



THE GROUNDHOG

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

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"Neighborhood News from the Heart of Lookout Mountain"

September 2017

BE A PART OF COLORFEST

BY ANNA MAE HORN

Now is the time to become a part of Colorfest! Be a vendor, reserve your rooms, get involved, volunteer, make your plans, be a part of the fun! It all happens the third weekend of October.

Colorfest is a three-day celebration of handmade arts and crafts. MAPA enjoys bringing this traditional event to Mentone each year because it is a representation of everything Mentone: nature, creativity, delicious food, music, and community.

Each year the festival is held along the western edge of Lookout Mountain on North Cool Street at Brow Park, designated by many as the premier local spot for sunset viewing. Visitors meander along the street among the vendors and view the wares, stopping occasionally to enjoy some freshly made lunch, or to sit a spell and listen to local musicians while taking in the view of the valley below in its autumn splendor.

If you are interested in being a vendor, don't delay

any longer. Spots are filling quickly, so fill out the application in this month's issue and get it mailed in. We will be offering a variety of items for our festival goers, and all items for sale are quality hand-made products.

If you are planning to attend and enjoy the Colorfest overnight this year, it's never too early to reserve a room in the area. Follow the "Links" tab at MyMentone.com to find a place to stay and plan other aspects of your trip. There's plenty to see and do in the area, especially during this beautiful season.

If you live locally or will be in town a day or two ahead of time, you can get in the Fall mood by making a scarecrow for Scarecrow Holler. Make the best one and win a prize! Applications are in this issue. Businesses will be decorating for the Pumpkin Patch Jubilee to compete for prizes as well.

If you would like to be a volunteer for this event,
(cont'd on page 4)



GREAT WORDS, GREAT MUSIC, GREAT MAN

BY CLARE DONOHUE

As a musician, I meet a variety of inspiring people. RT Bolden, an 81-year-old, Alabama-born saxophonist, is one of the great ones. Playing music and spending time talking with RT is a huge honor to me. He has taught me many, many things. My favorite saying from this national treasure is, "The truth is not always in your favor— accept it."

RT Bolden was born in Decatur, Alabama, in 1936. During high school, he played trumpet with his music teacher at the Decatur Country Club. He left home at 17 to enlist in the army. He was stationed at Fort Jackson, South Carolina, for basic training, and then shipped out to Alaska for 26 months. As part of a unit of almost entirely minorities, they tested M14s, which did not like the cold and blew up in many men's faces.

When RT got out of the army the first time, he settled in Denver, Colorado, and performed with the High Kountry Band. RT's family had relocated to Indianapolis, Indiana, and he played in that area with many great jazz players of the time. In the San Jose, California, area, RT played with Wes Montgomery, Freddy Hubbard and Chet Baker— just to name a few! Later, having made the

(cont'd on page 23)

INTERNATIONAL PLEIN AIR PAINT OUT



THE ISLAND BOYS



FREE OUTDOOR MOVIE NIGHT



(Details on pages 4 and 5)

THE GROUNDHOG

P. O. Box 387
Mentone, AL 35984

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



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P.O. Box 387 256-465-1107
groundhognews@yahoo.com

**Have a Letter to the Editor
or a story idea?
Send it to
The Groundhog
at groundhognews@yahoo.com.**

MENTONE MATTERS

By Mayor Rob Hammond



Letter To The Editor

Dear Editor,

My husband and I were on an anniversary trip to your area this past weekend. I picked up an edition of your paper at Raven Haven. I briefly read about the two boys putting rocks around the Mentone Area. As we were leaving Mentone, we stopped in at St. Joseph's, and there was one of the rocks! I left a note thanking the boys. I hold the rock dear... We loved the area, and Mentone will always have a sweet place in our memories!

Fredressa

Through the town, the Mentone Water Works is applying for a CDBG grant to replace water lines on Cutler/West River. Over the years, breaks in these lines have caused system wide outages with thousands of gallons of water lost. This has adversely affected residences, downtown businesses, the camps, and the school at different times. TARCOG (Top of Alabama Regional Council of Governments) is preparing the application for the grant. This is the second time Mentone has applied, and we hope our project will be funded during this cycle.

According to ALDOT North Region Engineer Curtis Vincent, the right-of-way acquisition process has begun for the bridge on 117 in Mentone.

Dear Fredressa,

Happy Anniversary! I hope you thoroughly enjoyed your getaway. I'm pleased to hear that you had that pleasant surprise on your way out of town and that you enjoyed the article. Best wishes,

Anna Mae

Letter From The Editor

Welcome Kelly Leavitt!

Lots of exciting changes are happening in Mentone, especially for MAPA and our paper, *The Groundhog*. This month has been a great transitional month for our editing team. As I mentioned last month, Kelly Leavitt is joining our team as the new *Groundhog* editor. We have worked together this month and appreciate everyone cooperating during this time. MAPA and I are very thankful to Kelly for stepping up to take on this position and bringing her experience to the team.

Not only does Kelly bring elegant writing skills and a passion for the area, she also brings on board a vast amount of technological experiences. Since the 1990s, Kelly has worked closely with small non-profit organizations in both print and web design. (Be watching the web for MAPA's redesigned site at MAPAMentone.com.) She also has experience with newsprint magazines, including her own, in both Birmingham and Hawaii.

Kelly has lived in the Mentone area for seven years and enjoys a secluded home surrounded by the beauty of Mentone's nature. She has a strong sense and a big heart for all things earthy and kind. Kelly also has a passion for MAPA's vision of preserving the heritage of our area, which will serve her well in her new endeavor as *Groundhog* Editor.

Kelly is looking forward to bringing her experience and vision to *The Groundhog* and

"further evolving its impact" on the local community as well as visitors.

Best wishes, Kelly!

~Anna Mae



**Join MAPA Today!
Help us preserve
Mentone's history
and impact its future.**

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

MAPA
P. O. Box 50
Mentone, AL 35984



MAPA
NEWS

Getting Things Done

By Anna Mae Horn, President

Mentone Area Preservation Association accomplished many tasks during the August meeting. Two new officers were voted in. Barb McCarthy was voted in as the new secretary and

Susan Seago as treasurer.

The board would like to thank Jerome Stephens and Kayla Worthey for several years of service on the MAPA board. Along with other officers, they have kept MAPA, The Groundhog, and the two annual festivals going strong. Many times, they have answered the call for responsibilities above and beyond board duties. Their time and efforts are much appreciated.

Carrying on the tradition, new officers have stepped up to get things done. They have been very active over the last month learning their new positions and looking into items discussed at the meeting.

Kerry Breithaupt was voted in as volunteer Festival Coordinator. The board is very appreciative that Kerry is using her experience to lead the festival team as it makes plans for Colorfest. There is always work to be done, so if you would like to help, please email MentoneColorfest@gmail.com and let her know what skills and how much time you have to offer. If we all do a little, no one has to do a lot.

Kelly Leavitt was hired in as the new Groundhog Editor and IT Manager. The board is grateful for the expertise that Kelly is willing to use to benefit MAPA and the community in her new roles. Type in MAPAMentone.com to see the redesigned the website, updates, and Colorfest details as they are finalized.

The current board has a great desire to fulfill the goals of MAPA and to help the community within the guidelines of the bylaws. A grant form was discussed at the meeting and promptly designed by board members so that funds for community projects may be applied for through a standard written request.

Another big topic at the meeting was membership. How can we be a good organization and encourage others to help fulfill our mission? All new members will be offered a subscription to *The Groundhog*. Current members will also receive a subscription, or their current one will be extended to the date of their membership renewal.

Also, there was discussion to change the membership to 12 months, versus the current June 30 expiration. This will be voted on by the general membership at the September meeting to be held on Tuesday, September 5, in the Moon Lake Library at 6 pm.

The general membership is encouraged to attend all meetings. Visitors are welcome to join us. Any organization's survival depends on the energy expended by its members and its officers. MAPA is no different. In order to achieve our mission, we need members to bring their ideas and energy together to work towards the common goal. We would love to hear from you. Join us at a meeting or email us at mapamentone@gmail.com. Meeting dates are the first Tuesday of each month at 6pm at Moon Lake Library.

MAPA is a 501(c)3 whose purpose is preserving and protecting the heritage, natural environment, and other unique qualities of life in the Mentone area for current and future generations.

2017 COLORFEST
VENDOR APPLICATION
OCTOBER 20-22
\$100 FOR A 12' X 12' SPACE
APPLICATION DEADLINE IS SEPTEMBER 10

Contact Name _____
Business Name _____
Address _____
City, State, Zip _____
Phone _____ Cell Phone _____
E-mail _____
Website Address _____ FB Page _____
Type of Vendor: ☐ Art/Craft ☐ Food (see pg. 2) ☐ Business(promo only) ☐ Organization
Description of Art/Items _____
Electrical - Show number of outlets needed: ☐ 110V Electricity (\$25) ☐ 220V Electricity (\$50)
Water - ☐ Water (\$25)
Vendor Special Needs _____
Handicap Accessibility Needs _____
Number of Spaces _____ Amount enclosed _____

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

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

You will be notified of your acceptance no later than September 25. We reserve the right to limit the number of vendors within a category. Spaces will be assigned the week prior to the show, but please check in with the information tent when you arrive as space numbers can change. No spaces can be reserved from show to show. We reserve the right to deny your application.

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

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

For Food Vendors Only

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

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

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

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Contact List _____ Rec'd _____ Ck# _____ Emailed _____ Approved _____ Declined _____
Reason _____



Little River Arts
Council News

By Kelly Leavitt
LRAC President

Summer is coming to an end, and the Little River Arts Council is moving its focus from our summer music series to our fall events. On September 8-10, we'll host the International Plein Air Paint Out; on October 28-29, we will present our popular annual Tour of Homes and Silent Auction, and on November 12-13, we will co-host, with DeSoto State Park, the popular Creative Spirit Market—an art fair “with a twist”.

We express our appreciation to long-time board members Tammy Beane and Hank Willette, both of whom resigned this summer to tend to personal matters. Their many years of service have made a difference in Mentone's arts community.

We welcome Wil Henry Cobble and Paula Tally to our board, and look forward to the talents and vision they will bring to the arts council. We are currently searching for additional board members; if you might be interested in serving, or would like to nominate someone, please let us know at info@littleriverartscouncil.org.

MACC PRESENTS
THE ISLAND BROTHERS

By Randy Grider
Executive Director



The Mentone Arts & Cultural Center will bring sounds of Hawaii to town for a late summer treat. The Island Brothers will play on Friday, Sept. 8 on the dining deck of Plowshares Bistro from 7-9 p.m. The duo is comprised of Ted Pabo, a retired Army veteran from Kauai, and Derek Yabui, a retired Air Force veteran from Oahu. They met in Florida in 1993 and have been playing together ever since. They specialize in Hawaiian, Spanish, gospel, oldies and light country. They played this past spring in Mentone at the annual Rhododendron Festival. Admission is a donation to the Mentone Arts & Cultural Center.

COLORFEST 2017
SCARECROW HOLLER CONTEST

Official Application/Entry Form
Please Print Clearly

Applicant Contact Name: _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Scarecrow Name _____

Deadline for entry is **Sunday, October 15, 2017**, at 8pm.
To enter, please mail this form to: MAPA, PO Box 387, Mentone, AL 35984
or email/scan to: MentoneColorfest@gmail.com

Thank you for your participation in MAPA's Scarecrow Holler Display during Colorfest 2017. Your participation and support will help make this annual event successful. We want to showcase Mentone and make 2017 Colorfest a success; Scarecrow Holler will be an important part of that.

