



THE GROUNDHOG

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Volume 38, No. 6

"Neighborly News from the Heart of Lookout Mountain"

June 2019

The legacy of Olive & Jack Jones



by Kelly Leavitt

The name 'Jack Jones' is well known in Mentone. As the proverb goes, though, behind every great man is a great woman. Standing by Jack's side through their 72 years of marriage was his wife, Olive, who passed away on March 19 of this year, just shy of her 101st birthday.

Jack Jones and Olive Searing Jones were both born in Florida in 1918 and enjoyed spending time in the Mentone area as children. As a boy, Jack would ride the train to the Valley Head depot every summer to attend Camp Cloudmont for Boys. Olive's father, Oliver, who was responsible for the design of Miami's first water system, built a home in Cloudland on the east brow of Lookout Mountain in the first part of the 20th century. Many south Floridians visited the mountain in those days to escape the risk of malaria. Olive and Jack grew up together as childhood neighbors in Florida and they dated as teenagers. In 1940, when Jack felt it was time to get married, Olive was his choice.

Their ventures often became adventures, and to tell the story of their life together would fill a book, or two.

I recently had lunch with three of the four Jones daughters and began to really understand how important family was to the Joneses. In fact, it was at the suggestion of Olive's father that Jack

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*Little River Arts Council
Summer Music Series
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*FREE Concert for all ages
Saturday, June 1 • 7-10pm
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behind the Mentone Inn*

Wilma Fletcher Retires from Service as Mentone's Town Clerk

by Kelly Leavitt

For the past 10 years, Mrs. Wilma Fletcher has served as Mentone's town clerk, welcoming everyone who has visited Town Hall with a heartfelt welcome. At the end of June, Wilma will retire from her position and from the workforce.

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"I've retired once before, after being town clerk in Ider for eight years," said Wilma. "I was 62 and not ever planning to work again, but working here in Mentone has been the most wonderful thing that has happened because I've made so many friends. These people will always be my friends. I have friends from where I live, but the people in Mentone are so special to me."

Before her position as town clerk in Ider, she worked for a water company. During the years

her boys were growing up, she felt the most important thing was to stay home with them.

Wilma grew up in Ider, on Sand Mountain, and one of her family's favorite outings was to visit DeSoto State Park. "My family just always enjoyed the park, and we came often," she said. She followed that tradition and she and her husband often took their own children to the park. Her son attended Camp Comer as a boy.

"I've enjoyed being town clerk so much. This is a good mayor and a good council and I just enjoy people. I walk to the post office every morning to get the mail. But I really feel like I'm going to the post office to see my friends, because I always see people I know, and we carry on our conversations from day-to-day."

As town clerk, Wilma has been responsible for such duties as attending council meetings, taking care of business licenses and helping with zoning, keeping up with town business such as paying

(continued on page 4)



"In recognition & heartfelt gratitude for your 18 years of service, guidance, dedication & friendship, you will be long remembered. Congratulations & best wishes on your retirement! From your DeKalb County Clerks 2019"

THE GROUNDHOG



The Groundhog is published monthly by the Mentone Area Preservation Association (MAPA). First conceived on Groundhog Day, 1982, and then organized on April 5, 1982, *The Groundhog* has been in publication for 37 years. MAPA is dedicated to preserving and protecting the heritage, natural environment and other unique qualities of life in the Mentone area. MAPA is chartered as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation.

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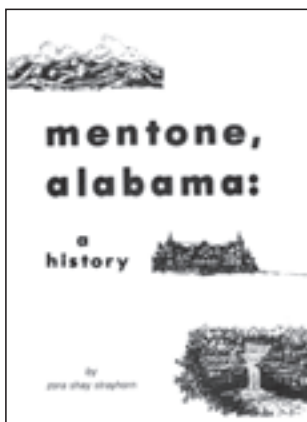
Do you have a story idea?

Perhaps a poem or recipe?

We welcome contributions!

Email groundhognews@yahoo.com

Learn about the History of Mentone



On sale at the Wildflower Café, Moon Lake Library, Green Leaf Grill, Little River Hardware, Mentone Market, DeSoto State Park, Earthly Elements & Bell Battelle. \$15; proceeds benefit MAPA.

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

Groundhog wood cut courtesy of Meg Justice.

