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Volume 39, No. 7

"Neighborly News from the Heart of Lookout Mountain"

July 2020

The Influence of a Good Teacher Can Never Be Erased by Kelly Leavitt



This watercolor painting of Moon Lake School was created by popular Lookout Mountain artist Cloud Farrow, who passed away on June 19, 2020. Mr. Farrow was born September 5, 1945. He was well known for his illustrations of historic structures in DeKalb and Cherokee counties, as well as his passion for storytelling and teaching children and others how to artistically express themselves.

In the 1930s, a little girl named Lila was a student at Moon Lake School. She was influenced in a long-lasting way by her teacher, Mrs. Foye Jones. The girl's family was quite poor, so each day Mrs. Jones and Lila walked ¼ mile to the Jones home, where they ate lunch together.

Miss Lila's daughter recently made a connection on Facebook with the wife of the cousin of Jan Slate, Mrs. Jones' granddaughter. She explained that her mother hoped to speak with someone in the Jones family. Jan quickly obliged and made a phone call to Miss Lila, who is now 93 years old.

"She shared that her biggest regret in life was not getting to attend my grandmother's retirement tea so that she could personally tell her how her kindness had affected her life," Jan said. "She said before she 'leaves this earth' she wanted to do something to honor my grandmother and shared that she'd like to place a plaque at the school. She wondered if I had other ideas of how she could honor my grandmother because she had been such a kind teacher. Almost 90 years later, my grandmother's legacy lives in somebody else's heart!"

Jan reached out to Moon Lake School principal Mary Lance. "After exchanging a couple of emails,

we decided that since we didn't know the amount of money Miss Lila wanted to donate, we'd give her some options," Jan said. "One option was to provide a daily snack for a needy child, which costs \$5 per week, or a weekend backpack food package that is supplied at a cost of \$5 per weekend. I also suggested the possibility of some library books related to kindness, helping and impacting the lives of others, each with a nice label in the front acknowledging the donation by Miss Lila in memory of my grandmother. This seemed like a good plan that would allow her to have some input, so I contacted Miss Lila again to share what I had learned.

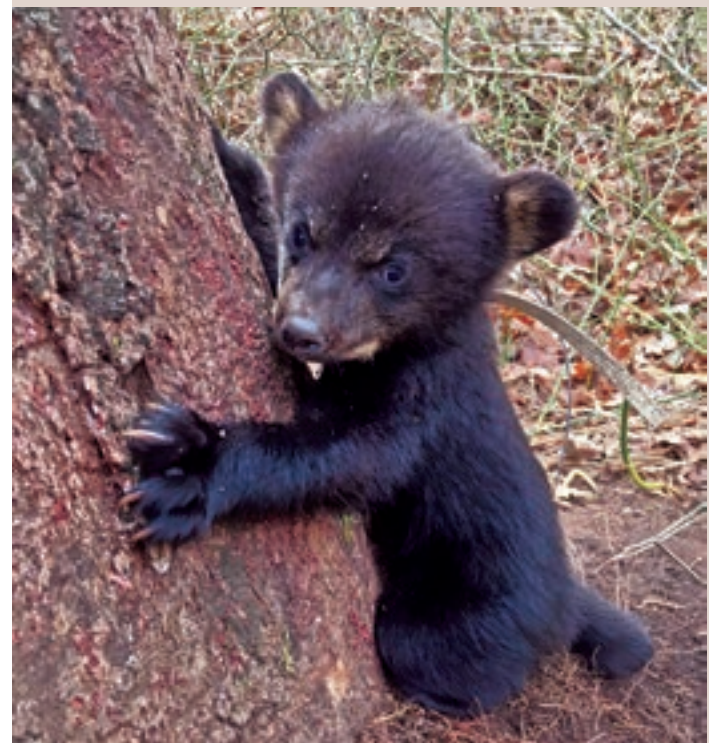
"Her answering machine picked up when I called," said Jan. "'Miss Lila,' I began... 'this is Jan Slate.' She immediately picked up the phone and said, 'I'm so glad you called. I've been thinking of you so much lately and was hopeful I'd hear back from you.' I shared with her that because we were unsure of the amount she wanted to donate, what I had learned would allow her to do several things, as much or as little as she desired.

"The amount she then shared with me shocked me, then she added that if we wanted something that cost more, she didn't mind increasing that

(continued on page 13)

KEEP BEARS WILD

by Kelly Leavitt



Our local population of black bears is growing, and we all need to learn how to keep them from becoming a nuisance. Hannah Leeper, a master's student from Auburn University, is helping us learn how (and why) to keep bears wild. Her three-year study, which began in 2019, focuses on bear cub survival and juvenile dispersal. It is funded by the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

"This year," she said, "there have been a lot more reports of bears visiting bird feeders or wandering through someone's yard because they're attracted to different smells and easy food sources."

Put simply, Hannah said, "A fed bear is a dead bear." Bears who become habituated to food sources created by humans can become nuisance bears. "That bear could then be put down," Hannah said, "and we don't want that to happen."

In order for Hannah to conduct her research and fit the bears with tracking collars, she needs to be able to attract bears to her traps deep in the woods, which is difficult when the bears find countless food sources near people's homes.

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THE GROUNDHOG

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Kelly Leavitt EDITOR/DESIGN

JULY CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Rob Hammond, Lynn Hixon, Mark Hoffman,
Pat Johnson, Rhea Pirch, Jay Robbins,
Jan Slate, Sarah Wilcox

Contact *The Groundhog*

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

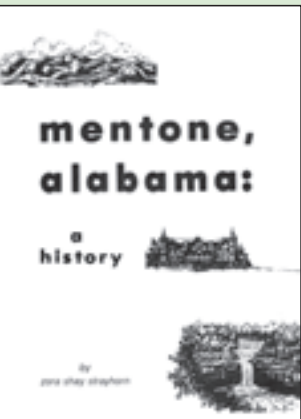
Contact MAPA

mapamentone.com
mapamentone@gmail.com
P.O. Box 50, Mentone, AL 35984
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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 wood cut courtesy of Meg Justice

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



Learn about the
History of Mentone

Zora Strayhorn's book, *Mentone, Alabama: A History*, is for sale at Moon Lake Community Library, Little River Hardware, Mentone Market, DeSoto State Park, and Bell Battelle. \$15; proceeds benefit MAPA.

Mentone Matters • by Mayor Rob Hammond

Municipal elections (separate from the November general election) will take place in Alabama on August 25. These elections are non-partisan. In Mentone, citizens may qualify to run for mayor or one of five council positions. Qualifying begins July 7 and ends July 21 at 5:00 p.m. CDT. Qualifying fees are \$50 for mayor and \$25 for town council. Candidate packets are available at Town Hall. The Alabama League of Municipalities' website, alalm.org, has a section on Municipal Election Information. I recommend that anyone considering becoming a candidate review the information found there.

The general election will be held in November. The Alabama Secretary of State's website sos.al.gov is a good source of information.

In a speech at Vanderbilt University in May 1963, President John F. Kennedy urged the



students to consider running for office. He also warned that upon entering public service, "You may find the pressures greater than the pay. You may endure more public attack than support. But you will have the unequalled satisfaction of knowing your character and talent are contributing to the direction and success of this free society."

Letter from the Editor



In many ways, the world has been changing—sometimes *a lot*—from month to month. And in some ways, it does not change at all.

The things that do not seem to change are those that are age-old in their endurance—family, friends, nature, wildlife, art, literature, etc. These constants endure because they speak to our soul. I personally hope we all remember to get out and enjoy the beauty of Lookout Mountain, and minimize time spent with an electronic screen. Consider this time an opportunity to reconnect—recharge—refresh—and restore!

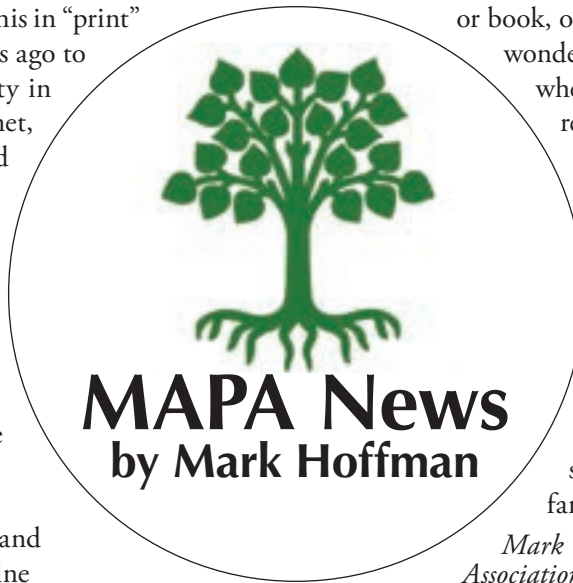
I certainly look forward to when *The Groundhog* can once again publish a community calendar. A normal summer brings a wide variety of activities that we can enjoy together. This year,

we're being called to be creative in how we meet our needs for social interaction. *The Groundhog* would love to hear from you about how you and your family are managing these times. Perhaps you have a story to tell, or artwork, a new recipe, or a photo of your garden or outdoor adventure. You might interview an elder about their life in simpler times, or write a poem about what you've felt or learned in recent months—the possibilities are endless. If you'd like to share your experience, please send me an email at groundhognews@yahoo.com for possible inclusion in our August issue. I'm eager to see how you're spending your time, and I'm certain our readers will be interested—and perhaps inspired—as well!

Have a wonderful (and safe) Fourth of July!
—Kelly

I hope this finds all of you safe and healthy. If you are reading this in “print” form, it is because MAPA’s board decided a couple of months ago to continue making *The Groundhog* available to the community in this fashion. Some of you don’t have ready access to the internet, and some (like me!) simply enjoy being able to touch, feel, and see an old-fashioned newspaper, instead of reading from a computer screen or other electronic device. The downside is that MAPA is not able to recoup its costs for publishing in print and distributing the paper each month during this trying and difficult time of the COVID-19 pandemic. So....I am asking each of you who are financially able to do so to please either join MAPA as a member if you are not already (and pay the small membership fee), or, even better, send a charitable donation to help us continue providing this invaluable service.