CONTEST RULES

- Please maintain the Colorfest theme of “Celebrating the Fall Season on the Mountain” for your scarecrow.
- The application must be received no later than Sunday, October 15th, at 8pm.
- Areas measuring 5 feet square will be assigned and numbered for each Scarecrow. You will be contacted with your assigned number, using the information listed above, no later than Sunday, October 15th at 8pm.
- Set up will be Sunday through Friday, October 15th-20th at the Mentone Springs Hotel Site.
- Scarecrows will remain up through Halloween and must be removed by Sunday, November 5th.
- Any display that is not removed by that time will be discarded.
- Scarecrows should be in good taste, family friendly and keeping in the theme of the festival and should not reflect controversial, social or political situations. No handouts, promotional materials or free giveaways can be associated with any entry.
- No electricity will be available for displays, but hay bales and construction tips will be available.
- MAPA and the Scarecrow Committee reserve the right to remove any Scarecrow that does not meet these standards. Scarecrows must be constructed to withstand weather conditions. It is suggested that entrants check on their display periodically.
- Judging/Prizes: Judges will be provided by sponsoring organization(s) and the judging criteria will be determined by the Scarecrow Committee, to include originality, theme, content, etc. Prizes provided by Dr. Halaseh of Fort Payne will be as follows: 1st place—\$75, 2nd place—\$50 and 3rd place—\$25. Judging will take place on Saturday, October 21st at 9am and winners will also be ribboned and announced on the Brow stage during the festival and featured in the next issue of *The Groundhog* publication. MAPA and the Colorfest Committee reserve the right to use photographs for future publicity.

Be A Part of Colorfest (continued from page 1)

we will be most appreciative (and even celebrate with a thank you dinner for all volunteers). We would like to have as many hands helping as possible. We will be respectful of whatever time and skills you can give. Please contact Kerry Breithaupt, Anna Mae Horn, or email MentoneColorfest@gmail.com.

This year promises to be a great event. The weekend will be ignited Friday evening with a bonfire as music from local favorite Jerry Bloom fills the air. MAPA will have some fall favorites for dinner by the fire with free music.

Throughout the days on Saturday and Sunday, Brow Park will be filled with vendors displaying a wide variety of handmade arts and crafts. Colorfest is also a terrific display of regional musical talent. Performances will be held under the Brow Park pavilion. Located in the center of activity, it's a good place to rest for a bit. Be sure to stop by the MAPA tent, then take a stroll through Scarecrow Holler before you leave.

Around town, local businesses will be open, the Log Cabin Village will have special events, and restaurants will be featuring their specialties. Be sure to join in on the Scavenger Hunt while you're in town. Mentone Business Association organizes and sponsors this event to help you get acquainted with all the local business owners and see the variety available in our little town.

Mentone has a lot to offer. Colorfest is a great way to experience it all! Now is the time to make those plans or join in the preparations. Mark your calendars for October 19, 20, and 21 to be at Colorfest 2017. See you soon!

MBA Mix: Celebrating This Place Called Mentone



**By Charlotte Gentry
MBA President**

Just in case you may not have noticed, Mentone is a special place. Much of this can be attributed to those who volunteer their time, labor, money, and talent to enhance life on this mountain in so many areas. And these volunteer organizations are bringing some fun events to our area this season.

The Mentone Business Association is once again sponsoring our annual "Southern Heart, Free Outdoor Movie Night" on September 9, 2017, at the Mentone Inn Pavilion. The evening will begin with a free music concert featuring Jerry Bloom & Friends, beginning around 6 pm. The movie will start just after sundown, around 7:30 pm. As always, there will be free popcorn. Sodas and water will be for sale. Plan to have dinner with us as Nathan Winkler will be selling his "almost famous" Wood-Fired Pizza.

There is a lot of work going on behind the scenes right now to prepare for the mountain's favorite celebration of the fall season: Colorfest 2017, October 20-22, sponsored by MAPA. The MBA is pleased to be participating again in this year's festival with "The Scavenger Hunt," and MBA Secretary Lisa Schad is the coordinator of the event. If you are a business in Mentone, be watching for an invitation to participate in this year's Hunt.

The MBA meets the 2nd Monday each month. Our August meeting was a productive planning time for Movie Night and the upcoming festival. We also discussed Mentone Rocks, new businesses

in Mentone, alcohol sales, and other matters of impact to business here. Join us at our next meeting, September 11, 6:00 pm, at the Mentone Inn Pavilion

and make it your business to be involved in Mentone! (We'll also be celebrating Cynthia's birthday that night!)

Free Outdoor Movie Night

**Enjoy *Southern Heart*
filmed in Mentone**

**Saturday, September 9
Mentone Inn Pavilion**

**Free music featuring Jerry Bloom - 6pm
Movie starts after dark - around 7:30**

**Nathan Winkler wood-fired pizza, soda and
water available**

Free popcorn!



**FILMED RIGHT HERE IN SCENIC MENTONE, ALABAMA,
SOUTHERN HEART IS A SWEET, "FEEL-GOOD" MOVIE
THAT IS SURE TO MAKE YOU SMILE.**

Join us and see a few old friends who are no longer with us (the Mentone Springs Hotel and Jack Jones, to name a couple) and a few who were just children back in the 90s when this film was shot using local folks as extras.

We're inviting any of those who were in the film to join us for the event. Shoot, you or someone you know may have been in it! The clock gets turned back for the night.

Local filming locations include Mentone Springs Hotel, Mentone Inn, Nippersink Lodge, Log Cabin Deli (now Green Leaf Grill), Cragmere Manna and many more.

Limited seating available. Bring your lawn chairs or blankets.

PRESENTED BY THE MENTONE BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

Art Teacher Goes Back to School

By Paula Easter, Fine Arts Teacher at Moon Lake School

Yes, I am one of those people...I still love to go to "school" (workshops), take classes, and learn new things. This summer, I had the privilege of attending Art Scouts Camp at the beautiful Montgomery Bell Park right outside of Nashville, Tennessee courtesy of MERF. I had such an amazing time creating, chatting, bonding with new art "teacherin'" friends, getting messy with fabulous new art supplies, learning all kinds of new art techniques, and being taught by amazing Art Scout Leaders – Cassie, Ginger, Laura, and Jennifer. Art Scouts is for adults who LOVE to create with kids, but I actually felt like a kid again at summer camp!

During the three days, "campers" had

workshops in clay, fiber arts, painting, and campfire crafts. It was empowering and inspiring to be surrounded by such incredible talent. I came home... ready to share all my new ideas with all my wonderful Moon Lake Students!

So, if you love hangin' out with awesome art teachers, making art, having fun, making new art teacherin' friends (like yourself), and high energy workshops with hands-on projects for a full two days, then Art Scouts is for you!

I would love to thank the Mentone Educational Resources Foundation for providing me with the wonderful opportunity of attending Art Scout Camp!



Your Library News Your Library News Your Library News



By Barb Stoll

Welcome to Fall!

Hello folks; hope everyone had a wonderful summer. Pretty soon our fall colors will be coming and that crisp autumn air will be upon us. As the days grow shorter your Community Library has loads of books and DVDs for those long nights.

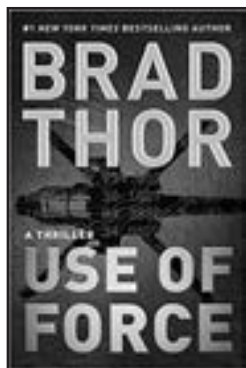
We would like to welcome Kelly Leavitt as our new librarian at Moon Lake Community Library. She has already started improving the library space and has lots of great ideas for the future. Read her article in this issue about her first experience at your local library. Be sure to stop by and meet Kelly if you haven't already.

Also, this month Moon Lake Elementary school is having their Children's Book Fair Night at the library and the public is invited to attend on September 12 from 4-6 pm. Proceeds go to support the school, so come out and join us. Books make great Christmas presents!

Here are our newest additions to the library this month, enjoy!

Books

House of Spies: This is the latest from author Daniel Silva. A heart-stopping tale of suspense, Daniel Silva's bestseller *The Black Widow* was one of 2016's biggest novels. Now, in *House of Spies*, Gabriel Allen is back and out for revenge—determined to hunt down the world's most dangerous terrorist, a shadowy ISIS mastermind known only as Saladin.



Use of Force: Bestselling author Brad Thor returns with riveting international intrigue and high-stakes espionage. The world's most ruthless terrorists have sent a horrific message to Americans—nowhere is safe. Now Navy SEAL turned covert counterterrorism operative Scot Harvard is about to deliver a deadly message of his own.

The Duchess: The incomparable Danielle Steel breaks new ground as she takes us to nineteenth-century England, where a high-born young woman is forced out into the world and begins a journey of survival, sensuality, and long-sought justice.

DVDs

Patriots Day: Based upon the dramatic real-life manhunt for the Boston Marathon bombers, this action-thriller follows Police Sergeant Tommy Saunders (Mark Wahlberg) as he joins brave survivors, first responders, and investigators in a race against time. Rated R.

Ghost in the Shell: Scarlett Johansson stars in this

visually stunning action-packed adventure set in the future world where people are enhanced with technology. Packed with "heart pounding excitement" (TIME), it's the movie critics are calling a "classic in the making" (NERDIST). Rated PG-13.

Divergent: A thrilling action-adventure set in the future with a society divided into five distinct factions. But Tris will never fit into any one group—she is Divergent, and what makes her different, makes her dangerous. Rated PG-13.



Insurgent: The second movie in the *Divergent* series, *Insurgent* raises the stakes for Tris as she searches for answers and allies in this star-powered, action-packed second adventure. Rated PG-13.

Family DVDs

The Jungle Book: The original version of this well-known tale paints an exotic world of primitive peasant villages; dark, dense jungles; and alluring lagoons—all of which compose the surroundings of Mowgli, a boy raised by wolves. Not Rated.

The Very Hungry Caterpillar and Other Stories: Five of Eric Carle's most popular stories bring the wonders of the world around young children into focus. Gentle, colorful music not only enhances the beautiful jewel-like animation, but delights the senses as well. Ages 5 and under.

Imagine My Surprise...

I am a reader. As a child, libraries were kin to sanctuaries to me. I loved the smells and the silence. I appreciated the simplicity and enormity of the card catalog, each drawer a box of unknown wonders. I sometimes played "librarian" when I was alone at home, checking my real library books in and out... to myself!

I've lived in Mentone for many years now, but only recently learned another one of its many "secrets." All these years, I've been buying books to read, or borrowing books from the Kindle library. I don't know exactly why, but I never ventured into our community's little library, other than to donate books for their book sale.

Imagine my surprise when I learned the true

nature of the Moon Lake Community Library. It is not part of the DeKalb County library system, as I'd presumed it was. Rather, it is an independent library run by a volunteer board. Once I heard this, I was enormously impressed, and the next day I dropped in to be a supportive neighbor.

I met Dianne Kuehl, who's really the rock of our library. She supervises librarians, coordinates a group of dedicated volunteers, and has served on the community library's board since its inception 15 years ago. Dianne mentioned they were in need of a librarian, and I bit the hook. In late July, I started my new part-time "dream" job as the librarian at Moon Lake Community Library. And I've loved every day of it.

For any of you who may be as uninformed as I was: "Moon Lake Library"

serves as Moon Lake Elementary School Library during school hours. On Tuesday and Thursday afternoons and on Saturday mornings, when it opens to the public, it serves as Moon Lake Community Library. It is one of two shared library systems in the state.

In 2002, the DeKalb County school system constructed the building, largely aided by substantial donations from local folks;

these donations were matched by a generous patron.

Since then, a board of directors has made it possible for the library to serve the larger local population. The board raises funds through patron donations, book sales, and sponsorship of a free annual calendar. These funds are used to purchase new books and DVDs, pay the community librarian's salary, and pay the summer power bills, so the books are able to stay in a year-round climate-controlled environment.

Moon Lake Community Library has more than 4,000 books in its holdings, including a special collection of local history. More than 800 DVDs are available to borrow, and hundreds of donated books are for sale. Such a valuable resource!

Come on in and see what jumps off the shelf—it may be just the book you "need" to read. Our hours are Tuesday and Thursday from 3-6 p.m., and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. See you at the library!

Valley Head Drugs

114 Commerce Avenue
Valley Head, AL 35989

256-635-6812

Cynthia and Wayne Wooten, Owners

"We appreciate your business"

Moon Lake Children's Book Fair!

Tuesday, September 12
4 - 6 pm
Moon Lake Library

**Great opportunity to buy a special
book for the children in your life!**
Proceeds benefit
Moon Lake Elementary School.

Community Development Block Grant Update

By Rhea Pirch

A public meeting was held on August 8 at Mentone Town Hall to discuss securing a Community Development Block Grant for monetary assistance to replace vital water lines in the town of Mentone. Kevin Barnard of the Top of Alabama Regional Council of Governments (TARCOG) led the meeting, and Wesley Griffith, chairman of Mentone Water Works and member of the town council, was on hand to answer questions.