Mentone Matters • by Mayor Rob Hammond



To close I want to thank long-time clerk Wilma Fletcher for her service to the Town of Mentone. She has been a great ambassador for Mentone and has been a great steward of the town's resources. We are not saying goodbye. Wilma has built a great network of friends here. She will continue visiting her friends and playing music with her group.

With Memorial Day, the official tourism season begins. The camps are opening. With our seasonal population "explosion" we all need to be aware of the increased number of people walking, jogging, and riding bicycles in town.

Hopefully work on the Valley Head bridge will be winding down soon. Work on the Mentone bridge is continuing. The rock on the east side has been challenging. However, one footer has been poured and the other will be poured soon. In early June, work will begin on the west side of the river.

Letter from the Editor



I loved meeting so many people at *The Groundhog's* booth at the Rhododendron Festival last month! We had plenty of back issues to hand out, which was appreciated by people who love Mentone and enjoy learning more about the town and its people. I lost count of how many kind and curious local and visiting folks stopped by. We still have some back issues, so if you would like to pick one up, drop by Moon Lake Community Library during open hours (Tuesday and Thursday 3-6, Saturday 9-1).

We also had *Groundhog* t-shirts for sale (see logo below), featuring the engaging wood cut artwork of Meg Tannehill Justice. Fort Payne resident Jason Druebert told me he wore his *Groundhog* t-shirt the day after he bought it, and the next day a groundhog appeared at his home, standing tall and looking him in the eye. Since then, the groundhog has returned from time to time, as if to say Hi. Jason even gave him a name—Archie—and said, "The shirt has magical groundhog powers!" The shirts are available to purchase at Moon Lake Library (\$15). We've sold out of XL, but we'll be printing more. The shirts are a natural color with black ink, and are Hanes 100% cotton Beefy Tees.

We also sold some new subscriptions at the festival. If you're interested in receiving the paper each month in your mail box, please see the form on page 26.

The festival was a lovely testament to the friendliness of our Mentone neighbors, and to the appreciation visitors have for the beauty and uniqueness of our little town.

Both May's Rhododendron Festival and October's Colorfest serve to raise funds for the Mentone Area Preservation Association (MAPA), a non-profit organization which supports the other local organizations in our area through funding grants and offering support.

I hope you can join the MAPA board and membership at the annual membership meeting in June. Please see the president's message on page 3 for details. —Kelly





Mentone Area Preservation Association

by Mark Hoffman

I hope everyone enjoyed the Rhododendron Festival as much as I did! The weather was glorious, the crowd was great, and it appeared that our vendors had a very successful go of it. Thank you, Sharon Habin (and the volunteers assisting her), for putting on such a wonderful event! Also, many thanks to all of our sponsors, without whom we could not continue to “put on” the festivals each year.

The annual meeting of the MAPA membership will be held on Sunday, June 23, 2019 beginning at 5 o'clock that afternoon. Members are invited, as well as

the general public. We will accept new memberships and membership renewals at the meeting. We will meet at the new Town Center, which is directly across from the Mentone Town Hall. The Board looks forward to seeing you, and hearing your ideas as to how we can best promote MAPA's mission going forward and help other local organizations in their endeavors to make Mentone the vibrant, special place that it is. See you then!

Mark Hoffman is president of the Mentone Area Preservation Association.

Mentone: Where Little River Runs Documentary Nears Completion

by Holley Midgley

Principle shooting has been completed on a documentary film tracing the history of Mentone. It might be said that it has been two-hundred and fifty million years in the making, because it explores the history of Mentone and the surrounding area from the formation of Lookout Mountain to the accomplishments of Moon Lake Elementary School.

2019 is the State of Alabama's 200th birthday. The Mentone Town Council decided last year that it would like to tie in to the statewide Bicentennial celebration. The idea to produce a history of the town, in video form, resulted from a discussion held by a local Bicentennial Committee formed by the Council. The production is being funded at no cost to the town.

Mentone: Where Little River Runs will be approximately 50 minutes in length, and will be premiered at a public event on the evening of July 6. Plans are to show the film, via big screen projection, at the Linger Longer Pavilion, behind the Mentone Inn. A fish fry will be available, and entertainment will be provided by multi-instrumentalist Larry Joe Hall. The festivities will get underway at 7 p.m.; as soon as it gets dark enough, the documentary will be shown. There is no charge to attend the showing, but you're

on your own with the fish.