Speaking of electronic devices, there was recently a power outage at my home and no one could access a TV or computer, and was therefore forced to do something else, such as read a magazine



or book, or engage in some undisturbed conversation. It was wonderful! Let’s all try to do that on a regular basis, even when our electricity is up and running. If you need a recommendation for a good book, Kelly Leavitt will be happy to accommodate you and make arrangements for you to pick it up from the Moon Lake Library. The library is a wonderful community resource and hopefully will be used frequently by you and your family.

Thanks for all of your support, and feel free to contact me directly with questions or comments concerning MAPA. I can be reached at mhoffmanatty@yahoo.com. Please continue to follow safe protocols for the health and safety of yourself, your family, and the community.

Mark Hoffman is the president of Mentone Area Preservation Association.

Join MAPA Today

Help us preserve Mentone’s history and impact its future.

The Mentone Area Preservation Association (MAPA) is dedicated to preserving and protecting the heritage, natural environment and other unique qualities of life in the Mentone area.

One of MAPA’s key missions is supporting local organizations and projects which seek to improve the quality of life in Mentone. Financial grants are made possible through MAPA memberships, donations, sponsorships, *Groundhog* advertising and subscriptions, and by hosting annual spring and fall festivals which feature handmade arts and crafts and live music.

Individuals \$20/year • Couples \$30/year
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or mail your check to MAPA, P. O. Box 50, Mentone, AL 35984. Be sure to include your name(s), address, phone, and email address.

MAPA was organized in 1982. It is chartered as a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation.

A Sweet Goodnight by Kelly Leavitt



St. Joseph's-on-the-Mountain

Eight p.m. on a Wednesday night...have you heard the bugle resonating throughout downtown Mentone? Some have mistaken it for an actual bugler, but in reality, it is the bell tower of St. Joseph’s On-the-Mountain Church that is playing the traditional bugle call.

On Memorial Day of this year, Mentone veteran Hobson Kirby asked if it were possible to have “Taps” played in the bell tower. Father Bill Winters gave his approval, and a new tradition was born.

Perhaps the most recognizable of all military bugle calls, the origin of the “Taps” melody is a bit

clouded in controversy. Most historians agree that it was composed by Major General Daniel Adams Butterfield as a revision of an earlier bugle call known as “Tattoo,” which alerted troops to prepare for evening roll call and had gone out of service before the Civil War.

Displeased with the formality of the existing call for “Lights Out,” Butterfield enlisted his brigade’s bugler, Oliver Wilcox “O.W.” Norton, in July 1862 to play the new melody, which he had devised from taking the last five and a half measures of the “Tattoo” and morphing them into the 24 notes we

know today. Other buglers heard the new call and it soon spread among the Union Army and then the Confederate Army.

Butterfield’s purpose was to honor his men who were camped at Harrison’s Landing, VA, following the Seven Days’ battles during the Peninsular Campaign. It is likely that the name “Taps” (sometimes known as “Butterfield’s Lullaby”) was derived from the three drum taps that were beat as a signal for “Extinguish Lights” when a bugle was not used.

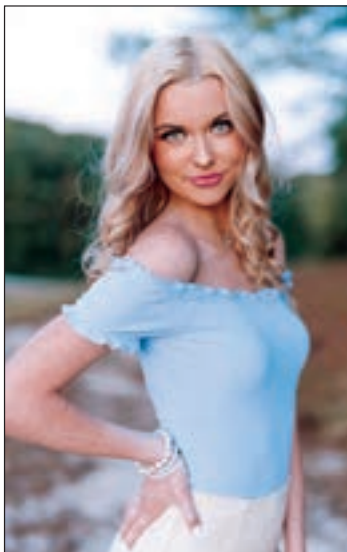
While St. Joe’s does intend to honor veterans when the bell tower plays “Taps,” church sexton Kat

Griffith said, “The church is all in for unifying the community and saying thank you. We’re all part of working together. It’s a closing—a closing of the day, a closing of the light, and being grateful for God’s blessing in all. To me, it’s like a sweet goodnight.”

“There is something singularly beautiful and appropriate in the music of this wonderful call,” Norton wrote. “Its strains are melancholy, yet full of rest and peace. Its echoes linger in the heart long after its tones have ceased to vibrate in the air.”

Miss Rhododendron (Virtual) Pageant

Correction: Our apologies for mixing up the photos of our two runners up in May's Miss Rhododendron Pageant. To honor the girls' efforts, we are reprinting their essays with the correct photos.



1st Runner Up

Jacy Mae Culberson lives in Fort Payne and graduated from Fort Payne High School. Her hobbies include photography, painting, and cooking.

Regarding her future ambitions, Jacy said, "I would like to get my Bachelors in business and ultimately be my own boss. I also would love to keep my photography career but use it to help the community instead of for financial support."

Quarantine from the Eyes of a High School Senior

submitted by

Jacy Mae Culberson

Just 6 months ago, the novel coronavirus now known as COVID-19, was unheard of. Today a global virus that keeps us contained in our homes is already reorienting our relationship to government, to the outside world, even to each other. Quarantine has put on a depression across the world with many losing family members, healthcare workers put on frontlines, and many missing out on key events such as graduation. COVID-19 has affected me directly by affecting my social life, learning to cope with an altered senior year, and helping me understand happiness lies in myself not others.

With a mandatory quarantine being enforced, social settings are impossible to come by. In order to keep everyone safe everyone must stay inside their homes with little to no outside contact. Therefore, seeing your friends is not a mandatory event. With many of my friends being home from college, this is hard for my friend group. Knowing that everyone is back in the same city but cannot see each other is challenging. It's hard to keep a positive outlook when the news is making the event seem prolonged.

The quarantine also heavily affects my senior year. I've worked hard my whole life as a student to be able to put on my cap and gown and walk across the stage in front of my town. Many of our last moments together could not happen. My class is very close so this makes it hard of all of us, I've grown with these people. I've seen these snotty nose kindergarteners change overnight to adults ready for college, this is my reality. Fort Payne High School contained our best years, senior year was supposed to be our year. Senior year is so bittersweet, I never thought it would end like this and so soon. This will not define us though, we were born in 2001 with 9/11 changing our country. Now we start our lives in a global pandemic, this can only make my class and I stronger.

(continued on page 5)

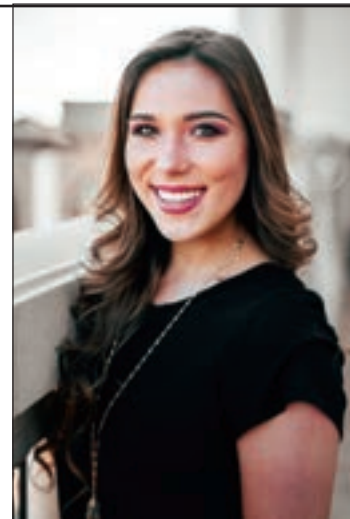
2nd Runner Up

Ally Smith lives in Mentone and graduated from Valley Head High School. Her hobbies include camping, hiking, kayaking, and spending time with family and friends. Regarding her future ambitions, Ally hopes to "have a successful career, give back to my community, marry and have a big family."

COVID-19

submitted by Ally Smith

Covid-19 has made a huge impact around the world. It has changed a lot of things for me and everyone. This pandemic has impacted my life in many different ways. This year was my last year to be a high school student. Many senior opportunities and experiences were cancelled and I have missed out on a lot with no chance to make them up. I was never really at school this year. This past semester I took all of my courses online and finished school in December. If I could go back and do it over again, I would have chosen to go to school and take my classes on campus rather than online. The Coronavirus has created stress and worry for me and will continue to. Every time I leave the house I try to be cautious, knowing that I am putting myself and family at risk of being exposed. I know now that I should never take anything for granted, even if it is just going to a restaurant and being able to dine-in. Although, the pandemic has affected everyone in so many ways, there have been good things that have come from this pandemic. My family, my friends, and I have gotten closer. We have spent quality time together enjoying outdoor activities and the simple things that life has to offer. I believe that everything happens for a reason and that something good can come from something bad. I truly hope that a cure or a vaccine becomes available very soon and people will not have to suffer from Covid-19.



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SENIOR HEALTH

Medicare Coverage Updates by Lynn Hixon

As more states relax stay-at-home orders, it's important to continue taking steps to protect yourself from COVID-19. Getting prescriptions, groceries, gas and connecting with your Doctor are a few tips to help you run essential errands safely.

Remember, if you need to see your doctor, please call their office first. Medicare has expanded coverage of TELEHEALTH SERVICES during the COVID-19 pandemic, for common office visits, mental health counseling, and preventive health screenings.

During this time, you may also want to contact your Medicare prescription drug plan to see if they've temporarily waived certain requirements such as waiving prescription refill limits or relaxing restrictions on home or mail delivery of prescription drugs. That way, you can limit in-person visits to the pharmacy.

If you have any questions or concerns please call Lynn Hixon at the DeKalb County Council on Aging at 256-845-8590.

Miss Rhododendron Pageant—Jacy Mae (continued from page 4)

The last thing that affects most people the most is their happiness during the virus. Taking care of your mental health is essential, even if your time in quarantine is relatively brief in the grand scheme of things. The isolation imposed by quarantine frequently leaves people feeling that they have no control over the situation. They also feel cut off from the rest of the world and unable to perform their usual duties. Everyone's mental health is deteriorating with quarantine in place. I have learned to find happiness in myself instead of relying on others. Keeping a strong faith and knowing that this is not the

end of the world helps me, learning how to keep a positive outlook is vital in quarantine.

Overall it is very easy to let the virus affect you negatively, especially with the media constantly talking about the severity. Teenagers have never experienced a pandemic. This is a very different and hard time for everyone. However, it is also a time of learning and patience. You may not be able to walk the stage now, or spend last moments with friends but through keeping faith and remaining positive in a situation that is out of my control, I can push through.



Happy
Independence
Day

Cloudland News by Pat Johnson

Cloudland Community Park is proud to announce that it has completed the renovations of its second bathroom. This includes handicapped accessibility to the new facilities. This was made possible with a grant that the Park received from the Tillotson-Menlo Charitable Foundation. The Park's officers and board have worked hard to get this done, and the Cloudland Community thanks them for their diligence. The current Park officers are: President Burmah Green; Vice President Janice Tucker; Secretary Maggie Johnson; Treasurer Pam Calvin; and Board Members Dick Tanner and Norman Peay. The renovations were done by Corey Watson, who is a member of the Cloudland Community and does remodeling, brick and block work, plumbing, full-builds, add-ons, roofing, foundations, and any repairs. He did an excellent job and is to be highly recommended.

