

FREE

Published by the
Mentone Area Preservation Association
P. O. Box 387, Mentone, AL 35984



Standard Mail (A)
U.S. Postage PAID
Permit No. 1
Mentone, AL 35984

Address Service Requested

THE GROUNDHOG

“Neighborly News from the Heart of Lookout Mountain”

JUNE 2023

A Special Visit for the Jones Cousins

by Kelly Leavitt

Shira Jones Iles and her husband, Gary, were speaking with a friend who lives in their Houston neighborhood—Tanya Smith Mobley, who watches their pets when they’re away. One day, Tanya mentioned that her family is from Mentone, Alabama. Surprised by this, Shira explained that she also has family in Mentone, although she had never met them (other than a few she met when she was five years old).

Shira is a descendant of Eldridge J. Jones, born in 1811, and one of this area’s earliest homesteaders. Two of Eldridge’s sons, Jesse and James (Shira’s grandfather), had moved to Texas, but many of his descendants remain in Mentone.

Shira and Gary are fans of the Houston Gamblers, a USFL football team. When they learned their team was playing the Birmingham Stallions on May 13, they knew a trip to Alabama was in order. It was finally time to explore Shira’s ancestral lands.

She hoped to visit Eldridge’s grave, but learned the Jones Cemetery was on private property. She reached out to The Groundhog and the Mentone Town Hall for assistance and was thrilled to find a way to visit the family graveyard and be connected with new-found cousins.

The graveyard is on the grounds of the Berry Patch, a 40-acre family compound on East River Road. Originally the homestead of Eldridge and Elizabeth Lane Jones, the property was bought around 1920 by Dr. William Berry.

I contacted Shira’s cousin, Marsha Merrell, and she graciously invited me to join the group when they met for the graveyard visit.

Marsha, her cousin by marriage Rev. Robert Wolcott and his wife Sylvia, and Robert’s sister, Carolyn Hendon, and her husband Roland, gathered at the Berry Patch home where Dr. Bill Berry was raised. His mother, Marjorie, was also a descendant of Eldridge. (Bill says that his mother joked that she married his father, Jimmy Berry, to get the Jones property back in the family.)

The graveyard is at the rear of the property and is riddled with unmarked stones amongst statelier, engraved gravestones. While it’s not known exactly where Eldridge J. Jones was buried, in 1995, family members pooled their resources and erected a large granite tombstone to memorialize him and his wife, Elizabeth Francina Lane.



L to R: Shira Iles, Robert Wolcott, Marsha Cox Merrell, Carolyn Wolcott Hendon



Robert showed Shira the family Bible that’s in his possession.
L to R: Gary Iles, Shira Iles, Robert Wolcott, and Carolyn Wolcott Hendon

Shira had come prepared with paper and charcoal, and she quickly set out to make rubbings of some of the gravestones. It is a peaceful and shady plot of land, set under towering trees which carry much birdsong.

The group returned to the Berry house, which Robert and Sylvia had bought after the passing of Marjorie. Shira had brought with her a very old, well-crafted wooden box which held family documents and memorabilia. I was reminded of a treasure chest.

One of the “treasures” she brought from Texas was the vest that Eldridge was wearing when he was shot and killed by Union soldiers. The story is familiar to many who grew up in Mentone, and it was interesting that Shira had been told a variation of the story that the Mentone Joneses grew up hearing.

One version is that one day, a Union soldier picked some fruit from one of the property’s trees. The next day the soldier was killed by a Home Guardsman, and, in retaliation, Eldridge was taken three miles from home and shot. It has also been said that Eldridge was taken across the state line and shot. And it’s been said that he was taken to the

brow and shot. Perhaps it is most likely that he was shot on the spot, near his humble and rustic two-room dogtrot cabin.

Kathryn Jones stated in an article about the Jones family in the March, 1984 issue of *The Groundhog*, “Eldridge had refused to fight for either side during the war. He had almost been hanged once — he was strung up — by an outlaw band, supposedly for his conscientious objections to war. Some said [his killing] was retribution for his having refused to marry a daughter to one of the outlaw gang.”

“The day after the Yankee soldier was killed, Eldridge was repairing his front gate. A Union officer arrived to investigate the killing. The officer told Eldridge that Mr. Jones was known to have threatened to kill the first damn Yankee who set foot on his place. Before he left, the officer hit Mr. Jones with a piece of lumber.

“In the night the Union soldiers dragged Eldridge from his bed, and the next morning his body was found about three miles from home, riddled with sixteen bullets.”

(continued on page 6)



Sunset Social June 1

Thursday, June 1 @ 7:15 p.m. • Brow Park

Make new friends while enjoying the sunset from Mentone’s Brow Park on June 1. Plates, forks, cups, water, and name tags will be provided. Please feel free to share a dessert, snack, or beverage.

Crafted from
a 125-year-old
red oak tree...
Now greeting
the community
at the Shigley
Amphitheatre
at Moon Lake
Village!
See page 16
for more.





The Groundhog

Published monthly
by the Mentone Area
Preservation Association

MAPA was first conceived on Groundhog Day, 1982, and then organized on April 5, 1982. *The Groundhog* has been in publication for 40 years.

MAPA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Beverly Haynes PRESIDENT
Joel Leonard VICE PRESIDENT
Chris Davenport TREASURER
Jennifer Zaher SECRETARY
L.C. Moon
Deedee Morrison

GROUNDHOG STAFF

Kelly Leavitt EDITOR/DESIGN

JUNE CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Debra Fey, Randy Grider, Beverly Haynes,
Rob Hammond, Lynn Hixon, Anna Mae Horn,
Juli Jordan, Alyce Kenney, Anne McLeod,
Jerry Megli, Ben Shurrett, Angie Shugart

*Birthday calendar maintained by
Kayla Worthey*

Contact The Groundhog

groundhognews@yahoo.com
P.O. Box 387, Mentone, AL 35984
(256) 289-2002

Contact MAPA

mapamentone.com
mapamentone@gmail.com
P.O. Box 50, Mentone, AL 35984

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

*Groundhog woodcut courtesy of
Meg Justice/Bee Spring Studio*

Find us on 

Mentone Matters

by Mayor Rob Hammond

School is out, the camps are opening, and Mentone’s population will almost triple soon. Please be aware there will be many more people out walking, jogging and biking. As always, during the summer there will be an increased law enforcement presence in Mentone.

The town is applying for a grant to install a charging station for electric vehicles to be located at Moon Lake Village. If the town were awarded the grant, Mentone would be responsible for 20 percent of the cost.

The town contracted with Tree Unlimited to trim and treat the red oak in front of the Moon Lake School building. Upon their arborist’s recommendations, they cut the dead wood and raised and lightened the south side of the tree. The tree was injected with a solution to help with stability and



health (treatment good for three years).

The council approved the purchase of equipment to be used in maintaining streets, right-of-ways, and ditches within the town limits.

The town adopted a new noise ordinance at the last council meeting. We hope to post it on the town website soon at mentonealabama.gov.



From the Editor

by Kelly Leavitt

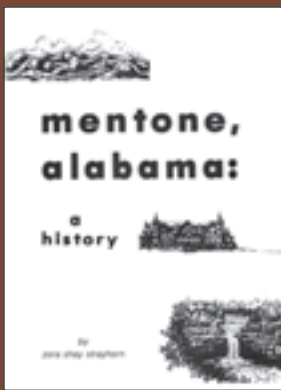
I truly enjoyed so many aspects of editing this issue. Getting to know Shira Iles (see cover article) was a pleasure and it was rewarding to be able to peel back a bit of the Jones family history. In the article, I mention Shila’s neighbor, Tanya. As it turns out, Tanya’s great aunt was Lola Mae Blalock of Mentone, who was known for her quilts. She was also the seamstress who made both Marsha Merrell’s and Sharon Harris’s wedding dresses in the 1960s. As the saying goes, it is a surprisingly small world for such a big rock!

I also enjoyed the time I spent with Ronnie Kinoshita (page 5). The world and its woes can sometimes make me uncertain about the future after I am gone, but more often, I find myself having great faith in the young people. I also happen to think that youth who are raised knowing something of nature—and its beauty, and challenges—have a step up compared to those who have only known the artificiality of cities.

The children who will be living in Mentone this summer as they attend summer camp are truly fortunate to have the experience. It’s said that the Mentone area has the largest number of summer camps than anywhere in the country. I believe the reason for this is that Mentone is truly magical. In fact, one definition of the word is “beautiful or delightful in such a way as to seem removed from everyday life.” We who live in this area are blessed to have the beauty that surrounds us be part of our “everyday life.”

The river will soon become busy with kayakers; the brow will become more crowded with sunset gazers; and the roads will be travelled by more cars and cyclists. I think it’s wonderful that by summer’s end, many thousands of people will have been graced by Mentone’s unique beauty and fresh mountain air.

Have a lovely month, everyone. —Kelly



Learn about the History of Mentone

Zora Strayhorn’s book, *Mentone, Alabama: A History*, is for sale (\$15) at the Mentone Market and MAPA office at Moon Lake Village.

Old Lookout

As I sit here all alone,
my mind wanders back
to a place on old Lookout,
a mountain I love so well.
Many is the day I roamed
the woods and ravines,
climbing over huge rocks,
wading shallow streams,
listening to mountain noises:
wind rustling in the trees,
bobwhites calling their young,
squirrels chattering at a jay,
drumming of a proud grouse,
gentle settling of falling leaves.
Methinks I grew up better
because of old Lookout
unfolding her treasures for to see.
I’ve traveled far, traveled wide,
Never a place like old Lookout for me.

C. V. Brewer
Menlo, Georgia





Message from MAPA’s President

by Beverly Haynes

It’s time to think about camp. It’s pretty obvious that the camps in and around Mentone are getting ready for the influx of summer campers. And at my house, we are getting ready for a different sort of camp. Mimi Camp!

We started Mimi Camp a few years back before there were so many grandkids. It was a bit easier. Now there are nine, ranging in age from 1 to 12 years old. It’s a bit challenging to find a way to do a camp with that kind age difference, but somehow it works. The bigger kids are so good with the youngest ones that the babies think they can do anything the big guys can! It thrills me to see how good they are with each other. Arguments do arise but they are brief and most of the time easily settled.



We have a theme every year. We’ve had “Pirate Camp” and “Dragon & Knight Training Camp,” to name two. All the camps involve some kind of water thing. And they all involve a scavenger hunt. There is theme food and costumes. Lots of down-time and a little quiet time (for Mimi). I am afraid that the moms (my daughters) will need to help a little this year because there are so many grands and just one Mimi.

Pawpaw’s job is to just look at me and shake his head that I am game (crazy?) enough to attempt this! And maybe to take a kid or two fishing in order to help me catch my breath.

But what memories! And what better place to create memories than Mentone! Happy camping!



MAPA President Beverly Haynes presents Emily Hulgán of Valley Head a certificate of congratulations for winning the Mentone Area Heritage Scholarship. Emily has graduated from Ider High School and will enjoy her full-year scholarship at Northeast Alabama Community College beginning this fall.

Senior Health: Medicare & Mental Health

by Lynn Hixon

Mental health services help diagnose and treat people with mental health disorders, like depression and anxiety. These visits are often called counseling or psychotherapy.

It’s just as important to take care of your mental health as it is to take care of your physical health. Medicare covers a number of services to support you, including outpatient mental health services like depression screening, individual and group psychotherapy, and family counseling. You may be able to access many of these services via telehealth.

With original Medicare you pay nothing for

your yearly depression screening if your doctor or health care provider accepts assignment. After you meet the Part B deductible, you pay 20% of the Medicare-approved amount for visits to your doctor or other healthcare provider to diagnose or treat your condition. If you get your services in a hospital outpatient clinic or hospital outpatient department, you may have to pay an additional co-payment or coinsurance amount to the hospital.