The water lines in question run down Cutler Avenue, intersect with West River Road, and continue down West River Road to Camp Laney. Eight leaks have been repaired on Cutler Avenue alone in the last two years. This line is critical because it serves as the main transmission line between the pump station and meter with Fort Payne, and three of the water storage tanks that serve Mentone. Transmission lines transport a significant volume of water from the tanks, and cannot have valves installed to limit the flow or otherwise isolate the lines in anticipation of a line break. When a line break occurs, the tanks are drained quickly, causing customers to be out of water for extended periods of time while the break is fixed and the tanks fill up again. The plan would be to replace the existing 35+ year-old pipeline on Cutler Ave. with 8-inch PVC pipe, designed to last in excess of 50 years. The plan also includes upgrading the 4-inch water line that runs down West River Road with a 6-inch water line, and fire hydrants, providing fire protection for the approximate 17 residents who live there.

The total estimated construction cost of the project, including construction, engineering, construction observation, permit preparation, and Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) administration is \$372,581. A grant of \$335,323 will be requested, with the remainder provided as matching funds through the Mentone Water Works board. Chairman Wesley Griffith said he does not anticipate any increase in residents' cost of water to cover this project or the matching funds.

The Preliminary Engineering Report for Mentone Water System Improvements is available at town hall. This report gives an in-depth evaluation and cost of the need "for rehabilitation of existing water facilities in the town of Mentone."

DRS Receives Vehicle Donation

By Captain Michael Stone

The Desoto Rescue Squad has recently received a donation of a 2005 Chevrolet Tahoe from the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. This donation was made possible by the SD-1 program enacted by the legislature in 2013. This additional resource will allow the Squad to better serve our communities. Desoto Rescue Squad continues to struggle for operating resources including funding each year. We are grateful for any and all donations to help us pay for our fuel, vehicle maintenance, training, medical supplies, and emergency medications. We have been considering expanding our capabilities to a full Paramedic level provider, but at this time the cost of the medications is outside the reach of our current budget. We are preparing to do our Photo Fundraiser, and will be sending out our annual letter around the middle of November. We are a 501(c)3 non-profit and all donations are tax deductible. Donations can be sent to Desoto Rescue Squad PO Box 517, Mentone, AL 35984. We would like to thank everyone for their continued support of our mission!

Photo by Blue Sky Photography





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Beauty
(my first girlfriend)

By: Doug Kiker

Maggalena Kagalena Hoop Cough Hash was her name.
She had two hairs in her head,
One was black and the other was red.
She had two teeth in her mouth,
One pointed north and the other pointed south.
Maggalena Kagalena Hoop Cough Hash was her name.



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New Eatery in Town

By Kelly Leavitt

Plowshares Bistro is downtown Mentone's newest business. Owners/Chefs Corinne West and Shari Lovsey each own separate catering businesses, and one together. When the opportunity arose to open a restaurant in Mentone, Chef Breezy joined them for a farm-to-table approach in a relaxed environment.

"Honestly, I'm done with processed foods,"



says Corinne. "I feel that if you can't pronounce it, you shouldn't eat it. It's not good for your body, it's not good for your brain, it's not good for you. Older generations are looking for something to go back to, and newer generations are looking for something different. We don't serve packaged potato chips; we're slicing tri-color potatoes for our homemade potato chips. Everything is coming from the earth."

Much of their food is locally grown, sourced from such farms as The Farm at Windy Hill, Jones Farm, Feel Good Farm, Jessie's Farm, and Mildred's Meadows. Lydia Randolph bakes bread for the bistro, and the flowers are grown at Windy Hill. Plowshares plans to source locally as much as possible, and they are already looking ahead to fall and winter crops.

Six days a week, the three chefs share shifts to provide breakfast, lunch and dinner (they are closed on Wednesdays). Their menu lists whimsical offerings such as "The Neighbor's Fishing Hole", "Picnic at the Orchard", and "Lasso the Farm". The breakfast and lunch menus will stay set for a while, but the dinner menu often changes, based on product availability and market prices (plowsharesbistro.com). The dessert menu changes daily, so everything can stay "super fresh".

"Nothing's pre-made," says Corinne. "It might take a little longer, but it's going to be worth it in the end, because we made it fresh to order. We're literally cooking for every person who dines here,

like it's your own restaurant."

Plowshares books private parties, which can flow onto the new outdoor deck that seats 30. They also offer private chef services. "We're happy to go to someone's cabin and personally cook for them, taking any dietary restrictions or needs into account," says Shari. "We will also cook prepared meals for a day or a week for anyone who'd like to pick up food to take home and reheat."

The bistro accepts reservations for all meals; dinner reservations are recommended (256-634-3001). Valinda Miracle's "Miracle Pottery and Gallery" (adjoining the bistro) is always open during restaurant hours, so guests can relax and shop in the gallery while waiting for their food.

"The people of Mentone have been really good to us," says Shari. "This is a very unique community." Corinne adds, "We believe in giving back. Anything we can do to help the environment, or the children, or the schools—if we can give it, we will." As an example, the local Boy Scout troop asked to set up a recycling center behind the restaurant so cans can be recycled; this helps the



boys earn a badge.

As a young girl, Chef Shari began learning her culinary skills while standing on a stool in her grandmother's and aunt's kitchens. She is the founder and executive chef for Tasteful Gatherings and Cougar Café in Tennessee. Chef Corinne recently sold Rooster's Bistro in Massachusetts after a successful 13 years, and she has owned Grace Receptions since 1998. Chef Breezy learned

his cooking skills from his mother while he was growing up in Haiti, so many unique Caribbean flavors are infused into his cuisine.

All the chefs are excited to be a part of this community-oriented, farm-to-table endeavor. "Anything that's fresh is colorful," says Corinne. "Our plates are a rainbow of happiness that you're putting into your body."

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**Let's Come Together in Song
and Celebrate Patsy Cline's 88th Birthday!**
Friday, September 8
6-9pm, The Green Leaf Grill



Clare's Quintet.

featuring RT Bolden & Joshua Moore.
will be performing Patsy Cline's Greatest Hits
followed by a full jazz set including originals.

*Combining two of America's original art forms
in the oldest dining establishment in Mentone!*

Call The Green Leaf Grill for reservations
(256) 634-2110

Happy Labor Day

THE
RECIPE
CORNER
~
September

This month's recipe
submitted
by Kelly Leavitt

Herbed Split Pea Soup

- 2 cups split peas (green or yellow, or a mixture)
2 T butter
2 T olive oil
1 onion, chopped
2 garlic cloves, minced
2 carrots, sliced
1 celery stalk, sliced
1/4 tsp. celery seed
1/2 tsp. salt
1/2 tsp. black pepper
1 tsp. (or more, or less!) each of your choice of herbs...basil, tarragon, oregano, sage, marjoram, thyme, parsley
8 cups of your choice of liquid...water, or vegetable or chicken broth
- 

In a large stock pan, heat the butter and oil together. Add the carrots, celery, onion, and garlic and sauté, stirring frequently, for several minutes. Add celery seed, salt, pepper, and herbs to your liking. (No matter how often I vary the herbs, this soup's always delicious.) Stir over low heat until the aromas are released (1-2 minutes). Add your choice of liquid and the split peas and stir well. Bring to a gentle boil, then cover and let simmer over low heat for at least 90 minutes, stirring occasionally, until the consistency of the peas is to your taste. Serves 8.

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

HAPPY DAY!

September Birthdays

- Sept 1 – Connie Bell
Sept 1 – Yvonne Brock
Sept 1 - Dustin Burt
Sept 1 – Lindsay Elkins
Sept 2 – Grace Tucker
Sept 2 – Lincoln Carden
Sept 3 – Callie Ann Shoults
Sept 3 – Stella Mae Akins
Sept 3 – Katie Smith
Sept 3 – Morgan Spencer
Sept 4 – Vance Carden
Sept 4 – Markettia Crane
Sept 4 – Karen Smith
Sept 4 - Cloyce Allen
Sept 5 – Evelyn Jensen
Sept 5 – John Kirby
Sept 5 – Payton Miller
Sept 5 – Sawyer Miller
Sept 6 – Craig Stanfill
Sept 6 – Terri Gilreath
Sept 6 – Austin Farmer
Sept 6 – Benjie Mason
Sept 7 – Amelia Saferite
Sept 8 – Van Freeman
Sept 8 – Adele Phillips
Sept 8 - Anastasia Pittman
Sept 8 – Herman Johnson
Sept 8 – Steve Watkins

- Sept 9 – Makenna Stalvey
Sept 9 – Emma Harrison
Sept 9 – Dillon Kirby
Sept 9 – Ashley Harrison
Sept 10 – Morgan Gregory
Sept 10 – Angela Downer
Sept 10 – Sam Langston
Sept 10 – Anna Lee
Sept 10 – Jake Easler
Sept 10 - Paul Miller
Sept 10 - Chasity Smith
Sept 10 – Autumn Lewchuk
Sept 11 – Amanda Collins
Sept 11 – Robert Johnson
Sept 11 – Brittney Johnson
Sept 11 – Chandler Johnson
Sept 12 – Shane Burt
Sept 12 – Wyatt Spencer
Sept 12 – Cynthia Stinson
Sept 12 – Soni LaRock
Sept 13 – Macy Hirst
Sept 13 – Marcus Pardue
Sept 14 – Jacob Rosson
Sept 14 – Pat Hunter
Sept 14 - Benjie Crabtree
Sept 14 – Griffin Winn
Sept 15 – Betty Blalock
Sept 15 - Mikhaila Potts Watkis
Sept 15 - Tina Cooksey
Sept 15 – Bryant Ware
Sept 16 – Haley Jacobs
Sept 16 – Kathy Casler

- Sept 17 – Sam Easler
Sept 17 – Angie Carden
Sept 17 - Brittany Villarreal
Sept 18 – Connie McElhaney
Sept 18 – Stacey Brown
Sept 18 - Ann Kelley
Sept 19 – Taylor Chaparro
Sept 22 – Addison Shoults
Sept 22 – Cade Henderson
Sept 22 – Cody Tedder
Sept 22 – Scout Smith
Sept 23 – Bailey Grace Ware
Sept 24 - Darrel Clark
Sept 24 – Rusty Morrison
Sept 24 – Bill Parker
Sept 25 – Nicole Stott
Sept 25 – Gavin Bain
Sept 26 – Amy Henderson
Sept 26 – Kenny Busby
Sept 26 – Carley Collins
Sept 27 – Alfie Chambers
Sept 27 – Libby Tubberville
Sept 27 - Adam Hilliard
Sept 27 - John Meadows
Sept 27 - Jacob Meadows
Sept 27 - Edris Gardner
Sept 27 - Allen Wheat
Sept 27 – Jordan Cordell
Sept 28 – Bailey Kirby
Sept 28 – Alley Hatfield
Sept 28 – Tommy Langston
Sept 29 – Rusty Chambers

- Sept 29 – Amy Keith
Sept 29 – Braden Henderson
Sept 29 – Larry Bone
Sept 29 – Dillon Bone
Sept 29 – Kayla Mitchell
Sept 30 – Melissa Roe
Sept 30 – Gracie Welden

September Anniversaries

- Sept 1 – Shane & Ashley Ingram
Sept 3 – Josh & Mamie Miller
Sept 4 – Carl & Katy Tubberville
Sept 5 – Benny & Kathy Graham
Sept 6 – Jeff & Melissa Couch
Sept 11 – Tom & Tonya Shanklin
Sept 13 - Zach & Ashley Jones
Sept 15 – Donald & Phyllis Stephens
Sept 19 – Joseph & Crystal Lee
Sept 20 – Caleb & Megan White
Sept 23 – Kevin & Kayla Worthey
Sept 23 – Casey & Kayla Hellums
Sept 24 – Tom & Kristen Emory
Sept 25 – Jeff & Linda Stephenson
Sept 26 – Josh & Melissa Shoults
Sept 30 – David & Marsha Tucker

What To Do Around Here!