The Park is proud not only of its two toilet facilities, but also of its 1/4-mile walking trail, tennis courts, playground, many picnic tables, covered fire pit, and its large covered pavilion with a newly renovated kitchen. We urge you to come take a look and enjoy the park. Anyone wishing to rent the park for a family or organization get-together, please contact the park or call Maggie Johnson at 706-862-3040.

Cloudland Community Park contact information: Mail: P.O. Box 277, Menlo GA 30731

Email: cloudlandcommunitypark@yahoo.com

Facebook: Cloudland Community Park

Website: cloudlandcommunity.wixsite.com/park

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A CABIN FOR EVERY SEASON. 2BR/2BA on 1.75 wooded acres. All wood interior; wood-burning fireplace w/stone hearth in vaulted living; handy galley kitchen; 2 screened porches; one w/rock w/ tub. Property is wooded, borders a small creek, & has a great outdoor fire ring w/benches for chilly evenings around the fire. Located in Laurel Creek Lakes which offers lakes for canoeing & well-maintained walking paths. \$179,900 (1128107)



SPACIOUS CABIN HOME ON 3.31 ACRES, w/ private drive. 3BR/2.5BA, 2500 sq ft, one-owner home features a welcoming front porch & deep, oversized back porch for easy entertaining outdoors. Open living/dining/kitchen w/ efficient, wood-burning heater; hardwood floors. Outdoors, the property includes a well-equipped workshop/garage; large pole barn for firewood with attached chicken coop; combination cleared/wooded land. Add'l land avail. \$264,500 (1128526)



IT'S SO PEACEFUL & QUIET HERE, and the land is just gorgeous! 33.78 acres, with 2 ponds; fenced & cross-fenced; pole barn; verdant pastures; lush woodland areas. Simple 4BR/3BA ranch-style home, with finished, walkout basement. Land is approx 1/2 woods & 1/2 pasture; level to gently rolling. Spring-fed pond creates a small stream that dances down to the woods. Picturesque, gated, ranch entryway welcomes you to "Three Feathers Ranch," with a gently-curving driveway leading past the pond & to the house. Satisfying views of pond & pasture from the front porch. Some repairs are needed on the house, but this is one of those truly special places well worth considering. Perfect horse property. \$299,000 (1145542)



Mentone is still a very active market, but listings are few! Give us a call today and let us help you sell your property.

LOTS and LAND

20 ACRES IN MENTONE CITY LIMITS, with a meandering, seasonal, wet-weather stream. Completely fenced w/large gate, this beautiful woodland is almost park-like because of the lack of pesky undergrowth; gentle roll in most places, level in some, steeper in some. Pleasurable to walk on & get "lost in the woods" on those days you just need to get away from it all. Property is zoned Rural Farm, giving you the freedom to have a few animals, build a farm, a cabin or a private compound. It's really up to you. And, at only \$5,000 per acre, this property is priced considerably less than the recent appraisal. \$100,000 (1128108)



LIVE YOUR MENTONE DREAM! This unique home sits atop Lookout Mountain, built on the edge of the brow. Top floor is a full, open loft w/2 sep bedrooms, each w/ balconies above the main deck. Galley-style kitchen + butlers pantry w/ top-of-the-line SS appliances; washer & dryer. Screened porch w/hot tub; fire pit w/cedar chairs/tables, circle drive & wooden fence. Fully furnished!! Great rental history, too! \$325,000 (1138642)



NOW THIS IS A MOUNTAIN CABIN! 3BR/2BA, 1900 sq ft cabin built w/locally-sourced woods; cedar cabinetry; cedar-lined closets; peeled pine railings; built-in on staircase; bank fl. w/ hardwood floors. Galley kitchen w/ granite counter; stainless steel appliances; washer & dryer. Screened porch w/hot tub; fire pit w/cedar chairs/tables, circle drive & wooden fence. Fully furnished!! Great rental history, too! \$325,000 (1138642)



PRIVATE CABIN IN THE WOODS WITH CREEK, walking paths, peace & quiet. Gated entry, lined with trees, leading to a cedar-sided, 3BR/2BA cabin on 3.17 wooded acres. The so-called "cabin" is a lovely, vaulted greatroom with knotty cypress floors; pine walls & ceilings; stone fireplace. 2BR/1BA on main level; Master suite upstairs. Fully furnished. Workshop/garage. \$269,000. (1144579)



LESS THAN A YEAR OLD, this adorable cabin is tucked into the woods, less than 4 minutes from the heart of Mentone. 2BR/2.5BA; stone, gas-log fireplace; rugged vinyl plank floors; rustic tin accents in the kitchen; stainless appliances; full front porch; screened porch off both bedrooms. Easy-care exterior with fiber-cement siding, stone foundation & metal roof. All packed into a sweet little package on 1.5 unrestricted acres. Rental potential! \$178,000. (1146781)

NEED A BIT OF EARTH? Well, here it is! Less than 5 minutes from downtown Mentone. Public water & power avail. A single acre, unrestricted, has been very hard to find in this area until now. \$19,000. (1109345)

UNIQUE, YEAR-ROUND NAVIGABLE RIVER LOT AT DESOTO FALLS Lake area. Approx 94' frontage on the prime part of W Fork Little River, the truly navigable part where you can canoe, kayak or pontoon all the way to Mentone! Survey & perc in file. \$155,000. (355152)



THE YELLOW DELI, LOG CABIN DELI, MOONLIGHT BISTRO, GREEN LEAF GRILL... There have been some great memories made in this cool, old storybook log cabin. The time has come for the next chapter to be written in this iconic property's story. Tucked into the heart of Mentone's Log Cabin Village, this place could be most any kind of business. Come & sit on the front porch, nestle up to the wood-burning fireplace inside, take in the hand-hewn beams & other rustic elements of this unique property. Dare to dream. \$159,500 (1145258)



7.5 ACRES WITH 600' TOTAL BROW FRONTAGE! Less than 3 miles from downtown Mentone. This property offers 2 different levels on which to build. Up top, or on the second "plateau" for an even more private residence. Perhaps a guest house or party pavilion on the lower level? Property extends all the way to the valley, where huge boulders stand sentry. Huge stones up top offer a natural ring around the edge of the mountain, making for interesting landscaping possibilities. Gated drive already in place. Some clearing has been done to open up the lot's features. Up top, or second level, either choice provides approx 300' of brow frontage, and is an excellent spot for those amazing views! Build your dream with a view! \$225,000 (1145750)



TRULY THE HEART OF MENTONE: the Hitching Post, rich with history & even a bit of mystery! Steeped with charm & interesting nooks, this building has potential to be most anything! Currently housing active businesses The Gourdie Shop & Tip Top Bakery, there is also office space & a huge retail space w/ covered, stone-floored entryway. This is THE corner on the market...literally! But, there is also that magnificent, light-filled space upstairs (approx 2800 sq ft) for a studio or booths. Generous parking. \$350,000 (1143518)



Rhododendron Garden Club

“What Plants Talk About” by Rhea Pirch



It's been a few months since the Rhododendron Garden Club has been able to meet due to COVID-19 precautions. We hope to be able to meet in July. Until then, our members are most likely staying busy in their gardens.

Each month when we do meet, one of our members presents a program to the group about various garden-related topics. June was my scheduled month, and I selected “What Plants Talk About”.

Do plants actually communicate with each other? The idea was considered ludicrous when focused research started in the 1980s. Forty years and many experiments later, the scientific community has accepted the notion that yes, plants do communicate—with each other, and with their surrounding environment. Scientists are discovering that plants have a social life that they are just beginning to understand. Richard Karb, an evolutionary ecologist at UC-Davis stated that, “The evidence for it is now substantial, and it's exciting to unravel all these different realms of plant communication.”

How do plants communicate, and what might they say?

They cry for help. You know that sweet smell of freshly mown grass or cut flowers? It's their distress call. The scent attracts insects that will eat the pests currently feasting on their plant bodies. As an example, take the wild tobacco plant. It can identify a hornworm caterpillar by its saliva. When the plant is attacked by the caterpillar, it will emit a chemical signal that attracts the insect's enemies, so caterpillar predators show up and drive the pest away.

Plants eavesdrop, picking up on the chemical signals of their neighbors. Experiments have shown that plants detect destructive pests present on their neighbor and react by ramping up their own defenses by releasing proteins called trypsin proteinase inhibitors (TPIs) so the predator won't attack them next.

Plants defend their territory. They can secrete acids in their roots to form a protective barrier against toxic chemicals given off by invasive plants. A good example of this is lupine. Its roots secrete oxalic acid to defend against the invasive knapweed plant and can protect other plants in its vicinity from an attack of this invader.

Plants recognize their siblings, and act to protect them and help them grow. Trees, for example, will avoid growing so their branches don't touch, in order to allow more penetration of light (allowing photosynthesis), avoid damaging each other during storms or high winds, and prevent destructive larvae and insects from spreading from one tree to another. Look up in any forest and notice this phenomenon called “crown shyness,” where tree branches don't touch, forming a canopy in the sky.



Plants also communicate with mammals. Take the *Nepenthes Hemsleyana*, a tropical pitcher plant found in Borneo that uses its concave structure to attract bats that roost in the plants, thereby providing them with nutritious bat guano that gets distributed in the soil nearby.

So yes, plants do talk. They warn, help, and support each other in order to grow and prosper. We could all learn a lesson from them.

If you're interested in learning more about plant communication, consider reading “The Secret Life of Plants” by Peter Tompkins and Christopher Bird and “The Hidden Life of Trees” by Peter Wohlleben, both available at the Moon Lake Community Library.

For our updates, see our Facebook page or send us an e-mail to rhododendrongardenclub@gmail.com.

Wildflower Café



MentoneWildflower.com
256.634.0066

Check us out on Facebook!



Looking for a home in a tranquil setting with awe inspiring views? Look no more. This Mentone Brow Home is ready for you. Set on 2.5 acres this 3BR/2B home has a real fireplace, hardwood floors, quartz counter tops, separate laundry room, metal roof, screened porch & a large 2 car garage & workshop. Priced at \$285,000.