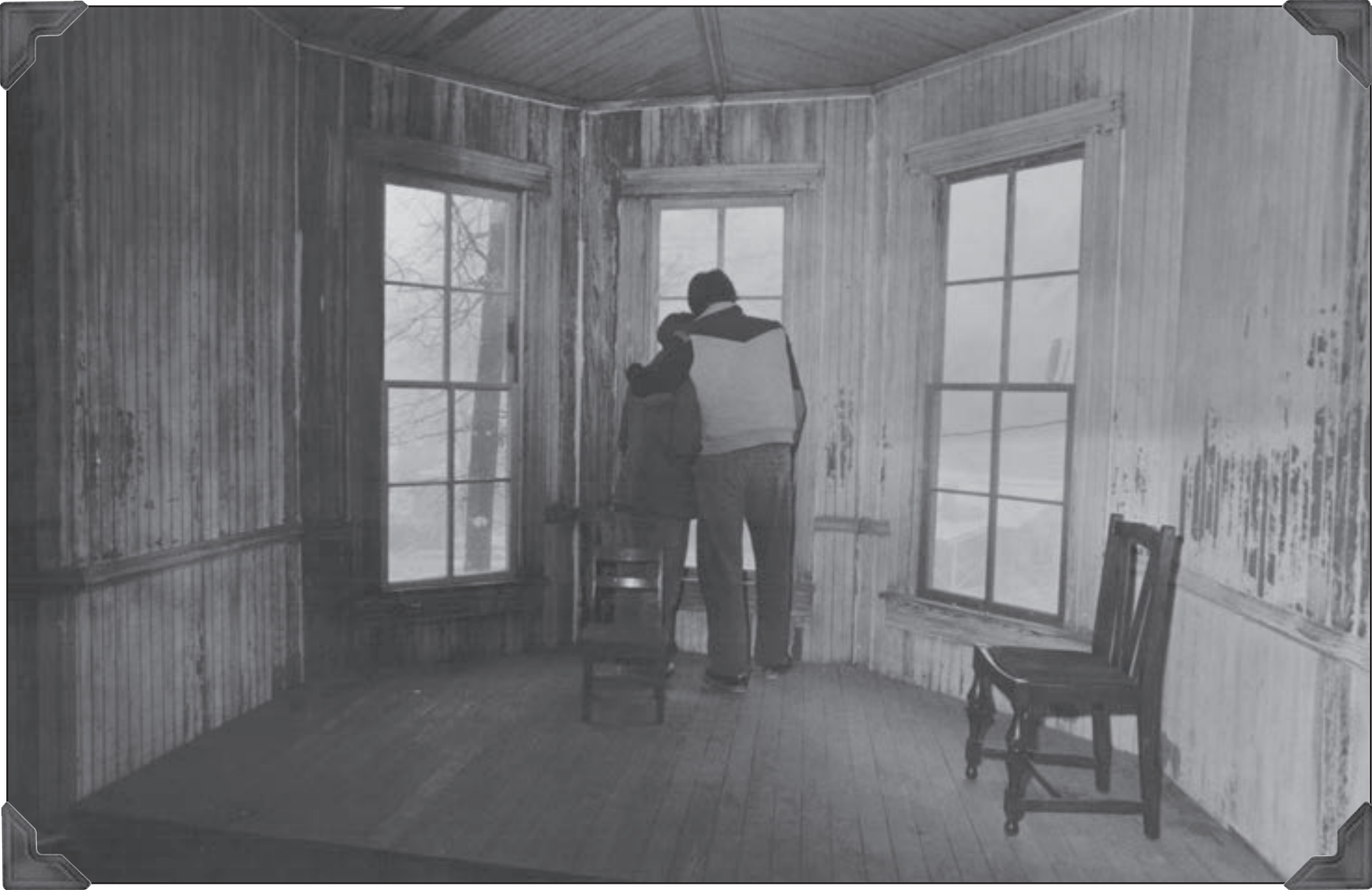
Please call Lynn Hixon, at the DeKalb County Council on Aging at 256-845-8590 if you have any questions.



**Moon Lake Baptist Church
Vacation Bible School**

**June 11-16
6-8:30 p.m.**

**Registration begins
at 5 p.m. on June 11**



Terry and Dorna Hutcheson look towards the Hitching Post from inside the turret of the Mentone Springs Hotel, Winter 1983



MERIT BANK

BETTER BUSINESS BANKING.

Member FDIC |  Equal Housing Lender



First Fidelity Bank

Fort Payne
256-845-1077

Rainsville
256-638-6342

Ider
256-657-6255

www.bankffb.com
Telephone Banking 800-436-5103

Member FDIC

“We’re more than bankers, we’re your neighbors and friends.”





MENTONE, ALABAMA

EST. 2022

MOON LAKE

VILLAGE

5866 East River Road, Mentone, AL 35984

Located on the grounds of an historic 95-year-old schoolhouse

Hours Thursday through Sunday 10–4 CENTRAL

Bailey Jane's Boutique Children's Boutique & Home Decor

Bee Spring Studio—Meg T. Justice Art Studio

Cloudland Framing Custom Framing Studio

Delightful Retreats Office

Faith & Mustard Seed Home Decor & Gifts

The Gallery by Andiamo Lodge Art Gallery

Grace's Daughter Handmade Home Decor

Mentone Area Preservation Association/The Groundhog Office

Natural Light Photography Photography Studio

Otherworld Gifts Handmade Soaps

Shigley Amphitheatre

The Pantry Restaurant

Tracey's Stitches Quilts & Classes

Zack of All Trades Office

Town of Hammondville's

2nd Annual

HAMFEST

BBQ CONTEST &

CAR SHOW

KIDS ZONE, VENDORS, FOOD, PRIZES, FUN!

BBQ CONTEST: 1ST PLACE \$250, 2ND \$150, 3RD \$100

PRE-REGISTER AT FACEBOOK: TOWN OF HAMMONDVILLE

\$20.00 Car registration

\$25.00 Vendor registration

\$50.00 BBQ Contest reg. fee (Donation to Park Fund)

SATURDAY

JUNE 10TH

10AM- ?

256-635-6374



Charlotte Gentry
Broker/Owner
256-996-5995

Mentone

Realty

"The Natural Choice"



Steve Manning
Assoc. REALTOR®
256-996-7624



Ben Johnston
Assoc. BROKER
256-996-1774

Office: (256) 634-4767



RELAX IN THIS BEAUTIFUL BUNGALOW OVERLOOKING A SMALL LAKE while listening to nearby Seymour Branch running over the rocks. This is a perfect home or get-away for a large family. Features include 4BR/3.5BA; spacious, bright kitchen; painted wood walls; wood floors; walk-in closets; on 1.33 wooded acres. Close to DeSoto State Park & downtown Mentone. DeSoto Falls, adjacent to Comer. Originally designed & custom built for the current owners as a family home, this lovely space has been used for the past few years as a very active vacation rental (with excellent rental history). Most furnishings & décor remain. Make it your own Mentone mountain retreat, residence or rental. \$469,000 (1829444)

SOLD!

RESIDENCE OR GETAWAY property featuring a lovely 2BR/2BA cottage, w/sunny sitting room & dining room addition. When you have guests, they can have their own space in the adorable, dollhouse-like, studio guest cottage. For all your "mountain toys" or hobbies, there's a newly-built, two-car, 32x36 garage/shop w/12' ceilings; heated & cooled; well-insulated walls; tons of storage; w/ half bath & its own 1000 sq. ft. (possible future cabin or even a workshop). Equipped with 200-amp service, water & wiring in place for future addition of electric car charging capability. Fenced back yard w/brick fire pit & seating area; raised beds & charming garden shed. So many possibilities as a full-time home, getaway, rental, or a place for everyone to escape to the mountains. Just off the DeSoto Parkway between DeSoto State Park and downtown Mentone. \$465,000 (1828446)

PENDING



CUTE, CUTE, CUTE! A COTTAGE IN THE WOODS, small in size, big on charm, perfect for full-time, part-time, or even as a rental. The interior features nice details like antique bead-board walls; crown molding; stone fireplace w/gas logs; great kitchen w/top-of-the-line appliances & granite countertop. King-sized master suite w/huge, walk-in closet & wall of windows to give you that "tree house" feeling. (Filled with very nice furnishings, too!) With its hardy-plank exterior & front & back composite porches, maintenance is easy. New shed w/power for workshop/storage. Located just off the DeSoto Pkwy, adjoining state park ROW, so it's easy to get to & enjoy all the mountain has to offer. \$349,000 (1832743)



MEMORIES OF LAZY DAYS FULL OF FUN ON THE LAKE permeate this one-owner property located on the private side of Mentone's Lake Lahusage. Filled with one family's nostalgia, waiting for the next family to bring it back to life & fill it with their own memories of good times on the lake. One of those rare places with easy walk down to the water; swim & fish from your dock; put in a boat at the public ramp just a short distance away. 4BR/2BA; wood floors; wood beams; mtn stone fireplace; vaulted LR/KI/DR. Screened porch on back leading to huge deck overlooking the lake. Yes, it needs A LOT of work, but it is a rare gem awaiting the right person to make it shine! \$375,000 (1786628)

"A good father is one of the most unsung, unpraised, unnoticed, and yet one of the most valuable assets in our society." -Billy Graham

.....
LOTS and LAND

NEW LISTING! JUST ENOUGH IS JUST RIGHT. And this 0.65-acre lot could be just right for your retirement home in the country! Nice & level w/chert driveway, septic tank, power & public water already on site. Very pleasant copse of trees & picturesque neighboring pasture along back of property. Plenty of areas with good sun exposure for that garden spot. Less than 5 miles from Hwy 11/I-59 in North Ft Payne; easy commute to Chattanooga, B'ham. Or just take the backroads! \$45,000 (1834307)

TALL HARDWOODS & PEACEFUL BROW SUNSETS. Build your special mountain dream home on this beautiful 1.2-acre lot in a choice area along the parkway between DeSoto Falls & Desoto State Park. Property lines extend over the brow so that trees may be removed for a clear view. The lots have a good setback from the road for quiet privacy. Two lots available. Lot 21, \$175,000. (1825125)

BEAUTIFUL HOMESITE IN A PEACEFUL VALLEY! Situated in a valley farm setting that has a large portion of the farmland in a permanent conservancy. This tract is not under the conservancy and is a home site that has beautiful sunset views across the valley. \$72,000 (1809242)

BROW-FRONT LOT ALONG THE PARKWAY, the perfect location to build your dream residence or getaway between DeSoto State Park and DeSoto Falls. Beautiful sunsets and the views of the valley & mountains beyond can be created because you own your view and can decide how much, or little, clearing you want. Good setback from the road offers privacy on this 1.2-acre, hardwood-covered lot, with approx. 107' of brow frontage. Two lots available. Lot 22, \$175,000. (1825126)