September 2017 Community Calendar

Sep 1—Campfire Talk: Salamanders of Alabama. Fun campfire talk in the Great Outdoors! Hidden among the nooks and crannies of the outdoors is a treasure trove of interesting creatures, and salamanders are one of them. Jacksonville State University's Dr. George Cline will teach what species we have here in Alabama and how to identify them. Seating is limited, so bring your own chair if you wish. DeSoto State Park's Campfire Ring in the Improved Campground. (In case of inclement weather will be located in Nature Center.) 8–9pm. Free & open to all ages! 256-997-5025.

Sep 2—Rappelling Adventure. Explore scenic outcroppings along Lookout Mountain at "Chicken Rock". No previous experience necessary for this rappelling adventure. 10am–1pm, or 2–5pm. Meet at DeSoto Falls. \$40/person (ages 10 and up). To register contact angie@oneworldadventureco.org.

Sep 2, 13, 19—Extreme Night Hike. Intended for a large group team-building exercise, this hike has a bit of bouldering, some scrambling, some spelunking & a whole lot of required working together. True Adventure Sports. 7:30pm–10pm. 256-997-9577.

Sep 2—Canyon Concert Country Rocks. Enjoy some great country music featuring Aberdeen Green and American Hope. Little River Canyon Center. Doors open at 5pm; show begins at 6pm. Suggested donation \$5/person. All proceeds benefit First Responders. 256-845-3548.

Sep 2—Talk: Voices of the Night, Frog Calls of Alabama. Join "Dr. Frog" George Cline from Jacksonville State University for an unforgettable evening of romance and songs from the amphibian voices of the season. 8–9pm. DeSoto State Park's Campfire Ring in the Campground. Free & open to all ages! 256-997-5025.

Sep 4 - Labor Day

Sep 4—1st Annual Collinsville Mule Days. Festivities begin with a parade at 9:30am through the town of Collinsville, ending at Bar C Farms. Bring your own horse and participate in fun events and a trail competition! Concession stands, a tack trailer, pony rides, games, and much more for the whole family to enjoy! We will have a working mule competition, a Saturday night barrel race, Sunday morning roping and then Mule Day on Monday! \$2/person. Children 5 & younger free. For information or vendor info, call 256-499-5730 or 706-669-7377.

Sep 4—Sylvania Labor Day Festival. The Town of Sylvania will celebrate 50 years with a Labor Day Festival. Corn hole, Wheels of Time Cruisers, music, food and more. Sylvania Town Park. 10am.

Sep 4—Rock Climbing Adventure. Come

experience first-hand what rock climbing is all about with guides who are fun, safe and energetic. Trip includes all gear plus basic instruction. No prior climbing experience needed. True Adventure Sports. 2pm–6pm. 256-997-9577.

Sep 6—Rappelling Adventure. Come experience the thrill of rappelling down the sheer sandstone gems of NE AL. Trip includes all gear plus basic instruction. True Adventure Sports. 10am–2pm. 256-997-9577.

Sep 6—It's All in Your Head Songwriter Workshop. Songwriters gather to critique songs and elevate their craft. Emmy-award-winning, No.1 hit songwriter Debi Smith Cochran will present a brief lesson, and attendees will play their songs for a group critique. Bring your songs, pieces of songs, melodies, lyrics, critiquing skills and most of all your camaraderie. \$20. Doors open 6pm. Program 7–9pm. Coal & Iron Building, 501 Gault Ave. N. Fort Payne. 256-979-1910. Nashvillesongmentoring.com.

Sep 8, 9, 10—International Plein Air Paint Out. Bring your easel and supplies and spend the weekend painting outdoors in and around Mentone! Closing reception and art sale 9/10 at 2:30pm at Mentone Inn Pavilion. Hosted by Little River Arts Council. Details at www.littleriverartscouncil.org.

Sep 8—Sky Swing Adventure. Pre-registration required. True Adventure Sports. 12–2 p.m. 256-997-9577.

Sep 8—Patsy Cline's 88th Birthday Tribute Concert. Clare Donohue & her quintet featuring RT Bolden. Also sitting in will be Joshua Moore from Birmingham. Clare will perform one set of "Patsy Cline's Greatest Hits" and one jazz set. Greenleaf Grill in Mentone. (Dinner reservations required.) 7–10pm. 256-634-2110.

Sep 8—The Island Brothers' Concert. Enjoy the sounds of Hawaiian, Spanish, gospel, oldies and light country music. Admission by donation to benefit the Mentone Arts & Cultural Center. Plowshares Bistro, Mentone. 7–9pm. 256-634-2110.

Sep 9—Southern Heart Outdoor Movie Night. See the '90s movie filmed in Mentone! Movie starts at 7:30pm. Music by Jerry Bloom & Friends at 6pm. Mentone Inn Pavilion. Popcorn, pizza & soda. Free event hosted by Mentone Business Association.

Sep 9, 10—Backpacking Excursion. The Cohutta Wilderness is one of the premier destinations in the southern Appalachians for hiking and backpacking. Our seasoned certified guides teach proper backpacking and camping etiquette, campsite preparation, clean water collection, campfire meal prep & campsite cleanup using the LNT (Leave No Trace) method. Everything included in rental

fee except clothes, personal items, & food. We will provide a backpack for you unless you already have your own. Contact angie@oneworldadventureco.org.

Sep 9, 16, 23—Rock Climbing / Rappelling Adventure Combo. Experience first-hand what rock climbing and rappelling are all about with guides who are fun, safe & energetic. Trip includes all gear plus basic instruction. True Adventure Sports. 10am–2pm. 256-997-9577.

Sep 9—Sculpt Your Own Flower. Have you ever wanted to actually sit at the gaffer bench and feel what it is like to shape hot glass? Hands-on experience at Orbix Hot Glass in a safe and fun atmosphere with a beautiful final product. 10:30am or 12:30pm. Reservations and full payment required. \$75/person. 256-523-3188.

Sep 9—Cruising in the Park. Enjoy corn-hole tournaments, inflatables, 50/50 drawings, food & live music. Rainsville City Park. 5–8pm. Contact Gene Wright at 256-996-4846.

Sep 11—Mountain Bike Tour. Explore beautiful trails and paths atop Lookout Mountain or Sand Mountain. Three-hour tour includes mountain bike rental, instruction, and a guide for safety, direction & information. True Adventure Sports. 3–6pm. 256-997-9577.

Sep 12—Children's Book Fair at Moon Lake Community Library. Open to the public. Great opportunity to shop for Christmas gifts! Proceeds benefit Moon Lake Elementary School. 4–6pm.

Sep 12, 15—Zip Line & Sky Swing Adventure. Pre-registration required. True Adventure Sports. 10am–2pm. 256-997-9577.

Sep 14—Zip Line Adventure. Pre-registration required. True Adventure Sports. 10am–Noon. 256-997-9577.

Sep 15—DeSoto State Park Campfire Talks: A World in Miniature: Lichens. Join us for a fun campfire talk in the great outdoors! Lichens cover 6% of the earth's surface and there are around 20,000 known species. They are capable of growing on any surface that is stable and sufficiently well-lit to allow photosynthesis. Join lepidopterist and photographer, Vitaly Charny, naturalist and co-author of 'Butterflies of Alabama' to learn about the many species of Alabama's lichens. Seating is limited, so bring your own chair if you wish. DeSoto State Park Campfire Ring in the Improved campground, next to campsite 93. 7–8pm. Gate opens at 6:30pm. (Held in Nature Center in case of inclement weather.) Free for all ages! 256-997-5025.

Sep 16–17—DeSoto State Park Backpacking

Trip. Join One World Adventure, Seven Pines Survival & DeSoto State Park for an exciting weekend of backpacking and camping at DeSoto State Park! Learn backpacking and camping basics from Naturalist/Survivalist, Robert Wilson. Guided trips led by Robert Wilson, who will teach how to: pack your bag properly; prepare the campsite; locate clean water; make a sustainable fire for warmth and food preparation. Unguided trips will consist of a morning meet-up at the DeSoto State Park's Nature Center, where Robert Wilson will go over general camping etiquette and procedures, and will pass out gear, maps, and answer any questions you may have before leaving for your backpacking trip. Rental fee includes everything but your clothes, personal items, & food. Backpack will be provided to you. Limit of 6 people Family friendly event, wonderful for beginners. Contact Angie @ angie@oneworldadventureco.org.

Sep 16—3rd Saturday Sunset in Fort Payne. Family fun event featuring a car cruise-in, children's activities, food, art show, and live entertainment! Gault Ave. in downtown Fort Payne. Free. 5–8pm.

Sep 16—Flat-water Kayaking Trip on Little River. Guided kayaking trip with One World Adventure on beautiful Little River. Learn about this outstanding water source with its clear water, plant & animal life, and about the history of the area around DeSoto Falls. Roughly 4 miles round trip, with a hammock lunch break included. Kayaks, life vests, paddles & hammocks are supplied. Kayak weight restriction: 300 lbs. Bring a small pack with sunscreen, bug spray, lunch & drinking water. Ages 8–adult. Meet at DeSoto Falls Picnic Area. \$15/person for boat rental. Pre-registration is required; limited to 10 people. 9am–1pm. 256-634-8370 or angie@oneworldadventureco.org

Sep 16—Paperweight Class. Feel the heat, gather from the furnace, sculpt glass into your own design as you make a couple of nice paperweights. Orbix Hot Glass. Reservations required. \$145/person. 9am–1pm. 256-523-3188.

Sep 16—Old Fashioned Quilt Day. Come out and see some of the most beautiful quilts in this area. Look, buy, ask questions. Sweet Magnolias on Highway 75, Sylvania. 10am–5pm. 256-638-8502.

Sep 16—Boom Days 5K by Three Arts Club. Get ready to be showered with color in our Dye Dash! 5k followed by a fun run for the kids. Fort Payne Coal & Iron Building. 8 am. 501 Gault Ave. N.

Sep 16—Boom Days Heritage Celebration. Musical performances and art displays in downtown Fort Payne. 10am. 256-845-1524.

What To Do Around Here!

September 2017 Community Calendar

Sep 16—Campfire Talks: Butterflies

of Alabama. Join lepidopterist and photographer, Vitaly Charny, co-author of 'Butterflies of Alabama' to learn about Alabama's many species of butterflies. Seating is limited, so bring your own chair if you wish. DeSoto State Park-Fort Payne. Campfire Ring in the Improved Campground, next to campsite 93. (Held in Nature Center in case of inclement weather.) Free for all ages! 7–8pm. Gate opens at 6:30pm. For details, 256-997-5025 or Brittney.Hughes@dcnr.alabama.gov.

Sep 16, 26—Night Sky Swing Adventure.

This is an adventure of a lifetime. Enjoy the thrill of the swing at night. Pre-registration required. True Adventure Sports. 7:30–9:30pm. 256-997-9577.

Sep 18, 20—Rock Climbing Adventure. Come experience first-hand what rock climbing is all about with guides who are fun, safe and energetic. This trip includes all the gear plus basic instruction. No prior climbing experience is needed. 2–6pm. 256-997-9577.

Sep 19—Rappelling Adventure. Experience the thrill of rappelling down the sheer sandstone gems of NE AL. Each trip includes all gear plus basic instruction. True Adventure Sports. 10am–2pm. 256-997-9577.

Sep 21—Dusty Smith at Vintage 1889. Come out to Vintage 1889 in Fort Payne

for some food and some good tunes! 7pm. 256-845-3380.

Sep 22, 23—Collinsville Annual Quilt Walk. Stroll through beautiful historic Victorian homes of downtown Collinsville and view wonderfully handcrafted quilts. Friday 12–5pm. Saturday 10am–5pm. 256-524-3296.

Sep 22, 29—Night Zip Line Adventure. Pre-registration required. True Adventure Sports. 7:30–9:30pm. 256-997-9577.

Sep 23, 24—Camp & Climb at Cherokee Rock Village. Our PCIA certified guides will teach basic skills of camping, outdoor cooking, top rope climbing & bouldering. This adventure is designed with the participants' skill level in mind! Includes meals & snacks. We provide camping equipment (tents, tarps, hammocks), cookware & climbing gear, including harnesses. Email angie@oneworldadventureco.org.

Sep 23—Festival at High Falls Appreciation Day. Cruise-in, food, live entertainment with Leah Seawright, Stiefel Family, and more. Inflatables for the kids. High Falls Park in Geraldine. Gates open 10am. 256-659-4683.

