



THE GROUNDHOG

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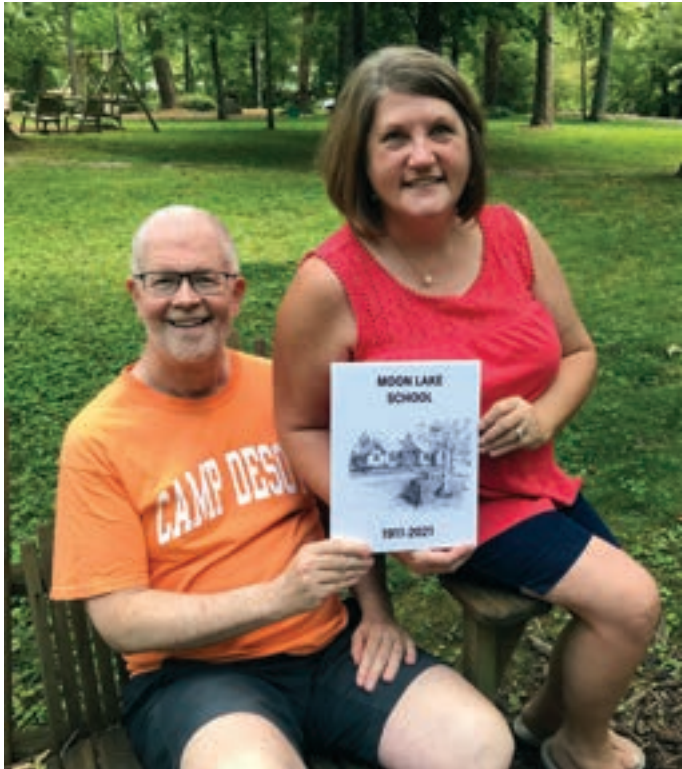
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P. O. Box 387, Mentone, AL 35984

Volume 40, No. 7

"Neighborly News from the Heart of Lookout Mountain"

July 2021



Dr. Bill Berry and Lea Long

Moon Lake School's Final Yearbook Is a Very Special Edition

by Kelly Leavitt

When Moon Lake Elementary School was ordered to permanently close in February, principal Mary Lance asked kindergarten teacher Lea Long and former principal and teacher Bill Berry to serve as co-editors of the school's yearbook. The two quickly decided they wanted the yearbook to reflect the past, present, and future, and they set to work with enthusiasm.

"It was definitely a labor of love for each of us because we're products of Moon Lake, as both students and teachers," Bill said. "My mother went to school there and Lea's mother taught there, so we both have a very deep relationship to the school."

The first half of the yearbook serves as a comprehensive history of the school, and the second half documents the school's final year. "I count doing this yearbook as being one of the major events of my life," said Bill. "I've always felt that being Moon Lake's principal was my life's mission. To me, this was the perfect conclusion to that. It's important. It's a monumental publication that

(continued on page 5)

Ruby O'Rear's Days Come to Life

by Kelly Leavitt

Miss Ruby O'Rear had quite a Mentone lineage. Her grandfather, John Mason, arrived in the area in 1872 and is credited for founding the town of Mentone in the late 1800s. Her mother, Alice, is credited for naming the town in 1884.

Winifred Ruth "Ruby" O'Rear was born to Alice and Samuel O'Rear on February 23, 1900. She never married and lived with her parents. Samuel O'Rear died in 1911, and Ruby remained with her mother until her death in 1939.

Chris Carmichael and his wife, Pat Parmelee, now live in the Mason/O'Rear home on East River Road. "We long had a cabin in Mentone near the Boy Scout Camp, but when Pat retired from the University of Alabama, we decided we loved the area so much we'd live here in retirement. Heather Nicely showed us this house in the fall of 2018. Once we walked in, that was it. We fell in love with it."

Ruby was known for her prolific garden, which had become a bit neglected in recent years. "Like Ruby, Pat loves to grow numerous cultivars of daylilies and I love bearded irises. We are valiantly trying to restore the house and grounds to some semblance of order and attractiveness," said Chris. "It is a labor of love."



Chris Carmichael and Pat Parmelee

One day while Chris was researching Col. Milford Howard on the internet, he stumbled on to Ruby O'Rear's diaries from 1936 and 1937. "Apparently, she kept a daily diary and never missed a day from the time she was 17 until the day she died," Chris said. "She had already recorded the weather for that day on the day she died." It was her last entry.

(continued on page 4)



See page 3 for an update on Colorfest 2021



THE GROUNDHOG

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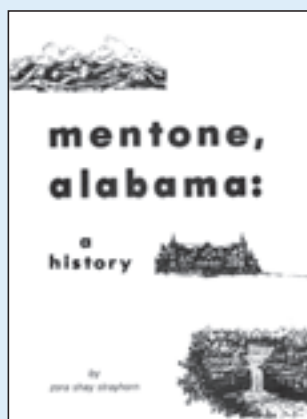
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Groundhog wood cut courtesy of Meg Justice

Do you have a story idea?
We welcome contributions!
Email groundhognews@yahoo.com



Learn about the History of Mentone

Zora Strayhorn's book, *Mentone, Alabama: A History*, is for sale at Mentone Market and Moon Lake Library. \$15; proceeds benefit MAPA.

Mentone Matters • by Mayor Rob Hammond



Thankfully, the most of the repairs on AL 117 on the side of the mountain have been completed. There should be no more major delays. Thanks to ALDOT and Wright Brothers Construction for expediting this project.

The town is awaiting a couple of documents on the sidewalk project. Once we have these turned in to ALDOT, we hope we will soon move on to the bid phase and actual construction.

There have been no final decisions made by the school board on the Moon Lake School property.

We hope to learn more in the coming month.

There is a lot of new construction within the town limits. Before construction begins, owners/builders must complete a certificate of zoning compliance. Forms can be picked up at Town Hall. Completed forms should be returned to Town Hall to be reviewed by zoning administrator Hershell Pruitt. If approved, a green card will be issued and construction can begin.

Letter from the Editor

This photo makes me happy. It's my grandson when he discovered Lydia Randolph's cheerful mural on MERF's Pathway to Community. When he noticed it, he ran over to it and simply placed his hand on the giant, happy sunflower and gazed, with a smile on his face. I'm especially excited to see the Pathway's "Secret Garden" come to fruition; Sarah Wilcox writes about it on page 8. You may have noticed the new U.S. flag flying high on the MERF property, adding more color and symbolism to the collective effort of so many dedicated people that have created the project. If you haven't yet enjoyed a walk on the Pathway, I encourage you to do so. It's good for the soul.

Thanks to Rebecca Henderson for creating the new "Curious Q & A" section, which will be ongoing in future issues. This month's submission features Benny Goss, who served as Mentone's postmaster for 31 years. Benny was also featured in the July, 1983 issue of *The Groundhog*. This and other archived articles can be found at mapamentone.com/groundhog-archives.

I hope you enjoy reading about Ruby O'Rear in this month's cover story. As Sandra Padgett said to me, "Ruby was true Mentone." I enjoyed



strolling through the gardens at her home with new owners Chris Carmichael and Pat Pamalee, and I very much appreciate their sharing her diaries with *The Groundhog*.

I wish I could capture the infectious enthusiasm of Dr. Bill Berry and Lea Long as they spoke with me about the impressive Moon Lake School yearbook they created, which is featured on page 1. It struck me that both Bill and Chris used the words "labor of love" when speaking of their efforts. These words describe the efforts of so many people in Mentone and our neighboring communities, and I believe that's a big part of what makes this area so special.

I hope you all have a very happy July! —Kelly



MAPA News by Mark Hoffman

Hey folks, hope you're enjoying your summer so far. The MAPA Board has been enjoying being able to meet at Brow Park the last couple of months (so much better than seeing everyone on a computer screen!), and has been working hard to procure new festival coordinators so that Colorfest (and future spring and fall festivals) can get back on track. Also, at our June meeting, we considered several grant applications, and are pleased to announce that the following matching grants were unanimously approved: up to \$1,500 to the DeSoto Rescue Squad for the purchase of much needed medical equipment, and up

to \$500 to Little River Waterkeeper for the purchase of much needed water testing equipment and supplies. Please consider making a donation to these wonderful and necessary local organizations, and we will match it dollar for dollar up to the amounts noted above.

Please have a super, and safe, 4th of July. I'll definitely be firing the grill up at the Hoffman house. Until next time, don't forget that I can be reached anytime at mhoffmanatty@yahoo.com.

Mark Hoffman is the president of the Mentone Area Preservation Association.

Colorfest Planning Begins! by Sharon Habin

Exciting news! Some folks have come forward to fill the needed positions that will allow Colorfest to be held. So God willing, the creek don't rise, barring a landslide, or a pandemic crisis, Colorfest will be held on October 16 and 17, the third weekend in October. Look for more information in the August *Groundhog*.

CALL FOR VENDORS: Arts and crafts (done by the artist or craftmaker only) and food vendors, and local non-profit organizations, may apply starting the 14th of July at mapamentone.com.

NOTICE: FOUND GERMAN SHEPHERD

A German Shepherd was found CR 106 near Whatley's Curve in early June. If it's yours or if you have any information, please call Jim Moore at 256-634-4553.

Help us preserve Mentone's history
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Mentone Fire Department by Kelly Leavitt

Mentone's volunteer firemen are committed to protecting homes and businesses in the case of fire. Every year, they visit local businesses for fire pre-planning training to determine how they'd set their trucks up in the event of a fire, how much hose they'd need, where nearby fire hydrants are, and to learn about anything business owners have updated.

The main thing residents can do to help us is have a highly visible address on the road," Chief Joseph Lee said. "It's the absolute main thing," he emphasized. "Make sure your address is visible from the road, and make sure your driveway is accessible to a fire truck. If we can't get in there, it's going to be a problem. When it's 2 o'clock in the morning and dark, sometimes it can be a nightmare for us to find a house if it's not clearly numbered. It's definitely the hardest thing we have to deal with." Reflective 3" numbers (or larger) are recommended.

"Sometimes people who like the more rustic look don't realize that if their driveways are overgrown, we struggle to get equipment to the fire," said assistant fire chief Chuck McMunn. "Low limbs can impede what we're there to do. Driveways need to be easily accessible by a large truck. It's just something people don't normally think about."

Residents with locked gates should designate a keyholder. "It's crucial they give a key, combination, or code to someone nearby and that they notify 911 or their alarm company of that person's current contact information. If a combination or keypad gets changed, residents need to be sure they let their keyholder know."

Simple things can sometimes make all the difference when it comes to saving your home from fire. Let's all do our part and help the firemen do their job.

Ongoing Community Calendar

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

Mentone Town Council meets the 2nd Tuesday every month at 5pm at 5607 AL Hwy 117, across from Town Hall.

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

Hammondville Town Council meets monthly on the 1st Tuesday at 6pm at Hammondville Town Hall.

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

The North Lookout Mountain Fire Protection District Board meets the 3rd Monday of every month at 7pm.

Mentone Farmers Market is open year-round on Saturdays from 10am-1pm in the Town Square.

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

Ryleigh's Closet is a clothing closet that provides men's, women's, and children's clothing to those in need on 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month from 4-7pm. Mentone Community Church, 90 Summerville Rd. 256-634-4210.

Moon Lake Community Library is open on Saturdays from 10am-12pm, and Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4-6pm. Visit moonlakelibrary.org.

The Rhododendron Garden Club meets each month on the 2nd Tuesday at 10am. 'Green thumbs' and 'brown thumbs' are welcome! 256-634-4403.

The Lookout Mountain Knitters meet each Tuesday at 3pm at the MERF House. All are welcome.

Ruby O'Rear's Diaries

(continued from page 1)

The University of Alabama acquired the diaries in 2015 from a bookseller in Brooklyn, NY. They are part of the University Libraries Special Collections (MSS4133).

"The diaries are a fascinating look into life on the mountain in the midst of the Depression. It gets to be pretty obvious, quickly, that the Depression didn't really much affect people up here. They lived a subsistence life before and they lived a subsistence life during the Depression."

According to Chris, during the period the diaries were written, the home was lived in by Ruby; her mother,

Alice; sister, Jessie (who was a beloved teacher at Moon Lake School); Jessie's husband, Paul Whitehead; and their son, James, who was called "JB".

Apparently, a young woman referred to as "AJ" also lived in the home. Alice was bedridden as the result of a stroke.

"The house was built in 1924, probably on the existing foundation of an old log house," said

Chris. "They didn't have a well. They got drinking water from the creek about 50 feet behind the house. It feeds into Little River right where the old covered bridge stood."

It was on this creek that John Mason built a mill that was fed by a pond built upstream. He was also instrumental in building the covered bridge; he purchased the materials, and the townspeople built the bridge.

"Three brick cisterns provided water for cleaning and that sort of thing," Chris said. "They were sunk three or four feet into the ground. Every three or four months, Ruby mentions in her diaries that the cisterns were cleaned of debris. She talks about everything!"

"Ruby had basically no income at the time she wrote these diaries," Chris said, "and she kept records of every dime she spent. Until World War II, a lot of farmers would leave a tenth of their crop—usually what came in late, after the fields had been picked—for the people to come and pick what they needed. Ruby would can a good amount of this produce. She had a gas canner in the canning shed. The family also raised pigs and had a cow and chickens."

"She had flowers everywhere," said Chris. "Everywhere. Especially day

lilies. She had a native plant garden in one area. We're discovering what she had by clearing the overgrowth. Another source for us has been the first issue of *The Groundhog*, which describes many of the plants that she had here. The lilacs are long gone, so we've planted some new ones. There were some apple trees, but they're

Note: [?] indicates indecipherable writing.

July 1, 1936, Wednesday

Cooler. Had little shower. Dug the white onions. Hoed the tomatoes. Canned 4 qt & 1 pt dewberries. Paul went to S'ville & I went to Ethel Green's.

Paid \$1.00 on milk bill. On to

Culberson's & got screen door for Lake house & carried it to Dan's. Aunt Erie feeling better. Paul, A.J. & I went to meeting at Bankhead.