Mentone West Brow Home. Enjoy the great views from this one of a kind 4BR/4B gem. Immaculate 2673sf living area in all hardwood flows through a spacious kitchen, living room w/ stone fireplace & vaulted dining to the deck beyond. Enjoy living & entertaining on the expansive 2300 sf deck w/ built in seating among the massive chestnut oaks for shade. Great potential for B&B. \$499,000.



Private Mentone building lot on the west brow. Hidden on a private wooded terrace off the road this 10.8+/- acres has great views set among some unusual boulder outcrops for interest. The land continues over the brow cliffs in a natural path to a lower level ripe for exploring or capturing more view. A new driveway, survey and perc test for a 4BR home is in place. City water and power are at the road. Just minutes from town. Don't let this get away. \$179,000.



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Keep Bears Wild (continued from page 1)

These food sources might include bird feeders (bears love sunflower seeds), barbeque grills, empty dog food bowls, unsecure garbage cans, and especially corn that people put out to attract wildlife like deer and turkeys.

"People should not be inadvertently baiting with any kind of food source that smells attractive to bears," said Hannah. "We don't want to set ourselves up for having bears that lose their fear of humans because they've learned to associate humans with food. We don't want them to become comfortable being in people's yards."

Spreading corn for deer or turkeys is setting us up to have a major bear problem. "As a community," Hannah said, "we need to really work on not providing any attractants at all. I know people like to put out corn in their yard to see what wildlife comes

through. I understand that. It's fun to see wildlife in your yard. But it's really not a good idea. I would really, really like to discourage people from that."

Regarding bird feeders, Hannah said the best solution is to eliminate bird feeders. "But," she said, "I realize people don't want to do that. The next best solution is to take them in at night. If you're going out of town for a few days, take them in before you leave. Otherwise you can string them up so they're too high [10–15 feet] for a bear to reach or climb to. The whole idea is to not let the bear get the reward."

Beehives can also be an issue. "The best solution is to put up electric fencing," said Hannah. "I know that's kind of a big endeavor, but once bears get a taste of the bee larvae, they're going to keep coming back for it." Contrary to popular opinion, bears are attracted to beehives not for the honey, but for the high protein of the larvae.

This is an active time of year for bears. Juveniles are dispersing from their mother's home range. It's also breeding season, so they're on the move looking for females. While many people would love the opportunity to see a bear, the goal is actually to not see one.

The Mentone area is on the precipice of becoming a community, like Gatlinburg, which is plagued by nuisance bears. If the entire



community takes this call to action seriously, we can be known for being a community whose bear population prefers to remain in the woods, rather than on people's back decks or in their yards.

If you see a bear, do not startle it. Let it know you're there by making some gentle noise. (Hannah's go-to phrase is "Hey, bear, hey bear, hey bear.") Bears tend to be shy and secretive, preferring to keep to themselves—unless, of course, they're lured in by a reward.

- To learn more about Hannah's study and about the bears in our area, see the cover article in last July's Groundhog at bit.ly/groundhog-july2019.
- To learn about living responsibly with black bears, see bearwise.org.
- To report a bear sighting, go to game.dcnr.alabama.gov/BlackBear. Hannah Leeper would like to hear about your sighting as well; you can email her at hsl0122@auburn.edu.

Photos of cubs by Hannah Leeper

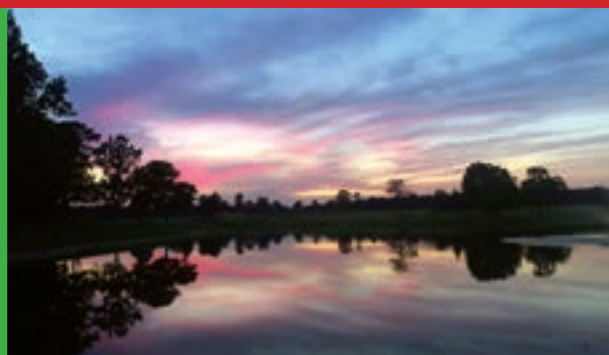

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GRAND OPENING! SATURDAY AUGUST 1



GRAND OPENING GOLF TOURNAMENT

Four-Man Scramble
Shotgun Start
Tee Off 8 am Central

Includes 18 holes of golf | Cart | Lunch

Early Registration ends July 15
\$320 Foursome | \$80 person

Late registration accepted up to tee off
\$360 Foursome | \$90 person

Limited availability, so register early!

PRIZES

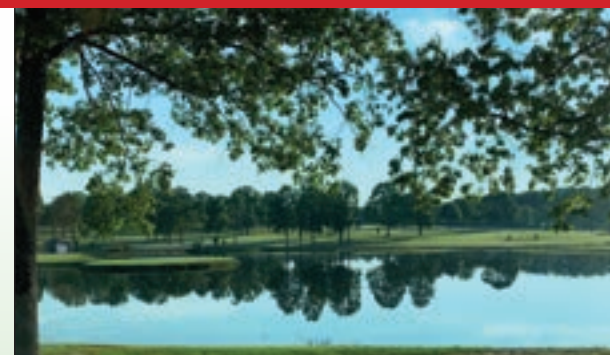
A | B | C Flight Winning Team—\$200 cash
Longest Drive | Closest to Pin—\$50 cash
50/50 Drawing
Door Prizes
T-Shirt Giveaway
Free coolies & popcorn



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Putting Green—Spring 2021

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Ribs | Pulled Pork & Bun | Baked Beans
Coleslaw | Potato Salad | Drinks | Dessert
\$12 Adult | \$8 Kids (under 5 Free)

Course Open to Public
following conclusion of
Grand Opening Tournament
1 pm–Dusk

741 County Road 647, Mentone, AL 35984 | LilMoleRun.com

Moon Lake Community Library News by Kelly Leavitt

Good news! The Library is slowly starting to re-normalize, although in less-than-normal ways.

Beginning Tuesday, July 7, patrons will be allowed to come into the library to browse our book and DVD collections, and our sale books—with a twist. Two patrons will be allowed in the library at one time for a 30-minute visit. When you arrive, we'll ask that you wash your hands. Face coverings will be necessary at this time. We'll continue offering curbside service, as well. We are reopening access to the children's collection; families may reserve a time to come in together. Visit our web site at moonlakelibrary.org for details and reservations.



Many thanks to patron Deidre Brown for telling us about the delightful book by Heather Webber, *Midnight at the Blackbird Café*! The setting is in Wicklow, a small town that in many ways resembles Mentone—it's a small, artsy, diverse town on Lookout Mountain. In the author's words: "As for the setting of Blackbird, if Mentone and Fairhope had a baby, it would be Wicklow, which is absolutely set where Mentone is on a map. I had to have the mountain magic."

We know folks have been missing book club discussions and author talks, so we're taking them "virtual." On Thursday, July 30, at 6:30 p.m., the Moon Lake Book Club will gather via Zoom for a discussion of Ms. Webber's book—you can connect via computer or telephone. Then, on Monday, August 3, at

6:30 p.m., Ms. Webber will join us for an online Author Talk on Facebook. This is new, different, and exciting for us! See our web site at moonlakelibrary.org or our Facebook page for details about the book, as well as how to connect on Zoom.

We'd like to thank those who have made book donations in recent months, especially Terry and Dori Stallings, who drove 10 large boxes of books to Mentone

from Daphne. These books have been curated especially for us by the Friends of Daphne Library Bookstore. They are in excellent condition, and many will be added to our collection. The rest will be added to our sale shelves which are (literally) overflowing, so make an appointment to come by and see what's new.

See you at the library — or, this month, the computer!

Kelly Leavitt is the librarian of Moon Lake Community Library.

FARM MARKET OPEN

EVERY TUESDAY 2-4PM CST

EVERY FRIDAY 2-5PM CST

Please follow us on instagram and facebook (@thefarmatwindyhill) for the most up-to-date information about our market. Need to talk to a farmer? Call/text us at: 256-674-3639 or email: info@thefarmatwindyhill.com. Our on-farm market is located at: 445 Road 942 Mentone, AL 35984.



Experience Tiny Living on Lookout Mountain!

In 2019, Little River Escape Tiny Home Community was named one of the nation's top 6 tiny home communities by U.S. News & World Report. As a result, our community is now almost fully occupied by folks who have come from 12 different states. Little River Escape has decided to embark on a new journey by creating River Ridge Escape Tiny Home Dealership, where 6-8 tiny homes are available to tour and purchase. RRE is now delivering across the nation, as well as developing other communities to bring more folks to Lookout Mountain.

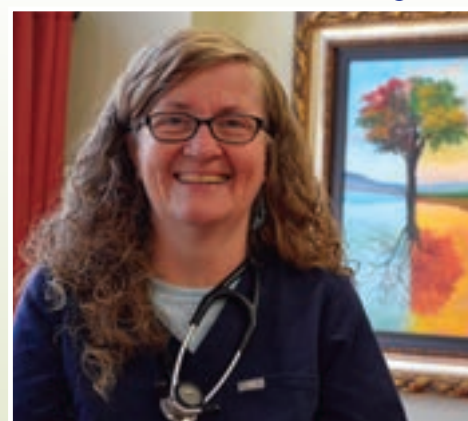
A new development is coming to Mentone, only 3 miles from town. Mentone Mountain Escape will be a tiny home neighborhood with +/-20, 1/2-acre wooded lots per house and a common area with a dog park, patio, and firepit area.