Sep 23—Blow An Ornament. Come design and blow your own ornament with the help of one of our glass artists. No reservations are needed, it is on a first-come, first-served basis. We welcome people of all ages (at least 5 years old). Orbix Hot Glass. \$38 per

ornament. 9am–2pm. 256-523-3188.

Sep 25—Rappelling Adventure. Come experience the thrill of rappelling down the sheer sandstone gems of NE AL. Trip includes all gear plus basic instruction. True Adventure Sports. 10am–2pm. 256-997-9577.

Sep 25–30—62nd Annual DeKalb County VFW Agricultural Fair. Rides on the midway, great food, live entertainment, livestock exhibits, agricultural displays, awards, and much more. VFW Fairgrounds. Gates open at 5pm. 256-845-4752.

Sep 29—All Aboard for Sculpture. Celebrate sculptors at a Bavarian-themed event for the 5th annual fundraiser for the 33-acre Sculpture Fields, one of the largest in the Southeast. Catch the Tennessee Valley Museum Train at Sculpture Fields, 1800 Polk St., Chattanooga. Begin the evening with cocktails & music in the park, board the train for a four-course dinner and return to an after-hours party that includes music, dance & a light show in the park. 5:30pm. Reservations: 423-266-7288, clifford@sculpturefields.org or www.sculpturefields.org.

Sep 29—Forest Discovery Walk. Hosted by One World Adventure Company & DeSoto State Park. Join naturalist Robert Wilson for an experiential journey within the forest, taking in every opportunity to learn more about the natural world. Learn about many

native plants of the southern Appalachians, including important uses of particular plants for food, medicine, and craft. Walk will not exceed 1-1/2 hours and is limited to 10 participants. Bring a water bottle, notebook and pencil, camera. DeSoto State Park. \$7/person with kids free. Pre-registration is required. Limited to 10 participants. 8am. Email angie@oneworldadventureco.org to pre-register. For questions, contact Robert at sps@sevenpinessurvival.com

Sep 29—Valley Head Cemetery 5K Walk & Fun Run. Valley Head Cemetery. 8am. Contact Sherryl Lewis 256-657-1616.

Sep 30–Oct 1 Sipsey Wilderness

Backpacking Excursion. Hiking into the Sipsey River Canyon will transport you into another world. The area has been called "The Land of 1,000 Waterfalls" and for good reason. Amazing waterfalls cascade down the cliff into the pristine Sipsey River at almost every turn. The Sipsey Wilderness is a popular place for backpacking and hiking; however, it should be reserved for the relatively experienced hiker or backpacker or even responsible beginner. The area contains no shower house or fresh water facilities so make sure you pack plenty of water. Our seasoned certified guides teach proper backpacking and hiking etiquette, campsite preparation, clean water collection, campfire food prep & campsite cleanup using the LNT (Leave No Trace) method. Group size is 6-12. Contact angie@oneworldadventureco.org.

Ongoing Calendar

The Little River group of Alcoholics

Anonymous meets every Saturday AND every Tuesday night at 6pm at St. Joseph's-on-the-Mountain Episcopal Church in Mentone. 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 6pm at St. Joseph's-on-the-Mountain Church in Mentone. Same time and location as the AA Meeting. Come join us and help us grow!

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

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

Mentone Town Council meets the 2nd Tuesday every month at 6pm at Mentone Town Hall. Everyone is welcome.

MAPA Board meets on the 1st Tuesday of

every month at 6pm at Moon Lake Library.

Gluten Free/Diabetic All Natural Cooking classes with Brenda Trace are 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 at 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 Beville Center in Rainsville by Duos and Solos Dance Club. 256-638-2780.

FREE FOOD for eligible persons and families. Wednesdays, 9–11:30am. New applicants are welcome during these hours. Joint effort between St. Joseph's-on-the-Mountain Episcopal Church (Community Outreach Ministry) and the Food Bank of North

Alabama.

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

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

Mentone Farmers Market is open year 'round on Saturdays from 10am–1pm.

Storytime at the Canyon Center is held every 1st Saturday of the month. 11am–Noon. Free. 256-782-5697.

The Mentone Business Association (MBA) meets the 2nd Monday of each month from 6–7pm.

The Rhododendron Garden Club meets each month on the 2nd Tuesday at 10am at the MERF House. 'Green thumbs' and 'brown thumbs' welcome! 256-634-4403. The DeKalb County Genealogical Society meets the 2nd Saturday of every month in the DeKalb County Public Library, 10am.

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 is open at the DeKalb County Council on Aging each week, Monday through Friday (except for certain holidays), from 8am to Noon.

Little River Arts Council meets the third Tuesday of each month at 6pm at Moon Lake Library.

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

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

Chess players meet on Saturday mornings at 10am at Moon Lake Library. Casual games, for all ages.

Writing anyone? You are welcome to meet with our small supportive group for a casual sharing time with other writers interested in life stories, poetry, and fiction. Come to St. Joseph's the 4th Tuesday of each month at 4pm.

International Plein Air Paint Out

By Kelly Leavitt



Mentone is a picture-perfect gathering spot for plein air artists, with its ridge and valley vistas from the brow, cascades of water at DeSoto Falls, the still and rushing waters of Little River, grassy pastures with horses and cattle, woods that gently filter the sun's light, and numerous local landmarks and historic buildings.

On the weekend of September 8–10, the Little River Arts Council will host a unique event for plein air enthusiasts and patrons. Under the leadership of local artist and LRAC member Barbara Umland, participants will join other groups and individuals across the world in the International Plein Air Paint Out.

Plein Air painting, simply put, refers to painting outdoors. It is a school of art which gained popularity after the success of the 19th century French Impressionists, who rose to the challenge of capturing the light, the colors, and the motion that are unique to outdoor scenes.

Plein air, literally translated from the French, means “full air”, although it is most commonly translated as “open air”. Plein air artists set their easels up at the spot which offers the ideal perspective for their chosen scene. Being outdoors, they feel the “full” experience of the open air—both the subtle and pronounced shifts of light, the wind blowing across the landscape (and their own skin), and realistic colors, as they directly reflect the sun's light.

On Friday morning, participants will gather at 9:30 at the Mentone Inn Pavilion for coffee and introductions. After a weekend of painting, they will again gather at the Pavilion on Sunday afternoon at 2:30, when the Little River Arts Council will host a closing reception with tea and cookies. Artists will enjoy the opportunity to exhibit their weekend's paintings to the public, some of which will be available for sale.

Charles Muench said, “Painting outside is a distillation of time, a capturing of existence during a specific period on the artist's experience.” If you see a group of artists around

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town that weekend, feel free to stop and have a look at their progress, as they creatively express that period of experience, surrounded by the beauty of Mentone.

If you would like to participate, the group will paint on Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m., with lunch on your own. On Sunday, painting will begin at 10 a.m. and continue until 2 p.m., with the closing reception to follow at 2:30 p.m. There is no fee for this event. You must supply your own easel and supplies. Clean water for brushes will be refreshed during the day. Please contact Barbara Umland for questions and registration at 256-619-1004.

If you'd like to learn more about plein air painting, visit paintoutside.com,



Moon Lake Kindergarten students learning safety.

WIN A PIECE OF LOCAL HERITAGE!

A Paddle Arm Rocking Chair donated by Phil Faircloth of Appalachian Rustic Furniture will be taken home from Colorfest by one lucky winner!

Chairs made by Appalachian Rustic Furniture sit in the homes of some very prestigious people including George Lucas, Robert Redford, Billy Graham, and Ralph Lauren. Of course, Phil's favorite customers are here in Mentone—where he comes to rejuvenate his "rustic spirit."

Phil is honored to give back to the community by donating one of his chairs to be raffled off to benefit the Mentone Area Preservation Association. What

better way to preserve our heritage than to give away a finely crafted piece of rustic furniture from a successful business which began right here in the Log Cabin Craft Village.

MAPA members Linda Raughton and Julia Capps have graciously volunteered to display the chair in Bell Battelle, their unique Valley Head shop. Stop by their store to see this remarkable piece (along with some items from historic Battelle) and purchase your raffle tickets for only \$2 each, or buy 3 for the bargain price of \$5. MAPA members will also be selling these tickets. Bell Battelle is located at 8875

Alabama Highway 117 near the railroad viaduct in Valley Head.

Get your raffle tickets now for your chance to win a Paddle Arm Rocking Chair valued at \$595 (discounted Mentone area price) and made by Appalachian Rustic Furniture in Wildwood, Georgia.



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

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

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Worship

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 (eastern) and Worship at 10AM (eastern).

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

New Oregon United Methodist Church: Located just off Desoto Parkway 1/4 mile south of Fischer Crossroads. We would like to invite you to worship with us on Sundays. Sunday School for all ages 9:45am, Traditional Worship 11am, and Sunday Evening Service 6pm. Sunday Evening youth meet at 5:30pm. We have Wonderful Wednesdays during the school year with Bible studies for all ages, meal at 5:30pm and classes at 6:15pm. We also have Wednesday morning Bible study at 8:45am, and

knitting every Tuesday at 9am. Pastor Ian Conerly. Address 1204 New Oregon Drive NE, Fort Payne, AL 35967. phone 256-845-7446.

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

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

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

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

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



NO HELP COMING

A snapshot of our daughter's life in the Alaskan wilderness

By Jerome Stephens

Imagine being camped on Alaska's Yukon River, one hundred miles from the nearest Athabaskan Indian village, waiting for a barge to bring your only possessions. In 1999, our daughter Romey Atchley, her husband David, five-year-old stepson Zach, three dogs and a cat had to wait for their belongings before heading for their new cabin home on the Nowitna River, just 100 miles south of the Arctic Circle. The barge eventually arrived, and a metal plank and fork lift deposited all their crates on the river bank.

After five 100-mile boat trips over the next six days, they moved their belongings from the Yukon River to the banks of the Nowitna River. Once their belongings were secured, they went in search of their new home on the lake. They had raised \$11,000 by selling most of their belongings to purchase the cabin, which sits on an 11,000-acre federal reserve. They had never seen the cabin but knew it was there, somewhere. An overgrown trail to the lake had to be recut just so they could get there.

When they arrived, they discovered that the cabin, which had been unoccupied for many years, was sealed with trapping wire and nailed shut. A spruce tree was growing from the roof. The cabin measured 11 by 13 feet, and the walls were four feet tall, rising to seven feet at the peak. The front door was a mere three and one-half feet tall. Dirt made up the floor and the roof, but for David and Romey it was home at last.

They arrived in June, 1999—the height of the mosquito and black fly season. The bugs were so thick that they often ate them with their meals. The mosquitoes were as menacing a predator as the bears and wolves; some nights they would paddle out to the middle of the lake just to get away from them. (Today they combat the mosquitoes by wearing thick, cotton long-sleeved shirts, gloves, heavy pants tucked into their socks, and bee nets for hats.)

Their first chore was to move their belongings



from the river to the new cabin. Next, David dug a root cellar and built an outhouse (with a sauna to come later). The lake and a tarp shower were used for bathing. The previous owner had obtained permission from the Fish and Wildlife Service to expand structure, so David put in the new foundation before winter.

While living in that one-room cabin, David milled trees for lumber using a chain saw and chainsaw mill. It was an everyday job, except when the temperature fell to 50 degrees below zero. It took David and Romey six months to mill enough trees to expand their cabin to include a kitchen, living room, and bedroom loft for Zack. The original cabin became their bedroom. Later, they added a room that is now used for computer work, emailing, and for home schooling.

"Sometimes the thought of being alone in this vast wilderness is overwhelming," says Romey. She often worries about their remoteness and what could happen. "What if David cut himself with the chainsaw?" He would bleed to death because no help would be coming. "No help coming" is a thought they keep in the backs of their minds at all times.

In the past 18 years, they have gained experience with the equipment they depend on for survival, knowing what breaks down and which replacement parts are necessary to keep on hand. They've also learned to deal with injuries. A supply of prescription drugs and antibiotics are kept on hand for minor injuries. If one of them has a major medical problem, they now have a satellite phone and emergency numbers they can call for help. It could take up to five hours, however, before help would arrive.