July 2, 1936, Thursday

Much cooler tonite. Had good shower. Jessie made out order to Sears. I crocheted on hat & on my skirt. Jessie, Paul & J.B. went to church. Dan got soaking wet on way back. A.J. & W.P. went fishing.

July 3, 1936, Friday

Sun didn't shine all day. Had good rain this P.M. About the best we've had since in April. I meant to go to Mentone with Dan but it rained. Crocheted

quite a bit. Finished yellow hat. Moved guinea eggs up & put them under hen. Put 26 eggs under her.

July 4, 1936, Saturday

Rainy in morn. Sun shone in P.M.

Warming up. I washed 30 pieces this morn. Hope brot wire for hogs. Ethel sent beans seed. Hope pushed or pulled Hope's car to V.H. where he got it fixed. A.J. went to see her grandmother. Heard that Bill Wright cut his cousin up last nite. Mary Alice up for a week. I went to Aunt Mary's for apples.

July 5, 1936, Sunday

Warmer. Clear. Went to S.S. Back home. Had dinner. Paul, Jack, A.J. & J.B. went to Mentone & to River. J.B. went in swimming. Foye Jones called. Said they had been to see Aunt Rena. She is able to sit up in chair. A.J. & W. Paul gone riding. Jack, Paul & J.B. gone to church at Bankhead. Someone was lost on road to Bankhead & called for help. Never knew who it was.

July 6, 1936, Monday

Warmer. Jessie did big washing. I cleaned up kitchen & got dinner. A.J. cleaned up living room. Kelly came. Said Malcolm Smith had broken his leg at [?] & wanted Paul to carry him home, which he did. Then after he got back, A.J., J.B. & I walked to Dan's & Paul took J.B. swimming & I swung [?] all screen doors at house at Lake.

July 7, 1936, Tuesday

Warm. Paul picked about 2 gals blackberries & I picked a few huckleberries. We went for mail. Mail late. New carrier alone to-day. Paul & I went to Clyde's to see about him fixing

(continued on page 5)



Ruby O'Rear's diary — July, 1937

long gone. We've found Ruby's phlox, and a couple of really old cultivars of day lilies. She mostly grew the orange doubles. She had a lot of irises. I love bearded irises, so I planted some and every one of them got bit by the double freeze this year. She also had a berry patch, and I've started to tend one in the area where hers was, along the path to the creek out back, straight out the kitchen. We're just trying to make it like this house and gardens would plausibly have been during Ruby's lifetime."

"There are remnants of some really lovely things," said Pat. "We're even exposing some little stone walls."

"We're really just creating more work for ourselves, because once we clear it all out, then we'll have to tend it," Chris joked.

Ruby's love for flowers was so well known that she was locally known as "The Flower Lady."

"For many years, on Saturday evenings she would walk to each of the seven churches in the area and place flowers for Sunday service. They didn't pay her anything," said Chris. "She just brought her flowers to church. The local summer camps paid her for the flowers she provided for their dining tables."

On Saturday, September 1, 1984, Ruby walked to the Sallie Howard Memorial Chapel to deliver flowers for Sunday's service. Alone in the church, she sat down to rest on the back pew and passed away. She and her family members are buried at Bankhead Cemetery.

We hope you will enjoy reading Ruby's diary entries and seeing her days come to life, some 85 years later.



In April, 1983, Ruby O'Rear was featured on the cover of the inaugural issue of *The Groundhog*. Sandra Padgett wrote a lovely article which delves a bit more deeply into the Mason and O'Rear family histories. She also tells the story of how the delicately carved roses on Ruby's mantle had been carved for her mother by a Cornish stone mason, apparently in exchange for a pair of hand-knitted socks! You can read the article online at mapamentone.com/groundhog-archives.



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Ruby O'Rear's Diaries*(continued from page 4)*

fence but he was busy. Jodie said he'd do it tho. I canned 4 qt berries & made 5 pts jam. Jack & Paul & J.B went to see Horace's cow. I went by Malcolm's & to Aunt Mags.

July 8, 1936, Wednesday

Warm. Thundered some but only a few drops of rain fell. Jodie came over to build hog lot. I went to Mrs. Nail's to see Mary Alice in P.M. Paul & A.J. came for me in car. Hog got out of lot about as soon as they were put in & were in potato patch when we got home. Jack & Paul walked up to Dan's. Picked qt of huckleberries. A.J. & J.B went for mail.

July 9, 1936, Thursday

Warm. Jodie came back & fixed fence so hogs couldn't get out. Paul & I went for mail & picked blackberries on way back. A.J. & Paul had fuss about the pigs. Paul, Jack & J.B. went to F.P. to have J.B.'s teeth filled but got there late. I have 15 little guineas. I think Lily wanted Jessie to go with her to Aunt Rena's to sit with her but she couldn't go to-nite but plans to go to-morrow.

July 10, 1936, Friday

Warmer. Temp 95 or 97 degrees. Picked over qt of huckleberries & about a gals. of blackberries. Paul went to V.H. for guano to plant beans. A.J. went with him. I canned 4 qt berries. Gave Mother a bath. Jack & Paul went to see Gene's cow. And now they have gone to sit up with Aunt Rena. Lily Smith was going with them & J.B. was going to stay with Billy.

July 11, 1936, Saturday

Clear & warm. Went down to see Aunt Rena. A.J. took me. She is in mighty bad shape but stronger in arms & hands than I thot she'd be. We came back by Mentone. On home. We all ironed with new gasoline iron. Frank & Lonnie planted beans in potato patch.

July 12, 1936, Sunday

Temp to 96. Mother's Birthday. Didn't go to S.S. Ethel, Hope & Foye came out then Nettie, Lonnie & Clara, W. Paul, Ethel, Aunt Belle & Mason came over. All brot presents & picnic lunch. We ate out doors. Took up roll of pictures. W. Paul & A.J. went riding & Paul & I went to church at Bankhead.

July 13, 1936, Monday

Hotter. Temp nearly 98. Paul & I went to Lahausage & picked berries. Got about 3 gals. back by Mill & picked gals. Paul, Jack, A.J. & J.B. went to F.P. to have J.B.'s teeth filled & he took impression of Jessie's mouth for her teeth. I canned 13 qt berries & made rest into jam. Paul, A.J. & J.B rode to Cloudland. I finished ½ of crocheted skirt.

**July 14, 1936, Tuesday**

Cooler. Had shower in nite. A.J. went to V.H. & I went to Mentone to see Janie, Edna's the baby. First time I had ever seen it. Came back home & Paul, Jack, J.B., & A.J. went to [?] & to Mentone. Billy Cash came by & played some on guitar. W. Paul & A.J. took me to Aunt Rena's & I sat up until 11:30. She didn't rest while I was there except just before I left. Heard that W.B. Haston was not expected to live.

July 15, 1936, Wednesday

Warm. Temp 95 or more. Jessie washed over 200 pieces. I got dinner. Paul, J.B. & I went to see Mr. Humphreys. Said he'd come out some time soon. Came back by Horace's to look at cow.

July 16, 1936, Thursday

Cool. Rained last nite & to-day. Jessie ironed. Cousin Battie O'Rear came by on way to Attalla. I had to get dinner as Jessie, Paul & James B. had to go to Fort Payne. Nearly finished 1 slip. Finished gown & made 2 pillow slips. Crocheted a little. Mr. Yarborough brought a lot of nice cucumbers.

July 17, 1936, Friday

Cool. Rainy. Cut out batiste dress. Canned 6 pts & 3 qt cucumber pickles. A.J. took Gladys to Fort Payne. Billy E. spent day with J.B. Paul & Jack ironed. W.P.W. & A.J. gone somewhere.

July 18, 1936, Saturday

Fair. Paul & I went to Aunt Mag's for dill. Heard that Mrs. Ellie Brown & son were living in Kelly's house. Paul & Jack went to F.P. & A.J. to V.H. Jack got her teeth. I canned some pickles. Found guinea nest. Jessie had terrible

time getting teeth out. W. Paul & A.J. went to see her mother.

July 19, 1936, Sunday

Rainy. Cooler.

Ethel sent pictures by A.J. All good except one. Rainy, didn't go to S.S. Mr. Anderson's boy & Hope came. Ate dinner here. Hope now boss of cutting dept at mill. Paul came over & sat awhile and cloud looked. Jack, Paul & J.B. went to Dan's. A.J. & W.P. went riding. Expecting Maxine Reese to come this P.M.

July 20, 1936, Monday

Pleasant. Washed my clothes this morn. Paul & J.B. went to V.H. to meet Mrs. Whitehead. Heard later she was not coming this week. Paul & I picked over 2 gals blackberries & huckleberries. I canned 8 qt & still have ½ gal huckleberries. Eula & Georgina borrowed car to go

to Myrtle's. I crocheted some on skirt. We had letter from Cousin Ella.

July 21, 1936, Tuesday

Pleasant. Jodie brot car home after J.B. went over & told them Paul wanted it. They had driven it over 100 miles.

Didn't come in til this morn. Jack washed. I got dinner & I canned 2 qt huckleberries. Jack & Paul went to V.H. & by Halls to see cows. W.B. Haston is getting better. A.J. sewed some. I crocheted on skirt. Paul & I went to church. Galloway preached. A.J. & Paul gone riding.

July 22, 1936, Wednesday

Pleasant. Paul & I went to Lahusage & picked enough berries for 9 qt – making 52 qt berries in all. Then Paul, J.B. & I went to Mentone & Paul bought cow from Charlie Hall \$34.50 delivered. They brought her to-nite.

July 23, 1936, Thursday

Cooler. Jack, Paul & J.B. went to F.P. & A.J. to V.H. She got some grapes. I crocheted some. Janie cut out blouse. Paul had car washed, looked like a new one. Painted wheels this P.M. Cow jumped out this P.M. about milking time. Lost 3 guineas to-day.

July 24, 1936, Friday

Pleasant. Lost another guinea last nite. Paul worked on pasture fence all morn. Polished car this P.M. I fixed pen for guineas. Went to store, Culberson's & Ethel's this P.M. Crocheted on skirt. Telephone wire broken. Mrs. Yarborough gave me some cucumbers & some pepper plants.

(continued on page 17)

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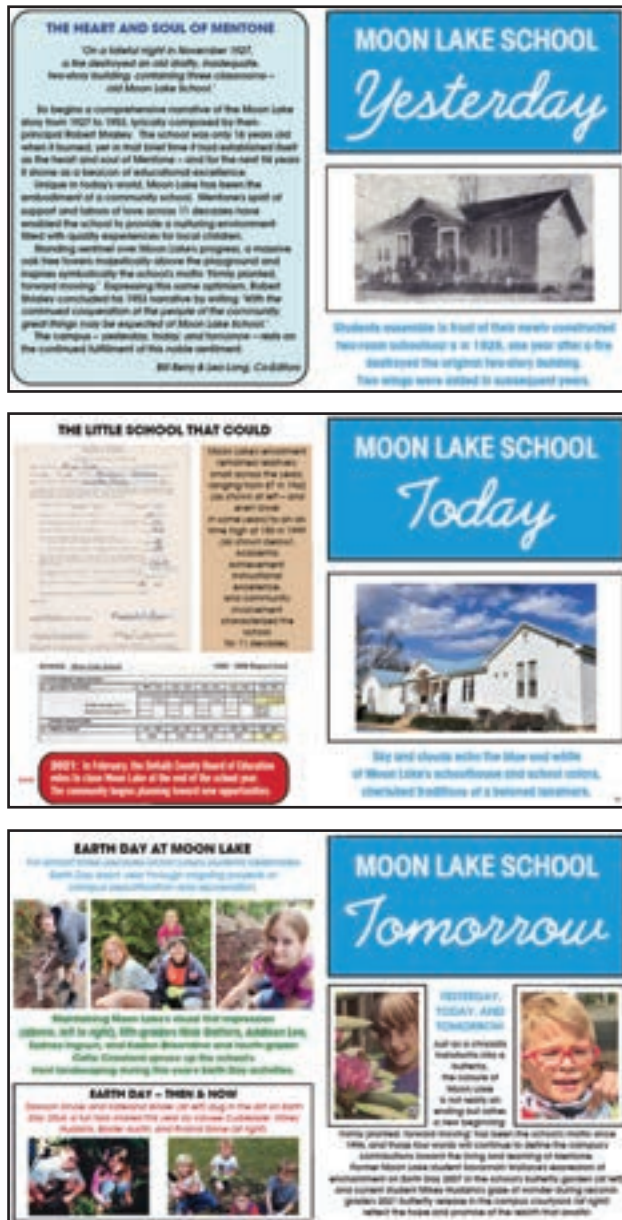
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Moon Lake Yearbooks (continued from page 1) will allow many people to look back at old pictures and reminisce. It's a book that shares information, documents, and photographs of a place they love so dearly. I hope that the students of 2020–2021 will treasure this as being something that shows that they were part of the very last group of the school's 110-year history. Not only were they part of it, but they were the conclusion to the school's long history."

Countless hours were invested by Bill and Lea to create the yearbook. "There were some weekends I would work from 4 a.m. until well after dark," said Bill. "Every page took days to complete. It was a real learning curve for us to use the software program the yearbook company provided. We definitely learned by trial and error."

Lea and Bill each brought a certain level of experience to the project. Lea has helped with Moon Lake's yearbooks in years past, and in the 1980s, Bill created three annual editions of the yearbook. "That was back when we still used cut and paste with rubber cement," he said. "I had a ball doing it." Bill also served as student editor of the "Purple and Gold," Valley Head High School's newspaper.

"Lea was the perfect co-editor," Bill said. "We gained great strength by bouncing ideas off each other and by working together, much more so than if she or I had been working alone—which is true in any good partnership. I mean, there's Sears & Roebuck, Laurel & Hardy, Long & Berry," he said with a chuckle.

"Lea and I are both perfectionists," said Bill, "and we're especially happy with how well the yearbook company reproduced the old, old photos. It was an evolution in so many ways. We evolved into using more color on each page, and also by developing the 'Then and Now' sections, where we were able to tie together the past and present, showing the school's continuity through the years."