Although Mentone was not officially incorporated until 1939, people have been living in this area since about 8,000 B.C. Beginning with Native Americans from the period archaeologists call the Archaic, the documentary traces the story of the peoples who have made this part of Lookout Mountain their home for a hundred generations. The first influx of white settlers to the area began in the 1830s, shortly before the Cherokee were forced from their land and relocated to what is now Oklahoma. That removal period is known as the Trail of Tears. The town grew slowly and soon became a destination for those seeking the cooler temperatures on the mountain. People began spending time here in the 1880s at one of the early resorts in the area, and in the 1920s summer camps began to be established.

Among the people interviewed are Mentone Mayor Rob Hammond, town councilman Gerald Bailey, DeKalb County Historian Doug Brandon, archaeologist and botanist Jay Clark, and Mentone resident Amelia Kirk Lolli. Along with a dozen other people, they help tell the story of the town and of life here and on Lookout Mountain. Old photographs of the area have been collected, as well as video

interviews of people who were born in the early 1900s. Actress Sandra Lafferty donated her voice talents to help bring alive such characters as Granny Dollar and others.

Mentone: Where Little River Runs is being funded from several sources, including a grant from the Alabama Humanities Foundation, a state partner with the National Endowment for the Humanities; the Mentone Area Preservation Association (MAPA); the Menlo-Tillotson Foundation; and the Alabama Bicentennial Commission. Following the premiere, a DVD copy of the program will be mailed to every home and post office box on the Mentone mail routes.

Mentone resident Holley Midgley served as the writer and producer of Mentone: Where Little River Runs.

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

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(first year includes a subscription to *The Groundhog*)

MAPA
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Making Alabama Exhibit Comes to Fort Payne by John Dersham

We are in the process of our Alabama 200 Bicentennial celebration all this year. In 1819, Alabama sent a delegation to Washington to apply for statehood to become a state and on December 14 of that year, our U.S. Congress voted in favor of statehood. At that time, Alabama became our 22nd state.

We are honored to celebrate our 200th anniversary with an official statewide “Making Alabama” exhibit that will be taking place from June 4 through June 28 at Hunt Reception Hall in the Coal and Iron block at 510 Gault Ave North in Fort Payne. The exhibit will be open each day

Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. through 6 p.m. Please plan on coming in to see us and celebrate our rich statewide Alabama history, with a special



Fort Payne section being provided by David Rains and Landmarks of DeKalb County.

Please tell your friends and family

about this exhibit and let's all honor our history by attending our official DeKalb exhibit, which is the only location available in DeKalb County. All 67 counties in Alabama will have the exhibit at one location.

We will have a countywide open house with

appetizers and refreshments on Thursday, June 13, from 5 through 8 p.m. Bring your friends and family and enjoy sharing our history together.



Wilma Fletcher (continued from page 1)

bills, preparing financial reports, and typing the minutes of council meetings.

"A lot of my job is giving directions. Many people stop in just off the street and I'm always happy to see people walk through the door. I do my best to make people feel welcome to Mentone."

"It has been a pleasure serving with Wilma," said Mayor Rob Hammond. "She always has the town's best interest at heart. When Wilma came on board, she really did not know many people in Mentone. Now she knows everybody in town and has a great network of friends. After the recession hit in 2008, our revenues went down. We had to cut way back on expenses. Wilma watched every penny. She cleaned Town Hall herself. We thank her for her dedication and hard work. More importantly, we are thankful for her friendship."

Wilma enjoys playing the fiddle, piano, and accordion. She joins friends to play music every Thursday afternoon at Elizabeth Roman's house, and she plays old-time music with others on the porch at Mentone Realty on Friday afternoons. "I'll continue to come back every week and have music with my friends. They might find out they can do just as good without me, and I don't want that to happen!"

Thank you, Wilma, for being of such valuable service to both Mentone's residents and visitors. You will most certainly be missed.

Olive & Jack Jones (continued from page 1)

Olive Searing Jones, age 17

began to view his various ventures as being established for the sake of his children, and their children. Jack passed away in 2012, but several of those ventures have carried on, with stability, tradition, and a lot of love behind their endurance.

The couple had eight children—four girls and four boys: Jack, Jr., Nancy, Oliver, Marsha, Janis, Michael, Gary, and Angela. Sadly, Jack, Jr. and Michael both passed away due to accidents in 1970. (It takes a strong woman indeed to raise eight children, and a stronger one to lose two of them.)