RIVER RIDGE ESCAPE

Tour River Ridge Escape's Tiny Homes • Thurs-Sat 11-5 EST or by appointment
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NEW



PICTURE PERFECT HOME sitting on 6.49 ac. 3 BR 2.5 BA. 3400 sq. ft. Farmhouse feel w/ spacious rooms, large closets, huge rocking chair front porch, all-seasons room w/ view. The property has a pond, 60x30 barn w/ add'l storage. \$320,000. MLS #1145347



CUSTOM LOG CABIN with breathtaking BROW views that will give you all the "feels." Exposed beam ceilings, rock fireplace, office w/ view, sleeping loft, 2 BR w/ 2 full BA & a large back deck for all your entertaining needs. MOVE-IN ready! \$344,000. MLS #1103561



NEW CONSTRUCTION! 3 BED-ROOM 3 BATH CABIN IN MENTONE! We have just about finished this beautiful home in the mountains. Tongue & groove walls & ceilings. Two huge loft areas are connected by a beautiful wooden catwalk. Sitting on over 2 acres, lightly restricted. \$269,000. MLS #1125366



UNIQUE MENTONE CABIN in walking distance of DeSoto Falls. Detailed rustic finishes. 2BR/2BA cabin with stainless steel appliance package, leathered granite countertops, stacked stone wood burning fireplace and amenities to numerous to mention! \$265,000. MLS #1132320



FURNISHED CRAFTSMAN HOME within walking distance to downtown Mentone! Family room & Master BR include Rock Fireplaces! Screened back porch and All Seasons room for family time, sleeping porch, dining or enjoying the outdoors year round. Property is RESIDENTIAL or COMMERCIAL and in the downtown business district. \$169,900. MLS #1134273



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

LOTS & LAND

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

#1039769—6.32+/- waterfront building lot in Mountain River Estates! REDUCED TO \$44,950

#1073864—Brow Lot! .78 acres. REDUCED TO \$83,900

#1076239—Cleared & wooded 3.6 acres on Scenic Hwy. REDUCED TO \$74,500.

#1078140—18.3 acres, unrestricted, partially wooded! \$66,800

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

#1099911—LAST CHANCE to buy open land before entering into Georgia!!! \$165,000.

#1108339—Better Than a Bargain...this is a STEAL! \$89,000.

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

#1112787—40 acres in Mentone, AL with stream and untouched family owned property since 1923! REDUCED TO \$198,000.

#1113936—Looking for a brow lot inside the city limits of Mentone? \$78,500

#1118808—A GREAT PLACE TO BUILD YOUR GETAWAY NOW! Level wooded lots with underground utilities, inside gated community. Just minutes to Historic downtown Mentone. Call today for more information. \$25,000

#1118810—A GREAT PLACE TO BUILD YOUR GETAWAY NOW! Level wooded lots with underground utilities, inside gated community. Just minutes to Historic downtown Mentone. Call today for more information. \$25,000

#1118812—A GREAT PLACE TO BUILD YOUR GETAWAY NOW! Level wooded lots with underground utilities, inside gated community. Just minutes to Historic downtown Mentone. Call today for more information. \$25,000

#1118813—A GREAT PLACE TO BUILD YOUR GETAWAY NOW! Level wooded lots with underground utilities, inside gated community. Just minutes to Historic downtown Mentone. Call today for more information. \$25,000

#1118815—A GREAT PLACE TO BUILD YOUR GETAWAY NOW! Level wooded lots with underground utilities, inside gated community. Just minutes to historic downtown

Mentone. Call today for more information. \$25,000

#1118229—A great little investment property or place for your weekend get-a-way. \$49,900

#1118898—BEAUTIFUL LAKEFRONT PROPERTY ON TOP OF WORLD FAMOUS LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN! Sloping wooded lot inside gated community. Call Now for more information. \$30,000

#1120910—Five-acre wooded property with stream, across from Lake Lahusage. \$39,900

#1127776—2.41-acre property just steps away from downtown Mentone. Build your wooded home-site, develop a tiny home community, or invest in the rental business. \$47,500

#1128694—40 acres with 3-acre lake stocked with bream and bass. \$229,000.

#1129833—1.5-acre brow lot in Mentone. \$124,900

#1130311—The time to buy is now! Steal of a deal on 2 acres with a seasonal brow view! Build that cabin or home you have always wanted. Priced only at \$29,999.

#1133689—3.58-acre property just steps away from downtown Mentone. Build your wooded home-site, develop a tiny home community, or invest in the rental business. \$69,500

#1133690—4.0-acre property just steps away from downtown Mentone. Build your wooded home-site, develop a tiny home community, or invest in the rental business. \$78,500

#1137464—It's a Natural!!! Enjoy 40 acres of country backdrop! This parcel is country pure and simple. Enjoy privacy with lots of trees and a pond. Perfect spot for a rustic or farmhouse retreat. Better take this one seriously because a buy like this won't last long! \$239,900

#1139102—Lot on County Road 89 located on the opposite of the brow. These lots don't come available often. If you are looking to be nestled in the woods on DeSoto Parkway then this lot is for you! \$29,900

#1138874—WAKE UP TO WATERFRONT LIVING on this 6.22 acres with a long and winding stream and frontage on Brush Creek. This property is located in a cul-de-sac and has lots of rock outcroppings and boulders scattered all



MENTONE BROW HOME! 2 BR, 2 BA hardwood floors, rustic wood walls, gas log fireplace, CH/A, decks, detached storage building. \$288,000. MLS #1130058



ON THE BROW IN MENTONE 3BR, 2BA brick home. Spacious family room w/ wall of windows, vaulted ceiling, fireplace, dining area & wood floors. Open kitchen, pantry, laundry, separate den w/wood floors. 2.3 acres & large deck for entertaining. \$315,000. MLS# 1139408

about. The property has beautiful frontage along the creek and is mostly wooded. \$49,900

#1139471—Ready for that brow view in Mentone? 2.3 acres of untouched land! Make this your new home away from home and build the cabin of your dreams! \$125,000

#1145115—Beautiful building lots across from Lake Lahusage near the dam! This wooded 2.5 acre parcel is divided from a larger tract and has all the making of a wonderful home site! \$22,500

#1145590—GREAT POSSIBILITIES! This 22 acres +/- has lots of road frontage on Hwy. 117. \$125,000

— ★ ★ ★ —
happy
4th of
July
— ★ ★ ★ —

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Lil' Mole Run Golf Course Comes Back to Life

by Kelly Leavitt

"I love a project. I've gotta always have something to do," said Tommy Roberts, the new owner of Lil' Mole Run, an 18-hole golf course on CR 647 in Mentone. Tommy is carrying on a tradition in a sense, because the golf course was originally built by Butch Manifold, who also, as his wife Denita said, "loves a good project."

Butch's family has lived in Mentone for many generations. "Butch is just a jack of all trades and he can do whatever he wants to, by the grace of God," said Denita. In 1990, the family owned 90 acres of woods on County Road 647 that had been clear cut. "One day, Butch decided he was going to start clearing the land, build a pond, and make a golf course," Denita said. "That's how the golf course started."

The work took two and a half years to complete. Since the land had been clear cut, the project began

and people who had worked with him over the years in his construction business. ("Pretty much everybody on this mountain has worked for Butch at one point or another," Tommy joked.) Denita said, "Sometimes there were 20 or 30 people out there at a time, working through the night." Volunteers helped with task such as driving dump trucks, hauling dirt, sand, and gravel, driving tractors and heavy equipment, putting in irrigation, and planting grass. "We were very blessed to have such good family and friends to help us with such an



Darlene Shore and Tommy Roberts

with removing all the tree stumps. "It got to the point where we couldn't turn back and had to move forward," Denita said. She had thought the project might fade away once the pond was built. But Butch kept working ("He likes to start things and see them through," said Denita), so she left her job as a substitute teacher at Moon Lake and Valley Head Schools to work alongside her husband. "I got out on the golf course, laying out irrigation, hauling dirt in a dump truck, and cooking for everyone who was working and volunteering to help build the golf course," she said. "I tend to go with the flow." She ended up running the clubhouse for more than a dozen years.

Butch is not a golfer, nor is Tommy, the new owner. But they both know how to get things done. Butch enlisted the help of family, friends, community,



The 9th hole green provides a challenging target surrounded by water.

enormous project. We considered ourselves fortunate during the years we operated the golf course to work with great employees. We appreciated every one of them greatly."

Maintaining and running a golf course is a lot of work, so in 2005, the Manifolds leased the property to their son, Toby, and in 2006 sold Lil' Mole Run to

the couple has breathed new life into Mentone's only golf course. Based in Armuchee and Cedar Bluff, the couple's first task was to renovate the living quarters on the second floor of the clubhouse, so they'd have a place to stay when they were in Mentone during the renovation of the course. Butch Manifold is overseeing the project.

(continued on page 13)

Ron and Lisa Lutze, who ran it until they put the property and business on the market in the mid 2010s. By the time it was sold in spring 2019, the property had become quite overgrown.

Tommy Roberts, who owns Tommy Roberts Trucking, Inc., in Armuchee, GA, essentially bought himself a new project. With the dedicated help of his longtime partner, Darlene Shore, who is retired from a career

in the banking industry,



Butch Manifold is the great-grandson of Lula Mae and Edd Lester Bain, who had moved to Mentone in 1918 from Cedar Bluff in order to be near Lula Mae's sister, Minnie Ivens. The sisters were deeply involved in the Mentone Church of God, which met at the Bankhead School until the building burned in 1939. About 12 members, including the sisters, met under an oak tree and decided to build a structure of their own. Minnie and Frank Ivens donated the land for the new church. Many participated in building the white frame church which once stood on Highway 117, about three and one-half miles east of Mentone.

According to Zora Strayhorn in *Mentone: A History* (published by MAPA; see page 2):

"Gramma Bain" or "Sister Bain" as she was affectionately called, was the pillar of the Mentone Church of God. More than any other person she financed it by selling produce from the porch of the home she and her husband maintained on Highway 117. The small farm she and her husband tended was productive. She asked donations from their customers. One pocket of her apron was for the church. She was pint-sized, soft-spoken, the mother of nine children, gentle and devoted to her church.



Camp Juliette Low

On Lookout Mountain in Cloudland, GA



We hope you and your loved ones stay safe and healthy.

We can't wait to be back on Lookout Mountain together next summer!