"The historical photos came from many sources," said Bill. "I had a lot of photos in my stash. We got photos from Lea's mother and from Evelyn Graves, the daughter of longtime teacher Kathryn Jones. Dowe Foreman gave us quite a few."

"Mother and Dowe had old, old yearbooks and we were able to use some of those photos," Lea said. "Linda Pullen Burns sent some photos. Carolyn Blalock and Nelson Stallings were able to identify many of the names in one of the oldest photos. Every page has a variety of sources."

"It's truly an historical document," said Lea.

"I've learned a lot about Moon Lake's history,"

Bill responded. "And I thought I knew it all!"

Copies of the 2020–2021 Moon Lake School yearbook are available for purchase by the general public at Moon Lake Library. The cost is \$15 while supplies last. The library is open Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4 to 6 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to noon.



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MERF News

[Mentone Educational Resources Foundation]

by Sarah Wilcox



Thank you everyone who popped into the MERF house Pop UP shop in May to get their new “Leave Me in Mentone” attire. The most popular t-shirt colors were the purple and the hot pink, so I have reordered those colors and a few more. Little River Hardware, Mentone Arts Center, and DeSoto State Park’s Country Store are restocked.

One of the new places to enjoy and explore at the walking track is the Secret Garden, one of the many areas enhanced by the Rhododendron Garden Club at the MERF house! Secret elves Dee Kelley, Mary Ann Robbins, and Jay Robbins have been having fun and working hard to make the Pathway to Community fun and interactive for our youngest citizens. The MERF moms’ group was one of the first to discover and enjoy the many surprises in the Secret Garden. They were wowed by the miniature gardens, the dinosaur park, and the wind chimes. Little did they know that their next visit would include even more fun and inviting elements. MERF is grateful for all who help to make our facilities inviting and improved. Thanks also go to Craig Sheldon for putting together the two convertible benches at the Pathway. They can be used as benches or converted and pushed together as a picnic table to host a fun lunch or snack from one of our fabulous Mentone restaurants. One bench was purchased with the Big Idea grant funds and the second one was donated by Alyce and Frank Kenney. Oh, what a great community of friends!

Joy abounded again at the MERF house on Wednesday, June 16, as the ECW (Episcopal Church Women) of St. Joseph’s on-the-Mountain prepared and served a delicious lunch to the Senior lunch bunch crew with BBQ pork, corn, overnight slaw, a roll, fresh baked cookies, and cold, juicy watermelon. Mentone’s own local singer and songwriter, Craig Hendricks, played wonderful music before and during the meal. We loved hearing his original songs and were so thankful he was in town to play for us. To learn more about him, check out craighendricksmusic.com. The kitchen elves were happy to set up a great outside setting again and look forward to hosting a Bingo and Brunch on Thursday, July 15, inside the MERF house. Bingo with prizes will begin at 10 a.m. and brunch will be served at 11:30 a.m.

ART ROCKS! And so does Music! For the past 19 years, this has been an anthem of the classroom led by our own, Paula Easter! How fortunate was MERF to have found this gem 20 years ago when Sue Henry met her at the after-school program in Menlo, GA, and said to Paula in her Mississippi Delta drawl “Paula, MERF needs you. Would you come teach art and music to the Moon Lake Elementary School Students?” With her agreement began a wonderful adventure



MERF Moms group loved discovering all the treasures of the Secret Garden.



with the “crazy art lady” (her words, not mine) and our wonderful Moon Lake Elementary School students. Everyone sings her praises. The gifts of self-discovery, creativity, critical thinking, and self-worth that she has given to local children will last their whole lives and MERF is ever grateful. Don’t fret, this is not a goodbye tribute but a thank you for the 19 special years at Moon Lake Elementary School (the best in the county!). As Jan Wilkinson said in a video that MERF produced a few years ago “What a treasure she is to this community. She has opened new worlds for the children, their parents, and grandparents. She helps them know more about the classical painters and composers.” A former parent remarked on the tremendous impact Ms. Paula has had in the growth of both of her children’s artistic expressions.

With Ms. Paula’s guidance and preparation, the students have experienced and been touched by fabulous field trips to the High Museum and the Alliance Theater in Atlanta, the Huntsville Symphony Orchestra, and the Polar Express train in Summerville. She prepared them in etiquette and knowledge to get the most out of these great opportunities. The Shakespeare Company that the Little River Arts Council have brought to the school many times have always been so impressed with the students’ attentiveness and laughing at the appropriate times. The teachers called on her often to help with their PTO programs and the senior lunch bunch crew always enjoyed when they had a chance to entertain us. The students learned a lot as they prepared for the Christmas programs, and it was always a treat to seeing

(continued on page 9)

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SHOW YOUR JULY JOY and earn a chance to win a free MERF t-shirt or hat! Tag @leavemeinmentone on your social media posts and then share on MERF’s Facebook page or Instagram. Each time you post, your name will be added to a drawing on August 1. (Feel free to send your post to merf.mentone@gmail.com if you have a private account.)

Posts must include a photo of you or your group enjoying MERF’s Pathway to Community while walking, playing, chatting, or simply soaking up the creativity.

Bonus points will be awarded for:

- use of the picnic table
- videos of playing a recognizable tune on a musical instrument
- making up a story about 1 of the pickets that you did not paint
- posting unique posts/stories at least 10 times in the month.

The MERF lady has full discretion on bonus points awarded. ☺
MERF’s Pathway to Community is located at 4561 Alabama Highway 117, by the MERF house and community library.



Butterfly boxes painted by Moon Lake Elementary School students and built by Buddy Cole are now gracing the back fence of the Pathway to Community.



Our own Impressionistic artist with a Georgia O'Keefe flower painted by a talented Moon Lake Elementary School student for MERF's annual Taste of the Mountain and Art Auction.



One of Santa's Elves waving to Santa from the Polar Express Train ride that she hosted on weekends in Summerville and shared with our MLES students.

MERF News (continued from page 8)

a student coming out of his or her shell by performing a song or speaking lines with confidence. The handbells with all grades were always impressive.

And of course, there was the fabulous artwork every year for the Taste of the Mountain and Art Auction, along with her cheese biscuits. Over many of these years, I have had the opportunity of going before grant boards with Ms. Paula and describing what a fabulous Arts Education program that we had thanks to Paula. I also enjoyed her entertaining the grant boards with her corny jokes and treats. Paula is always willing to help MERF bring arts to all ages and has done fun art projects with our senior lunch bunch crew and our MERF moms' group. And music with the toddlers is always a blast.

Paula and I have spent many a Mentone festival together selling "Leave Me in Mentone" merchandise, talking about MERF programs, enjoying marble art creations, and eating yummy festival food. Every festival, there are many visits and hugs from Ms. Paula's former and present students and parents. She is well-loved and appreciated. MERF is grateful for all that Paula has given to the Moon Lake Elementary School students and the Mentone community these last 19 years

and we look forward to this new season of Arts Education in our community with Ms. Paula.

Sarah Wilcox is the executive director of MERF, the Mentone Educational Resources Foundation, a non-profit organization whose mission is "To enrich the learning and living of the community by identifying needs and coordinating resources." If you would like to support MERF's programs, tax-deductible donations can be mailed to P.O. Box 107, Mentone, AL 35984 or contribute online at merfhouse.org. Contact Sarah at merf.mentone@gmail.com or 256-635-8193.

Happy
Independence
Day



Paula Easter helping Kindergarten Leprechauns entertain the Senior lunch bunch crew in 2018.

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..... LOTS and LAND

79 ACRES OF UNRESTRICTED WOODLAND. Just think what you could do with a chunk of land like this! Maybe do nothing. Just let it sit there. Weekend off? Head to the mountain. Camp out, hike, hunt, mountain bike, ride 4-wheelers, horses, whatever the weather dictates. And when you're ready, you can cut the trees & mill the timber for your own home off your own property. Pick a site...or several sites... build a cabin, a compound, or a community. What could YOU do with 79 acres? Maybe now is the time to find out. \$276,500 (1773800)

CHOICE OF 2 MENTONE BROW LOTS, A RARE OPPORTUNITY! Rare because there just aren't many left between Mentone and Desoto Park, even rarer because they have good depth to get some distance from the road, plus they extend over the brow to allow for tree trimming as necessary. Build that dream home now, enjoy beautiful mountaintop views & spectacular sunsets. You have 2 to choose from (or, buy them both to create a spectacular personal getaway!), each offering approx. 1.8 acres. Priced at \$225,000 per lot. (1770794)

ENJOY YOUR MORNING COFFEE & GREET THE SUNRISE. From this vantage point, you can watch the changing seasons across the valley & beyond to Lookout MTN. So much potential is here for fabulous views when you build your dream home on this approx 0.8-acre lot in beautiful, woodsy, Pells Gap Subdivision, high atop Sand Mountain. Minutes away from I-59, Fort Payne, but worlds away from traffic & noise. Property offers over 160' of frontage on the East Brow of the mountain. Owner financing available. \$75,000 (1151053)

GORGEOUS VIEWS & 2.2 ACRES. This Mentone East-brow-front property already has the major prep work done for you to begin building your dream getaway cabin or residence. Septic tank in place, driveway in place, building sites for a cabin & for a shop cleared & leveled. Incredibly priced at only \$89,000. (1775068)



LOVELY CABIN HOME ON 13 ACRES, 3BR/2.5BA, 2500 sq ft, welcoming front porch & a generous back porch for easy entertaining outdoors. Cozy living area with an efficient wood-burning fireplace. Two bedrooms, two full baths. Nice garage with 220 electric, wood or gas heat, & 1/2 bath; pole barn for firewood w/ attached chicken coop; great future pond site. \$325,000 (Also available w/3 acres for \$275,000) (1154082)

SOLD



40 ACRES & A BRICK HOME IN MENTONE! One-level, mid-century, ranch-style home features 3BR/2BA; den w/ large, stone fireplace w/wood-burning insert; step-saver kitchen; dining room; formal LR; mud room/laundry w/great storage; 2-car carport. Beautiful & unrestricted land, mostly level in topography, includes fenced pasture & woodland; 3-stall barn w/tack room/future apartment, huge hay loft + storage; overgrown pond site. Raised-bed gardens are handy just outside the back door, too. Perfect equestrian property. A place that will accommodate whatever dream you have that includes privacy, peace, quiet, and plenty of room to roam! \$430,000 (1784316)



1920s CLASSIC CRAFTSMAN MENTONE HOME, on 1.6 acres, zoned residential or commercial. Over 200' of frontage on Hwy 117. The bungalow home sits well off the road, has a very nice fenced, circle driveway. You will love living in this place, has a large and warm wood-work, 2BR/2BA; back sun porch with hot tub deck. Property also features 2 charming income-producing rental cottages. Paved circle drive. Small pond. \$450,000.

SOLD



SPACE FOR EVERYTHING & EVERYONE! Large, bungalow-style home gives you room for many possibilities! A spacious home, a gathering place for families, retreats, possible B&B, multi-family home with 3 separate living areas...imagine it! Unfinished lower level has 3 doors to exterior, 12 windows & carport access, making an ideal future apartment w/separate entrance. Pine floors throughout; wood ceilings accented by solid beams in spacious, open dining/kitchen. Cabinets galore! 6BR/2 baths (plus half bath in lower level). Enormous front porch. New ext pain, new windows & roof 2019. Interior needs some upgrading & TLC. Beautiful yard w/seasonal sunset views. High-speed internet! Agent owned. \$350,000 (1780870)



RARE 2.5-ACRE DOWNTOWN MENTONE PROPERTY! This is one of those places with almost unlimited possibilities! With its flexible zoning, frontage on 3 city streets (Douglas, Cutler Ave & Shady Ave), this simple little house could open the door to BIG things! Spacious front sunporch built in 2012; house was pretty much completely gutted & rebuilt in 2014. It's a great start to even greater things! Property once had at least 3 other tiny cabins on it, believed to have been part of a motor court back in the 1930s. Future for Rental cabins? Restaurant? Shopping plaza? Offices? Dream! The land is level, features 2 small streams, nice woods w/huge white oaks & other hardwoods. \$350,000 (1779531)



SIMPLE OUTSIDE, SIMPLY PERFECT INSIDE. This board-n-batten cabin, on 7 acres of lovely woods, has been a haven & a home for many years. Great room w/beautiful pine floors, vaulted ceiling, fireplace, and a large two-burner cooktop. Kitchen area w/granite counters; guest bath w/clawfoot tub; enclosed porch w/offices or extra sleeping qtrs. Master suite w/private deck. Det 3-car carport w/workshop. \$259,900 (1777118)

PENDING



13.34 ACRES, PONDS, OLD FARM HOUSE, SHOP & VARIOUS OUTBUILDINGS. The old house needs a good bit of TLC. We're not kidding. Whether or not it is fixable, it's a great place to have a workshop w/ a lot of room for storage. The outbuildings are thought to offer good fishing. Three wells on the property, one of which is clear, freestone water. Not perfect, tons of work needed, and priced accordingly. \$129,900 (1155211)

PENDING



SUMMERS' REST cottage, built in the 50s and in the same family until only recently. Rustic stone exterior; all wood interior with whole tree timbers for beams; beautiful fireplace, masonry work, and a lot of charm. Sited on over 1 acre, within walking distance to downtown Mentone, on the Scenic Parkway/Co Rd 89. \$159,900

SOLD

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July Community Calendar

July 1—Fort Payne Independence Day

Celebration. “Boys in the Band,” an Alabama tribute band, will partner with the City of Fort Payne for the annual fireworks display. Join us on the soccer fields across from Heil for a concert and of course the fireworks. Food vendors open at 5pm; concert begins at 7:30pm. Fort Payne Sports Complex, 4501 Gault Ave. No. Rain Date July 2.