Happy
Father's Day!
June 18





From Moon Lake School to Georgetown

A Visit with Ronnie Kinoshita

by Kelly Leavitt



Photo of Ronnie Kinoshita by Andiamo's Colleen Duffley

Veronica “Ronnie” Kinoshita and her mother dropped by the Groundhog office in May during a visit to Moon Lake Village. Ronnie attended Moon Lake School from 2nd grade through 6th grade. She explained that she’s currently a researcher at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. and was in Mentone visiting her parents, Ray and Bobbie, who have owned The Wilderness, now a bed and breakfast, since 2004. I was curious about the path she took from Moon Lake School to Georgetown, and I invited her to return the next day for a brief interview. After graduating from 6th grade, Ronnie attended Fort Payne Middle School and spent her high school years at the Alabama School of Math and Science, a

public residential school in Mobile. She then moved to Conway, AR, where she studied Chemistry and Psychology at Hendrix College, a small liberal arts college known for its innovative education. “It was at Hendrix that I first started getting interested in the history of places and what makes them unique,” she said. After college, she took a year off and moved to Altheimer, AR, a small town where she and two of her college roommates renovated the ancestral home of one of her roommates. “We did a lot of construction work,” she recalled. “It was a very special time for me. My roommates and I had a lot of formative conversations about family and heritage. I think going away and seeing how different other places are makes you realize how special a place is. I was fortunate to grow up on the river in such a local community as Mentone.” She earned her master’s degree at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga in Industrial-Organizational Psychology (the study of work psychology and organizational development). Now 26, Ronnie is researching Artificial Intelligence at the Center for Security and Emerging Technology (CSET) at Georgetown’s School of Foreign Service. She currently lives in Arlington, VA, across the Potomac River from Georgetown. “When I moved to the city,” she said, “I realized I really missed normal southern things like fried okra. I’m such a southern girl at heart. I would wave at people as we passed and my partner was like, ‘That’s kind of weird.’” “It’s so rewarding to live in a small community. If you haven’t had the experience of living in both large and small communities, it’s harder to understand different ways of living.” As a Survey Research Analyst at Georgetown, where she has worked for a little over a year, she investigates technology and national security topics. “Any time a research group is interested in doing a survey or interviews with focus groups, that’s when I step in and help form questions,” she said. “It’s an interesting job and I’m really enjoying it.” “Our long-term funding is provided by foundations,

but our funders typically don’t guide our specific research projects. The most recent report that I worked on studied researcher perspectives on how quickly the field of Artificial Intelligence is moving and what resources are enabling both academic research and industry progress. “The field is moving very rapidly. With the seemingly unlimited funding available to industry, there were concerns in the field about industry surpassing academic research, which might not be as well-resourced. “Our CSET survey led us to understand that for most researchers, the most limiting constraint on their AI projects right now is people. The U.S. doesn’t have the infrastructure to support AI education. There is a need for scholarships and accessible talent flows to support and produce more AI PhDs and non-technical talent. For instance, some of my colleagues have studied how more investment in community colleges, like Northeast, could produce more talent in project management or people management.” The title of the report, published in April, is *The Main Resource Is the Human*: it can be found on CSET’s website. When asked how she feels about the future of AI, she responded, “Part of me is very optimistic, and part of me is skeptical.” I accompanied Ronnie to her 2nd grade classroom, where The Gallery by Andiamo is currently located. She recalled that her Moon Lake School teachers were Miss Mills, Mr. Lasser, Mrs. Frost, Miss Prestwood, and Mrs. Bunch. I was moved to see this bright, articulate, and confident young woman in her childhood classroom, and wondered about how other young adults who began their education at Moon Lake School are making their mark on this world. One of Ronnie’s brothers, Michael, currently lives in New York, and another, Jeremy lives in Hawaii. Her sister, Jessica, just moved back to Mentone from Birmingham with her husband. “I usually make it back to Mentone each year for the World’s Longest Yard Sale,” Ronnie said. “I enjoy shopping alongside my community neighbors. There’s a certain intimacy to that.”



Black bears started being commonly seen in our area just a short four years ago. Now, many people have had the pleasure of seeing one. Some bears have learned that by living near trash cans, bird or deer feeders, and other sources of free food, they can have the easy life. The goal is to keep bears wild, and eliminate reasons for them to live near humans rather than in the woods. If you’ve been reading *The Groundhog* these past few years, or heard a talk by bear researcher Hannah Leeper, you know the basics of bear awareness. But if you’re new to or visiting the area, following are some questions that were asked of Hannah in 2021. To read about her research, visit mapamentone.com to read the July 2019 or August 2021 issues.

Can bears break into cars?
Yes, it’s a learned behavior. It’s not always food that bears are after. It might even be a car air freshener. Overall, they’re curious about strong smells. Once a bear sees someone open a door, or they figure it out on their own, then they teach their cubs, who teach their cubs, and so on.

What do you do if you’re walking and you see a bear?
Chances are very, very low that you’ll see a bear. If you do happen to see a bear, enjoy the sighting! Take a picture. They’re so rare and they’re so neat to see out in their natural environment. Make noise, wave your hands. I usually just start talking. “Hey there, I didn’t mean to scare you.” If they get cornered, they might get a little bit aggressive, but if they know they can get away from you, they’ll scramble away. They’re very shy creatures.

What do you do if a bear starts chasing you?
They won’t chase you unless you run. They have the same chase instinct as dogs. Don’t run from a black bear. Just start backing away slowly. Animals have a strong “flight or fight” instinct. They’re either going to run away or fight. Bears are always going to run away, unless they don’t have that choice. If something’s blocking their ability to get away, then they might try to defend themselves. If necessary, fight back. Bears don’t want to risk injury, so they’ll escape as quickly as they can.

What if you’re walking with a large dog? Will that dog repel the bear or rile the bear?
It depends on the dog and the bear—and the wind direction. If the bear smells the dog first, it’ll take off. If the dog smells the bear first, it might get curious and approach the bear. That’s when bears can become aggressive. They like their personal space and if a dog tries to invade that space, they could try to defend themselves. One swat can kill a dog. I recommend having a bell on your dog if you’re going to be out hiking and your dog is off-leash. Let the bear know you’re coming. The same thing applies if you’re at home. Turn the porch light on before you go outside. Open the

door and say, “Hey bear, my dog’s coming out,” even if you can’t see a bear. Let the bear know it’s time to leave.

What do bears eat?
Everything. We call them opportunistic omnivores, so that means they’ll eat anything they want, however they can find it. Omnivore really means plants and animals, but for bears it means plants, animals, fruits, vegetables, acorns, pecans, garbage, bird feeders, dog food—it means anything. But, bears don’t eat humans, so you don’t have to worry about that!

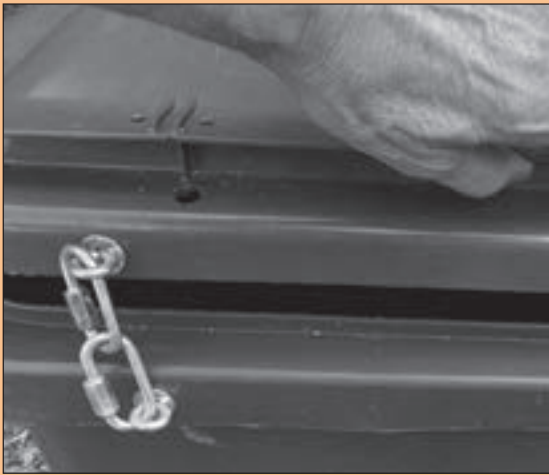
How can we prevent bears from becoming a nuisance?
It’s important that bears find their food sources in the wilds. We can help them from becoming “nuisance” bears or from being harmed by eliminating easy opportunities.

- Secure trash cans inside a shed or enclosure, if possible. Even if a trash can is empty, the lingering odor might attract a bear. If a bear is hungry enough, straps such as bungee cords or ratcheting straps will not keep them from getting the lid off a can to investigate. Take the trash can out to the road right before your scheduled trash pick-up.
- Secure grills and smokers in a shed, if possible, and be sure they are cleaned after every use.
- Take bird feeders in at night, or hang them high enough to be out of a bear’s reach, 10’ feet high and 4’ away from a structure.
- Do not store livestock or pet feed outside.
- Pick ripe fruits from trees and the surrounding ground.
- Use an electric fence to keep bears away from beehives, chicken coops, compost piles, gardens, and orchards.
- Never feed wildlife.

A couple of great websites with loads of valuable information are bebearaware.org and bearwise.com.

Trash Can Guard

Last year, Mentone resident Carl Ferguson devised a way to keep his trash can secure. See the October 2022 issue of *The Groundhog* at mapamentone.com for details.





L to R: Robert and Sylvia Wolcott, Shira and Gary Iles, Marsha Merrell, Carolyn and Roland Hendon



The infamous vest of Eldridge J. Jones

Jones Cousins (cont. from page 1)

It has been said that he was wearing a leather vest riddled with bullet holes. The vest which had been passed down through Shira’s line, though, was cotton, and the Texas Joneses had been told that the cotton had been grown on the family’s plantation. Shira’s great-great grandfather and his two brothers had each received a third of the vest—the two front panels and the back—and Shira was in possession of a panel with several bullet holes.

The date of death on Eldridge’s tombstone reads 1865. But another story says he died in 1862. It is perhaps more likely that he died in 1863, when the Union troops camped on Little River, not far from the Jones property, and travelled across the mountain on their way to Chickamauga.

Marsha feels led to believe that Eldridge was probably not a conscientious objector. “Having three sons, Jesse, James, and William, go fight for the Confederate States probably would have meant that he wasn’t entirely neutral,” she said.

Shira had been told that Eldridge was a probate judge in Walker County, GA, although the Mentone Joneses had never heard about that, nor is there

documentation to suggest that it’s true. But, documentation in those early days was sparse, so it’s impossible to be certain where the truth lies.

Shira had also been told that Eldridge had slaves. The story that has been passed down her family line is that in 1842, he travelled with a steer from Mentone to San Francisco, CA, leading a group of 32 pioneer families. It was an arduous 18-month journey there and back, and when he returned, the steer died. The story goes that a slave of Eldridge made a powder horn from one of the steer’s horns. The powder horn was in Shira’s box. Almost 200 years old, it resembles petrified wood more than bone, with detailed carving.

The Mentone Joneses had never heard that Eldridge owned slaves, although it is known that his father did, based on his 1853 will that was written in Cherokee County and probated in Summerville, GA. It seems improbable, though, considering his two-room dogtrot cabin. No mid-18th century census records document slaves or servants living with the Eldridge Jones family. “Eleven slaves are mentioned by name in the will,” said Marsha. “Three were sent to his son Ruben in Mississippi and were collectively given \$100. Four were given to his wife

and the others were collectively given to seven children, so probably sold, thus I expect Eldridge had none.”

On the whole, history can be fickle, particularly when relying on oral accounts without supporting written documentation. There are most certainly truthful elements to the stories that are passed down, and it’s probable that embellishments are added along the way.

Shira and Gary met more Jones cousins on the day after the first meeting, when the family gathered for a barbeque dinner at Marsha and Ronald Merrell’s Mentone home. In attendance were: Jim Jones’ daughters, Sharon Harris, Glenda Smith, and Susan Manning; Almeda Jones Blevins’ son, Ronnie Blevins; and Gertrude Jones Cox’s daughters, Marsha Merrell, Edie Neeley, Alesia Justice, and Felicia Blackwell. Unfortunately, Bill Berry was at his new home in Mexico and he missed the family gathering. Bill’s mother, Marjorie, was the youngest of 11 children; her siblings included Jim, Almeda, and Gertrude.

The Mentone Joneses have included teachers and principals at Moon Lake School, Mentone postmasters

and postmistresses, business owners, builders, bank presidents, a town councilman, a Mentone policeman, horsemen, veterans, nurses, and an Auburn football player. As Kathryn Jones stated in her *Groundhog* article, “The prolific Jones family has contributed to the richness of Mentone’s heritage in many ways.”

Shira Iles came to Mentone to see a grave, and she returned to Houston blessed with new friendships amongst many cousins.



The cousins made gravestone rubbings at the Jones family cemetery.
L to R: Carolyn Hendon, Shira Iles, Marsha Merrell



Powder horn, purportedly crafted from a steer horn



ON-FARM MARKET

FRIDAYS 2-5 PM CT

We invite you to come by our weekly on-farm market and shop our selection of seasonal produce, 100% grass-fed and finished beef, pastured pork, pasture-raised eggs, fresh herbs and flowers.

You can call or email us if you have any questions or are interested in purchasing our products outside of our market hours.

(256)-674-3639 or info@thefarmatwindyhill.com

Follow us on Instagram and Facebook for our most up-to-date information.

445 ROAD 942, MENTONE, AL



ONE-OF-A-KIND GIFTS FOR YOUR ONE-OF-A-KIND DAD



WELCOME MENTONE CAMPERS 2023 SEASON & JUNE JAMMERS!

324 Gault Ave N
Fort Payne, AL

(256)273-6929
boomtownmakersmarket.org

Wed-Sat
10-5



Eldridge J. Jones' original two-room cabin. This turn-of-the-century photograph features (L to R): Eldridge's son, William Taylor Jones, Emma Tabitha Jones, Nettie Jones Green, and Leonard Matheny. William was the only son who fought for the CSA who remained in Mentone, presumably to care for the homestead.