In those early years, for Liz and me, it was difficult not knowing if they were surviving. Their only access to the outside world was a 6-volt radio, so we would send messages through a radio station in Galena. Eventually, they purchased a satellite phone to send and receive email messages. We would occasionally talk to Romey, but the \$1.00-a-minute rate limited our conversations.

Their only neighbors are wildlife. Marmots and squirrels are their friends, and swans swim on the lake. Moose, black bears, grizzly bears, and wolves visit their homestead, but sometimes the visit is unfriendly.

One year, while David was away in the town of Ruby purchasing fuel and picking up their mail, a black bear entered the yard and started killing the baby ducks. Romey's attempt to shoosh the bear like a dog was futile. She had no choice but to load the 30-06 rifle and kill the bear. This meant she would spend the remainder of the day skinning the bear, tanning the hide, butchering and preparing the meat for jerky or jarring.

That brings me to their diet. To survive, they grow their own vegetables and kill moose or bear for meat. Moose is their favorite meat, and Romey uses it to make meatballs, meatloaves, hamburgers, chili, stroganoff, roasts or steaks. David built a greenhouse to enable them to start seedlings in

(cont'd on page 16)

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No Help Coming (cont'd from page 15)

March and get a jump on their vegetable garden's growing season. Even though the warm season is short, the 22 hours of daylight accelerates the vegetables' growth.

Each August they leave home, head to Ruby in the boat, and then fly to Fairbanks to purchase their yearly supply of eggs, flour, rice, sugar, beans, canned goods and spare parts for their equipment. These supplies are then loaded onto a barge that takes them back to Ruby. They store their bulk food in a root cellar under their living room floor. It contains over 1,000 cans of food and condiments, including 220 cans of evaporated milk, 80 cans of tomato paste and a variety of jarred vegetables and meats.

At first, Romey was reluctant to have children because their lifestyle was so hectic, but in 2003, she was better prepared and wanted to share her life with her child. Being so far away from civilization, she had no prenatal care other than vitamins. She estimated the delivery date to be around the same time in August they fly to Fairbanks to purchase their yearly supplies.

August Sky Atchley was born on September 1 at a midwife clinic. Liz flew to Fairbanks to be there for the birth, but arrived one day too late. While Romey and Liz tended to the new baby, David shopped for their supplies and had them loaded onto the barge. I arrived two weeks later. The five of us then departed Fairbanks for Ruby on the Yukon River. The barge arrived in Ruby with their supplies, and David loaded his boat and headed for home. Romey, Liz, Sky and I stayed behind in a dilapidated trailer waiting for the bush plane to fly us to their cabin.

The temperature was well below freezing the morning the plane was to arrive. A tree had floated onto the bank of the Yukon River, so we bundled up and sat down on it to relax before the plane arrived. We didn't have to pay for our ticket, check our bags or go through security before boarding

the plane. In fact, we didn't board the plane. It was moose hunting season, and the pilot had taken out the two back seats the day before to transport moose meat. No seats for Liz and me!

We were stranded in Ruby, a once-thriving gold town of 30,000 inhabitants, now a town of several hundred Athabaskan Indians. We walked from the sandy shore, dragging our bags behind us, and found a home to spend the night in before the plane arrived the next morning. The flight to their cabin took about 30 minutes, better than the three-hour boat ride. We spent two wonderful weeks living like the early Alaskan settlers and returned to our Alabama home with a better understanding of what wilderness life is all about.

Sky is now a well-adjusted 14-year-old who loves his life in the wilderness. Romey home schools him. He enjoys computer games, playing the guitar and frolicking with his dog, Charlie. He also enjoys helping his father do the various chores that men have to do in the wilderness.

The danger of living in the wilderness was never as evident as during the summer of 2015. Widespread Alaskan wildfires, sparked by lightning, threatened to burn down a way of life that had taken 16 hard years to build.

Three large fires were bearing down on them. Smoke could be seen in the distance, as the fires continued to spread toward them. This time, help did come. Different groups of smoke jumpers parachuted from the skies or landed in helicopters. (One smoke jumper had lived in Mentone for several years. Small world!) They brought pumps and sprinklers that protected both the cabin and fuel drums on the shore. They were equipped to create fire breaks, and spent much of each day tracking the fires to determine the best place to do a control burn. The fire was now two miles away and they could hear the roar and feel the heat. David wrote in an e-mail to us:

"Things have gotten just flat surreal out here today. At 7:30 pm, on a clear day, it was pitch black. We had to give the fire guys headlamps to see and

they wore them the rest of the night. Usually at this time the sun would be sitting high in the air, beaming in through the front window. I have a dust respirator I wear when I have to go outside so I'm not breathing too much smoke. Apparently the Flint Creek fire is really driving hard. Listening to it roar on the horizon had a powerful effect on all of us. It sounded like a jet plane that just never went away, filling the sky with an orange glow before the smoke sent us into darkness. It's hard to breath, ash is raining down, and our eyeballs are burning."

Not to be anti-climactic, but the firebreaks worked, the rains came and the dragon died at their front door. They now live on their tiny green island of trees surrounded by the remains of charred trees.

When time permits, they enjoy playing music and writing. Romey is working on a series of five children's books, one for each of the Alaska seasons. (Alaska has four seasons plus a fifth season called "breakup", which is the time of year when the ice on the rivers breaks apart and begins rushing down the rivers.) Her first book, set during the spring, is entitled *The Adventures of Bearfoot and Boofoot*. It tells the story of a wilderness boy named Bearfoot and his elk friend, Boofoot. (You can follow them on Facebook at Bearfoot and Boofoot.)

Thus is their "normal" chosen life in the wilderness, a life that many city folks envy, but few would be able to attempt or manage.

Jerome and Liz Stephens have lived in Mentone since 2003. Jerome's grandfather, Jacob Salie, purchased property in Mentone in 1940 and built a family summer home. Each August, while David is in Fairbanks getting supplies, Romey and Sky travel to Mentone for a two- or three-week visit. Then it's back to the cabin before winter prevents them from getting home. Zach is 25 years old now and working in Homer, AK. He is married and is building a house.

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Hawk Visits

By deJoly LaBrier

Recently, I was driving out of my mountain property on a beautiful sunny day. The breeze was gentle and everything was glistening from the morning dew. My heart was full of gratitude for this place I call home, where nature abounds. The various greens and browns, mixed with splashes of bright colors from wildflowers and flowers I've planted, bring joy to my heart and make the picture complete.

As I tooted along, with my mind occupied by the surroundings, a magnificent red-tailed hawk came into view. It swooped down and began to follow me right at my windshield level. My eyes were captivated and my heart was pounding with awe. The sight of this beautiful raptor pulled my mind back to the summer before, when I discovered that I have a hawk living in the pine forest near my home.

I was sitting at the dining table in my RV when, out of the corner of my eye, I saw a movement outside. A large hawk flew low and then ascended into a tall pine nearby. I quickly got my camera out and hoped for a good picture, even though I was looking through the dirty glass of my RV



window.

The hawk sat there for a few minutes, then smoothly flew down to a pile of pine brush I had collected from a tree I'd had cut down. He sat on one of the limbs, then jumped down and began to eat. He'd caught a field mouse for dinner. I was fascinated. He took off again, flying low, then out of sight.

I prayed silently that he'd come back, and sure enough, he flew by again and landed where he had just eaten the mouse. It felt as if he was aware of my presence, and he was entertaining me. Then suddenly, he flew directly at my RV. In my surprise, I forgot to take a picture! I laughed at myself and offered gratitude for his display and sharing his land with me...

My awareness came back to the car and the hawk that was with me on this country road. For me, hawk is a powerful spiritual totem. It reminds me to focus and be clear about my intentions, using my wisdom and intuition to navigate life. Shortly after, my visitor took off and left me with another wonderful memory of synchronicity with nature. I marvel at the abundance of wildlife here on this mountain and how accessible it is to all of us.

I'd like to hear your stories of animals, wild and domestic, that have come into your lives. I can be reached at lifeasaonesie@gmail.com or 706-862-2129.

Morning Musings

By Ginger Beshears

Up before day on this August morning, I make strong coffee and head out to see the stars fade and the first soft colors of light on the land. The air is mild and free of oppressive humidity and feels welcome on my skin. It must be around 65 degrees, I think. Venus is breathtaking in the east and the only thing visible in a clear sky—the other celestial objects are already obscured by the subtle light of the sun, still two hours from topping Shinbone Ridge.

It has been a while since I've visited the stone circle and I set out in that direction, with a couple of crows cawing loudly overhead. No other bird is audible yet.

As I pass the big barn, my eye immediately notices that the thick mulch around a young mulberry tree is disturbed. As I get closer, I can see the hog wire, four-foot cage that surrounded the tree to protect it from deer is NOT there, it is GONE. The top of the sapling is nipped and most of the lateral shoots as well, leaving a nude stem. I wonder what creature did this; the missing cage perplexes me.

I walk the area slowly, an 80-foot circle around the damaged tree, and I cannot find the

cage. I realize I am a bit perturbed, not only by the incident but because it has interrupted my morning experience of quiet contemplation and connection with the land. I chuckle at myself, then take a deep breath, acknowledging how this happening is an integral part of life on these 60 acres. I add to my mental list of the day's activities to re-cage the mulberry, then let it go and walk on through the arboretum.

Stopping before entering the thick woods, I look back to the northeast and see a patch of that lovely pinkish orange color in the sky. Day is on the way, though not yet fully inhabiting the space I do.

Onward I walk, down the narrow path through the woods with the crows circling overhead above the tall pines, making a heck of a ruckus. Inside the stone circle I can barely see the foliage of the single pink lady's slipper that lives by the south stone, and I remember the most delicate and beautiful bloom that stood above the leaves back in late April.

Nearly four months have passed since then. In that time, a vegetable garden has thrived and is now declining; birds and rabbits and coyotes and

snakes and many other wild creatures have been born and are now maturing; scores of butterflies have metamorphosized and are gracing my garden with incredible color and patterns of flight; the days have reached their longest in the annual cycle and are now declining in length; the temperatures have soared and calmed; the rains have been adequate; the yellow jackets prolific and I have screamed in pain from their stings, while at the same time filled with gratitude for the opportunity to tend this land.

And just now, as I type this account, sitting inside at my computer, the wing tip of a huge bird literally brushes the window and I jump up to see it land by the labyrinth, 15 feet away from my eyes. It's a stunning great blue heron, a mostly solitary bird that I occasionally see flying over, but have rarely seen land here. She looks around, seeming to take stock of where she is and then, as quick as she landed, she is off. Somehow, I know, a part of me is in that bird and in this land, and always will be.

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MENTONE BROW HOME! 2BR/2BA brow home with tons of character! Enjoy all the extras like hardwood floors, rustic wood walls, gas log fireplace & more. Call today! \$339,000. MLS #1076700.



A RARE FIND! Mentone home w/acreage & guest home! 2BR/1.5BA, wood walls, hardwood floors, new appliances, Trane CH/A system. Fisher cast iron wood stove, tankless water heaters w/city & well water. 20 acres. \$209,000. MLS #1075132.



A MUST SEE ... 3BR/2.5BA hone within walking distance of Lake Lahusage. Call today for more info. \$150,000. MLS#1069455.



CRYSTAL LAKE LODGE in Mentone... Fifty breathtaking acres surround you in this one-of-a-kind property. Call today for your private tour! \$899,995. MLS #1070805



MENTONE CABIN! Delight yourself in this furnished two bedroom, two bath cabin with screened porches, pine floors & more! \$154,900. MLS# 1070469.



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



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.



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.



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



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



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.



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



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



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



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.



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.



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



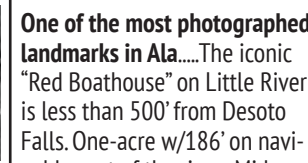
Golden Opportunity! Let the tenants pay your mortgage. 5 apartments, large retail space and storage building located on Hwy 117 just minutes from downtown Mentone. Sitting on 1.5 acres, totally fenced. Appointment only! \$187,500. MLS #1013991.



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.



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 Boathouse" 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. \$369,000. MLS #1054645.



LOTS & LAND

#656265 - 7+ WOODED ACRES in Mtn. River Estates. \$35,000.