July 2–4, 9–11, 16–18, 23–25, 30–31—

Miller's Bend Paddle Shack. Rent sit-on-top kayaks to enjoy a peaceful flatwater paddle on the West Fork of Little River. Your adventure can be up to 4 miles round trip, or as long as you want to make it! Paddle trips are perfect for individuals or groups. Life vests and paddles are provided. Boat Shack hours: Saturday & Sunday 10am–6pm. DeSoto Falls Picnic Area. Single sit-on-top kayak: \$15/hour. Tandem sit-on-top kayak: \$25/hour. Corcl's: \$10/hour. Kayaks are also available by reservation Monday–Thursday 10am–6pm, \$50 minimum. Call DeSoto State Park's Lodge for info-256-845-5380. alapark.com/kayak-little-river.

July 3—Pop-up Artist Market. Artists Samantha Gilley and Lacy Hope Dobbs will set up at the Linger Longer Pavilion behind the Mentone Inn from 10am–1pm during Mentone Farmers Market. Sponsored by Little River Arts Council.

July 3—Sand Mountain Potato Festival.

Sand Mountain is well known for its rich diversity of agricultural products, including potatoes. Celebrate our heritage with live music, arts and crafts, entertainment, games and fireworks. Event begins at 10 a.m. and culminates with a beautiful fireworks display. Henagar Park, 18294 AL-75, Henagar. 256-657-6282.



July 9—Live Music: Debbie Bond. Renowned blues artist Debbie Bond, accompanied by Radiator Rick, will celebrate her new CD release with a live performance. 7pm. \$25/person, \$40/couple includes copy of her new CD. Mentone Arts Center, 4651 AL Hwy. 117, Mentone. For more info, email mentoneartscenter@gmail.com or call 256-674-3366.

July 10—Little River Jeep Club Canyon

Rim Run and Trail Ride. Meet up at 9 a.m. at Little River Falls parking area. ALL Ride proceeds benefit The Sam Foundation. Ride will begin with a Canyon Rim tour and then a ride through the Billy Fords area. Jeep registration is \$30 per Jeep. If you don't have a Jeep Wrangler, you can register anyway or come buy a BBQ plate and listen to the

FREE music. Because this is such a great organization and the goal is to support and grow The Sam Foundation, there is more than one way to help: 1. Sponsor a Jeep for \$15, or for \$30 one of our Jeepers will display your name on a Jeep during the ride; 2. Come to the BBQ and listen to great musicians. \$8 will get you some great BBQ, cole slaw, baked beans. FREE live music from great artists, including Will Dooley, Chris Posey, and more. This event is family friendly and sure to be toe tapping. 9am–9pm. Contact Melissa Cook for more info at 256-557-7425.

July 10—America's Prayer Meeting.

National organizational union of ministry partners invites DeKalb County residents, including pastors, ministry leaders, business owners, and leaders, to pray together. Ft. Payne City Park. 2–4 pm. Event will conclude with prayer walk around the park. AmericasPrayerMeeting.org.

July 12—Monthly Songwriters Round.

Spotlights acclaimed banjo Hall of Famer Jim Connor and singer-songwriters Jesse Landers, Phillip David Harris, and Andrew Henley. Hosted by Craig Hendricks. 6pm. \$15 suggested donation. Mentone Arts Center, 4651 AL Hwy. 117, Mentone. For more info, email mentoneartscenter@gmail.com or call 256-674-3366.

July 13—Rhododendron Garden Club

Meeting. Everyone is welcome. 10am. MERF house, Mentone.

July 17—Daybreak Flatwater Paddle Trip.

A relaxing guided morning paddle trip on scenic Little River with DeSoto State Park staff. Enjoy the peace and quiet of nature as we paddle upstream on the 'coke bottle clear' waters of the West Fork of Little River. Learn about this outstanding water source with its clear water, plant and animal life, and about the history of the area around DeSoto Falls. This trip is approximately 4 miles round trip on flatwater and includes kayak, paddle, and personal flotation device. Wear appropriate clothing and bring bug spray, snacks, and drinking water. 7–10am. Meet at Miller's Bend Paddle Shack at the DeSoto Falls Picnic Area. \$30 for single kayak rental (tandem kayaks are available on a limited basis for \$50). Pre-registration closes July 15 at 5pm. To register, email Paige.Norsworthy@dcnr.alabama.gov. **Please provide date of paddle, a phone number; indicate number of boats and what type (single/tandem) requested for the trip. Payment will be required at time of registration.**

July 17—Third Saturday Sunset. A family fun event featuring a cruise-in, children's activities, food, art show, and live entertainment! Gault Avenue in Downtown Fort Payne is closed from 1st-5th street for the event. 5–9pm. Contact: Amelia- 256-996-3857 or Terry- 256-996-2668

July 22—Meandering Moonlight Paddle

Trip. DeSoto State Park staff offers this relaxing guided moonlight paddle trip on scenic Little River. Enjoy the peace and quiet of nature as we paddle upstream on the

'coke bottle clear' waters of the West Fork of Little River. Enjoy this flatwater paddle as the sun goes down and the full moon comes up. Experience the peace and quiet of the gloaming-time! This trip is approximately 4 miles round trip on flatwater and includes kayak, paddle, & personal flotation device. Weight limits: 300 pounds for singles & 450 for tandems. Ages 8 to adult. Wear appropriate clothing and bring a headlamp or flashlight, bug spray, snacks, and drinking water. 7–10pm. Meet at Miller's Bend Paddle Shack at the DeSoto Falls Picnic Area. \$30 for single kayak rental (2 person-tandem kayaks are available on a limited basis for \$50) Pre-registration closes July 19 at 5pm. To register, email Paige.Norsworthy@dcnr.alabama.gov. **Please provide date of paddle, a phone number; indicate number of boats and what type (single/tandem) requested for the trip. Payment will be required at time of registration.**

July 23—Campfire Talk: Mammals of

Alabama. Join us for a fun campfire talk at DeSoto State. Talks are for all ages, & open to everyone! Alabama is home to 62 native mammals: 22 species of rodents; 16 species of bats; 11 species of carnivores; six species of insectivores; four species of rabbits; one ungulate; one opossum; and one armadillo. Join Amber Baker, Wildlife Biologist from the Division of Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries for an entertaining program featuring the warm-blooded critters that can be seen throughout the state. See a collection of furs and skulls and discover characteristics of each species. Seating is limited, so bring your own comfortable camp chair if you wish. 8pm. DeSoto State Park's campfire Ring in the Improved Campground. (In case of inclement weather will be located in the CCC Pavilion in picnic area.) For any details about the talk, email Brittney.Hughes@dcnr.alabama.gov.

July 24 Summer Music Series: Featuring

Natti Love Joys. Sponsored by Little River Arts Council. 7–10pm. Free and open to everyone! Mentone Inn's Linger Longer Pavilion. For any details, email info@littleriverartscouncil.org.

July 30—Park After Dark: Night Walk.

Join naturalists Jamie Rogers & Brittney Hughes to get to know DeSoto State Park after dark! You never know what you can discover during the night; we will be using our senses to discover what can be seen, heard, or even smelled on this fun walk! On this walk we will be on the cabin road & go to the frog pond, near DeSoto's south entrance. All ages welcome, children must be supervised. We will walk a short distance from the DeSoto State Park Lodge. Terrain will be a mix of asphalt and dirt road; closed-toed shoes are preferred. Bring a small flashlight or headlamp if you wish (red light preferred) or there will be some flashlights available, first come-first served. Please no dogs, as our nighttime friends can be shy. 8pm. Meet outside DeSoto State Park Lodge. Free and open to everyone. No pre-registration required; masks are respectfully requested when in proximity of others not in your

household (even outdoors) This hike may be cancelled in case of rain. For any details about the walk, email Brittney.Hughes@dcnr.alabama.gov.

July 31—The Art of Woodburning-Christmas

in July. Pyrography or woodburning is the art of decorating wood or other materials, the term meaning “writing with fire” dating back to the 17th century. Participants in this class will learn the basic techniques of decorative wood burning from artist April Blanks, and will work on Christmas ornaments to practice basic techniques using a pen-like burning tool and paint. Christmas in July fun! This class is for ages 14 to adult. 2 class times available: 10am–12pm OR 1–3pm. DeSoto State Park (specific location disclosed at time of registration). \$25 fee includes all supplies. Class space is limited, so pre-registration is required. Email Brittney.Hughes@dcnr.alabama.gov to sign up or for more info. This class will be held outside under a covered pavilion; in case of inclement weather the class will be held inside a large room. Masks are required for participants.

July 31—Campfire Talk: Owl Prowl.

Ever wonder whooo's going "hoot" in the night? Bring the whole flock and join naturalists Jamie Rogers & Brittney Hughes as we search for our resident owls at DeSoto State Park. Your prowling will begin with learning how these amazing nocturnal predators are adapted to be stealthy at night or during the day, their habitats, and behaviors. After the program, you may choose to go on a night hike through the woods to listen for fascinating night sounds. (Be sure to bring a flashlight/headlamp!) 8pm. DeSoto State Park's Campfire Ring in the Improved Campground. (In case of inclement weather will be located in the CCC Pavilion in picnic area.) Free, no pre-registration required. For any details about the talk, email Brittney.Hughes@dcnr.alabama.gov.

July 31—Traditional Chair Weaving

Workshop. The craft of chair seat weaving and chair caning has been practiced for centuries and is still a viable craft today, experienced all over the world. Only a few common tools are necessary to repair chair seats, making this a craft that nearly anyone can master with just a little patience and tenacity. Participants will discover how to weave a simple chair bottom, while learning the herringbone pattern using flat reed. Small ladderback chairs will be provided, as well as all tools & supplies. This class is for ages 12 to adult (please no younger children for safety reasons). Wear comfortable, casual clothing (this craft can get messy), and bring a sack lunch if you wish. This workshop emphasizes the use of hand tools, so students should have moderate hand strength. 10am–4pm. JSU's Little River Canyon Center, Fort Payne. \$150 supply fee. Pre-registration required by July 17. Space is limited to 5 participants. For details and to pre-register, email Southernchick888@hotmail.com. Info at facebook.com/JSUFieldSchools.

SOUTHERN PROPERTIES

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NEW



CUSTOM LOG HOME offering 3 bedrooms on main level. Basement is finished for studio living with full private bath. Upstairs loft area can serve as more sleeping space or just your quiet space! Home is situated on 3 acres in Lake on the Brow, offering lake and brow living, great for walking or riding bikes, located within 5 miles of Little River Canyon. Seller has made lots of updates and it is move-in ready! \$439,000. MLS# 1782968

NEW



THIS TASTEFULLY DESIGNED CABIN offers a main living area with open floor plan making it easy to entertain guests, main level master, wood flooring, loft bedroom with bathroom, separate utility room and half bath, screened porch and a real wood burning fireplace! This beautiful home is currently offered as a weekend rental on Airbnb and VRBO! Enjoy the elegance of the cabin along with the serenity of Lookout Mountain. \$290,000. MLS # 1782724



MOUNTAIN LAUREL INN is nestled in the woods above Little River. Main residence w/ BR/BA, living, kitchen, utility & sunroom. Guest house w/ 4BR, each w/private entrance & bath AND a 2-room studio apartment w/ kitchenette. Also included is a Gathering house with living and kitchenette. Approx. 7 acres borders DeSoto State Park. \$379,000. MLS #1153859



KNOWN AS HIGHPOINT AND ONE OF THE MOST CELESTIAL AREAS FOR STAR GAZING... This 7 BR, 6 BA manor boasts onyx porcelain & tile baths, walk-in showers, granite & marble counter tops/vanities. Attached private living quarters with full amenities PLUS detached guest cabin. \$729,000. MLS #1119192



ON THE BROW, facing East to the Georgia Mountains, and looking into Shinbone Valley, this large cabin features 4 BR, 3 BA, great room w/ wooden beams, fireplace, tin ceilings, gathering areas, multiple decks, all new windows & appliances. A perfect family retreat, the cabin also has possibilities as a weekend rental! \$425,000. MLS# 1780743



THIS 2 BR/2 BA HOME ON 2.3 ACRES is ready for Mentone living. The outdoor kitchen, large front deck and screened back porch are perfect for summer entertaining. Begin your next hobby in the multiuse storage shed or work space. The beautiful wood interior and three fireplaces will keep you warm on those cool nights in the North Alabama mountains. \$179,000. MLS# 1779284



THIS DUPLEX OFFERS paved driveway, metal roof, gutters, county water, and well with filtration system. "Big Bear" is 2 BR 2 Bath, central heat and air open kitchen, dining and living room, rock fireplace w/ gas logs, hardwood floors. "Little Bear" is 1 BR 1 BA, recessed lighting, ceiling fans, central heat/air, hardwood floors, smooth ceilings. \$319,900. MLS #1778704



WATERFRONT! Immaculate one-level residence at Lake on the Brow w/ two lots. Custom-built home w/ hardwood floors, open kitchen/dining/living area, 3 BR, 2 BA. Kitchen w/ large island, corian countertops & backsplash. Living room w/ rock fireplace w/ gas logs. Office & laundry rooms. Screen porch w/ covered deck and a rock patio overlooking the water for entertaining. \$339,900. MLS#1780264



PICTURESQUE VIEW! One-level home on approx. 3.5+/- acres w/ 180° of breathtaking views. A real gardener's dream! Updated kitchen w/new cabinets, countertops & appliances. Breakfast nook, formal dining room, living room w/gas log fireplace. Sunroom. Attached garage & a detached garage w/bonus room & bath & workshop. Whole house generator. \$435,000. MLS# 1780031



STORYBOOK HOME built with the mountain's views in mind. 3 BR, 3 BA home with artistic touches throughout. Relaxing large deck, screen porch & sunroom or by the stone fireplace in the cozy living room. Attached garage, attic/storage space, gorgeous siding/stone exterior, full basement and 1 acre +/- lot. Oversized kitchen w/ seating options at bar or breakfast nook, walk-in pantry, and amazing counter space. \$550,000. MLS #1779265

LOTS & LAND

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

#1076286— Beautiful Building Spot in Mentone! Perfectly located 1.75 acre building lot in West Fork Subdivision with over 400 feet of river frontage! \$39,900.