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July

Birthdays

- 1

JohnTyler Lawton
Marilyn Slaton
Patrick Coots
August Shanklin
Patrick Long
Nicholas King
- 2

Karen Potts
Byrum Emory
Virgil Battles
- 3

Nick Black
Jared Webb
Allison Powell
Josh Rosson
Craig Hughes
Mason Tubberville
Reba Coleman
Johnnie Lewchuk
Randy Fowler
Luke Milford
- 4

Jack Carden
Bennett (BJ) Browder
Deb Smith
Ashley Hulgan
Lana Miller
- 5

Steven McElhaney
Chris Underwood
- 6

Dawson Crow
Dustin Burt
Corey Powelll
- 7

Jim Blalock
Loretta Bain
Marcus Crider
LaShae Jones
Zoe Moon
- 8

Daniel Phillips
Kathy Gray
Eian Bain
Doug Kiker
Donna Bailey
Sheila Smith
- 9

KayLee Kilgore
Skylor Dutton
Mia Woods
Braylie Callahan
- 10

Steve Lanier
Addison McClure
Ryan Tramel
Caroline Baty
Alan Bell
- 11

Kanissa Smith
Brooklyn Carroll
Lacie Keith
Kori Willingham
Dylan Carter
Garrett Collins
Clare Donohue
- 12

Charles Gray
Cindy Harrison
Juliegh McKenzie
- 13

Jordan Goza
Sissy Crider
Brody Battles
Myles Battles
Tracie Pullen
- 14

Will Blackburn
Dave Vest
Jeffrey Hopper
Park Nelson
Paul Crawford
Teena Bain
Bella & Ava Harrison
Dylan Flannigan
Sheila Meadows
Courtney Stone
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Jason Dean
Tatum Lanier
Paul Zulker
Will Battles
Chelsea Stephenson
Lana Harris

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Nathan Hargrove
Margie Daniel
Tricia Shankles
Kendall Shankles
Johnny Lewchuk
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Christopher Black
Valerie Burt
Justin Battles
Waylon Burton
Nolan Stinson
Kristen Wilborn
Hannah Carden
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Loy Langston
Lily Cash
Kaye Kiker
Stone Cross
Laura Catherine Moon
- 19

Danny Cross
Anna Bobo
Avery May Kilgore
- 20

Becky Langston
Lindsay Black
Bailee Carter
Jeff Clure
Craig Hulgan
Paul Whittle
- 21

Tonya Hilyer
Paxton Harper
Brianna Powell
Peggy Johnston
Tony Hammonds
- 22

Linda Clark
Ian Hilyer
Emily Norman
Charlie Runnels
- 23

Amanda Smith
Taylor Blalock
Logan Chambers
Emmie Chambers
Reid Davis

- Marc Pardue
Chris McMahan
Sandra Ward
Jim Pullen
- 24

Phyllis Bailey
- 25

Rylee Vest
Bill Berry
Jeremy Webb
Kali Haynes
Austin Cuzzort
Jenny Lewchuk
Taylor Filmore
Josephine Blalock
- 26

Claire Wilkinson
Pam Dean
Gracie Carol Butler
Megan Smith
Maggie Chaney
- 27

Dexter Smith
Kelley Hughes
John David Nelson
- 28

Debbie Flannigan
Kelly Owen
Sam Shanklin
- 29

Eli Shanklin
Trip Battles
Kayla Hamilton
- 30

Zack Dean
Zach Bain
Rachel Collins
- 31

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

Anniversaries

- 1

Casey & Tracy Cartwright
- 2

Ladon & Donna Willingham
- 3

Brooks & Haley Moore
- 7

Justin & Jamie Shankles
- 9

Al & Vickie Blackburn
- 13

John Paul & Teresa Verdon
- 16

Josh & Ashley Coffman
Gene & Karen Potts
- 18

Zach & Tamara Bain
- 20

Charles & Amanda Gray
- 22

John & Lisa Moore
- 23

John & Alisha Lawton
Craig & Greta Hall
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Jamie & Gequetta Darwin
Don & Yvonne Brock
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Trey & Allison Kincer
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A Good Teacher (continued from page 1)

amount. After a nice chat, she asked for my address and said she would mail a check to me so that we could grant this wish sooner rather than later, as she said she wasn't 'getting any younger.'

"Two days later, I received a check in the mail for \$1,000."

This is enough money to support four backpack food packages for four children for an entire school year or daily snacks for four children for an entire school year, or a mixture of the two. As well, almost \$200 worth of library books for the Moon Lake Elementary School library will be provided in memory of Mrs. Jones. Finally, a small plaque will be presented to the Moon Lake Elementary School which will read:

***The influence of a good teacher
can never be erased.***

In honor and memory of
Foye D. Jones, 1899-1980

Lil' Mole Run (continued from page 11)

All of the bentgrass greens of the course have been redone, as well as the irrigation and drainage systems. Trees have been heavily pruned, water plants have been removed, and a fountain has been installed in the main lake.

Tommy and Darlene enjoy RV camping, and they've brought that passion to Lil' Mole Run, where 12 RV campsites are now available. Land is being prepared to install additional campsites.

A new picnic pavilion that overlooks the lake is furnished with a grill, sink, counter, and seating. It is available to golfers and campers, and can be rented for full-day use by others. The lake is stocked with carp, and fishing is allowed for a small fee. Canoes are available to rent for paddling on the lake. The entire property can be rented for weddings or family reunions.

The course's two bathrooms have been completely

renovated, as well as the clubhouse, where snacks and drinks are available. Once the coronavirus pandemic eases up, Darlene plans to grill hamburgers on the patio on Saturdays; on Sundays, she will serve chicken salad sandwiches.

The course layout has not been changed. It is a par-71 course that measures 5,400 yards from the back tee and 4,300 yards from the front tee. The golf course's unusual name has not changed, either. Denita Manifold explained its origin: "The moles were tearing up everything that we fixed out there, so we were toying with names and we finally just settled on that one."

Mentone is fortunate to have a golf course and local golfers are excited to be able to play once again, with the cool mountaintop breezes and sweeping vistas of the gently rolling fairways. Learn more at lilmolerun.com.

Memories of My Grandmother by Jan Slate

My grandmother, Foye Foster Doherty Jones, was born March 29, 1899. As a child, I visited Mentone each summer to spend a week at my Grandmother and Grandfather's home. Even now, I could be blindfolded and dropped into their yard and from the fragrant smell, know exactly where I was. It wasn't the plants or flowers but that very distinct sweet, clean smell of mountain air. This was one of my favorite things about going. Although we called them the very formal names of Grandfather and Grandmother, they were not formal people. Being there in the mountains at my grandparents' home, it always made me think I was Heidi, the young girl who lost her parents and was sent to live in the mountains with her Grandfather. (I loved that book).

During my visits, I'd go berry picking with my Grandmother and she would later bake a blackberry pie. They had a smoke house with salted hams and other meats hanging inside. There was a cellar built into the underside of their house that my Grandmother kept filled with a variety of things from her garden. That cellar always scared me to death. She went in most days to collect what she would cook for lunch or dinner. She never wasted anything. I'm sure she put the ends of vegetables and the tops off tomatoes in soup or something else. She cooked breakfast every morning and then had whichever grandchildren were visiting clean the kitchen—washing the dishes, drying them and putting them away. They had the coldest water I have ever in my life felt coming from a water faucet.

Bath time followed the cleaning of the kitchen, and then we got to sit on the front porch, which was made of beautiful mountain rock. Getting the



Mr. and Mrs. Foye and Joe Jones

water heater cranked up for a warm bath seemed to take ages. Another wonderful memory of my Grandmother was her feather pillows and beds. If you've never slept in a true feather bed with feather pillows, you really don't know what you've missed. But I could NEVER make that feather bed up. That was a job only my grandmother could perform.

I remember my Grandmother seemingly a hard woman, not unkind but not affectionate. Hugs did not involve a full-body embrace that said "I love you." But I never remember seeing her angry. I never heard her yell. And although I felt loved, I don't remember her ever telling me she loved me.

My Grandfather died in April 1977, when I was in college. I remember my Grandmother's stoicism at his funeral but just thought that was consistent with how I had always seen her. Afterwards, I remember her saying she never wanted to leave her home they had lived in to die in a hospital or nursing home. I'm sure leaving her after that funeral was very hard for my mother and her only sibling, my Uncle Brandol. Grandmother didn't drive so there was a couple in town who would frequently

call or go by and check on her. The husband would stop by if she needed anything done; although I imagine she took care of most everything herself.

On May 1, 1980, my grandmother made a call to this man and told him she felt ill and maybe needed to go to the doctor. He came over and went into the house to check on her. He determined she did, in fact, need medical treatment and picked her up to carry her to his vehicle. I will never forget that he shared how he felt her take a deep, last breath just before he crossed the threshold to leave her home. She died peacefully in his arms at home, just as she wanted.

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Municipal Elections Coming August 25 by Jay Robbins

If you've ever wanted to be more involved in the decision-making in the city or town where you live, showing up at the town council meetings and voicing your opinion is one way to do it. Another way is to actually be on the town council. If that appeals to you, the time is fast approaching when you can officially throw your hat into the ring.

Between July 7 and July 21, anyone who'd like to run for mayor or for a council seat must go to his or her local town hall and tell them so. (You qualify to hold a municipal office if you are eligible to vote and if you have resided in the town for the 90 days preceding the election.) You'll fill out a Statement of

Candidacy and a Statement of Economic Interests. You'll also pay a fee. In Valley Head the qualification fee is \$50 if you're running for mayor or for a council seat; in Mentone it's \$50 for mayor and \$25 for a council seat. You'll receive a whole packet of information in return.

That two-week window between July 7 and July 21 is when candidates have to officially declare their interest in being on the town council and take care of the paperwork. But they can begin campaigning anytime. As you drive around Valley Head these days, it's hard to miss the signs for the two people (so far) who are running for mayor, Michael Key and Jacob

Brown. Both are Valley Head town council members and are looking to replace the current mayor, Lamar Bray, who is not seeking reelection.

Small towns like Valley Head and Mentone generally offer just one place to vote. If anyone wishes to vote by absentee ballot this year, because of COVID-19 or for any other valid reason, absentee ballots can be picked up at town hall after July 21. Absentee ballots may be returned up to and including the day of the election, which is August 25. Alabamians will also go to the polls on July 14 for the Republican U.S. Senate primary runoff between Jeff Sessions and Tommy Tuberville.

Ongoing Community Calendar

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

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

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

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

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

Ryleigh's Closet is a clothing closet that provides men's, women's, and children's clothing to those in need on 2nd and 4th Mondays

of each month from 4-7pm. Mentone Community Church, 90 Summerville Rd. 256-634-4210.

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

The Little River group of Alcoholics Anonymous meets every Saturday & every Tuesday night at 6pm at St. Joseph's on-the-Mountain Episcopal Church in Mentone. Open AA Discussion Meetings. Anyone who thinks they might have a problem with alcohol is welcome. Questions? Call 256-638-7308.