Jones Family Cemetery
James Eldridge
Born Nov 28, 1890
Died Aug 30, 1891
"The Lord giveth and the Lord taketh away"



Jones Family Cemetery
Lula A.
Born July 15, 1883
Died Sept. 24, 1884
"Budded on earth to bloom in heaven"



Jones Family Cemetery
Baby
Born Jan. 9, 1887
Died Jan. 10, 1887
"Gone so soon."

RIVER RIDGE ESCAPE

Delivering Custom Tiny Homes Nationwide or to Our Communities

After Little River Escape Tiny Home Community was named one of the top six communities to downsize in by *U.S. News & World Report*, our community has become fully occupied and folks have come from 12 different states to live within our community.

With a successful year, Little River Escape has decided to embark on a new journey by creating River Ridge Escape Tiny Home Dealership. At the dealership, tiny homes are available to tour and purchase. RRE is now delivering across the nation and also developing other communities to bring more folks to Lookout Mountain.

River Ridge Escapes now has five tiny home communities and one down County Road 641 in Mentone, AL. There are several Airbnb Tiny Homes in our various locations to come experience a tiny home, downsizing, the community, and explore the surrounding areas.

Come Experience Tiny Living on Lookout Mountain!

Tours of River Ridge Escape's Tiny Homes — Mon-Fri 10-5 ET or by appointment
8021 Highway 48, Menlo, GA 30731 RiverRidgeEscape.com (706) 936-0007

LAW OFFICES OF THOMAS J. SKINNER, IV, LLC

- Estate Planning, Wills, Trusts, & Probate Matters
- Business Law
- Real Estate Law
- Real Estate Tax Sales and Redemptions
- General Civil Litigation

**Open most
Wednesdays
from 9am to 4pm,
or by appointment.**

No representation is made that the quality of the legal services to be performed is greater than the quality of legal services performed by other lawyers.

Valley Head 166 Commerce Avenue | 256-674-1111
lawtjs.com



The Mentone Ukes Is About Community

by Debra Fey and Jerry Megli

Jerry asked me one spring day in 2019, “Do you think there are others up here who play the ukulele or would want to learn how?” So we agreed, let’s find out! Little did we know what was about to happen. We recruited Mickey Luck to help us launch the group, the Moon Lake Library opened its doors to us, and Kelly Leavitt published our first article inviting newcomers in *The Groundhog*. Fast forward to 2023 and the Mentone Ukes is well established, and in many ways this group has grown beyond what the three of us ever envisioned. The Mentone Ukes is a community within the larger community of Mentone and beyond.

Many of our members live in Mentone and surrounding areas like Fort Payne, but to our surprise some folks come quite a distance to attend our sessions and performances on a regular basis. We have members who live in Rome and Rockmart, GA, Huntsville, Sand Mountain, and in the Lake Weiss areas. Community outreach at its best!

The Moon Lake Library has given us a home. A place to gather, play, and perform. It has designated us the



“Official House Band of the Moon Lake Library.” If the librarian says it, it must be true.

Every month, *The Groundhog* gives us a voice to reach out and invite newcomers and beginners.

The Mentone Inn provides us with a stage to perform on for the annual Christmas tree lighting.

The Farmers Market at Mentone and its patrons have enjoyed our music on occasion. Performing helps our group focus and gives us a goal.

MAPA and Colorfest invited us to perform on the amphitheatre stage last year. What an honor that was! We



closed out Colorfest like Jimi Hendrix closed out Woodstock!

Little River Arts Council allows our group to perform during their Art Pop-Up events, giving us yet another opportunity for exposure and a way to interact with the community. Our group participated in their Follow Your Art Chalk Art Event, where we recreated our Mentone Ukes logo, and we received their Community Spirit Award. What a pleasant surprise that was! That award validated our sense of community.

We strive to reach out to newcomers of all ages. Our recent beginners’ ukulele lesson for kids was as much fun for us as it was for the kids.

We are a group of ukulele players who have become a diverse group of friends, sharing ideas, supporting, and encouraging each other. One of our

members, Hank Allen, developed our website and YouTube channel, where we can share songs and events, and offer our merchandise for sale—all to promote our group.

The common thread (or nylon string, perhaps) is community. The Mentone Ukes is a part of this community and proud of it. Strum and be happy!

The Mentone Ukes’ free ongoing sessions will be on Saturday, June 10 and 24 at 1 p.m. CDT at the Moon Lake Library. Newcomers and beginners of all ages are always welcome to attend and loaner ukes are available. Visit us on Facebook @MentoneUkes or on the web at mentoneukes.com. Questions? Contact Debra Fey (debrajfe@gmail.com) or Jody Rhodes (jodyrhodesy@gmail.com).

In Memoriam



JOHN “MIKE” GOAN
February 6, 1944 – April 28, 2023

John “Mike” Goan, age 79, of Mentone, Alabama, passed away on Friday, April, 28, 2023 at Huntsville Hospital. Mike was born on February 6, 1944 in Milford, Michigan to James Goan and Catherine Smith Goan. He was a veteran of the United States Air Force.



TROY “WAYNE” POPE
April 25, 1945 ~ April 28, 2023

Troy Wayne Pope, age 78, of Menlo, GA, died Friday, April 28, 2023, at Atrium Health Floyd. Mr. Pope was born April 25, 1945, in Russellville, AL, son of the late Troy Milton Pope and Stella Howell Beaird. He was a member of Berryton Baptist Church and, prior to his retirement, was employed with Mount Vernon Mills. He was also a member of the Quarter Century Club.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his son, Donnie Troy Pope, and half-brothers, David Davis, Pete Davis, and Jimmy Pope.

Survivors include his wife and best friend, Phyllis Pope; stepsons, Andy Howell and Joey Barnette; brother, Terry Pope; sisters, Tina Wilson, Sue (Garvin) Skates; six grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews. Mr. Pope was interred Bandy Cemetery.

TAYLOR LAMAR ADAMS
July 22, 1941 ~ May 6, 2023

Taylor Lamar Adams, age 81, of Cloudland, GA, died Saturday, May 6, 2023, at Atrium Health Floyd. Mr. Adams was born July 22, 1941, in Summerville, GA, son of the late Herman Lee and Winnie Ruth Taylor Adams. He was a member of Cloudland Presbyterian Church and, prior to his retirement, worked as a self-employed electrician. He had also owned and operated AAA Hardware.

In addition to his parents, Mr. Adams was preceded in death by a brother, Jerry Norris Adams. Survivors include his wife, Faye Hawkins Adams; a son, Daryll Adams; and sister, Myra Smith. Mr. Adams was laid to rest at Cloudland Presbyterian Church Cemetery.



WALTER CHARLES BROOKS
February 1, 1927 – May 15, 2023

Walter Charles Brooks, age 96, of Valley Head, passed away at his residence on Monday, May 15, 2023. He is survived by his daughters and sons-in-law, Jolene and Dale Gilbert, Norma and Danny Hulan, and Martha and Bennett Browder; grandsons, Rick Gilbert, James Hulan, Matt (Traci) Hulan, and Bennett (Cyndle) Browder, Jr.; granddaughters, Rebecca (Terry) Haney, Laura Gilbert, and Mandi (Joseph) Goza; great-grandchildren, Ashley (Dalton) Dunn, Sydney (Marshal) Heath, Emily Hulan, Jordan Goza, Luke Hulan, Logan Goza, Ross Hulan, and Savanna Goza; and a host of nieces and nephews.

Mr. Brooks was preceded in death by his wife of 74 years, Christine Hales Brooks; parents, William Perry Brooks and Vada Elizabeth Callaham Brooks; son, Charles Robert Brooks; brothers, Jewell D. Brooks, Floyd L. Brooks, Gilbert J. Brooks, W. Marvin Brooks, L.C. Brooks, William Perry Brooks, Ernest D. Brooks, and Jimmy L. Brooks; and sisters, Cleo Brooks Snow, Ruby Geneva Brooks, & Hazell Nell Brooks.

The family extends special thanks to SouthernCare New Beacon Hospice. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to New Home Baptist Church (5383 County Road 126, Henagar, AL 35978).

LOLA ELLEN CLARK PICKLE
March 21, 1928 – May 16, 2023

Lola Ellen Clark Pickle, age 95, of Menlo, GA, died peacefully on Tuesday, May 16, 2023, at her residence with her family by her side. Mrs. Pickle was born March 21, 1928, in Milan, GA, daughter of the late Charlie Banks Clark and Mary Ellen Lloyd Clark. She was a homemaker and a member of Menlo First Baptist Church. Mrs. Pickle had been employed as a substitute teacher. She was also a member of the Chattooga Republican Party. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Wilburn Hollis Pickle, and a daughter, Charla Pickle. Survivors include sons, Gerald Pickle and Mark Pickle; daughter, Barbara (Greg) McCollum; grandchildren, Amelia (Richard) Davis, Adrian Westendorff-Pickle, Emma Pickle, Clark McCollum, and Alex Pickle; and great-grandchildren, Sam Crytzer, and Charlotte Davis. The family would like to extend their sincere appreciation to Mrs. Pickle’s longtime caregivers, Brenda Hampton and Dodie Daniel. In lieu of flowers, the family respectfully requests donations be made to Menlo First Baptist Church (P. O. Box 26, Menlo, GA 30731). Mrs. Pickle was interred at Alpine Cemetery.

MEMORIES LAST A LIFETIME.



Heather Nicely
REALTOR
256.276.8422

I love my clients!
Thank you for
letting me serve you.

CENTURY 21 BELLORA
256.999.0318 | 706.657.3000

DIXIE SALVAGE

Discount Building Materials

3630 Gault Ave. N.
Fort Payne, AL 35967
Business (256) 845-5475
Fax (256) 845-5475
www.dixiesalvage.com



Summer of Music Under the Stars & More

by Juli Jordan



“Music for the People” Series

June 10
Black Sedan Band
70s – 90s Cover Band
blacksedanband.com

July 9 (NEW DATE!)
Natti Love Joys
Reggae
nattilovejoys.com

August 12
The Lazybirds
Blues, Jazz, Country, Ragtime
lazybirds.com

Ladies and gentlemen, get ready to boogie. This month, the Black Sedan Band returns for their third performance in Mentone on June 10 at 7 p.m. at the Linger Longer Pavilion behind the Mentone Inn. A favorite of the Summer Music Series, these guys aren’t just another cover band, they put on an interactive show!

The six band members play lead guitar, bass guitar, percussion, keyboard, saxophone/flute, with Carl as lead vocals. Most of them lead two lives: two are retired and the others have professional jobs by day. On the weekends, they drop their workday personas for a tight, rocking band that makes any party come to life with tunes from 60s to today. These guys are so good it didn’t take them long to move from bar and club gigs to private parties. One thing that sets them apart is that they really like to move off stage and play out in the audience, engaging the crowd.

Last year, during their performance, Nena Bell Fellger was sitting in the front row. Nena moved here from Chicago in 2016 and soon after met Al Fellger at their workplace in Ft Payne. They married a year later. Guess what, Al was from Chicago too.

The evening of the July concert marked three months since Al’s passing. When the band played Sweet Home Chicago, Nena smiled, because that song reminds her of home. And then, something quite beautiful happened. One by one the band walked off the stage and began to play to Nena. The keyboard player sat beside her and the others gathered around her. Nena recalled, “I was still grieving and it felt incredible for the band to sing directly to me, it was comforting on that starry night, it was like a smile from the heavens, I felt Al smiling at me. It was like Al whispered to them and they heard him.”

The Music for the People, Summer Music Series is made possible by a grant from Alabama State Council on the Arts and our members.