#1092235—Building lot in Laurel Creek Lakes. \$19,900

#1111628—AMAZING VIEWS! YES, VIEWS!!! REDUCED TO \$79,900.

#1149803—GORGEOUS LOT IN MENTONE with .81+/- acres in Hunter's Ridge Subdivision. \$15,000

#1150871—WHAT AN ADDRESS FOR YOUR NEXT HOME! Enjoy peace and quiet and the sound of rushing waters on this 3-acre lot on West Fork of Little River in Mentone. Bring your plans and move to Mentone today! \$48,500

#1150850—BEAUTIFUL BROW PROPERTY on County Road 103. You are within 5 minutes of Little River Falls! This is a great opportunity to purchase land and build that mountain cabin or dream home you desire! Seller will consider owner finance at full ask price with 20% down at

5.5% interest rate! Priced at \$52,900

#1150900—ATTENTION LAND LOVERS...For those of you seeking peace and quiet surroundings on West Fork Little River here's your chance to build the home of your dreams. This 2-acre tract is too wonderful to pass you by. \$48,500

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#1776065—Lot 59 in Crestline Park Subdivision in Mentone. This location is just off of the scenic County Road

89. This subdivision offers light restrictions including no mobile homes, no commercial buildings or temporary structures. Insuring permanent or vacation living only for you and your neighboring properties. Property is owned by a licensed home builder offering "will build to suit". Call us today and start picking out a house plan! \$39,900

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JUST BETWEEN US

A Curious Q & A by Rebecca Henderson

I recently enjoyed a front porch visit with Benny Goss, who served as postmaster of Mentone from 1976 to 2007. He and his wife, Brenda, were both born right here in town. There were things we needed to know...



Benny Goss

Q *How did you get to Mentone?*

A I was born in Mentone. The house is still there. It's about a half a mile from the Mentone Market. A very old house.

Q *Who was your first childhood friend?*

A Jimmy Frazier. He may disagree with that; he lived next door. He's a painter, very talented. I used to say, "Jimmy, you're going to do a lot of great things."

Q *What's the best TV show you've watched recently?*

A "The Three Stooges." I'm one of those people who never missed the Stooges.

Q *If you could give your 20-year-old self a good piece of advice, what would that be?*

A To never take a drink of alcohol. And never smoke a cigarette. I don't condemn anyone who does, though.

Q *If we were to walk in and find you listening to music, what would we hear?*

A Gospel music.

Q *If you could add one new activity to Mentone, what would that be?*

A A softball/baseball field for children and adults to play on.

Q *Name a place you've wanted to visit but haven't yet.*

A The Redwood forest.

Q *What's a food you love but try not to eat?*

A Raw oysters.

Q *When did you last eat it?*

A Over 40 years ago in New Orleans.

Q *What's a food you feel no one should want to eat?*

A Oh my....let's see. Tofu.

Q *Favorite way to spend a Saturday night?*

A Basically kicking back and watching TV. I've gotten lazy!

Q *What's the first historic event you remember?*

A November 22, 1963. President Kennedy was assassinated. I was in the Valley Head High School auditorium. It came across the loud-speaker. I was 14 years old, and it changed the way I thought about things in that I began to pay more attention.

Q *Describe Mentone in three words.*

A Quiet. Peaceful. Home.

Q *Build your perfect burger.*

A About an inch thick; big tomato; sweet onions; lettuce; dill pickle; mustard; mayonnaise.

Q *Are you a good dancer?*

A Nope.

Q *Cats or dogs?*

A Dogs.

Thank you, Benny!

Add to our chat list! We have so many fascinating people in our area. If there is someone you'd like to know more about, send us an email at groundhognews@yahoo.com.

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Fort Payne, AL 35967 #808434

A view from Lookout Mountain with owner financing available! Wooded Bluff lot with 1.3 acres, paved road frontage, city water and only \$30,000.

4621 CITADEL ROCK ROAD
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DeSoto Bluffs - Citadel Rock Road - Near DeSoto State Park - 1.07 Acre wooded tract, perfect for cabin. Across the road from the brow and Only \$17,500.

4200 CITADEL ROCK ROAD
Fort Payne, AL 35967 #788861

DeSoto Bluffs. Just south of DeSoto State Park. Brow lot on Citadel Rock Road on Lookout Mtn. Overlooking North Fort Payne, 4-acre tract, partially cleared with driveway. Lots of room and great view. Only \$85,000.

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Croquet Anyone? Join the Mentone Wicketeers

by Kelly Leavitt



Local residents have a fun new way to play outside on Saturday afternoons, while getting sunshine, exercising, and making new friends.

In early May, Barry Morton posted an invitation in a local Facebook group to anyone interested in playing croquet on the grassy area at MERF's "Pathway to Community" walking trail, located at 4561 AL Highway 117. A group began playing later in the month and now, at the suggestion of Susan Van Appeldorn, they are called the Mentone Wicketeers.

"The goal is to get everyone up and out," said Barry. "I met with the MERF board and suggested we have croquet play on the MERF grounds. When they agreed, I bought a croquet set and Dr. Steve Brewer donated a set for children."

Croquet is a lawn game in which players use a mallet to hit colored wooden balls through a series of wickets (or hoops).

"We want to have fun," Barry said, "so halfway through we sit in the shade and hydrate for 15 minutes while we chat and get to know each other. Barry will share the rules of croquet with anyone interested, and it's advised to familiarize yourself with the rules in advance. If your children or grandchildren would like to play, let Barry know. He is working on finding a leader for the children's group."

Croquet is played by six or less players at a time and it takes about an hour and a half to play a round. Barry is considering implementing two flights, which would begin play at staggered times, or perhaps organizing teams.

If you would like to play, let Barry Morton know by email at barrymorton74@gmail.com so he'll know how many people to accommodate. He will send you the rules of play and basic directions. "It's also a good idea for people to use the internet and familiarize themselves a bit before game day," Barry said. To learn more, join the Mentone Croquet Facebook group or email Barry.



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Calling All Cornhole Players!

by Kelly Leavitt

David Allgood, Fort Payne Rotary Club president and Mentone town councilman, is recruiting a team of players to play in a cornhole tournament at the Rotary Club's Southeast regional "Boiling n' Bragging," a tailgating-themed fundraising event which will take place in Birmingham on August 21.

Proceeds from this annual fundraising event help fund the Critical Care Transport Team for Children's of Alabama, the medical center in Birmingham which

understanding and skills necessary to provide age-appropriate care.

"The transport team receives no funding from the state or federal government," said David. "Rotary and other donors fund it entirely, with North Alabama's Rotary Clubs having raised over one million dollars during a 13-year fundraising effort."

This year's fundraising event will feature an inaugural cornhole tournament. Cornhole is a lawn game in which players take turns throwing small



is ranked among the best children's hospitals in the nation.

The Critical Care Transport team originated in 1983 and works to meet the specific need of transporting more than 1,000 critically ill and injured children each year, especially those in rural locations. It serves as a mobile extension of the hospital. Team members include highly trained registered nurses and respiratory therapists with the knowledge,

bags of dried corn at a target consisting of an inclined wooden platform with a hole at one end.

If you are interested in joining the Fort Payne Rotary Club's team, contact David Allgood at allgdd@yahoo.com. "If Rotary can enter 30 teams across the North Alabama District," David said, "and each team can garner online support and donations from 100 people, with each donation being just \$20, that's already \$60,000 —just from playing cornhole and having fun doing it."

Those who want to support the cornhole tourney can go to the Boiling 'n Bragging website at boilingnbragging.org and make a donation.

David has purchased cornhole boards to share with anyone interested in playing on Saturday afternoons at 2 p.m. the MERF walking trail, providing another activity for those interested in playing a lawn game when the Mentone Wicketeers meet.

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Laughing Waters

by Timo Onjukka

Ever since running away from the farm at 15 when daddy put lights on the tractor and hitching a ride to Daytona Beach on a moving truck, I've known that wanderlust—and the poet within—could never be quelled. I've always enjoyed exploring new roads, and sometimes nothing resembling roads. Over the years I've travelled between Florida and family to the north on just about every possible route. Wending up the barrier islands, ferries and bridges, bumping up the Natchez Trace to Kentucky, climbing every lighthouse on the eastern seaboard on a vacation of a journey to Maryland or following the big muddy to Michigan, we often avoided the interstates when we took our trips north. The journey itself was part of the destination.

Some decades ago, in a previous century or even millennium, I remarked to my family we had never once explored Alabama. We decided the next trip we would begin at Florida's highest point, following whatever path beckoned us, ever northward to Mount Cheaha, Alabama's highest elevation. The Talladega National Forest tantalized us, as we travelled in our Jeep with just a compass (and ever-present wanderlust) to navigate by. As we crossed over Weiss Lake, spotted Yellow Creek's thundering cataract and then occasioned to climb Lookout Mountain on Highway 35, little did we know what awaited us. It was a magic-light spring sunset as we found ourselves crossing Little River Canyon and the beautiful falls beneath. We immediately turned onto the rim parkway and threaded our way to the gorge edge just as the sun fell from the sky in blazing glory. My daughter, intrepid explorer and fearless, called to me from a precipice she found. Turning, I discovered she was standing on an overhanging rock a hundred or more feet above the Little River canyon floor. "Get back to your mother NOW," I shouted. We stayed at the DeSoto Lodge that night and then explored the area the next day, finding the Sallie Howard Chapel, DeSoto Falls, and the grand old lady of the south, the storied Mentone Springs Hotel, along with many other points of interest.

I remarked to myself then that I was "home" and resolved to purchase property in the area.

Fast forward a year; I received a call from my father asking us to come to his forthcoming wedding "in a stone church on Lookout Mountain." Unbeknownst to me, he had purchased land in a neighboring county and was building a log home for his new bride. It was soon after that I purchased 15 acres in the western lee of Lookout. Nearly 30 years later, he still lives in that log home, and I have begun plans in earnest to build my cypress home overlooking Lookout.

Back to the beginning of my first journey through Alabama: we were heading to Canada to visit my favorite uncle, an artist and fellow wanderer. The impression that the Little River Canyon made on me inspired me to pen a little poem about the journey, sitting on the shore of an idyllic northern Ontario lake with Uncle Niilo. As we listened to the loons, wondering where that lonely late night train was going, and with firelight and sparkling full moon shine in our eyes, we talked deep into the dark. He painted a lovely oil painting for me, inspired by my poem about the Little River shortly before he went deeper into the dark for the last time, alone.



The painting hangs reverently as a treasured memory.

I still explore, take photographs, and write poetry about some of the favored scenes. I hope you enjoy this one-inspired by the laughing Little River waters.

I sense the pull of laughing waters
cool and deep 'tween mountains blue.
To splash and paddle with the otters,
brothers, friends, tried and true.

On my heart the tug of rainbows
draws so strong I shan't resist.
In heart mine the spirit flows,
of currents long despite the twists.

I hear the echoes of the loons,
calling, calling, 'cross the lake.
Has it been that many moons
since last I stirred, soul mine awake?

As I glide upon the mirror,
cannot help but so believe;
to the peace, never nearer,
in heart mine 'twill ne'er leave.

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1

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Marilyn Slaton
Patrick Coots
August Shanklin
Patrick Long
Nicholas King
Allie Cowart
Terry Hutcheson

2

Karen Potts
Byrum Emory
Virgil Battles

3

Nick Black
Jared Webb
Allison Powell
Josh Rosson
Craig Hughes
Mason Tubberville
Reba Coleman
Johnnie Lewchuk
Randy Fowler
Luke Milford

4

Jack Carden
Bennett (BJ) Browder
Deb Smith
Ashley Hulkan
Lana Miller

5

Steven McElhaney
Chris Underwood
Seth Williams
Donna Smith

6

Dawson Crow
Dustin Burt
Corey Powelll

7

Jim Blalock
Marcus Crider
LaShae Jones
Zoe Moon
Cassie Battles

8

Daniel Phillips
Kathy Gray
Eian Bain
Doug Kiker
Donna Bailey
Sheila Smith

9

KayLee Kilgore
Skylor Dutton
Mia Woods
Braylie Callahan

10

Steve Lanier
Addison McClure
Ryan Tramel
Caroline Baty
Alan Bell

11

Kanissa Smith
Brooklyn Carroll
Lacie Keith
Kori Willingham
Dylan Carter
Garrett Collins

12

Charles Gray
Cindy Harrison
Juliegh McKenzie
John Walters
Abby Boatwright

13

Jordan Goza
Sissy Crider
Brody Battles
Myles Battles
Tracie Pullen

14

Will Blackburn
Dave Vest
Jeffrey Hopper
Park Nelson
Paul Crawford
Teena Bain
Michele Walsh
Ava Harrison
Bella Harrison
Dylan Flannigan
Sheila Meadows
Courtney Stone

15

Jason Dean
Tatum Lanier
Paul Zulker
Will Battles
Chelsea Stephenson
Lexi West
Chasity Williams
Lana Harris

16

Nathan Hargrove
Margie Daniel
Tricia Shankles
Kendall Shankles
Johnny Lewchuk

17

Christopher Black
Valerie Burt
Justin Battles
Waylon Burton
Nolan Stinson
Kristen Wilborn
Hannah Carden
Donna Spears

18

Loy Langston
Lily Cash
Kaye Kiker
Stone Cross
Laura Catherine Moon
Nicki Barksdale

19

Danny Cross
Anna Bobo
Avery May Kilgore

20

Becky Langston
Lindsay Black
Bailee Carter
Jeff Clure
Craig Hulkan
Paul Whittle
Jason Cyrus

21

Tonya Hilyer
Paxton Harper
Brianna Powell
Peggy Johnston
Tony Hammonds
Gwen White

22

Linda Clark
Ian Hilyer
Emily Norman
Charlie Runnels
Jordan McGinnis

23

Amanda Smith
Taylor Blalock
Logan Chambers
Emmie Chambers
Reid Davis

Marc Pardue
Chris McMahan
Sandra Ward
Jim Pullen
Bayle Money

24

Phyllis Bailey

25

Rylee Vest
Bill Berry
Jeremy Webb
Kali Haynes
Austin Cuzzort
Jenny Lewchuk
Taylor Filmore
Martha Harris
Lane Owen
Josephine Blalock

26

Claire Wilkinson
Pam Dean
Gracie Carol Butler
Megan Smith
Maggie Chaney

27

Dexter Smith
Kelley Hughes
John David Nelson
Johnny Eberhart
Kailey Cameron

28

Debbie Flannigan
Kelly Owen
Sam Shanklin

29

Eli Shanklin
Trip Battles
Kayla Hamilton
Regina Boatwright

30

Zack Dean
Zach Bain
Rachel Collins

31

Hunter Battles
Matt Lee
Paige Wright
Gunnar Elkins
Koopar Elkins
Bella Smith
Ed Porter

Anniversaries

1

Casey & Tracy Cartwright

2

Ladon & Donna Willingham

3

Brooks & Haley Moore

7

Justin & Jamie Shankles
Charles Robert & Angie Hammon

9

Al & Vickie Blackburn

10

Corey & Brandy Dupree

13

John Paul & Teresa Verdon

14

Ryan & Kristy Pridmore

16

Josh & Ashley Coffman
Gene & Karen Potts

18

Zach & Tamara Bain

20

Charles & Amanda Gray

22

John & Lisa Moore

23

John & Alisha Lawton
Craig & Greta Hall

24

Jamie & Gequetta Darwin
Don & Yvonne Brock

25

Donald & Karen Saferite

27

Trey & Allison Kincer

29

Heath & Amy Jones

Happy Day!

