandfather safely through fifty combat missions in the skies over Europe where he flew as a member of the famous Checkertail Clan, the 325th Fighter Group...a group that is still active today as an elite Air Force fighter group.

Although the interior of the car was not quite completed to his satisfaction, Stephen wanted the car delivered to his grandfather in time for his birthday on June 10th. His goal was met when the car was successfully delivered and presented to his grandfather in Mentone, Alabama, the first week of June. Needless to say, his grandfather was quite misty-eyed when seeing the car for the first time.

You will be seeing this little car dashing around Mentone, so be sure to wave!



## Tiny Living is Outdoor Living

By Sylvia Brophy, Little River Escape

It was cloudy and humid and everyone was on edge about the weather. How do you have 1,500 people tromping from a dirt/rock road through 20 different tiny houses in the rain?! Lucky for us, the typical Cloudland weather seems to be "sunny above, rainy below." We had a terrific turnout for the first ever Tiny House Roadshow on location in a tiny home community. The weather was perfect and the clouds kept the temperature very comfortable most of the time.

Dale Geist, operator of the Tiny House Roadshow which tours the country, approached Ed Watters, Little River Escape's community developer in February to determine a way to show what Tiny House living is like "in the wild." So, Geist put out the call to his legion of tiny house builders to come to Menlo, Georgia for the weekend. Ten houses answered that call with designs from an engineer's 100 square foot dream to the metal kit builders who constructed a 1200 square foot home onsite specifically for the event.

Attendees came from far and wide with the longest trek from San Diego, CA, several from Kentucky and Ohio, and many who stopped on their way from northern climes to Florida to start their summer vacations.

The show covered 50 acres and attendees walked the half-mile route through the community, resting briefly in the air-conditioned tiny houses before moving on. Many spent quite a while sitting on a screen porch here and there, exchanging "tiny tales" with other attendees and pretending they lived there! At the turn, the luxurious swimming pool and clear river tempted a few to throw off their shoes and really kick back while they listened to The Way Homers playing old time rock.

Everyone at the show learned a lot about tiny house living and design, and got an education in the realities of square footage as well as the importance of high ceilings and extra windows to make small spaces seem large. Everyone in attendance fell in love, not just with Little River Escape, but also with the community.



### It's Time to Plan Your Escape!

Little River Escape offers **50 acres** of mountain climate, riverside hikes, and tiny community living. We have homes sited for sale, models you can site on the **lot of your choice**, or you can order a custom tiny home from another tiny home builder!

**Relax** by the pool, **fish** in the East Fork of Little River, **paddle** in one of our kayaks under the bridge to Lake Lahusage, or **hike** around to the swimmin' hole to **cool off**.

Just over an hour from Atlanta, Chattanooga, and Birmingham, we offer a lovely **commute** for residents, or an easy **getaway** for vacationers.

*Come see if tiny living fits your big life!*



Tours Fri-Sat 11-5; Sun 1-5 EDT; weekdays by appt.  
11987 Hwy 48, Cloudland, GA [www.LittleRiverEscape.com](http://www.LittleRiverEscape.com)

# Memories of Mayberry was a Huge Success!

As a way to raise funds for the Valley Head Fire Department (VHFD), the Valley Head Town Council along with the VHFD decided to hold the first of what we hope to be an annual event, Memories of Mayberry, on the first Saturday of June.



Our first Memories of Mayberry festival transformed the Town of Valley Head into the fictional Town of Mayberry. The town's businesses took on new life as Floyd's Barber Shop, Bluebird Diner, Wally's Filling Station, Mayberry Security Bank, Ellie Walker's Drug Store, Mayberry Courthouse and Aunt Bees Kitchen.

The event started with a flag dedication by Woodman of the World. The group provided flag poles and flags in memory of Mr. Ovie

Blalock, a long-time member of Woodman who was instrumental in providing flags and poles to the area for many years. Our special thanks to Woodmen of the World and the Blalock Family. Mrs. Ovie Blalock was the first to raise the American flag while the National Anthem was performed by Ms. Whitney Tinker.

The event was kicked off by live entertainment



by Jack Martin, who also served as emcee, and his band. First to arrive on a flatbed truck were "the Darlings." Barney Woods Fife, Allen Newsome, aka Floyd the Barber, and George Roberts as Odis, entertained the crowd throughout the day. A surprise guest found his way to Mayberry; Mark Rogers from the show Moonshiners was placed in our Mayberry Jail by Barney Fife for illegal moonshine!

The old football field was covered from end to end with classic cars. There were vendors selling their goods throughout the town as well as many activities, including a watermelon seed spitting contest, a whistling contest, children's games provided by Lamar Hackworth, and pony rides.

VHFD was grilling hamburgers and hotdogs and the local restaurants were cooking up a variety of foods. Live music was provided throughout the day by several local



artists and bands. Raffles and prizes were drawn and items were auctioned in between acts. All Memories of Mayberry merchandise was sold out! As the day came to a close, everyone expressed their excitement for the festival and can't wait until next year! The Town of Valley Head and the Valley Head Fire Department would like to thank everyone who helped make this festival a great success. The VHFD cleared more than \$15,000 after all expenses were paid from this festival to help support the volunteer fire department. We hope to see you all next year!



## SECOND ANNUAL FARM BBQs

it's The Farm at Windy Hill's  
last farm-to-table BBQ picnic  
of the season--so hurry over!

saturday, 10-1 pm

# JULY 8

Windy Hill pulled pork + farm fresh sides  
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