Hope Faith-Based Recovery Ministries, a Christian-based support group, meets each Friday at 6pm at Church of God of Prophecy on Hwy. 117 in Mentone. 706-331-7359.

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



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MERF News

by Sarah Wilcox



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

Happy 4th of July that hopefully will be full of family, frivolity, and fireworks! Fireworks and fun have been going off at the MERF house with the walking track being used regularly, the pathway work happening, and hopefully a fabulous day of chalk art, June mini auction, and ice cream. (this is being written before the event on Saturday, June 27).



It has been fun this last month happening upon the MERF walking track and seeing it being used in a variety of ways. There are the faithful walkers and pooches. Neither rain nor heat keep them away. It is a great open space for Nerf wars and chalk art while

moms visit! MERF moms have enjoyed the circle of Adirondack chairs as a mini play fort for bubbles and fun. And there has been an industrious picket priming team (PPT) led by Tracy and Chris Davenport meeting regularly on the MERF porch to get all the fence pickets ready for painting. Thanks to the faithful crew of Beverly Haynes, Mary Ann Robbins, Paula Easter, Mary MacMichael, Kat Griffith, Kay



Cole, Cathy Haven Howard, and Rita Shirley. Contact Chris if you are interested in priming pickets—we have about 100 left to do. And of course, anytime I am at the MERF house, I must make sure that everyone has taken in the fabulous mural behind the house. I love the smiling sunflowers and the moon. What's your favorite part of the mural?

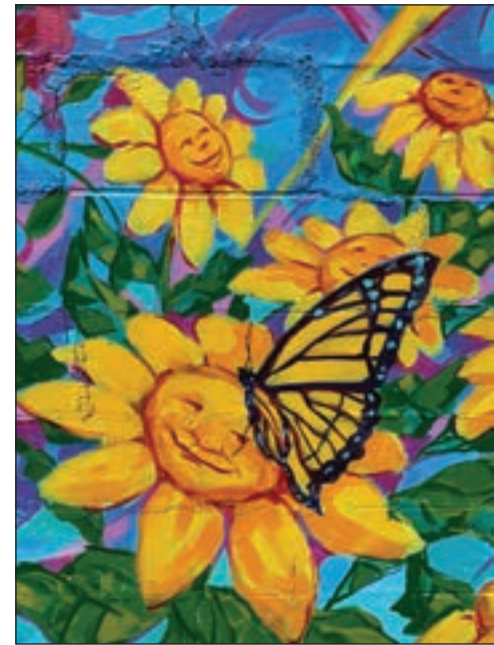
The process for designing and painting the fence pickets has also begun. Painters are needed to do solid colors or a design. If interested, send an email to pathwaytocommunity@gmail.com with your design idea or willingness to paint a solid color. Availability for painting times will then be sent to you to sign up. All work will be done at the MERF house. Just a reminder, see the photo for the look we are seeking for the fence.

The musical instruments have been ordered and



should be arriving at the end of July. Won't these flowers be fabulous and fun on the walking track? Each petal plays a different note. There will also be a 9-note xylophone, a babel drum, and a pentatonic symphony. Thanks to Kelly Leavitt and Cathy Haven Howard for finding the perfect mix of outdoor instruments for a peaceful and joyful walking track.

Have you received emails from MERF lately through MailChimp? If not, send me a message with your name and email to add you to MERF's newsletter list.



Sarah Wilcox is Executive Director of MERF, a local non-profit organization whose mission is "to enrich the learning and living of the community by identifying needs and coordinating resources." If you would like to support our programs, tax-

deductible donations can be mailed to P.O. Box 107, Mentone, AL 35984, or you may contribute online at merfhouse.org. Contact Sarah at merf.mentone@gmail.com or 256-635-8193 for more information.

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Mentone Area Church Directory

Mentone, Alabama

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

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

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

Mentone Community Church invites you to Crosswalk Sunday School (K through Adult) 9:15am, Adult Worship Service 10:30am, JC Kids Worship Service 10:30am. Pastor Tim Miller. Van Ministry for Children pick-up/take home, ages K-12, for all surrounding areas 8:15am (please call Donna Bunn 706-398-0720). Wednesday small group study 6:30pm. 90 Summerville Rd. 256-634-4210.

Mentone United Methodist Church invites you to come and worship with us. Each Sunday our worship service is held at 11am and is led by Rev. Heidi C. Bender. Sunday School is at 10am. The service of Holy Communion is held the first Sunday of each month and fifth Sundays are a service of music with a pot luck lunch afterwards. 415 Cutler Avenue. 256-634-8006.

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

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

St. Joseph's on-the-Mountain Episcopal Church welcomes everyone to 10:30am Sunday service of Holy Eucharist. Open for daily prayer and thanksgiving. Supporting our community with outreach. 256-634-4476. 21145 Scenic Highway. stjosephmountain.dioala.org.

Spirit Expression Ministry, a Chapel of the Alliance of Divine Love, invites you to sit with us in sacred circle on the second and fourth Sundays of the month at 11am Central at Heartwood Center, 7 miles from downtown Mentone. Reverend Cathy Haven Howard facilitates a spiritual wisdom topic. Email havenhoward1@gmail.com for directions and questions.

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

Hammondville, Alabama

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

*We suggest you
contact the churches
to inquire about how
they are currently
holding services.*

Greater Vision Ministries Church of God invites you to Sunday School 10 am, Sunday Worship *10:45 am, (*Nursery & Kid's Church). MidWEEK re-charge Wednesday 6:30pm. Pastor Tim Coppock. 38623 US Hwy 11. 256-601-0679.

Valley Head, Alabama

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

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

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

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

Fort Payne, Alabama

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

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

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

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

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

We also have Wednesday morning Bible study at 8:45am, and knitting every Tuesday at 9am. Pastor Ian Conerly. 1204 New Oregon Drive NE. 256-845-7446.

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

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

St. Stephen Anglican Church invites you to attend service on Sunday mornings at 8am. 411 SW Grand Ave. (in the basement of Killian & Killian Attorneys). Father Rodney Jackson, 205-405-0055; Deacon Jack Gilbreath, 256-845-2605.

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

Cloudland, Georgia

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

Menlo, Georgia

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

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

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

Summerville, Georgia

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

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

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Walking Trail Dedicated to Charles Hammonds by Kelly Leavitt



Charles Hammonds

A group of men gathers every morning at Scotty's Service Center in Hammondville to have coffee together. They found themselves reminiscing about Mr. Charles Hammonds, a local resident who passed away in December 2019, at

age 92. Charles was known for beginning each day with a walk on Hammondville's walking trail, so the group came upon the idea to dedicate the trail to his memory. They brought the idea to the attention of the town's council members, who each wholeheartedly agreed. On June 2, a dedication ceremony was held with Mr. Hammonds' family and friends in attendance, and a plaque in his honor was unveiled.

Charles Hammonds was respected by all who knew him and was known to be very proud of his community. His son, Tony, estimates that, over the years, Charles walked over 10,000 miles on the trail (approximately 2,000,000 footsteps). Charles considered himself to be the unofficial steward of the trail and took it upon himself to notify the town council whenever he saw anything on the trail that needed attention.

Tony recalls when his father began to be a walker,

many years ago. "He started walking from his house down the driveway, about 50 yards," Tony said. "And then he started walking from the house to the caution light, about 150 yards. Then he started walking around the block. Traffic became a concern, so he and my mother would walk along Palmer Road for about a mile. Once the town built the walking trail, he started walking there."

The asphalt walking trail is 1/4-mile long and twice crosses a creek, the Taylor Branch of Wills Creek. It is located in the Hammondville Park on AL-Highway 117, near the intersection of AL-Highway 11.

Tony said, "Dad's goal was two miles a day, without missing a day, although on occasion he did miss because of a doctor's appointment or rain. He'd phone me sometimes to say he got his walk in—and it was 17 degrees on the track."

Mr. Hammonds' wife, Mary Louise, suffered from Alzheimer's disease in her later years, but the couple would continue to walk the trail, moving as slowly as she needed to go, and stopping to sit at each of the five benches that line the trail. The two met in the late 1940s in Mentone at a dance at the Hitching Post. Mary Louise was the daughter of Eula and Joseph Cash of Mentone. She passed away in 2014.

In his later years, Charles had developed vertigo, which affected his balance somewhat. Larry and Marie Behling would meet him every morning to

walk with him, one on each side, in case his stride faltered. They calculated they had walked over 3,100 miles with him. Richard Ellis was another faithful walking partner. He "conservatively" estimates that the two walked 3,000 miles together.

Charles Hammonds is remembered for his robust friendliness with everyone who crossed his path, and he struck many friendships on the walking trail itself. His son Tony said, "He was the best dad, best person, most selfless guy I've ever known. He and my mother were always looking out for everyone, keeping them on the right path." It's fitting that a path has now been dedicated to his memory. Mr. Hammonds would be thrilled to know that his love for walking might inspire others to follow in his footsteps on the Charles Hammonds Walking Trail.



Mr. Hammonds' family attended the dedication ceremony. L to R: Scott Purcell, nephew; Nadene Shipp, sister; Kathleen Purcell, sister; James Purcell, nephew; Pamela Burge, daughter; Danny Burge, son-in-law; Amy Kirby, daughter; John Kirby, son-in-law; Tony Hammonds, son. Not pictured: Tim Hammonds, son

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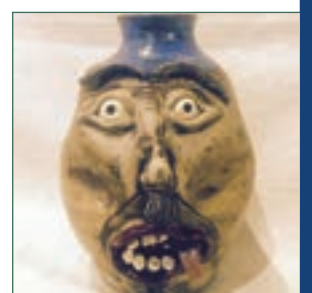
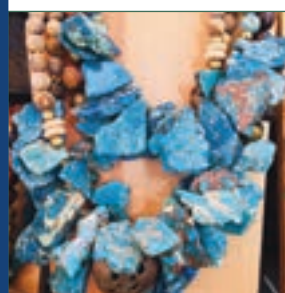
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In Memoriam



HENRIETTA ROWE JORDAN September 22, 1926 – May 27, 2020

Henrietta "Tut" Rowe Jordan, 93, died Wednesday morning, May 27, 2020, at her home in Mentone.