Ruby O’Rear’s Diaries
(continued from page 5)

July 25, 1936, Saturday
Warmer. J.B. has tonsillitis yesterday & to-day. I ironed my clothes all up. Paul & A.J. went to Mentone. I worked a little on fence. Had 24 guineas to hatch out of 26 eggs. Cow seemed perfectly contented to-day. Jessie ironed. Heard there was case of paralysis at Lookout Mt. Camp. [?] heard that it was not that. Paul & A.J. gone riding.

July 26, 1936, Sunday
Warm. Temp above 90. Killed 2 fryers. Ethel & Hope came out. Ethel brot 2 bu. of peaches. Ethel & A.J. went to V.H. Hope & Paul made pig crate & Hope took sow to Menlo to be bred.

Taking her to Bill Majors. We made a freezer of ice cream. A.J. & Paul gone riding.

July 27, 1936, Monday
Warm. Didn’t feel well. Canned 8 qt of peaches & fixed some for peach butter. Washed Mother’s hair. Paul went for mail. Mother had kind of fainty spell & I had to stay with her. Crocheted some. Beverly took some peaches to Mrs. Emerson in morn & stay over there til after dinner.

July 28, 1936, Tuesday
Warm. Temp 93. Paul & A.J. went to Chattanooga & took Ethel. This was her birthday. Jessie washed. I washed dishes & got dinner. Canned 4 qt peaches & 2 qt & 1 pt cucumber pickles. Another guinea hatched to-day.

Making 25 out of 26 eggs. Still have 11 of older bunch.

July 29, 1936, Wednesday
Warm in morn. Shower in P.M. Canned another qt pickles. Crocheted quite a bit to-day. Paul dug onions this morn. I went with Paul for mail. Had a nice shower in P.M.

July 30, 1936, Thursday
Cooler. Finished crocheted skirt except band. Billy E. came over. A.J. went to Lafayette. 3 cases of polio there & on to S’ville. Paul, A.J. & I went to V.H & got 1½ bu grapes & some peaches at Ethel’s.

July 31, 1936, Friday
Cool & rainy. Temp 62 in morn. Didn’t go above 70 degrees all day. Mother leaned over [?] & a crick stuck her in

back. She thot it was broke but she sat down then lay down but we couldn’t get her up her back hurt so bad. Sent for Dr. Floyd. He gave her some pain relief medicine & we got her up & bed straightened up & her back in it. I only had to get up twice in nite & roll her over. Had fire in heater all day. She didn’t eat any all day. Paul & A.J went to V.H. for linament.

“I’d love to connect with some of the families who know the history of this house and the land around it,” said Chris. If you would like to share any information or stories about Ruby O’Rear, please email groundhognews@yahoo.com.

Mentone Area Church Directory

Mentone, Alabama

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

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

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

Mentone Community Church invites you to Crosswalk Sunday School (K through Adult) 9:15am, Adult Worship Service 10:30am, JC Kids Worship Service 10:30am. Pastor Heath Croft, 334-315-3459. Van Ministry for Children pick-up/take home, ages K-12, for all surrounding areas 8:15am. Wednesday small group study 6:30pm. 90 Summerville Rd. 256-634-4210.

Mentone United Methodist Church invites you to come and worship with us. Each Sunday our worship service is held at 11am and is led by Rev. Robert (Bob) Reynolds. Sunday School is at 10am. The service of Holy Communion is held the first Sunday of each month and fifth Sundays are a service of music. 415 Cutler Avenue. 256-634-8006.

Moon Lake Baptist Church is a growing community of believers from various walks of life who endeavor to share the light, life, and love of Jesus with all we meet. We gather together for practical Bible study at 10am on Sunday. You can count on an encouraging and life-engaging message at 11am each Sunday. At 6pm, on Sunday, we enjoy a time of praying together. On Wednesdays at 6pm, we have groups for our children, students, and adults. 4671 Al Hwy. 117. 256-634-4568. Connect with us on Facebook at "Moon Lake" or Pastor Mike at "Mike Ellis".

Mt. Calvary Baptist Church offers Sunday School on Sunday mornings at 10am (EST) and Worship Service at 11am (EST). Pastor Jack Green. 10090 County Road 103. 706-862-6221.

St. Joseph's on-the-Mountain Episcopal Church and Sacred Garden is open daily for prayer and thanksgiving. Everyone is welcome to join us, in person or online, for Holy Eucharist each Sunday at 10:30 am, and for online only services each Tuesday at 12 noon for Noonday Prayers and each Thursday at 8pm for Compline. Please visit our website at stjom.dioala.org for more information. We continue to support our community with outreach, so please call our church office at 256-634-4476 if you need assistance. 21145 Scenic Hwy, PO Box 161, Mentone, AL 35984.

Summit Church of God in Mentone invites you to Sunday School 10am, Sunday Worship 11am. Pastor Brian Hughes. 1792 AL Hwy. 117. 256-706-5705.

Hammondville, Alabama

The **Church of God 7th Day** invites you to Sabbath School classes at 9:30am and Worship Service at 11am. Visitors are always welcome. Located just off Hwy. 11 N. at corner of Hwy. 117 and Palmer Road. 256-717-5040.

Greater Vision Ministries Church of God invites you to Sunday School 10 am, Sunday Worship *10:45 am, (*Nursery & Kid's

Church). MidWEEK re-charge Wednesday 6:30pm. Pastor Tim Coppock. 38623 US Hwy 11. 256-601-0679.

Valley Head, Alabama

Lea's Chapel Baptist Church welcomes you to worship with us. 10am Sunday Bible Study, 11am Morning Worship, 6pm Evening Worship. Wednesday 6–8pm Awana (ages 4–18); 6:30pm Praise and Prayer time. 4212 County Road 751. 256-635-1001.

Valley Head Baptist Church invites you to come and worship with us. On Sunday, Bible Study is at 10am & Morning Worship is at 11am; Kidz Connection is at 5pm, Evening Worship at 6pm. Kidz Connection & Youth meet on Wednesday from 5–6pm & a snack supper is provided. On the second Wednesday of the month, there is a church-wide covered dish Fellowship Meal at 6pm. 265 Church Street. 256-465-1242.

Visitors are always welcome at **Valley Head United Methodist Church**. Please join us each Sunday morning for a traditional worship service at 9:30am. Tony Gunter is the Pastor. All are welcome. 146 Church St.

Let your light shine.
—Matthew 5:15–16

Wildwood Seventh Day Adventist Church, Mentone Chapter, holds services in Moon Lake Baptist Church's dining hall. All are invited to attend. Sabbath School and Song Service 9:30–10:45am, Worship Service 11am–12:15pm. Pastor - Wilbur Atwood; Lay Pastors - James Hartley and Ryan Bunnel.

Fort Payne, Alabama

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

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

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

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

Highland Baptist Church welcomes you to join us for Sunday Morning Worship Service and Youth Sunday School from 10am-11am. We are located at 2004 Clark Ave. Follow us on Facebook @highlandbaptistfp for updates and events!

New Oregon United Methodist Church is located just off DeSoto Parkway, 1/4 mile south of Fischer Crossroads. We invite you to worship with us on Sundays. Our worship services are at 11am and also on Sunday evenings in the Chapel 6pm. You can also worship with us on-line @ facebook.com/neworegonumc. We have Wonderful Wednesdays during the school year with Bible studies for all ages meeting at 6pm in the Family Life

Center. Pastor Ian Conerly. 1204 New Oregon Drive NE. 256-845-7446.

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

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

St. Stephen Anglican Church invites you to attend service on Sunday mornings at 1pm. Sunday School is at Noon. 1519 Smith Gap Road NW. Father Rodney Jackson, 205-405-0055; Deacon Jack Gilbreath, 256-845-2605.

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

Cloudland, Georgia

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

Menlo, Georgia

Alpine Community Church Pastor Jeremy Stroop welcomes each and everyone to worship service Sunday mornings at 11am GA time; Sunday School 10am (EST); and Wednesday night Bible Study at 7pm (EST). 1104 Hwy. 337, Menlo GA. 706-862-6641.

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

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

Summerville, Georgia

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

Summerville Seventh Day Adventist Church invites you to worship with us. Saturday morning Sabbath School classes at 9:30am (EST) and Worship Service at 11am (EST). Everyone is welcome. Services are held at the First Presbyterian Church, 116 College Street. The Pastor is Dr. Edward Skoretz. summervillesda.com

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

SENIOR HEALTH

Fraud Surrounding COVID-19 Is Increasing

by Lynn Hixon

As the number of people and communities affected by the COVID-19 pandemic grows, so do the scams associated with it. Scammers use public health emergencies as opportunities for new fraud schemes, and because older adults are at greater risk for serious illness from COVID-19, they may target older populations.

It is important to remember that although the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and other public health officials may contact you if they believe you may have been exposed to the virus, they will not need to ask you for insurance or financial information.

Scammers rapidly alter their tactics and adapt their schemes to the changing landscape, and we anticipate that they will leverage the COVID-19 vaccine to prey on unsuspecting beneficiaries. Be vigilant and protect yourself from potential fraud concerning COVID-19 vaccines and treatments.

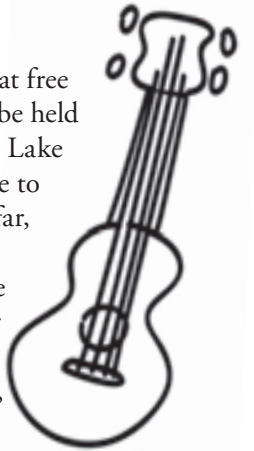
If you have any questions or concern, please call the Council on Aging at 256-845-8590 and ask to speak to Lynn.

Ukulele Sessions to Resume!

by Debra Fey

Mickey Luck, Jerry Megli, and I are pleased to announce that free ukulele sessions will be resuming with the first session to be held (tentatively) on Saturday, August 7, at 2 p.m. at the Moon Lake Community Library. Since the popular sessions were interrupted due to the pandemic, there will be some review of the chords learned thus far, then future sessions will introduce us to new chords and tunes.

Unfortunately there will be no loaner instruments available, since those were the property of Moon Lake School, so plan to bring your own uke (or go buy one right now!), practice the chords you know, and get ready to STRUM AND BE HAPPY! For more information, feel free to call/text to my phone at 404-630-2918, or follow us on the Mentone Ukes Facebook page.



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FOREST BATHING

by Alyce Kenney

"When I am among the trees, especially the willows and the honey locust, equally the beech, the oaks and the pines, they give off such hints of gladness. I would almost say that they save me, and daily."

—MARY OLIVER, POET

We are all so very fortunate to be living in our region, surrounded by the lush forests full of magnificent trees, meandering streams and rivers, and a multitude of diverse wildlife. Sure, we probably know this, but do we really take a look at what surrounds us every day? Do we really take the time to enjoy all the beauty and pleasantness that nature provides? Some of us suffer from "nature deficit" disorder, which really means we are spending too much time connected to technology or a work schedule with demands and stressors and not spending time in the great outdoors.

Partaking in Forest Bathing is one way to become reacquainted with the gifts that nature provides. Forest Bathing is the practice of entering a forest (or other nature-setting) and becoming fully aware of one's environment. This means leaving life's demands, deadlines, and technology behind and opening all of our senses to the natural environment. By taking a slow and deliberate walk through a forest, one can begin to notice the



sounds of the trickling stream, the dance of the sunlight filtering through the leaves, the scent of the fresh green pines. It is a slowing down to be fully present in the moment.

This form of "ECO-Therapy" began in Japan in the 1980s, when physicians and researchers noted that the people were failing in health due to the urban way of life with its multitude of challenges. Studies conducted that "prescribed" time in nature showed reductions in blood pressure, heart rate, and stress hormones, and an increase in a general sense of well-being.

Continuing research shows the benefits of this practice today.

Today, there are Forest Bathing organizations and scheduled hikes in various parks and nature preserves in Alabama and Georgia. Give yourself and your loved ones a "park prescription." All that is needed to partake in this wonderful experience is sturdy foot wear, some insect repellent, and an open mind to the possibilities for improved health and well-being that await you.



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See page 26.



It's not everyday you find a hawk inside your screen porch! This was the sight David Mays was surprised to find at his Mentone cabin overlooking Little River.

Happily, the confused bird made its way back to freedom.



N•E•W•S by Anne McLeod



Natti Love Joys: Cool Sounds of Reggae for a Hot Summer Night

The Natti Love Joys, from Turtletown, TN, bring a reggae beat to Mentone on July 24 as part of Little River Arts Council's Music for the People Summer Concert Series. A crowd favorite at festivals and events, the Natti Love Joys have rocked the East Coast and beyond since 2003 with a blend of original roots rock reggae and classic Bob Marley covers.