Chalk Art Workshop

Hone your skills for the September 2nd Sidewalk Chalk Art Contest! Professional artist and member of the Georgia Sidewalk Chalk Art Guild, Fawne DeRosia, will teach a workshop on August 19 at 10 a.m. at MERF Community Walking Trail. This is for all ages and all levels. The fee is \$10 for adults and it’s free for anyone under 18. To register, email info@littleriverartscouncil.org with the subject line “Chalk Workshop.”

Art Awards

Artists, Follow Your Art is the place to exhibit on September 2, with awards totaling \$900 for Best of Show, Craft; Best of Show, Art; first and second place. Follow Your Art includes storytelling by Debbie Happy Cohen, local musicians, Mobile Munchies food truck, A Little Something Extra ice cream truck, and our Sidewalk Chalk Art Contest. An application to exhibit and registration for the Chalk Art contest are littleriverartscouncil.org.

Founded in 2006, our mission is to enrich the quality of life for people in Mentone and neighboring communities by raising funds for the arts; sponsoring events; providing educational opportunities; and strengthening cultural resources for the benefit of all businesses and citizens in the Mentone area.

We rely on memberships, program revenues, and fundraising to support our programs throughout the year. We are grateful to our supporters, and volunteers who make our work possible. If you would like to support our mission consider becoming a member and/or volunteering at one of our events.

Information on our 2023 events, applications & membership can be found at littleriverartscouncil.org.

Juli Jordan serves as the board president of Little River Arts Council.



“Music is the universal language of humankind.”
— Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

MYERS
VINTAGE & LOCAL

Open Tuesday–Saturday or by appointment

706.857.3017

9974 Commerce St. • Summerville, GA 30747
{ a 20-minute drive from Mentone }

Walking Sticks
by Larry Stansell, Trion, GA

THE GROOVY GOAT

MENTONE ALABAMA

BE HAPPY • STAY GROOVY

Gift & Wine Shop
Log Cabin Village • Downtown Mentone

Find us on Facebook
@thegroovygoatmentone

SIDEWALK CHALK ART WORKSHOP!

Saturday, August 19, 2023
10 am - 12:30 pm
MERF Community Walking Trail
4561 AL Hwy 117 Mentone, AL

Instructor:
Chalk Artist
Fawne Derosia
Taynerderosia.com
@fawne

*A Magical Gathering Place
with a Twist of Southern Charm*

**The Hatter Café
& Country Inn**
4277 AL Highway 117
Mentone, Alabama

Indoor & Outdoor Seating
(256) 634-2018

Breakfast / Lunch
Thursday–Monday 8AM–2PM

Dinner
Friday–Saturday 5–8PM

thehattercafe.com

Rocky Top Pottery

Handmade Pottery
from the Heart
of Mentone

Belinda Watrous
Potter/Owner

5895 AL-Hwy. 117
Mentone, AL 35984
Across from Mentone Market

256-630-4165
rockytoppottery@gmail.com
Rocky Top Pottery on Facebook

Protect and display your family's
diplomas and school photos

CLOUDLAND FRAMING

Moon Lake Village (256) 634-0406
cloudlandframing@gmail.com
Facebook/Instagram: @cloudlandframing



Awards Continue a Legacy

by Anna Mae Horn



As part of our mission statement, Mentone Educational Resources Foundation coordinates resources to enhance educational opportunities for local students. One example of this is our administration of the Carter Holland Memorial Educational Fund endowed by the family of Carter Holland—a true Southern gentleman of strong character, faithful friendship, genuine kindness, and good leadership. In honor of his memory and in gratitude for his 24 years of abundant living, five students receive recognition each year. Two Carter Holland Scholarships of \$750 each were given to graduating seniors at Valley

Head High School and three Mountain Spirit Awards. Emma Harrison is the 2023 Valley Head High School Salutatorian. She is a distinguished athlete, treasured Peer Helper, and a cherished worship leader at her church. She is also a member of Senior Beta Club, FBLA, and Science Club. Emma will use her scholarship at the University of Alabama this fall pursuing a kinesiology degree so she can “assist athletes ... to make their healing process easier.” Marco Mendoza, who also received a scholarship, placed second in the National Beta Quiz Bowl. He is successful in cheer and baseball. Marco

holds a job, helps with volleyball games coaching and timekeeping, and attends dual enrollment classes while maintaining an excellent GPA. Marco will further his education at the University of Alabama and looks forward to the day when he can “serve [his] community by providing someone that needs help...with a scholarship.” The Mountain Spirit Award is a gift given to three students who embody the character, kindness, and leadership of Carter Holland. The 2023 senior recipient of \$500 cash is Sophia Blair who “never hesitates to help someone with whatever they may need.” The other two awards are specially selected

gifts for one student each in eighth and sixth grades. This year’s recipients and nominating quotes: Haily Head “does not back down to adversity” and Kylah Ogle is “kind to every living thing she comes in contact with.” These exemplary students carry on Carter Holland’s legacy and, in doing so, enrich the learning and living of others in the community. MERF is honored to recognize these students.

Anna Mae Horn is the executive director of the Mentone Educational Resources Foundation. She can be reached at 256-635-8775 or merf.mentone@gmail.com.



Emma Harrison



Marco Mendoza



Sophia Blair

MERF is hosting a Senior Lunch
TUESDAY, June 27 at 11:30 at
The Pantry at Moon Lake Village
(in the former Moon Lake School lunchroom).
For details, please call 256-635-8775.

Mentone Arts Center

Jim Connor and summer social highlight June:
Artist of the Month Sweet Tea Pottery

by Randy Grider

Summer is here and we have a lot of events at the Chuck Sennett Center for the Arts facility in the coming weeks. We kick off June with the return of renowned watercolor artist/instructor Virginia Urani for the two-day “Splash! Have Fun with Watercolors” class on June 3–4. The class, which is aimed at beginner and intermediate students sold out early. On Tuesday, June 6 at 6:30 p.m. CDT, we welcome back Hall-of-Fame banjo player and singer-songwriter Jim Connor for the monthly Music on the Mountain Songwriters Series. Connor, who will be the feature for the Nashville-style songwriters round, is best known for writing the hit song “Grandma’s Feather Bed,” made famous by John Denver. The opening songwriters’ round will include Scott Henderson, Buck



Jim Conner

Buckner, and Jon Kinsey. Award-winning songwriter and Mentone resident Craig Henricks will serve as the event’s host. Connor 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. Jim 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 of Nashville and Hollywood stars. He has multiple gold and platinum records for his songs and work with most of the above artists. In 2018, Connor was inducted into the Alabama Bluegrass Hall of Fame.



David and Tina Pendley



A sampling of Sweet Tea Pottery

Connor attended Harvard College, West Alabama University, and Birmingham-Southern College. He and his wife Dr. Cynthia Connor love Mentone. In 1988, they were married at St Joseph’s on-the-Mountain Episcopal Church and their reception was at the Mentone Springs Hotel. While event is free to the public, the songwriters volunteer their time and any donations or tips collected will be given to the songwriters for their travel expenses. On Thursday, June 15, we will host a summer social recognizing our second quarter Artists of the Month. The social kicks off at 5:30 p.m. and is open to the public. The recipients for this quarter are Balpha Noojin (April), Eugenia Johnston (May), and David and Tina Pendley of Sweet Tea Pottery (June). David and Tina Pendley’s love for pottery began by collecting pottery pieces while on vacation. The more they collected, the more they wanted to learn to make it themselves. Tina grew up glazing and painting ceramics. David was a machinist-tool and die maker by trade. David worked on a lathe for most of his career. After some severe health problems, David was forced to retire.

In 2012, they each took six pottery lessons. David learned that the potter’s wheel is a lot like the lathe he had worked on for so many years, except now he works with clay instead of steel; horizontal instead of vertical. Creating pottery has opened a whole new world for him. David throws on the wheel, while Tina hand builds pottery pieces. Tina likes taking her ‘out of the box’ ideas and creating them out of clay. After a lot of work and practice, their love for clay grew from a hobby to a small business. Most popular at the Arts Center are the Sweet Tea Pottery leaf mugs and decorative bowls. They have won ribbons from a variety of arts and crafts shows throughout the region.

Little known fact: Jerry (and Mary) Bruckheimer, the film and television producer of Top Gun, Remember the Titans, Pirates of the Caribbean, etc., own two pieces of David’s work. For more about these events, email mentoneartscenter@gmail.com or call 245-674-3366.

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

**18049 Scenic Hwy. 89
Mentone**

**491 Neals Brow Rd.
Cloudland**

**838 CR 613
Mentone
Reduced Price**

**913 CR 106
Lake Lahasage**

Specializing in Mountain & Lakefront Homes

Becky Woodard REALTOR®
becky@hardyrealty.com
706-291-4321 | 706-506-0777





Rhododendron Garden Club News

by Alyce Kenney

“How softly runs the afternoon beneath the billowy clouds of June.” —Charles Hanson Towne

June means summer. Summer means working in our gardens and yards, it also means fun. Picnics. Baseball. Fireflies. Swimming. Music under the stars. Vacations out of town. Camping. Barbeques. Fishing. Fireworks. Reading a good book. Visiting friends. Creating new memories. What will this summer bring to you?

May came and went in a flash. The Rhododendron Garden Club held their first Garden Tour around Mentone. It was a “bloomin’” success and brought many visitors out to our community on Mother’s Day weekend. The weather was lovely as folks strolled each of the meticulously plotted out gardens and learned secrets from the gardeners. Our club members enjoyed sharing their spaces and were delighted to find so many folks who were interested in learning more. Will this be an annual event? There are lots of ideas and suggestions being talked about. Stay tuned for the answer to that question.

May also brought some beautifying and restoring of the MERF house property and select areas of the Moon Lake Village campus. Some of you may remember the former “butterfly garden” of the past near the gazebo. That’s now under remodeling and is proving to be a wonderland of opportunity. We’ve learned that a weed is a plant that has mastered every survival skill except for learning how to grow in rows. That is a gardener’s joke and yes, we do keep laughing as we keep planning, digging, repotting, and planning some more. The work of creating a space in nature to provide beauty and life is never “finished” and so this labor of love will be ongoing.

We are thinking about sustainability as we plan, so the future of these green spaces will continue in harmony with native plants for the future folks who call Mentone home. If you’ve got an abundance of shade-loving plants, we would love to have them! We will come dig them up for you.

Also in May, Mellanie Tuttle, our own club president was installed as President of the Northeast Alabama Federation of Garden Clubs at a tea on May 16. Congratulations, Mellanie.

There are so many different creative and restorative projects to get into as summer approaches in each of our own yards. Here are just a few ideas when you are tired of your daily routines:

Azaleas

After these beauties blossom out, it’s time to apply fertilizer. If your soil is rich with organic material, you may not need to use as much. It is important to choose a fertilizer that is designed for plants that grow in acidic soil. Fertilize before July 1 to allow the plant time to prepare for its next growing cycle. Signs of nutritional



A Georgia mom and her two daughters posed in front of Sharon and Jim Harris's antique variety climbing rose, “New Dawn.” The family was visiting Mentone for a Mother's Day getaway and were happy to have “happened upon” the Garden Tour.

deficiency include smaller than normal leaves that yellow and drop early or stunted growth of the entire plant. Azalea roots can extend farther than the branch tips, so be sure to apply fertilizer in a wide area surrounding the plants. Mulch that adds nutrients to the soil will benefit the plant as well, so mulch well using pine needles or composted leaf matter. This is also an optimal time to complete some simple pruning. Remove any suckers and trim the overall shape. For more how-to advice visit gardeningknowhow.com.

Vermicomposting

This is a natural process that uses worms and microorganisms to turn food scraps into enriching soil amendments. If you already have a compost pile in your yard, you know the “magic” that happens and the benefits that result. Vermicomposting needs less space and labor, is a bit faster process, and provides you with worms for fishing! We all produce kitchen scraps, and some are not suitable for this kind of composting. To learn more about this interesting hobby, go to the Alabama extension website at aces.edu and research for yourself! Get your children or grandchildren involved and you will be mentoring the next generations in recycling and sustainability.