She was born September 22, 1926, in Elba, AL, to Dr. Mercer and Felix Rowe. The family moved to Gadsden after surviving the tragic Pea River flood of 1929.

Tut attended Stephen College, a private women's college, in Columbia, MO, and graduated with a degree in Home Economics from The University of Alabama, where she was a member of Delta Delta Delta sorority. After teaching 2nd grade in Gadsden, she opened Kiddie Kollege, a kindergarten

with a focus on language and arts. Upon retiring, she opened The Kitchen Door, a gourmet kitchen shop in downtown Gadsden. She was a founding member of the Church of the Resurrection in Rainbow City and was involved in many civic and social organizations.

Tut purchased Hoot Owl Hollow in 1997, one of Mentone's historic cabins near downtown, and loved creating memories in Mentone, hosting large family Thanksgivings or weekends with a few dear friends.

Tut Jordan is survived by her children, Wesley Winchell Acee III, Marie Coston Acee, Kitty Jordan Barksdale, Mimi Jordan McGuire, Juli Gari Jordan; grandchildren, Gary Jordan Brooks, Jim Vincent Brooks, Ellen Ezekiel Farquharson, Laura Coston Ezekiel Dyas, Saffold Jordan Barksdale, Samuel Eason Barksdale, Mary Coston Hill, Marian Elizabeth Acee; great-grandsons, Jacob Daniel Dyas Jr., John Arthur Dyas, Andrew Coston Dyas, Blake Hill, Colt Spencer, Landon Spencer, Connor Joseph Farquharson, Grant Edward Farquharson.

She was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Thomas Gary Jordan Jr.; daughters, Ann Rowe Acee Hill and Nancy Jordan Gore; brothers, Dr. Stephen William Rowe and Mercer Coston Rowe; mother, Felix Broughton Coston Rowe; and father, Dr. Mercer Rowe. She is also the widow of Wesley Winchell Acee Jr.

Tut and her husband, Gary, traveled extensively and enjoyed life to the fullest.

MURRELL ELAINE TURNER HANEY June 20, 1937 – June 10, 2020

Murrell Elaine Turner Haney, 82, of Valley Head, passed away Wednesday, June 10, 2020 at her home. She was born June 20, 1937 in DeKalb County, Alabama, to the late Luchion and Esther Turner. Ms. Haney attended Violet Hill Baptist Church since 1952.

She is survived by her children, Roger Haney and wife, Glenda, Darrell Haney and wife, Nina, and Sandra Haney; grandchildren, Terrie Stanford, Brent Haney, Benji Haney, Tiffany Graham, Dusty Holkem, and Ashley Holkem; 11 great-grandchildren; and 5 great-great-grandchildren.

STEPHEN EARL WEBB July 20, 1951 – June 5, 2020

Mr. Stephen Earl Webb, age 68, of Mentone, passed away on Friday, June 5, 2020. He was born July 20, 1951 in New Braunfels, TX to John Webb and Patricia Ost Webb. Mr. Webb served in the United States Navy and worked as an electrician.

He is survived by his brothers, Marc Webb of Anchorage, AK, Brett Webb (Leslie) of Springfield, OH, and Derick Webb of Anchorage, AK; nieces, Candace Moody and Brittany Webb; nephew, Jacob Webb; and special caregivers, Martha and Cynthia.

CARRIE MELL MITCHELL March 31, 1934 – June 11, 2020

Carrie Mell Mitchell, age 86, of Menlo, GA, passed away on Thursday, June 11, 2020, at her residence.

Ms. Mitchell was born March 31, 1934, in Cherokee County, AL, daughter of the late Coleman Hill Wood and Edra Helms Wood. She was of the Baptist faith, and prior to her retirement, was employed with Mount Vernon Mills. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by a son, David Kenneth "Kenny" Mitchell; a daughter, Cathy Mitchell; a brother, Dewond Wood; and several nieces and nephews.

Survivors include her son and daughter-in-law, Spunkey and Cindy Mitchell; grandchildren, Stacy and Jennifer Mitchell, Josh Mitchell, Blake Mitchell, and Jordan Davenport; great-grandchildren, Macy Mitchell Brush, Allie Mitchell, Eme Mitchell, and Joce Mitchell; and great-great-grandchild, Delta James Brush.

Due to gathering restrictions, services for Ms. Mitchell will be held privately for immediate family only with Rev. Kevin J. Norton officiating. Private interment will follow at Lyerly Cemetery. Active pallbearers will be Stacy Mitchell, Josh Mitchell, Blake Mitchell, Max Treadaway, and Jeff Smith.

KENNETH W. PARKER September 10, 1958 – June 15, 2020

Kenneth "Butch" Parker, age 61, of Mentone, passed away on Monday, June 15, 2020 at a Rome hospital.

Mr. Parker was born on September 10, 1958 in Summerville, GA to Robert Kenneth Parker and Anita Dupree Green. He was previously employed in the logging industry.

MARION RUTH WILLIAMSON September 1, 1944 - June 14, 2020

Marion Ruth Williamson, 75 of Cloudland, GA, passed away Sunday, June 14, 2020. Survivors include her husband of 24 years, Troy Williamson; daughter, Lynn Smith and son Randy Millican, deceased. 4 Grandchildren and 7 great grandchildren. Sister Betty Sexton.



AUBREY GALLOWAY January 7, 1955 – June 22, 2020

Aubrey Galloway, age 65, of Mentone, died Monday, June 22, 2020, at Floyd Medical Center.

Mr. Galloway was born January 7, 1955, son of the late Jerry Galloway and Elizabeth Cash Langston. He was Baptist by faith, and prior to his retirement, was employed with Mohawk Industries. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his step-mother, Burma Galloway.

Survivors include his wife, Wanda Dentmon Galloway; sons, Johnny "Butch" (Pam) Clark, Brandon (Melody) Galloway, Daniel (Lacey) Hunter; a daughter, Mollie Mathis; brother, Todd Cash; sisters, Rita Galloway, Kathy Langston (Derek Buffington); numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren; and his namesake great-granddaughter, Aubree Jarenn Lee.

MARJORIE LORETTA BAIN July 7, 1940 – June 19, 2020



Mrs. Marjorie Loretta Bain, age 79, of Mentone, passed away on Friday, June 19, 2020 at her residence. Loretta was born in DeKalb County on July 7, 1940 to Roy C. Wright and Mary Jack Keith Wright. She worked as an agent in the insurance business and after that at Wal-Mart before retiring.

She is survived by her daughter, Karen Powell (Douglas), of Mentone; son, Philip Bain (Cheri), of Rome, GA; grandchildren, Zachary Bain (Tamara), Jacob Bain (Teena), LaShelle Parker (Joe), Danielle Murry (David), and Brianna Powell; great-grandchildren, Kylie Bain, Kinsey Bain, Keely Bain, Knox Bain, Charlee Bain, Clara Bain, Gracen Bain, and Myla Parker; brother, Jerry Wright (Judy); sister, Nancy Chambers; and sister-in-law, Willodean Wright. She was preceded in death

by her husband, Charlie Bain, and brother, Donald Wright. Pallbearers were Zach Bain, Jacob Bain, Jeff Bain, Dennis Chambers, Toby Manifold, and Chad Baker.

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Mentone's Hemlocks Are Threatened by the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid

by Kelly Leavitt

The eastern hemlock is a native, tall evergreen tree whose range includes much of the northeastern and Appalachian region of the U.S. This ancient tree has fallen prey since the mid-20th century to the hemlock woolly adelgid (HWA), a pest which was first discovered in Virginia in 1951. As a result, the eastern hemlock is on a path to extinction.

Lookout Mountain is on the edge of its range. Hundreds of hemlocks grow in the area around Mentone, where, unfortunately, the presence of the HWA has now been confirmed by Charles Ray, Research Entomologist with the Alabama Cooperative Extension System and Auburn University. The affected trees are the first to be documented with HWA in the state of Alabama.



The HWA is a non-native, invasive insect pest that colonizes, feeds upon, and ultimately kills its host tree. According to Norm Haley, Regional Extension Agent for Forestry, Wildlife, and Natural Resources with the Alabama Cooperative Extension System: "Signs of infestation include evidence of the pest itself. The white wool- or cotton-like egg masses and

waxy excretions that feeding HWA create are the most identifiable indicators of their presence and what give the pest its namesake. These structures most often occur at the base of the needles on the underside of branches and on the stem itself. Declining or poor-looking hemlocks are another indication of HWA infestation. This is often exhibited by branches with thin or light-colored needles or complete needle loss. After initial infestations, hemlocks can take anywhere from 4–10 years to die." The adelgid has no effective natural predators in eastern North America, as the insect is native to Japan.

To help the hemlock survive, identification and control of HWA is important, and it will take the cooperation of landowners who have hemlock on their property. Agent Haley said, "No methods have proven more successful at prevention and control of HWA than insecticide applications of the chemicals imidacloprid and/

or dinotefuran. Depending on the product and concentration used, these insecticides can be applied by soil injection, soil drench, stem injection, and trunk spray and last from one to five years. These pesticides are systemic neonicotinoids that move through the tree sap and provide long-term control of insect pests. Applications should be made once HWA have been documented in the area or the tree has shown signs of infestation. However, hemlock that show severe decline because of HWA damage may not fully recover because of the trees inability to fully translocate and distribute the insecticide through heavily damaged tissue." Both of these pesticides are commonly used for other insect pests and easily applied by homeowners; no special permit is required for their purchase or application.

An online/telephone Zoom meeting has been scheduled for anyone wanting to learn more about how to protect their hemlock trees. It will be held on Monday, August 10, from 12 p.m. until 2 p.m. Norm Haley will co-host the meeting with Beau Brodbeck (Extension Specialist in Community Forestry and Arboriculture) and Dan Green (DeKalb County Forester with the Alabama Forestry Commission). Participants may join by phone or by computer.

- To join by computer, go to auburn.zoom.us/j/92633717191.
- To join by telephone call either 646-876-9923 or 301-715-8592. Once connected, enter the meeting ID: 926 3371 7191

Until then, if you have questions or concerns related to HWA or any other natural resource related questions feel free to contact Norm Haley with the DeKalb County Extension Office at 256-845-8595 or via e-mail at nvh0001@aces.edu.



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