Lead singer Sonia Abel-Allen was part of the Love Joys, a popular all female roots reggae band that performed and recorded in the 1970s and '80s and had the hit song "All I Can Say." Bassist/vocalist Tony Allen is a former member of The Congos, another critically acclaimed reggae band. The Natti Love Joys are the hosts of the Camp Reggae Music Festival in Tennessee. The band has opened for Joan Jett, Three Dog Night, The Clash, The Ramones, and many more.

The concert is from 7 to 10 p.m. on July 24 at the Linger Longer Pavilion directly behind the Mentone Inn at the corner of Highway 117 and County Road 89. Concerts are free, family-friendly, and open to the public. Little River Arts Council will have free grab-and-go art activity bags for kids. The Fontastic Foods truck will set up on site with delicious gourmet sandwiches. Some chairs will be available or bring your own chair or a blanket for a musical evening under the stars.

The concert series continues through September. Next month take a break from the World's Longest Yard Sale and join us for an evening of rock, blues, and funk with the Jess Goggans Band on August 7. Then on September 25 enjoy a showcase of more local favorites: Larry Joe Hall; Dustin Smith; Jerry and Pixie Bloom; Lydia Randolph; and Mark Womack and Robby Jordan. This final concert will start earlier than usual at 5 p.m.

The annual Music for the People series is funded by memberships and donations to Little River Arts Council with additional funding through a grant from the Alabama State Council on the Arts.

Follow Your Art: A Call for Artists for a New Community Event

Little River Arts Council and the Mentone Educational Resources Foundation are collaborating on a new event for 2021. Follow Your Art will be held September 4, the Saturday of Labor Day weekend, from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. at MERF's Pathway to Community Walking Track in Mentone.

Follow Your Art will feature between 20 and 30 local artists and the return of last year's popular sidewalk chalk art contest. Bring the whole family for an uplifting celebration of summer fun with music, art demonstrations, and a visit from the Little Something Extra Ice Cream truck, a remarkable business out of Dawson, AL, whose CEO is Hunter Norwood, a young man with Down syndrome.

The track itself is a destination, since its makeover last year with funds from the Community Foundation of Northeast Alabama's Big Idea Grant. Visitors can browse the track's hand-painted picket fence, play on the chimes and other musical installations on the grounds, rest on the colorful Buddy Benches, and enjoy Lydia Randolph's murals on the storage shed.

Apply to be a vendor by completing the online application at bit.ly/LRACFYA. The Alabama State Council on the Arts is providing additional funds for Follow Your Art.

For more information, email info@littleriverartscouncil.org.

July Pop-Up Artists Markets: Samantha Gilley and Lacy Hope Dobbs



Art by Samantha Gilley

stay-at-home mom, Samantha enjoys the process of creating unique pieces of art.

Lacy Hope Dobbs is a folk artist from Fort Payne. Lacy creates bright, colorful acrylic paintings inspired by the music, artwork, and hippie culture of the 1960s and 70s. Lacy is a board member of the Little River Arts Council and is a co-creator of the local Free Art Friday group, which can be found



Among the artists scheduled to exhibit at Follow Your Art, from L to R, Row 1 above: Angela Rogers, native rock and wood painting; Roby Dumovich, painting; Samantha Gilley, macramé, jewelry; Row 2: Annlyle Johnson, fabric art; Doug Perkins, woodcarving; Mikel Yeakle, photography; Row 3: Ashley Handy, collage; Melissa Gallinetti, ceramic arts; Lookout Mountain Plein Air Artists.



Art by Lacy Hope Dobbs

on Facebook by searching for #FAFFP. Lacy's work can be found at LacyHopeArt.com and at Facebook.com/LacyHopeArt and Instagram @LacyHopeArt. Lacy also has work available at Wildflower Café in Mentone.

Watch Little River Arts Council's Instagram and Facebook accounts for more upcoming artist markets. If you're interested in exhibiting and selling your art at a pop-up, text Destin Padgett at 256-926-8375 for more information.

Anne McLeod serves as secretary for the Little River Arts Council.



Mentone Arts & Cultural Center News by Randy Grider

Debbie Bond CD release and Jim Connor highlight music performances

Music will definitely be on tap this month on the stage inside the Chuck Sennett Center for the Arts with two big acts.

On Friday, July 9, at 7 p.m., renowned blues artist Debbie Bond, accompanied by Radiator Rick, will celebrate her new CD release with a live performance.

Then on Monday, July 12, at 6 p.m., our monthly songwriters round will spotlight three singer-songwriters prior to a return of acclaimed banjo Hall of Famer Jim Connor—best known for writing John Denver's hit, "Grandma's Feather Bed."



Debbie Bond and Radiator Rick will showcase a special show for the new CD release "Blues Without Borders" on July 9.

Debbie Bond

Debbie Bond, an American singer, guitar player, and songwriter, has been performing for decades in the Alabama backwoods and is now a regular on the Southern United States and European club and festival circuit.

Influenced by raw juke joint blues and the famed sounds of Muscle Shoals, Debbie's impressive story includes years of performing with traditional Alabama blues musicians, like Johnny Shines, Eddie Kirkland, Willie King, Shar Baby, Little Jimmy Reed, and more. Immersion in Alabama roots music has deeply flavored her guitar playing, soulful voice, and original song writing, giving her a contemporary and original sound, with soul, blues, and jazz influences. Debbie's collaboration with British-born keyboard and harmonica player "Radiator" Rick has added a swampy New Orleans edge to her sound. They are partners in life, love and music—and co-writers on all the tunes on their new all-original release, "Blues Without Borders."



Bond is a blues activist and founder of the award-winning Alabama Blues Project, a non-profit dedicated to promoting and preserving the state's blues heritage. She is the recipient of numerous awards, including a "Keeping the Blues Alive Award" from the Blues Foundation, and a prestigious "Coming Up Taller Award" for her blues education work with the Alabama Blues Project. She has been inducted into the Alabama Music Hall of Fame as a "Blues Achiever" and the national Blues Hall of Fame as a "Great Blues Artist."

The special admission is \$20 per person and \$30 per couple and includes a copy of her new CD.

Jim Connor

Jim Connor, who was the feature of our virtual songwriters round in May is excited to return to a live audience. He was a member of the Kingston Trio (1968–1973). Earlier, he had formed a duo with Richard Lockmiller called R & J. They toured Europe and England with success and recorded an album while in London. They also opened Barbra Streisand's original New York nightclub show. Connor's song, "Grandma's Feather Bed," became one of John Denver's greatest worldwide hits at the peak of Denver's career in the 1970s onward.

Connor has played harmonica for Claire Lynch and for Linda Ronstadt on "Love Is A Rose" and has appeared in specials with Dolly Parton, The Wayfarers, Judy Collins, and John Denver, plus dozens more Nashville and Hollywood stars. He has



Jim Connor will be featured performer of the July 12 songwriters round.

earned multiple gold and platinum records for his songs and work with most of the above artists. In 2018, Jim was inducted into the Alabama Bluegrass Hall of Fame.

Songwriters rounds place an emphasis on the art and craft of songwriters.

Other songwriters participating in the round prior to Connor are:

- Jesse Landers, a singer-songwriter from North Georgia who has been a songwriter since age 15. He hosts a podcast called "The Georgia Songbirds," started a band called Yes M.A.M. (which stands for Middle Aged Men).
- Phillip David Harris, a Nashville-published songwriter currently living in Steele, AL. For the past two years, he has had several songs published with Banner Music Publishing on Music Row. He has co-written an entire album with country artist Tommy Wood that received a nomination for album of the year with the prestigious Josie Awards in 2020.
- Andrew Henley is an 18-year-old who was raised singing in church in Oneonta, AL, where he developed a love for music. He started writing poetry at a very young age and eventually his love for poetry joined with his love for music and he began to write songs. Andrew writes about themes of love, growing up, mental health, and heartbreak through folk-inspired music.
- The songwriters round is hosted by Craig Hendricks. Serving as the night's host, Craig is a touring singer-songwriter who lives in Mentone. He is a 2021 Josie Music Award nominee for Songwriter of the Year (Personal Catalog) and for seven songs for Songwriter Achievement. He is a Nashville recording artist under contract with Century Records. He was recently nominated the Best Male County Artist by the Alabama Music Awards. He also received 2021 World Songwriter Award for Best Traditional County Song.

We ask for a suggested \$15 donation per person for the round to help cover songwriters' travel expenses.

For more information about these events and updates about any upcoming educational classes, please visit the Events section of our Facebook page or contact us via information listed below.

Randy Grider is executive director of the Mentone Arts & Cultural Center, Inc. He can be reached at mentoneartscenter@gmail.com or 256-674-3366.

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Local artist Barbara Umland recently led a fairy house workshop at the center. Each student created their own unique house shown here.

Rhododendron Garden Club by Rhea Pirch



The Rhododendron Garden Club met on Tuesday, June 8, at 10 a.m. at the MERF House. It was our first in-person meeting since March of last year, so we were all delighted to see each other once again, face-to-face. Ten members attended the meeting, plus four guests (who we hope will become members.) Mary McMichael provided the refreshments and Dianne Kuehl read the meditation, a poem by Edward Guest called "Plant a Garden."

For roll call, each member introduced themselves to our guests and brought in or named a flower growing in our gardens. Bouquets of hydrangea, roses, coreopsis, tiger lilies and daylilies, lavender, begonias, snapdragons, catmint, lemon balm and cosmos filled vases on the tables.

After roll call, the business portion of the meeting began. The treasurer's report was presented and accepted into the record. Since we didn't meet formally in May, there were no minutes to be read.

Martha Wood gave the horticulture report. She reminded us that trimming the stems and removing the dead flower heads of perennial flowers like phlox and asters will keep them from looking untidy and encourage new blooms to last through summer. She also recommended a go-to book for gardening with perennials: "The Well-Tended Perennial Garden: The Essential Guide to Planting and Pruning Techniques" by Traci DiSabato-Aust.

We then reviewed past and new business matters. The plan for a foundation planting of rhododendron along the MERF House has been delayed by construction, so we will plant them in the fall, when the temperatures are cooler.

The fall flower show will be held at the VFW Fairgrounds in Fort Payne during the county fair, from September 27 through October 2. Mellanie Tuttle will again chair the show. The theme this year will be "Brush Strokes." Floral designs will reflect paintings by masters such as Gauguin, VanGogh, and Monet.

A brunch was recently held by the Northeast Federation of Garden Clubs, which represents five local garden clubs from Rainsville, Cherokee County, Ider, Fort Payne, and Mentone, and which sponsors the fall flower show. The brunch was held to review the activities of the garden clubs, and to install new officers. Mellanie Tuttle was installed as First Vice-President, and I was installed as the secretary. There was also a silent auction of gardening items and decorations to raise money for the flower show.



Mellanie Tuttle's winning photograph, "Looking for My Folks"

We all thanked Dianne Kuehl for designing the garden club yearbook, which we refer to for member phone numbers and reminders of upcoming meetings. We also thanked Dee Kelley, who maintains the garden spot in front of the Mentone Post Office and passed a motion to give her additional monies to buy new plants for this area.

Once the business matters were complete, Alyce Kenney presented her program on "Forest Bathing." (See article on page 20.) This is a practice that we all can take advantage of with the abundance of nature that surrounds us.

Congratulations go to Mellanie Tuttle! She was recently awarded a virtual blue ribbon for her entry in the American Daffodil Society virtual photography show competition. The photo she entered was taken on the grounds of the historic 166-year-old McKown House in Valley Head, which burned down on December 3, 2019. Mellanie took her ribbon-winning photo on March 10 of this year, giving homage to the daffodils that still bloom each year around the ruins of the structure.

You are invited to our next meeting, which will be held on Tuesday, July 13, at 10 a.m. at the MERF House. Misty Watters from Moon Lake Trading will be our guest speaker, presenting a program on "How to Create a Miniature Garden." In the meantime, follow the Rhododendron Garden Club on Facebook, or send any questions to our e-mail, rhododendrongardenclub@gmail.com.

Rhea Pirch is the secretary for the Rhododendron Garden Club.



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A flower blossoms
for its own joy.
-Oscar Wilde



River Voice by Angie Shugart

“...the care of the earth is our most ancient and most worthy and, after all, our most pleasing responsibility. To cherish what remains of it, and to foster its renewal, is our only legitimate hope.” —Wendell Berry

Little River is one of the most unique and diverse rivers in the Southern Appalachian Mountain chain and is among some of the most biodiverse ecosystems in the southeastern states, meaning that it contains a wide variety of plants and animals. Everywhere you look, trees, plants, birds, fish, and insects are all connected to a much larger picture.

According to a 2016 study by the River Basin Center, the University of Georgia and the Tennessee Aquarium Conservation Institute, the southeastern United States is a global hotspot of freshwater biodiversity, supporting almost two-thirds of the country’s fish species.

Unfortunately, this region is also a hotspot for imperilment. The number of imperiled freshwater fish species in the southeast has risen 125% in the past 20 years, in part because recent intensive human development of the region is coupled with a low priority for conservation.

So, how do we change the bleak future of freshwater species going extinct and irreparable damage to our freshwater resources? Awareness and conservation efforts, especially within river corridors. As a small clean water advocacy organization, we cannot change the world but we can hopefully, make a positive impact through education and awareness in our corner of the world.