Read a good book.

Slowing down and just being in the moment is a terrific way to find balance and calm in the midst of completing that “to-do” list. (We all have one of those.)

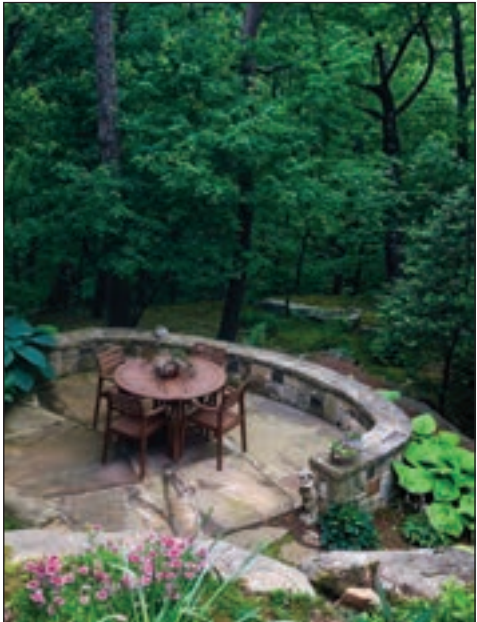
Why not let your mind be carried away to another place or time. Maybe it’s a cookbook you’ve been ignoring, or one of those classics you wanted to revisit. Moon Lake Library has such a selection of all genres that you’ll find it difficult to choose just one. Make a visit and see for yourself. It’s air conditioned and there’s an amazing children’s section! For some new ideas, check out tolstoytherapy.com.

Summer officially begins on June 21, the summer solstice—the day longest day of the year. Whatever your thoughts and plans, make it your best summer yet!

The June 13th meeting of the Rhododendron Garden Club will be held at the Scout building located on Dempsey Street (behind Little River Hardware). Come join us!

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

Alyce Kenney serves as secretary for the Rhododendron Garden Club.



Left: A pleasant seating area is perched over a steep ravine at Jim and Sharon Harris's home

Above: Clematis in the garden of Dee Kelley's home on Cutler Avenue

Right: The “Watch Dog” stands guard in Dee's garden



Mellanie Tuttle was installed as the President of the NE AL Federation of Garden Clubs on May 16. L to R: Dianne Kuehl, Mary MacMichael, Martha Wood, Mellanie Tuttle, Marsha Merrell, Dee Kelley



Brown's Cleaning & Laundry

“Continuous service by the same family since 1933”

FULL LAUNDRY SERVICE

817 Gault Ave. N.,
Fort Payne, AL 35967
(256) 845-3241

Open Monday through Friday, 7:30–5:30

- Suede, Leather & Fur Cleaning
- Fire Restoration & Odor Removal
- Wedding Gown Preservation
- Feather Pillow Cleaning & Re-ticking
- Bedding & Household Items



202 Greenhill Blvd., Fort Payne, AL 35967

We're Open 7 Days A Week
7am-10pm

256-845-1970

WIC Vouchers Snap Benefits
Quantity Rights Reserved None Sold to Dealers

We Feature All This and More!

- Gift Cards
- Incoming & Outgoing Fax Service
- Postage Stamps
- Copies
- Deli/Bakery
- “Choice” Grade Beef
- Fresh Seafood
- Extended Lines of Gourmet, Specialty and Diet Food

We Accept



Menlo Restaurant

American Family Style

Friday Night Special \$9.99
Hamburger Steak w/ 2 sides, Texas Toast & Drink

Saturday Night Special \$18.99
Ribeye Steak w/ 2 Sides, Texas Toast & Drink

Choose from these sides:
tossed salad • slaw • baked potato • baked sweet potato • okra
tater tots • french fries • onion rings • pintos • corn nuggets
onion strings with jalapeno buttons • fried or grilled squash

Featuring delicious homemade desserts including
pecan pie, chocolate chess pie, and the Menlo Brownie.

“Best Burgers Around”
Monday through Saturday 7am – 8pm EST
7807 Hwy. 48, Menlo, GA 30731
706/862-2281

Dine-in & Carry-out



Moon Lake Library News

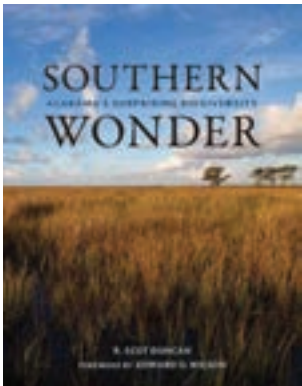
by Anne McLeod

Alabama Audubon Executive Director Scot Duncan to Speak on June 26

Dr. Scot Duncan, executive director of Alabama Audubon and author of the award-winning book *Southern Wonder: Alabama's Surprising Biodiversity*, will speak at Moon Lake Library in Mentone on Monday, June 26 at 6:30 p.m. The focus of his talk will be the state's biodiversity and the importance of preserving the environment.

Respect for the natural world is in Scot Duncan's blood. Born in Pensacola, FL, to parents who were themselves dedicated conservationists and birders, Scot received his B.S. in Biology from Eckerd College, and completed an M.S. and a Ph.D. in Zoology from the University of Florida. He traveled the world, conducting research in Antarctica, New Zealand, East Africa, Central and South America, and the Pacific Northwest. Eventually, Scot focused his work on endangered species and ecosystems of the Southeast. Before joining Alabama Audubon as its executive director, he was a Professor of Biology at Birmingham Southern College for 20 years.

His book, *Southern Wonder*, published in 2013 by the University of Alabama Press interweaves the disciplines of ecology, evolution, and geology to explain why Alabama is



home to more species than any state east of the Mississippi River.

The book is aimed at lay readers, as part of Scot's outreach to the public through talks, workshops, and writings. Raising public awareness about the importance of protecting fragile ecosystems is a critical step toward ensuring the survival of endangered species.

Southern Wonder was the winner of the Southern Environmental Law Center's 2014 Phil Reed Environmental Writing Award and the Southeastern Library Association's 2013 Overall Excellence: Hardcover Award. There will be copies for sale and for signing at the talk.

June Book Club: Beach Reads



What's your guilty pleasure? Which book do you stick in your bag for the beach or eagerly devour while sitting in a chaise lounge in your own backyard, glass of lemonade at hand? Romance, thriller, historical novel, fantasy, science fiction, true crime, or other?

At our book club meeting on Saturday, June 10 at 10:30 a.m., we'll talk about books that make us happy and are also worth recommending to friends. You'll pick up recommendations for summer reading and make some new bookish friends, too.

Looking ahead

July 8: *A Walk in the Woods* by Bill Bryson. Bryson and his old college pal Katz decide to hike the Appalachian Trail in segments, undeterred by their complete lack of physical conditioning or serious hiking experience. Mayhem ensues. We are borrowing a book club set from Alabama Public Library Service, and those books will be available for check out at the June meeting.

August 12: Fiction, poetry, or essays by Wendell Berry, a prolific writer who lives and writes on a working farm in Kentucky.



MOON LAKE LIBRARY HOURS

Tue, Wed, Thu 12–4:30

Sat 10–1

4607 AL Hwy. 117, Mentone

Classified Ads

CLASSIFIED ADS are a cost-effective way to reach your audience. The cost is \$10 for up to 45 words. Email groundhogads@yahoo.com.

FAMILY TREE PHOTO RESTORATION copies and restores your treasured family photos. Bulk photo scanning services are also available. Locally owned and operated. Your photos never leave the mountain! On the web at familytreephotor restoration.com. Call or text Cyndi at 770-317-4318.

PACHYDERM PACKRAT has a new booth at Dave's Antiques in Hammondville. Dave's, located at the intersection of Hwy. 117 and Hwy. 11, is open 7 days a week from 10 'til 4 and 12 'til 4 on Sunday. Come and see us during Antique Alley, May 18–21.

HAND-CARVED cottage signs, walking sticks, figurines, and more. Woodcarvings by Don Highfield. Contact Don at 256-634-4222 or 706-767-8321.

PRIVATE DUTY HOME CARE—Registered Nurse Asst. 25+ years professional experience. References available. Please call Deanna Raimondi at 706-398-1719 or 203-214-9103.

TILE AND NATURAL STONE—Marble/Porcelain installations, Kitchen & Bath upgrades, Handicapped-access/Steam showers, Sunroom floors. Call JP Cox at 706-766-2758.

COTTAGE & CABIN RENTALS in Mentone, AL, high atop LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN near the attractions and downtown. Best Brow Views, River Front and more. See us at cottagesofmentone.com. Call or text any time 504-481-8666.

RENT A HUSBAND—A complete handyman service. Decks, painting, pressure washing, sheet rock repairs, carpentry, bath & kitchen, remodeling, windows, doors, fences. Ask for monthly discounts. Free estimates. Home or office. Call Brian at 256-505-9841.

Wildflower Café

mentonewildflower.com

256.634.0066

What is the definition of a bargain?

- Anything from the **BARGAIN DEPOT**

Online Returns & More

256-273-6877

4306 Williams Ave. NE in Ft. Payne

1/4 mile south of FP High School

WINDOW VISIONS

JELD-WEN

RELIABILITY for real life!

WE SELL ENERGY STAR

New Construction & Replacement Windows & Doors

256-845-3893

162 45th Street NE, Fort Payne

www.windowvisions.us

Drive happier.

Mark Mitchell, Agent

17174 Broad Street

Henagar, AL 35978

Bus: 256-657-6252

mark.mitchell.b2g1@statefarm.com

Join the millions who protect their cars with us. It's one more way I'm here to help life go right.™

CALL ME TODAY FOR A QUOTE.

State Farm

State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company

State Farm Indemnity Company

Bloomington, IL

1601561

Texas County Mutual

Dallas, TX

SOUTHERN GOLD • SILVER & JEWELRY

Full Service Jewelry Store

Specializing in Engagement Rings & Custom Designs

We buy estates, diamond jewelry

256.997.7591

Layaway & Financing Available

1706 GLENN BLVD. FORT PAYNE

9-5 M-F (SAT BY APPT. ONLY)



June Community Events

June 1–Canyon Kids. Join us for a hands-on adventure the 1st Thursday each month in 2023! Children (age 3 years–3rd graders) will want to attend ALL of these hands-on outdoor adventures! Bring your children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews and neighbors to creatively learn about animals, plants, bugs, and more with JSU Field Schools. In May we will be learning all about plants! Please wear footwear suitable for hiking, and bring water and sun protection. Free event. Registration strongly suggested. Limit 15 students. 10:30–11:30am. Little River Canyon Center, Fort Payne. For more details and for pre-registration, email rmtaylor@jsu.edu or call 256-845-3548.

June 3–4, 10–11, 17–18, 24–25–Scenic Kayak Trips. Miller’s Bend Paddle Shack in DeSoto Falls Picnic Area will help you begin your scenic kayak trip up the West Fork of Little River. Rent sit-on-top kayaks to enjoy a peaceful flatwater paddle on Little River overlooking beautiful DeSoto Falls. 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 & paddles are provided. Call DeSoto State Park’s Lodge for info: 256-845-5380 or alapark.com/kayak-little-river. Boat Shack hours: Saturday & Sunday 10am–6pm.

June 3–111th DeKalb County Fiddlers’ Convention. CALLING ALL PICKERS! Landmarks of DeKalb County welcomes you to the 111th DeKalb County Fiddlers’ Convention! This historic event is a showcase for bluegrass players of all skill levels to show off their talents and win prizes in a wide range of categories. With over \$5,600 in prizes & awards to be distributed among contestants, the real winners are the audience who will get to witness the skills and creativity on display. Onsite registration begins at 10am. Music begins at noon. Audience admission is \$10, with kids 10 & under free, and includes a wristband so you can come & go as you please. Food trucks & refreshments. For more information, contact Landmarks of DeKalb County, 256-845-6888, or landmarksdekalb@bellsouth.net.