#665968 - 1 ACRE LOT in Hidden Lake Sub. \$40,000.

#762331 - 1.02 ACRE lot in Hidden Lake Sub. \$40,000.

#1011734 - .69 ACRE wooded lot on Brush Creek. \$27,900.

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

#1021165 - 2 ACRE LOT offering lake and brow footage. \$59,900.

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

#1032720 - 2.8 acres w/ travel trailer, water, septic, dock. \$82,500.

#1034997 - Approx. 6 ACRES on middle fork of Little River. \$48,900.

#1038089 - 6.4 acres on Co. Rd. 89, Lot 8, in Mentone. \$138,000.

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

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

#1056358 - 3.2 acres on Co. Rd. 89. \$369,000.

#1057228 - 5 acres overlooking Little River Canyon. \$69,999.

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

#1061651 - 1.5 acres in Eagle Rock Subdivision. \$89,000.

#1061943 - 5 acres on Hwy 117 just before GA line. \$40,000.

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

#1065504 - One acre on Co. Rd. 89 in Mentone. \$149,900.

#1069783 - Building lot with possible view. 2.11 acres. \$38,000.

#1070628 - 3.01 acres. 152' on west Fork of Little River. \$49,700.

#1070629 - 3.01 acres. 152' on West Fork of Little River. \$59,500.

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

#1072189 - Lake on The Brow, \$39,000.

#1073204 - 18.60 acres. \$68,000.

#1073207 - .62 acres. \$23,500.

#1073434 - 27.4 unrestricted acres. \$106,860.

#1073864 - Brow Lot! .78 acres. \$109,500.

#1074480 - 5.45 acres on CR 89. \$79,500.

#1076191 - 12.10 acres mostly wooded. \$42,350.

#1076239 - Cleared & wooded 3.6 acres on Scenic Hwy. \$78,500.

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

#1076577 - Lot 6, Hunter's Ridge. \$16,900.

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SAGE ADVICE: ATTRACTING HUMMINGBIRDS TO YOUR YARD



By Susan Seago

So, you read the title of this article and think, “Oh, I know how to attract hummingbirds – just put up a hummingbird feeder!” This method works pretty well, but there are other ways to attract and KEEP the hummingbirds coming to your yard.

Hummingbirds love certain plants and flowers. Take an inventory of your plant offerings and add one or more new native flowering plants. Color does play a big part in bringing the hummingbirds, but available nectar also draws them. In fact, it is the nectar that really draws them. You can choose from annuals, perennials, vine, shrubs, and trees. Bright colors of red, yellow, orange, and even white, of annual bedding plants make a beautiful addition to the garden while sending invitations to hummingbirds to drink of their tasty fare. Be sure to remove the spent blooms (called ‘deadheading’) in order to ensure continuous blooms all summer. When you deadhead, the plant ‘thinks’ it is not finished and continues to produce flowers. Then, late in summer, let the blooms go to seed by cutting them off the plant and drying completely. Drop them in a paper bag for next year’s annual production at no cost except to enjoy!

Perennials provide easy maintenance and year-to-year blooms. The red columbine (*Aquilegia*

canadense) is a great suggestion, as are bee balm (*Monarda didyma*), delphiniums, and hollyhocks, which can be the mainstay of a back row in a perennial bed. Another great perennial is the Lantana. It grows as big as a shrub with bright colors of red, orange, or deep pink.

Among shrubs for hummingbird gardens are Lantana and Butterfly bush (*Buddleia davidii*). Rhododendrons with their bright, big blossoms can attract hummingbirds in late spring, when the tiny birds are just beginning to arrive in the garden. Catawba rhododendrons massed together are especially appealing to hummingbirds. Another shrub that is a summer late bloomer is the Rose of Sharon (*Hibiscus syriacus*). With the Rose of Sharon, don’t be bashful about pruning. They can get quite big but they are so lovely in bloom, you may feel guilty about pruning. Don’t!! They will definitely come back next year. Blooms may be red, pink, blue, or white.

If you like vines, both the Trumpet vine (*Campsis radicans*) and the Magnifica honeysuckle also attract hummingbirds. It’s a red bloom! Again, they can be pruned and grow well on a fence or trellis. And, the honeysuckle smells so good!

When you plant hummingbird attractors, plan a continuous blooming schedule. With some kind of blooms present from spring through fall, you can be assured of a resident population of hummingbirds. Talk with your local garden center or landscaper to determine a good planting schedule for you.

Many feeders are made of red-colored plastic; however, in the heat and sun they become brittle and begin to break down. And, the colors fade.

You may repaint them or, better yet, buy new ones each season. They are fairly inexpensive and the little fellows would enjoy new, clean feeders in the spring.

I have two more suggestions for delighting in the hummies’ visits. Provide some snag perches for them. They do get tired after beating their little wings at 80 beats PER SECOND, and they like to preen and rest. They can see danger or rivals coming while perched on an exposed branch. If you don’t have one close by, stick a dead branch vertically in the ground about 50 feet from the feeder but within view of it.

You may have a male hummy who dominates the feeder. Why not put up two or three more feeders in the same area which will make it difficult for him to keep all the feeders to himself? It is especially good to put one around the corner of the porch. This will allow the other hummies to get their fill of nectar, also, while the ‘dominator’ tries to cover all the bases!

Finally, provide a water source. A mister attached to a hose provides hours of fun for the hummingbirds. They will fly through it until they are soaked, then sit on a branch and preen.

Oh, yes, leave the spider webs for the hummies. They use them in building their nests. The strands of web will hold the nest together and attach the nest securely to the branch. And, they eat the bugs that are caught in the web. I will never look at a spider web the same way from now on.

Try these suggestions and let me know how many hummingbirds come to your yard. You may be quite surprised at the number.

Senior Health – Medicare Savings Program

By Lynn Hixon

Medicare Savings Program is a Medicaid-sponsored program for people with Medicare. Each state runs different Medicaid programs for various groups of people. If you have Medicare and Medicaid, you likely have Medicaid for individuals who are aged, blind, or disabled. This is the most common type of Medicaid that Medicare beneficiaries have. State Medicaid programs also run the Medicare Savings Programs, including the Qualified Medicare Beneficiary (QMB) program, that help cover some Medicare Costs.

If you qualify for Medicare and Medicaid, the two programs work together to cover your health care needs. People with Medicare and Medicaid are known as dual eligible. If you are a dual eligible and have no other coverage, Medicare pays first for your health care services and Medicaid pays second. Medicaid is the payer of last resort, which means it pays for your health care costs after all other insurance has paid. Other than QMB, Medicare Savings Programs also include SLMB and QI-1 programs.

In general, an MSP pays for your Part B

premium and includes Extra Help. Extra Help is a federal program that helps you with your prescription drug costs. It pays for your Part D plan premium up to a certain amount, and you will have very low co pays at the pharmacy.

The takeaway point is that if you have Medicaid, you should likely receive assistance from an MSP and/or Extra Help. If you think that you qualify for one of these programs but you are not enrolled, contact your SHIP Counselor, Lynn Hixon, at the DeKalb County Council on Aging at 256-845-8590.



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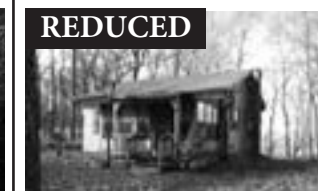
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LookoutMountainProperties.com

 LEVEL WOODED LOTS in Crestline Park Subdivision in Mentone. Lot 25. 1.27 acres. Great area to build that getaway cabin in the woods. \$25,000 (23184).	 REDUCED TREETOPS is a wonderful rustic log cabin nestled amongst giant boulders and hardwood trees. A large stone fireplace 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 entertaining. Fully renovated bath with stack w/d. This charming cabin comes fully furnished and includes all appliances. It's ready for your enjoyment! \$103,000.	 6 ACRES with 200 ft on West Fork Little River. Hardwoods, hollies, and easy access to river. Level to rolling terrain. \$74,900 (23183).	 REDUCED 1940s VINTAGE BUNGALOW. 2 bdrm, 1bth. T & G walls, beamed ceilings. Stone gas log fireplace. Heart Pine Flooring, Brow Views, Sun porch, vinyl siding. Old Mentone Charm. \$164,500 (1059858)	 SOLD NESTLED AMONG LARGE ROCK FORMATIONS 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)	 COTTAGE ON LITTLE RIVER CANYON. What a peaceful setting 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)
 6.7 ACRES on the east brow overlooking Shinbone Valley. Weiss Lake in the distance. \$30,000. (1061387)	 3.77 ACRES located at Canyon View Forest Subdivision. Wooded and joining the bluff of Little River National Preserve. \$60,000	 1.8 ACRES 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)	 HIGH RD., CLOUDLAND, GA. 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	 3.89 ACRES at Mtn River Estates. Hwy 117 frontage. Wooded, Rock formations, level along the river. Over 200 ft on Middle Fork of Little River. \$38,000. (1060565)	 LAKE WINDMILL ESTATE.. 103 ft. on 13 acre lake on the brow. Wooded, sloped. Build your home here restricted. \$45,000.
 Hidden Brow Tract. 5.1 acres of level, wooded East brow views of Shinbone Valley. Located in Cloudland, GA. \$127,500 (23213)	SECLUSION AND TRANQUILITY 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, Cloudland, 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 concrete countertops, stainless steel appliances, 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 mountain escape! Craftsmanship and attention to detail makes this property one of a kind. Appointment only.. \$775,000. (23208)	 REDUCED 	ESCAPE 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 stainless 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	 out to the backyard and hiking trails. The unfinished portion of the basement is perfect for extra storage and is equipped with a safe room. Amenities 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)	 Labor Day September 4

LOTS AND ACREAGE

Oakwood Subdivision - 6.1 acres. Wooded, level, lightly restricted. \$37,500 **REDUCED**

WOODED 3.4 ACRES located in established subdivision called Oakwood in nearby Mentone. Restrictive covenants. \$22,000.

LEVEL BUILDING LOT in downtown Menlo, GA. Great site for Residential or Commercial use. Non-restricted. Many possibilities! \$12,500 **REDUCED**

5 ACRES on the East brow tract overlooking Pleasant Valley. Rock pallacades, wooded. See Weiss Lake in the distance. Private gated area. Joins National Preserve & Forever Wild protected property. \$55,000 (22866) - **SOLD**

LookoutMountainProperties.com



Rhododendron Garden Club

By Mellanie Tuttle

The Rhododendron Garden Club met on August 8, 2017 at the MERF House. Hostess Dee Kelley not only provided delicious food, but also brought beautiful hydrangeas, yellow dahlias, and multicolored zinnias from her yard to grace the tables. Jo Anne Glover read the Collette for Gardeners as the meditation. President, Mellanie Tuttle called the meeting to order. Members were to bring a plant they could enter in the flower show and give its scientific name. Plants shared were: a terrarium with ferns and moss; Coneflowers (*Echinacea purpurea*); Zinnia (*Zinnia elegans*); a dark maroon Sunflower (*Helianthus*).

Horticulture Chair, Martha Wood, provided a handout and discussed the benefits of planting *Echinacea purpurea*, commonly known as the purple coneflower. A native herbaceous perennial, it is easily grown. It will survive drought, heat, humidity, and poor soil but is best grown in average dry to medium well-drained soil with full sun providing the best growth. It re-blooms without deadheading and freely self-seeds. If flower heads are not removed, goldfinches and other birds will feed on the seeds, and its huge cone head provides a great landing pad for butterflies.

Conservation Chair, Marsha Merrell shared an article from Cosco Magazine about Bees in Peril. Although Colony Collapse Disorder is declining slightly, 40% of hives are lost each year due to the four "Ps"—pests, pathogens, pesticides, and poor nutrition. By being proactive, planting a variety of wildflowers, and curbing use of

pesticides, folks can at least influence two of the four "Ps."