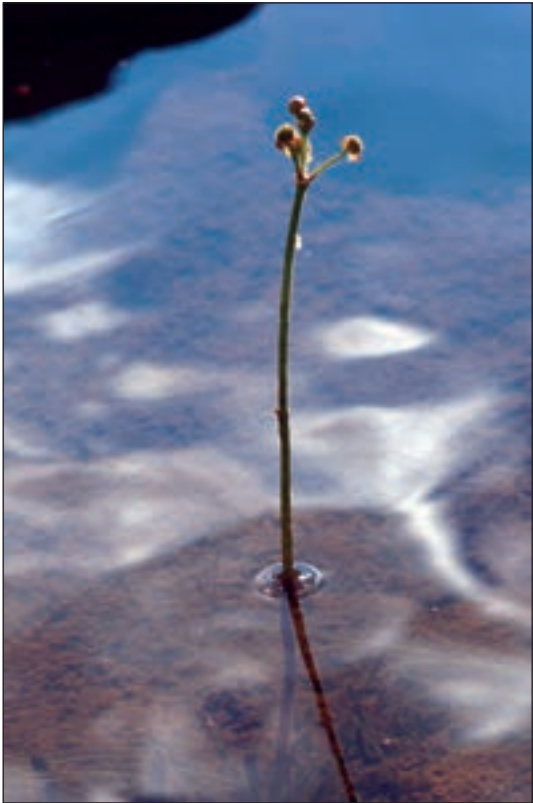
A watershed assessment was conducted on Little River within the boundaries of Little River Canyon National Preserve by Western Kentucky University

in 2008 and published by the NPS in 2011. The study assessed the condition of the water, landscape characteristics, geology, and soil characteristics, and also identified potential stressors, threats, and disturbances within the 13,633-acre park and the 18,000 acres designated as Wildlife Management Area. The study reveals that Little River contains

a significant number of abiotic and biotic natural resources. Little River and its tributaries have carved a series of scenic waterfalls stretching from DeSoto Falls to Johnny’s Creek. It is also a sanctuary to a number of rare plants and animals that are either threatened or endangered, such as the gray bat, Rafinesque’s big-eared bat, the blue shiner fish, the green pitcher plant, harperella, and the Kral’s water plantain. There are several dragonflies, damselflies, and mayflies that are only found in our watershed and can only be linked to water that is unpolluted.

The conclusion is that although we have this

amazing river that flows through our communities, human activities are a huge stressor to the pristine resource. Erosion from development and logging along riverbanks is one of the biggest threats to the Little River. Sediment pollution is more prominent in our watershed than ever. Keeping river and stream banks intact is vital to maintaining good water quality. Take Kral’s water plantain as an example: This plant species is now found only in the Little River Watershed and can only thrive in shallow, rocky habitats. The biggest



Sagittaria secundifolia, Kral’s water plantain

threat for this special plant species is sediment. There are special plants everywhere that are connected to another special plant or animal species.

Homeowners can help us keep Little River pristine by keeping their land as natural as possible. The next time you want to spray chemicals to kill weeds, clear your river or streambank to the water’s edge, spray the soil off your rocky landscape, or create a better view, please consider the negative impact it would have on the environment. It is our responsibility as humans to be good stewards of the resources that we depend on. We cannot recreate the services that nature provides. Let’s leave it for future generations to enjoy as we do today.

Angie Shugart is the executive director of Little River Waterkeeper, a 501(c)(3) water advocacy program and a member of the Waterkeeper Alliance, a global clean water movement. Learn more at littleriverwaterkeeper.org. Donations are tax-deductible. 215 Grand Ave. SW Fort Payne, AL 35967.



**Little River Canyon National Preserve
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Created by Nathan Rinehart/Geography and Geology,
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Returning to Normalcy

by Anna Mae Horn



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The leaves of our mountain are rustling with change. Doors being closed; new ideas being discussed. However, many aspects of life are finally returning to a “new normal” after an anomalous year.

With the closure of our treasured Moon Lake Elementary School, the Moon Lake Community Library board would like to assure patrons, community members, and visitors that the library doors are still open to serve the community. We look forward to seeing everyone as you begin making your trips back to the library. Please, remember to social distance and adhere to CDC guidelines.

Currently, we are open on our regular summer schedule: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday, 10 a.m. to noon. We welcome you to browse the shelves for checkouts or purchases. Don't forget, we also offer curbside service. Go to moonlakelibrary.org, choose your book, and find a convenient pick-up time. Private browsing can also be arranged on limited dates.

Moon Lake Book Club will be put on hold during the summer months to allow members time to catch up on casual reading, to garden, and to enjoy the beautiful outdoors. Book Club reading will resume in the fall, hopefully in person.

With regular hours scheduled, the library is resuming volunteer help to assist with library duties. (This would be alongside another worker, not alone.)

The commitment is only a few hours per month. If you enjoy the library and would like to give a few hours, please reach out to us through social media, by email, or contact a board member.

Moon Lake Community Library is excited to offer the final edition of the Moon Lake Elementary School yearbook for sale! This special edition not only reflects activities of the final year, but also serves as a commemorative keepsake of the school's history and legacy. You may purchase one at the library for only \$15.

Several lucky people purchased a yearbook early at our June book sale—which was a great success. The BOGOF (Buy One, Get One Free) sale was very popular at the Farmer's Market. Therefore, we will continue the sale through July at the library. Thank you all for supporting the library.

As you read last month, Kelly Leavitt has resigned her position as librarian. Over the years, Kelly has welcomed many patrons into the library, assisted them with her knowledge, and hosted public events. She has brought several ideas to the table that increased community engagement. The library board truly appreciates Kelly's numerous contributions of her time and of herself. We wish her well as she continues giving to the Mentone community in a variety of ways.

Anna Mae Horn is the vice chair of the Moon Lake Community Library board.



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In 2019, Little River Escape Tiny Home Community was named one of the nation's top 6 tiny home communities by *U.S. News & World Report*. As a result, LRE is now fully occupied by folks who have come from 12 different states and even Venezuela. We have decided to embark on a new journey by creating River Ridge Escape Tiny Home Dealership, where tiny homes are available to tour. RRE is now delivering across the nation, as well as developing 4 new tiny home communities on or near Lookout Mountain.

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In Memoriam

RUTH REECE GRIFFITH August 30, 1932 ~ June 10, 2021



Mrs. Ruth Reece Griffith, age 88, of Menlo, GA, died Thursday, June 10, 2021, at her daughter's residence in Trion, GA.

Mrs. Griffith was born August 30, 1932, in Menlo, GA, daughter of the late Robert M. and Mattie Lawson Reece. She attended Menlo First Baptist Church and

was previously a member of Mount Calvary Baptist Church. Prior to her retirement, she was employed with Best Manufacturing, where she was also a member of the Best Silver Club.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Glenn Griffith; brothers, John Reece, Leroy Reece, Bill Reece, and David Reece; and a sister, Mae Purcell.

Survivors include her daughter, Pat (Andy) Tudor; sister, Robbie (Al) Kopacka; grandchildren, Michael (Heather) Butler, Amanda Butler; and great-grandchild, Abby Butler.

MICHAEL ANTHONY BARNES May 27, 1975 ~ June 11, 2021



Michael Anthony Barnes, age 46 of Menlo, Georgia passed away Friday, June 11, 2021 at the Redmond Regional Medical Center.

Anthony was born in Summerville, Georgia on May 27, 1975, son of Edith Darlene Gilley and James Michael Barnes. He was a member of the North Summerville Baptist Church and was the owner of Barnes Paintless Dent Repair.

Anthony is survived by his mother, Darlene Gilley; father and stepmother, Mike and Angie Barnes; son, Hayden Barnes; daughters, Laney Barnes and Cara Barnes; sisters, Michelle Stone, Jenna Barnes Caron, Lauren Stephens and April Mitchell; and a number of nieces and nephews.

JOHN E. MAJORS May 7, 1939 ~ June 11, 2021

John E. Majors, age 82, of Massey Road, Menlo, GA passed away Friday evening, June 11, 2021, at his residence. He was born in Fulton County, GA on May 7, 1939 to the late James Parker and Edna Switzer Majors. Mr. Majors was a member of the Menlo Baptist Church, a Veteran of Korea, having served in the U. S. Army, and was Manager (Retired) for Otis Elevator Company. In addition to Parents He was predeceased by a daughter, the late Kathy Steiner and a sister, the late Edna Elizabeth Majors.

Surviving are his wife, Gloria Lynch Majors; daughter, Diana Blaszk; son, Gary Pavelka; brother, James Majors; seven grandchildren, one great granddaughter; nieces and nephews.

In lieu of flowers, the family has requested contributions to Chattooga County Animal Advocates, P. O. Box 220, Summerville, Georgia-30747.



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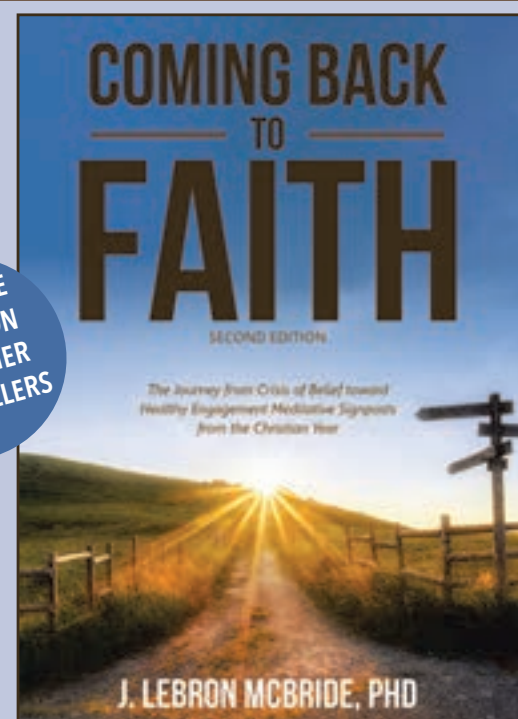
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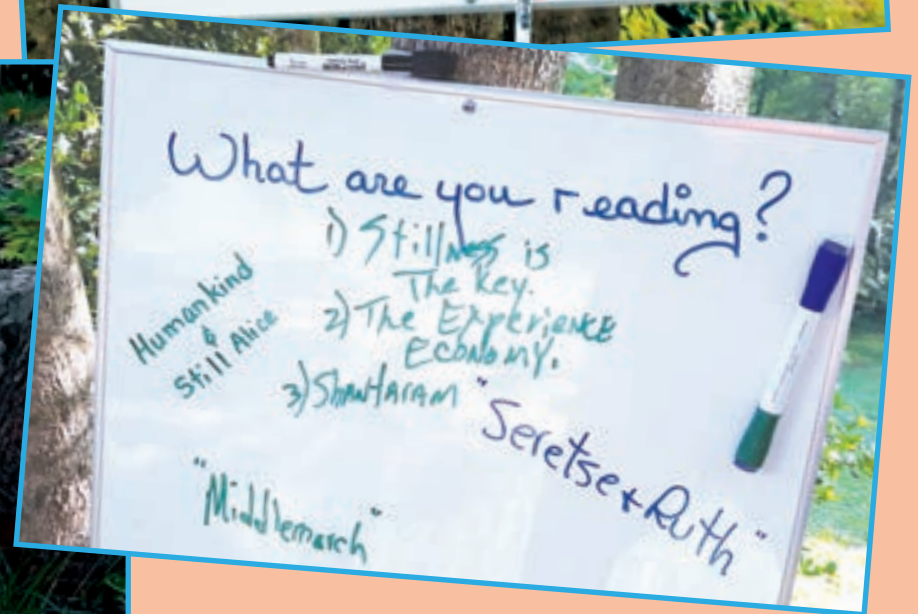
COMING BACK TO FAITH, by J. LeBron McBride, PhD, is not about arguing theology but about providing practical insights and meditations to enhance the Christian journey. This book is for all who are going through a transition or crisis in their faith, even those who have left the faith, literally or emotionally and intellectually and who may be attempting to return in a new way. Perhaps there is a way for you to come back to faith. It is the hope of the author of this work that *COMING BACK TO FAITH* will be a sensitive, positive, and caring beacon of hope along the way.

J. LEBRON MCBRIDE and his wife have a cabin for couples in Mentone in Laurel Creek Lakes (Suite Retreat) managed by mentonecabins.com and they love Mentone. They reside on a farm in Rome, GA.

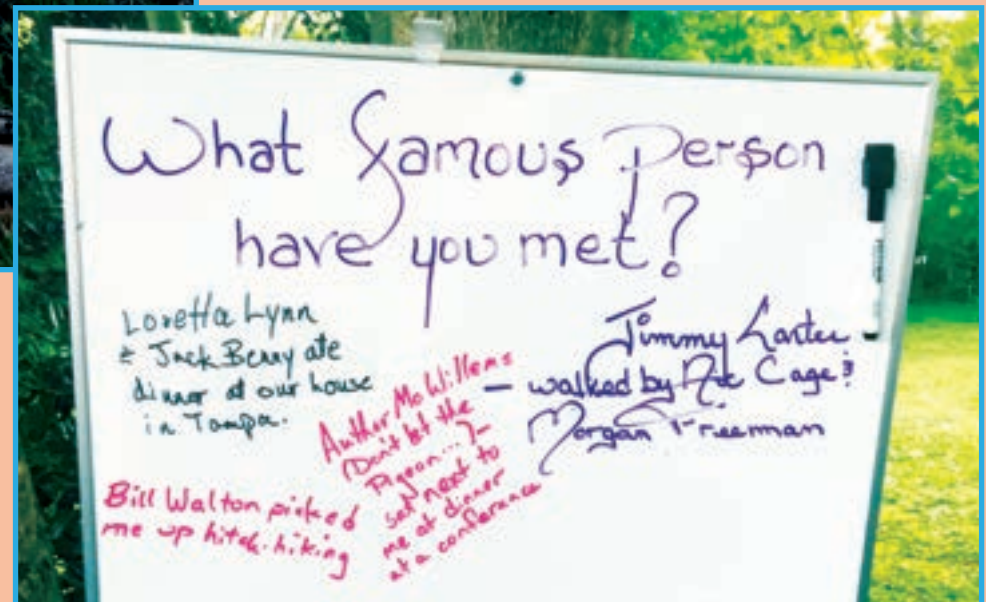
www.lebronmcbride.com

If you happen to be walking along Cutler Avenue in Mentone, you may notice this playful sign placed by a curious resident. The sign invites walkers to answer a variety of questions that seem to change weekly.

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