June 8 & 22–Courtyard Concerts. Featuring local and regional artists performing a variety of themes, styles, and genres. Admission is free. Gate opens at 5:30pm, music begins just after 6pm. A cash bar is available, as well as food, drink, and merchandise. Located at The Courtyard (beside DeKalb Theatre in Fort Payne).

June 10–Serious Skill Series: Colonial Era Spinning Demo. The Serious Skills series is a variety of classes and workshops that provide opportunities to discover a hidden talent or learn a new skill for personal enrichment. Being a woman living in 18–19th century America wasn’t an easy life. There were no stores right around the corner to purchase everyday necessities. The women raised families, crops, sheep, goats, and planted flax and cotton to make sure their family was provided for. The sheep and goats were for food and, just as importantly, clothing. Flax and cotton were also used for profit and for making clothing. Free and open to everyone, stop by anytime at DeSoto State Park’s Country Store for the demo. For any information, call 256-997-5025 or email Brittney. Hughes@dcnr.alabama.gov.

June 10–Black Sedan Band Free Concert. Little River Arts Council Summer Music Series. Located on the lawn of the Mentone Inn’s Linger Longer Pavilion. 7–10pm.

June 14–16–Grand Camp at the Canyon. Children ages 5–8 and their trusted adult will join us for grand adventures at the Canyon Center. Families will enjoy hands-on environmental education, outdoor fun, arts, and guided exploration of the natural world. JSU Canyon Center in Fort Payne. 9am–12pm. \$50 per child. Limited to 10 children. To register or for more information, call 256-845-3548.

June 17–Trail Trekker Hike Series: DeSoto Scout Trail Section. Can you say “I Hiked Them All”? DeSoto State Park challenges you to become a DeSoto State Park Trail Trekker! Hike the designated 23 miles of trails in DeSoto, (whether on your own or in a group, no time limit) and collect your prize, a Trail Trekkers Patch. Just log your hikes in the Trail Trekker log and record the date for each trail listed. Sign completed form and turn in to DeSoto State Park Country Store or Lodge to receive your patch! This hike series is designed for those who prefer some company out on the trails with experienced park staff or volunteers. Each month there will be a different hike so you can start marking them off towards your patch! DeSoto Scout Trail Section (from Gilliam Loop Trailhead down Exit 1 and upstream to Indian Falls and back). Hike is approximately 3.5 miles round trip, moderate to strenuous along rocky mountainous terrain. Some uphill. Hike is open to ages 10 to adult. 10am–3pm. Meet at DeSoto’s Country Store on County Road 89 Free. Pre-registration is appreciated so we know how many to expect. Email Brittney.Hughes@dcnr.alabama.gov.

June 17–Season of Wellness: Summer–Plants and their Remedies. Join herbalist Donna Smith for our summer class in the Seasonal Wellness Series at the Little River Canyon Center. Built for both new herbal enthusiasts as well as the more advanced apothecarist, this series will help you learn more about our native plants, their many uses, and how to grow and process them in the context of your own at-home medicinal herb garden. Learn about herbs and their uses during the summer and what we need to be doing in our gardens and

Fun in the sun!

DeSoto State Park’s Olympic-size swimming pool is open through Labor Day weekend! Pool hours are daily, 11am–6pm. An ADA lift is available, and lifeguards are on duty. The pool is located across CR 89 from the Country Store.

The cost is \$5 per swimmer. Individual season passes are available for \$88, and a family pool pass costs \$198 for up to six family members. Call 256-845-0051 for more information. The pool is available for after-hours parties.

medicine cabinets based on the specific health needs of the season. Learn through lectures, plant walks, hands-on herbal preparations, wildcrafting, discussion, Q&A, and community building. \$65 supply fee. Registration required at jsu.edu/epic/EventCC. Limited availability. 9am–4pm. Ages 14 and up. Be sure to bring your lunch for the day, since lunch is not provided. Please bring water, sun protection and a snack. All equipment will be provided, but you are welcome to bring your own.

June 17–Third Saturday Cruise In. An afternoon of family fun activities in the Main Street District of Fort Payne. This public event includes food, live music, motorcycles, antique car show, and much more. 5–9pm.

June 17–Boom Town Opry. Landmarks of DeKalb County, Inc. presents the Boom Town Opry, its 2023 Summer Series. Think of it as Fort Payne’s version of HeeHaw, with a featured cast of Players performing skits alongside musical guests & friends. It’s sure to be a show that tickles your funnybone and leaves you with a tune in your ear. Each performance will take place during the Third Saturday Cruise-in, so come in and cool off after you check out the sights and sounds downtown. For a suggested donation of \$10, you can come and go throughout the performance. All proceeds benefit the restoration of the historic 1889 Opera House, so please give more if you can! 6–8pm. Located at the Fort Payne Opera House, 510 Gault Ave. N., Fort Payne.

June 18 Happy Father’s Day!



June 21 Summer Solstice

June 23–Park After Dark-Night Walk. Join DeSoto State Park Naturalists Jamie & Brittney to get to know the 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 from the DeSoto State Park Lodge–short distance, 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. 9pm. Meet outside DeSoto State Park Lodge. Free and open to everyone. No pre-registration required. This hike may be cancelled in case of rain. For any details about the walk, email Brittney.Hughes@dcnr.alabama.gov.

June 24 –Creek Kids’ Watershed Workshop. Learning about our water....not just for kids! Hosted by DeSoto State Park. Experience a view of Little River’s watershed and how it connects to the rest of Alabama and our oceans. Many species of fish and aquatic invertebrates, including some types of crayfish, mussels, and snails, live only in Alabama. Participants of all ages will have a good chance of observing some species only found in certain Alabama streams & rivers; they will learn about the impacts of dams on water-ways & learn how pollution moves through aquatic environments. We will take a short walk to Laurel Creek & the West Fork of Little River for a dip to a view native fish & inver-tebrates such as crayfish, mussels, and snails up close. A VERY fun way to explore and cool down at the same time! This fun workshop is based on the ‘Creek Kids’ program, a partnership between the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (ADCNR) Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Division (WFF) and Tannehill Ironworks His-torical State Park. 10am–3pm. Meet at the DeSoto State Park Nature Center on County Road 89. Participants should bring a lunch/snacks/water, clothes & footwear suitable for the river. Free & open to everyone, kids to adults (we welcome all ages, with or without kids!). Pre-registration is required no later than June 21st. Email Brittney.Hughes@dcnr.alabama.gov to pre-register.

June 24–Campfire Talk: Aquatic Critters of Little River. Join us for a fun camp-fire talk in the Great Outdoors! Campfire Talks are a series of educational & entertaining programs located at DeSoto State Park’s large campfire ring inside the improved campground. Talks are for all ages, & open to everyone! Learning about our water....not just for kids! Experience a view of Little River’s watershed and how it connects to the rest of Alabama and our oceans. Many species of fish and aquatic invertebrates, including some types of crayfish, mussels, and snails, live only in Alabama. Some species are only found in certain Alabama streams & rivers. Learn about (and see!) some cool aquatic crit-ters with guest Naturalist Jamie Rogers. Seating is limited, so bring your own comfortable camp chair if you wish. Campground gate will open before the talk begins. 8pm. (In case of inclement weather, will be located in the CCC Pavilion in picnic area.)

June 30–Splish & Splash Pool Party. Cool off in DeSoto State Park’s Olympic-size pool, eat ice cream, & enter for door prizes! \$1 per person. 6:30pm–9pm. Subject to cancellation if inclement weather.

June 2023 @ Moon Lake Library

Weekly Meet-Ups: CHESS on Tuesdays at 1; KNITTING and CROCHET Tuesdays at 2; SCRABBLE on Wednesdays at noon

June 2 @ 6 p.m.—Family Game Night! Bring a snack to share and we’ll enjoy board games at the library.

June 3, 17 & 24 @ 10:30 a.m.—Little Library Learners. The first day of summer reading program! We’ll hand out reading logs and bookmarks, plus enjoy stories and crafts.

June 8 @ 5 p.m.—Joint meeting of Friends of Moon Lake Library board and the municipal library Board of Trustees

June 10 @ 10:30 a.m.—T-shirt tie-dye session for kids ages 3–7. Bring your reading log too. Visitors are welcome!

June 10 @ 10:30 a.m.—Moon Lake Library book club will discuss our favorite beach reads.

June 10 @ 1 p.m.—Tie-dye session for teens and adults. \$5 supply fee or \$20 for a Moon Lake Library “Wild About Reading” T, with supplies included. Pre-register by emailing books@moonlakelibrary.org.

June 10 & 24 @ 1 p.m.—Mentone Ukes offer free ukulele lessons for all experience levels.

June 20 @ 6:30 p.m.—“Harnessing the Power of Google.” Did you know that Google offers many free tools besides email to help you manage your nonprofit or event? Learn how to use Contacts, Drive, Forms, Calendar, and Meet. Bring your own device OR use a library computer.

June 21 @ 6–8 p.m.—Art Critique and Discussion Group with Mikel Yeakle, sponsored by Little River Arts Council. Let’s talk about art. Artists, please bring a piece or two to share.

June 26 @ 6:30 p.m.—Scot Duncan, executive director of Alabama Audubon and author of *Southern Wonder* will discuss his work on biodiversity in Alabama.

Serving Northeast Alabama for 50 Years!

877-272-1451

BUILDERS SUPPLY CO, INC.

Fort Payne
(256) 845-1451

Concrete Block
Roof and Floor Trusses
Clark + Kensington Paint
Lumber and Building Materials

www.bsupply.net

Andersen
In-House Factory Certified Technician

Sylvania
(256) 638-2244

Pallets & Crates
Plumbing & Electrical
Window and Screen Repair
Industrial Janitor Supplies

1	Sible Hopper Kayla Hellums Rebecca Guinn Braden Busby Madie Durham Josh Williamson Chad King Jacob Lee Blade Cowart Andrea Stephens Dolas Bain	7	Luke Johnson Donnie Goodman Austin Cox Nicole Phillips Brantley Hawkins Tony Garner Camille King Bob Garfrerick	15	Brad Wright Barnabas Bettis Hernan Cruz	23	Benny Goss Violet Carden Kensley Burt Evy Baber	31	Wink & Stacie Painter Lawrence & Felicia Harrison Alfie & Kristi Chambers Jo Peterson & Cindy Jackson Ralph & Carolyn Baine Steve & Debra Rhodes Tom & Jacqueline Tipton Levi & Jordan Hulgán Dale & Crystal Padgett Josh & Angel Baggett Michael & Jennifer Owen Phil & Krissy Harris Benjie & Pam Mason Josh & Emmy Smith John & Trish Sprague Matt & Traci Hulgán Brandon & Sherinda Hawkins Kristen & Zackary Bergeron Rusty & Angela Chambers Andrew & Olivia Isbell Jim & Darlene Rotch Jason & Evy Baber Gomer & Jean Powell Michael & Patty Tucker Donald & Margie Daniel
2	Lizzie Kate Williams Skylar Venable Steve Tate Glen Black John David Tedder	8	Ally Chadwick Ethan Harrison Gail Smalley Rachel Lusk Vince Wright Carter Blalock	16	Sara Langston Kayla Crow Mason Vest Emily Hulgán Ruby Smith	24	Brenda Goss Kenneth Chambers Cecily Goza Patti Watkins Ethan Black	32	
3	Brittney Coleman Donald Stephens Byron Haynes Jack Johnston, Jr. Missy Wooten	9	Sydney Vest Denita Manifold Brandon Collins David Hatfield Lori Walters Haisley Langston	17	Hope Turner Andy Beason Megan Gilreath Annie Gilbert Kindal Hamilton Karmen Smith Charlotte Bender Levi Smith Stephen Fowler Ted Roose	25	Briley Harrison Stephanie Poe Jerelyn Turner	33	
4	Lisa Crowder Cecily Knowles Hunter Craig	10	Amanda Gray Michelle Chappell Patty Tucker Joyce Wright Rebekah Weldon Lisa Black Smith Caitie Belle Jennings Brayden Williams	18	Ashley Ingram Ozell Thornberry Josh Smith Carlotta McGee Devan Ryan Fowler	26	Andrew Crowe Paige Simpson Bryson Williams Kirk Watkins	34	
5	Doris Chamlee Hannah Filmore Hadley Gregory Haley Hilliard Aileen Robinson Micah Wooten Finley Isbell Kenneth Aiden Busby	11	Dylan Ledford	19	Sierra Chambers Ashley Wooten Reid Hendon	27	Ashtynn Carden Christine Scott Carmen Ross	35	
6	Angela Valentine Keegan Johnson Christy Harrison Brayden Harrison Caitlyn Collins Nick Brown Mike Campbell Jake Smith	12	Jim Connor Emie Sanderson Rooke Abernathy	20	Keri Miller Brandy Rosson Wendy Holloway Megan Bain Nora Vanderhoff Srock	28	Josh Baggett Chris Stokes Shea Noles Connor Hill Everly Nicole Wheat	36	
		13	Kristi Chambers Taylor Gardner Thomas Sudberry Steve Davis	21	Katherine McDorman Nick Langston Hannah Stinson Betty Morrison Trey Kincer	29	Jacob Bain JoAnn Bain Jean Crabtree Jacqueline Tipton	37	
		14	Luke Harrison Braxton Pridmore Cheryl Crane	22	Judy Smith Zachary Potts Nathan Keith	30	Cooper Hilyer Rebecca Crawford Levi Hulgán Naomi Garcia Roy Stalvey Gavin Gatlin Andrew Burt	38	



256-490-4025

Happy Father's Day

Mentone Town Council meets the 2nd Tuesday every month at 5pm at Mentone Arts Center.