The program was presented by Martha Wood and Mellanie Tuttle and covered all aspects of the upcoming Fall Flower Show at the VFW Fair. The theme this year is "Spirit in September" and will be sponsored by four garden clubs in the area. Only garden club members may enter the Design Division, but the Horticulture Division is open to any amateur gardener living in DeKalb County. Martha encouraged members to groom plant entries. Select the best. Cut in the evening or early morning and remove any leaves that will be in water. Use a clean, sharp knife to make a clean cut and always make the cut several inches longer than necessary to allow for extra trimming (many folks have received lesser ribbons because their plants were too short). Take a bucket of lukewarm water to the garden and immediately place the plants into the bucket (trim off any leaves that will be in water). Place the bucket in a refrigerator set at 35-40 degrees for three to twelve hours. Cooling allows the plant to take up more water and preserve freshness. Never store flowers in a refrigerator with fresh fruits or veggies because the ethylene gas they release will reduce the vase life of the flowers. Be sure the temperature is not too cold or the flowers can freeze! Prior to exhibiting, re-cut the stems, preferably under water so that air does fill the exposed vessel and block water uptake. Carefully remove all soil and spray residue, being careful not to damage flowers or

foliage. Faded blooms, petals, and ragged leaves may be removed. Clean pots as well. (A clean container can turn your red ribbon into a blue one when two worthy contenders are vying.)

Mellanie distributed a handout listing all the Designs and their class parameters. She also displayed examples of eight designs so members could contemplate which design to enter. Assignments were made for food, clerking, set-up, and clean-up, then the meeting was closed.

The DeKalb County Fair Flower Show this year is from September 25 through the 30th. Judging is on the first Monday and is then open to the public. The Flower Show not only has Designs and Horticulture but also Education and Youth exhibits. The show is between the room with delicious canned goods and huge vegetables and the big room with exquisite crafts and booths. Be sure to walk through and see all our hard work and blue ribbon winners!

The next meeting will be on September 12 at the MERF House at 10:00am. The speaker will be Carol Argo talking on "Garden Enemies and a Few Friends." We are gearing up for our Junior Garden Club and are looking forward to working with the Moon Lake students again this year.

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.

Around the Area...

Menlo News

*Ole Timey Southern Bar-B-Q
Menlo, GA, at Lawrence Park
September 2, 10am until ?
Hosted by Camp 507
Sons of Confederate Veterans*

Valley Head Cemetery Run

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

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

Where: Valley Head Cemetery

Contact: Sherryl Lewis
256-657-1616

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TUES. - WQSB NIGHT
WED. - DOLLAR NIGHT
THUR. - 2 FOR \$22
FRI. - FUN NIGHT
SAT. - KID'S DAY**

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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)

2.2 UNRESTRICTED, WOODED ACRES in Mentone. Corner property on paved roads; hardwoods; unrestricted. Public water & power at the road. Great building site for one or two cabins. \$18,000. (1011111)

OWNER FINANCING AVAILABLE! 2 WOODED ACRES with a tiny little rustic one-room camping cabin (no plumbing, water or septic installed). Sort of a getaway or place to stay until you're ready to build your mountain home. Restricted. \$39,700 (1034503)

4.33 ACRES ON A SMALL LAKE HIDDEN IN THE WOODS. Lightly restricted fronting on Full Moon Lake in Laurel Creek Lakes. Walking trails and 3 lakes. Property consists of two lots being sold as one. \$45,000 (1048869)

READY FOR YOU TO BUILD YOUR DREAM HOME! 2.75 unrestricted acres with underground utilities, & septic tank! Just minutes from downtown Mentone, tucked quietly into the woods! \$35,000 (1054586)

BROW-FRONT LOTS WITH STUNNING SUNSET VIEWS; each offers a panorama of the valley and mountains beyond. Perfect combination of wooded and cleared, ready for you to build your Mentone mountain getaway cabin (or a rental cabin on the brow!) Located along the scenic DeSoto Pkwy, just a mile or so from downtown Mentone. Quaint split-rail fence along roadway. Lot 16 offers 0.78 acres and approximately 90' of brow frontage and is priced at \$107,500. (1055395)

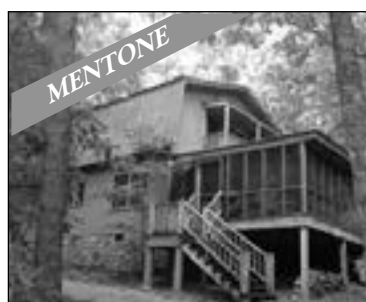
SOUTH COOL STREET brow-front property with a beautiful old stone fireplace chimney, part of the foundation, plus a small garage. New survey. An original Mentone summer home once stood here, built and owned by the same family since early 1920s. Approx 0.45 acre lot in an area where properties are seldom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



Monday, September 4



THIS IS THE MOUNTAIN! Log & stone cabin, woodland setting, just off the DeSoto Pkwy. 14x14 great room; pine floors & ceilings; rugged beams; stone fpce in keeping room; choice of MBR on main or 2nd level; loft sleeping area or studio. Thermo-pane windows, foam ceiling insulation, on-demand H2O htr. Front porch w/swing & rockers; screened back porch; stone patio. Sweet getaway, residence or rental. Furnished! \$189,900 (1076545)



"THE BURREN." 3BR/2.5BA mountain retreat cabin, just off DeSoto Pkwy, nestled among intriguing rock formations, surrounded by woodlands. Metal roof; screened porch; wood-burning mtn stone fireplace; private back deck w/hot tub; 2nd floor balconies. Convenient to DeSoto St Park & Mentone. 1.9 acres. Large screened porch offers expanded living area outdoors. Furnishings negotiable. Good rental history. \$185,000 (1052151)



CUTE-AS-A-BUTTON COTTAGE WITH DEEDED ACCESS TO THE WATER on the Middle Fork of Little River at Lake Lahusage; plus a little workshop that could easily become a guest cottage. Sound interesting? The screened front porch offers plenty of room for relaxation and outdoor dining. Open kitchen/living area; 2 bedrooms; 1 sizable bath w/laundry area; CH/A; L-shaped deck on back and side; fenced backyard for pets. Over one acre w/great shade trees & yard leading to path to the river (w/a place to secure your kayaks or canoes when not in use). It's the next best thing to being on the water, yet it is affordably priced at only \$115,000. (1076521)



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 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)



HOW DOES ONE PUT A PRICE ON SOMETHING SO SPECIAL? To be right there at DeSoto Falls. To hear it, to see it, to be able to experience it from your private back deck. It's an amazing thing. To be able to fish most any time or put in a kayak most any time from the public launch at DeSoto Falls Lake. Nothing compares. Then there's the log cabin home with its heart pine floors; 3BR/3BA; library; wood-burning mtn stone fireplace; large kitchen; hand-made doors...the list goes on. Rock formations, woods and a fence separate the property from State Park-owned land. So much beauty! Asking \$645,000 (1052152)



AT DESOTO FALLS LAKE. Beautifully-wooded lot offers approx 94' of river frontage in the prime part of West Fork, Little River; the truly navigable part to canoe, kayak or pontoon all the way to Mentone! Swim, boat, fish, hike to the falls. Hardwoods, rhododendron, mtn laurel on the property. So much natural beauty. This is the area where properties stay in families forever! Start your own DeSoto Falls Cottage history. New survey & perc test. Now \$155,000 (3155152)



"BETHANY ON THE BROW" is what one owner of the past called this marvelous old Mentone heritage home, with approx 210' of brow frontage, nice woods, spacious gardens & walkways. At one time, this was a tea house where Mentone society reportedly gathered on the porches or inside to catch up on all the news. Currently 3BR/2BA, formal DR, sitting room, den & sun porches. Unfinished "grandma's attic" area with intriguing angles & nooks. Wood floors throughout. Mostly wood walls & ceilings, some sheetrock. 2.66 ac (+/-), with plenty of room for an add'l cottage to be built. Wildlife love the natural setting where the trees have been left uncut for 30+ years. \$250,000 (1074930)



ALL ONE COULD POSSIBLY WANT! Downtown location, space, seasonal views & a garage apartment. 2800+ sq ft & total of 3BR/3.5BA; loft for add'l BR or studio. Enhanced natural landscaping accented by beautiful boulder outcroppings on 1 acre; near brow park. Wood-burning fireplace; pine floors; office/study; breakfast nook; partially-finished basement area for storage; att 2-car garage; back deck; fenced yard; front porch. \$275,000 (1074842)



A PROPERTY RARE. Yes, you can buy wooded acreage. Yes, you can have a brow-side view. Yes, you can have abundant wildlife. BUT, where else will you find 44 acres of hardwood mountainside with forever views, several level building sites AND a registered cave? Tally Cave, Lookout Mtn, in Valley Head & Mentone, has been recognized, explored & mapped by cave groups across the SE. A special piece of earth indeed! Recently reduced to \$99,900 (785767)

Great Words... (cont'd from page 1)

Army Band, he re-enlisted and traveled with them throughout Europe from 1961–1963 and then played for two years with the Air Force Band in Denver. He now lives in Chattanooga and proudly displays his recognitions from the Army alongside his awards from Baylor School for his contribution there.

He is a largely self-taught musician who plays bass guitar, guitar, piano, saxophone, and clarinet (which he calls the key to all woodwind instruments). When I asked him how he managed to learn all these instruments, he said, “I have no handicaps; you just got to put the time in.”

His perspective on life is very beautiful and empowering. When I asked him what he would like to see change in the world, he said, “I’d like to see all of us get along in this world; unearned privileges are a problem.”

RT Bolden will be coming to Mentone and performing as part of Clare Donohue’s Quintet at The Green Leaf Grill on Friday, September 8 from 6–9 p.m. for a special tribute celebrating Patsy Cline’s birthday. He will be playing both alto and tenor saxophones. Also, be watching for a documentary of RT’s life that is planned for filming later this year.



TIGERS INN



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This Old House: MERF Community House



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

**Happy Birthday to me,
Happy Birthday to me,
Happy Birthday Dear MERF
(on September 6)
Happy Birthday to me!**



Twenty-four years ago, the dream of a committed group of community members came into being as MERF was formed into reality. So thankful for the vision of the first board and the fortune of having the ability to purchase the community house and land from Dee and Rudolph Bell. Since 1993, the MERF board and the Mentone community have worked hard to dream of and to implement ways to enrich the health, growth, and learning of Mentone area residents.

As the school year begins, let's celebrate a great friendship between Moon Lake Elementary School, MERF, and Mentone.

Although MERF the non-profit is a young thing, the MERF house is an octogenarian! As an 80-year-old (or more) house, I am beginning to sag a bit. It's time for some new support and a facelift. The MERF board is working with specialists to strengthen my supports and, hopefully, to enhance my insides for better use. Keep an eye on ways to help the MERF house to be strengthened and to be more functional as a meeting facility.

What does September bring? It brings the weekly senior lunch bunch crew gathering again at the MERF house. The first senior lunch for the fall

will be at 11:30 a.m. on Wednesday, September 20. It will be great to be gathering again, seeing each other, and singing. Anyone interested in supplying the meal, providing entertainment or in helping to serve and to clean up, contact Sarah at 256-635-8193. The last fall lunch will be Wednesday, November 15. At this time, MERF believes we can meet for lunch at the MERF house as usual.

MERF is always thankful for a community that enables great experiences for teachers and students. September has arrived, so afternoon tutoring will begin near the end of the month. If anyone is interested in working with a Moon Lake student once a week in the tutoring program, please contact Sarah immediately at merf.mentone@gmail.com. Subs are also needed if you don't feel you can commit to every week. This is an opportunity to enrich your life as well as the life of a local student.

Ms. Paula has also begun her weekly classes with the Moon Lake Elementary School students. In August, Ms. Paula and Sarah traveled to Montgomery to make their case for an Arts in Education grant from Alabama Council on the Arts to allow the K-3rd grade students to illustrate and write the ABCs of Alabama and for the 4th-6th grades to experience "A Christmas Carol" production by the Alliance Theater. Hopefully, the committee will see the value in these experiences for our students.

Fall is a great time to grab another "Leave Me in Mentone" hat or shirt from Little River Hardware or the Country Store at DeSoto State Park to show your support for MERF and its programs. Thank you to all who have allowed MERF to continue to serve the Mentone community.

MERF: Mentone Educational Resources Foundation is a local non-profit with the mission "To enrich the learning and living of the community by identifying needs and

coordinating resources." If you would like to support our programs, tax-deductible donations can be mailed to POB107 Mentone, AL 35984 or contribute online at www.crowdrise.com/MERF. Contact us at merf.mentone@gmail.com or 256-634-4673.





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