Mentone's Planning Commission meets the 1st Wed. every month at 5pm at Town Hall.

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

Hammondville Town Council work sessions are held monthly on the 1st Tues.. at 5pm at Town Hall. Council meetings are held on the 1st Thurs. every month at 6pm in the Fire Hall.

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

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.

southernpropertiesagency.com • 311 Gault Ave. N., Fort Payne



BROW LOT in Mentone! Watch the seasons change from your own paradise between DeSoto State Park and DeSoto Falls. \$135,000. #1815139



Testing the Waters

by Angie Shugart

I can't believe a lovely Spring is coming to a close and summer is floating in on a cool breeze across Lookout Mountain. It will not be long when we experience more consistent days of dry and hot weather that will make you want to head for the river after a hard day's work. Little River is definitely known to have the best swimming, kayaking and skinny water fishing around! Dotted about this plateau mountain, there are secret swimming holes that only locals know, summer camp waterfronts that host thousands of youth, and nationally acclaimed swimming holes! Yes, among geothermal pools in Colorado, sapphire blue waters of Mexico, and hot springs in Alaska, *Travel and Leisure* magazine named Little River Canyon one of the "Top 16 Swimming Holes" in the United States.

Clean water is essential for these activities, and tourism to our area can be a double-edged sword. Outdoor recreation accounts for over 8 million dollars in tax revenue, jobs, and other revenue so that part of the sword is sharp and shiny. When there is an increase the visitorship, it stresses our rural mountain sewer systems and overflows can occur and flow into the river. Our ecosystem is fragile and pollution degrades water quality. This side of the sword is dull and harsh.

Water monitoring is one of our organization's most important roles. We monitor year-round, but have a concentrated focus on summer. Our SwimGuide program was created to keep you up on the latest water quality results. The summer program monitors the water quality at popular swimming holes and on major tributaries throughout Little River every week, from Memorial Day to Labor Day. Test results are posted each Friday on theSwimGuide.org, littleriverwaterkeeper.org, and our social media outlets, Facebook and Instagram. This is a great program to support! It is the most expensive program we run in Waterkeeper because of the amount of supplies and equipment needed to run over 200 test in 15 weeks.

Angie Shugart is a co-founder of Little River Waterkeeper.



"Little River Springtime" — courtesy of Lookout Mountain Photography / lookoutphoto.com

Happy 99th Birthday to Frank Mason



Frank Mason celebrated his 99th birthday on May 7. We look forward to featuring an interview with Mr. Mason in the July Groundhog.



Little River Waterkeeper 2023 SwimGuide Season May 25–August 31

Swimming Holes (weekly testing)

- Taylor's Ford
- DeSoto Falls
- Indian Falls
- Little Falls (Martha's Falls or Hippie Hole)
- Blue Hole
- Little River Canyon Mouth Park
- Johnny's Creek

Check out theSwimGuide.org to get more details about each site!

Other Sites (random testing)

- West Fork @ AL Hwy. 117 bridge
- West Fork @ Alpine Bridge
- East Fork @ GA Hwy. 48
- East Fork @ Chappaquiddick Bridge (Lake Lahusage)
- Middle Fork @ AL Hwy. 117 bridge (Lake Lahusage)
- Yellow Creek (Tributary)
- Johnny's Creek (Tributary)

What we test for:

E Coli is a fecal coliform bacteria found in the feces of warm-blooded animals, including humans. These levels increase after a heavy rain event due to runoff. E Coli can be picked up through swimming and other water contact sports if water enters the mouth and can cause stomach irritation and in extreme cases, hospitalization. The state agency ADEM has a threshold of water quality standards of 235 cfu/100 mL. If there are more than 235 Colony Forming Units per 100 mL water sample bottle, the water exceeds the state threshold and you should not swim. LRWK posts exact data each week.

Turbidity is a major form of pollution in Little River. We test the suspended particles in the water table to determine the amount of sediment in the water table. There is usually high turbidity after a heavy rain event if bare ground is exposed and erosion control is not implemented.

Ph indicates alkaline or acidic water and is an important indicator of water system health because it directly affects physiological functions of plants and animal systems. Values of pH are naturally low in LIRI waters.

Nitrates are essential plant nutrients, but in excess amounts they can cause significant water quality problems. The waters of Little River are highly oxygenated, therefore, the oxidation state of nitrogen is found as nitrate.

Water Temperature indicates thermal pollution.

Phosphate (PO4) and Sulphate (SO4) is an anion associated with agricultural land use, especially fertilizers, and is a contributor to non-point source pollution.

LIL MOLE RUN



18 HOLE PAR 71 GOLF COURSE + CAMPGROUND

OPEN Daily 7AM – 5PM CENTRAL

Weekly Specials No rain checks

AFTER 2 O'CLOCK

Fridays & Saturdays \$25/18 holes

2-MAN SCRAMBLE (AGE 50+)

1st Wednesday each month • Tee off 9AM CDT

Payout based on participation • ABC flights
\$30 fee • Lunch included

(256) 634-2104

741 COUNTY ROAD 647, MENTONE, AL 35984

lilmolerun.com

• FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK •

The

PACKAGE

Store

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

APPROVED SHIPPER

FedEx

Authorized Shipper

DHL

Authorized Shipper

Fort Payne

601 Gault Avenue North

Fort Payne, AL 35967

Phone: 256-845-7225

Fax: 256-845-7796

Rainsville

122 Main Street East

Rainsville, AL 35986

Phone: 256-638-7225

Fax: 256-638-7225

packagestore601@gmail.com

Copies	Shipping Supplies	Notary
Business Cards	Stamps & Postage	Faxing
Photos	Shipping Experts	Passport Photo
Banners	International Shipping	Shredding
Large Format	Next Day Delivery	Lamination
Binding	Postal Services	Mailbox Rental



Stanley Sims stands at the entrance to the new Native Plant Area at DeSoto State Park.

An area at DeSoto State Park that was once devastated by pine beetles has been cleaned up and beautified, thanks to a collaborative effort among three important participants. Longtime State Park employee Stanley Sims, Park Naturalist Brittney Hughes, and volunteers from the DeKalb County Master Gardeners combined their efforts to clear an area in the park decimated first by ice, and then pine beetles, to create the H. Stanley Sims Native Plant Area. The area is now open to park

visitors to stroll through and enjoy the area as it matures and evolves. “This has been about a 20-year project,” said Sims, who retired from the State Park in 2007. “We had an ice storm in about 2000 and we noticed trees dying from pine beetles a year or so later. Once the beetles got in our trees, we had to clear cut many of our trees to stop the spread.” It was during the tenures of former Park Superintendents Talmadge Butler and Tim Whitehead that the cutting of trees and cleanup efforts began, about 2003. Sims almost took on the effort as a personal project, even working after hours on his own time cleaning the worst of the damage with a dozer. Then, about 2007, he became affiliated with the DeKalb County Master Gardeners. It was then he applied for and received a grant. “It was for \$800,” Sims said, “and it got us started replanting native trees and flowering plants. That’s when I went in whole hog, and it’s been about 20 years now. It takes time for things to grow and become beautiful.” It was about 2008 that the beginnings of a walkway began to take shape, not far from the entrance to the park and recently named for the man who adopted this cause. “Stanley worked so hard to clear the area of dead and dying trees and clearing them out to protect the other trees from the pine beetles,” said Hughes.

H. Stanley Sims Native Plant Area Opens at DeSoto State Park

by Ben Shurett

“It was his idea to make it a native plant area. After his retirement, he became a member of the Master Gardeners and he, along with a number of other Master Gardener volunteers, took this on as a special project.” Sims was quick to thank many others, including Hughes. “Brittney has been instrumental in her role as Park Naturalist,” Sims said. “The same is true of Maintenance Supervisor Mike Bare. He and his crew set the posts for the arbor that became the entrance to the walking trail. So many members of the Master Gardeners, including former president Paul Howell, worked many hours to help clear the debris, stain the arbor, and plant more native plants. And none of this would have been possible without the support of current Park Superintendent Josh Hughes.” Sims and others identified and planted native azaleas, rhododendrons, American hollies, black-eyed Susans, and more to make the area and walking path inviting to those visiting the State Park. It will be an ongoing project of the local master gardeners, according to the group’s president, Mary Shurett. “Stanley is a volunteer extraordinaire for the Master Gardeners and whatever else he is involved in,” Shurett said. “Whatever needs to be done, Stanley will do it well and with great humor. The Native Plant Area will be a wonderful addition to all DeSoto State Park already offers.” The project will live on, Sims said. “The DeKalb County Master Gardeners can be proud of this and it will live on in perpetuity,” he said.

New Public Art at Moon Lake Village



Stop by Moon Lake Village to see woodcarver Don Highfield’s newest creation—a musician with a bass ukulele who stands overlooking the Shigley Amphitheatre. The new sentinel was carved into a dead red oak tree that was recently cut down, leaving an 8-foot high trunk. The tree is estimated to have been about 125 years old. The sculpture is rich with detail, so look closely to find some surprises!

LITTLE RIVER CANYON CENTER PRESENTS

10th annual

BLUEGRASS ON THE RIM

2023

LINEUP

Foggy Hollow | Cottonmouth Creek | Gary Waldrep

ADVANCED TICKETS	DAY OF SHOW TICKETS
\$25	\$30

saturday **JUNE 10TH** doors open at **6:00 PM** music begins at **7:00 PM**

Buy tickets online at jsu.edu/epic/canyonconcerts/

Kids 10 & under free

LITTLE RIVER CANYON CENTER
4802 Little River Trl, SE
Fort Payne, AL
www.canyoncenter.org
(256) 845-3548

soon for tickets

LITTLE RIVER CANYON CENTER
Fort Payne, Alabama

JAX STATE
AMATEUR MUSIC SOCIETY



It's Patio Season!

Enjoy a beverage or snack on our deck, surrounded by lovely views of downtown, the parks, and Lookout Mountain!

We have craft beer, a curated wine selection, smoothies, teas, goodies from the Butter Snob kitchen, and of course, WATER!

519 Gault Ave N || Fort Payne

Visit Mentone Market

JOIN US FOR LUNCH DAILY
SOUPS, SALADS, SANDWICHES & PIZZA

PREPARED FOODS • LOCAL ART & GIFTS • CRAFT BEER • WINE

5872 AL HIGHWAY 117 PH. 256-634-4686