After Jack's boyhood days at camp finished, he continued on as a counsellor, and eventually Olive and he bought Camp Cloudmont in 1947, where they served as co-directors. They went on to

develop Valley View Equestrian Ranch for Girls, Shady Grove Dude Ranch, and Cloudmont Ski Resort. Jack also developed Mentone's Log Cabin Village, originally called the Mentone Craft Village.

Jack had a fascination with log cabins, and it became a hobby for him to buy, disassemble, relocate, and reassemble log cabins from southern locales to his various properties. The first cabins of the Log Cabin Village were installed in 1968. They



The Log Cabin Village's original cabin, before it was moved to Mentone

had been moved from a Western-style pioneer village off I-20 near Lincoln, AL. Jack devised a system of marking the logs so they could be easily (and properly) reconstructed on their new sites.

The first cabin to be erected, stone chimney and all, was the cabin where AJ's Trading Post is now located. The cabin that now houses Otherworld Gifts was originally from the same pioneer village, where it had been used as a country store, and when it arrived in Mentone, Marsha used it to run her own country

(continued on page 28)

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Rhododendron Garden Club by Rhea Pirch



The Rhododendron Garden Club met on Tuesday, May 14 at the MERF House. Hostess Barbara Umland provided fresh fruit, donut holes, and the delicious rhubarb strawberry shortbread she made, along with refreshments.

Sue Schwarz invited Brittney Hughes, Naturalist at DeSoto State Park to present a program on Alabama's carnivorous plants. Brittney started her program by reminding us of Alabama State Parks' mission: "To acquire and preserve natural areas; to develop, furnish, operate and maintain recreational areas; and to extend the public's knowledge of the state's natural environment." Her position focuses on acquiring and preserving natural areas, along with extending our knowledge of the state's natural environment.

Brittney continued by introducing us to the different types of carnivorous plants found throughout the world, and more specifically, that one found in our "backyard" of Lookout Mountain.

Brittney first showed us a Venus flytrap, the most popular of carnivorous plants due to its fame from the cult movie "Little Shop of Horrors." It is native to boggy areas in North and South Carolina, but because of its popularity, it is now endangered. Venus flytraps get their food from insects which they trap inside their leaves. Once trapped, the flytrap secretes digestive juices which dissolve the soft inner parts of the insect. At the end of the digestion process, which takes 5 to 12 days, the trap opens, and the exoskeleton of the insect is released by wind or rain.

Next on the list was the dwarf sundew, the smallest sundew native to the United States. This tiny carnivorous plant can be found from east Texas to Florida, and north to Virginia. The dwarf sundew most commonly grows on the side of rock glades and can be difficult to find. Don't be fooled by its small size, though. These little plants have hairs extending

from their paddle-shaped leaves that exude a clear sticky liquid which attracts and traps various kinds of insects.

Butterworts are considered the "beauty queens" of the carnivorous plants because of their long-lasting, orchid-like flowers. Their leaves, however, are like sticky fly paper that attract insects to feed on. Butterwort species from Mexico turn into non-carnivorous succulent plants during the winter.

Although they can grow on rocks, bladderworts are best known as aquatic carnivorous plants. Their tiny yellow flowers can be deceptive. The aquatic type has no roots and get their nutrition through insects, which they feed on after trapping them in their underwater sacs. They are native to the Northern Hemisphere and can be found in Alabama.

The bladderwort is not the only underwater plant that feeds on insects. The waterwheel plant, found in Africa, Asia, Europe and Australia, works more like a Venus flytrap, and traps its prey in its leaves instead of underwater sacs. The waterwheel plant faces extinction because of wetland degradation and destruction in these areas.

To end her presentation, Brittney shared the various species of the pitcher plant with us. The first was Monkey Cups or tropical pitcher plants, commonly found in Asia, the Middle East, and South America. They get their name for their size, which apparently can get large enough to trap a small monkey. The cobra plant, also known as the cobra lily or the California pitcher plant, is native to California, and its leaves are shaped like a cobra, as the name implies.

The green pitcher plant is the true Lookout Mountain native, and is an endangered species. The main body is a pitcher-like tube in green, yellow, or yellow-green. The plant produces nectar that insects can't resist. They crawl into the plant, looking for the nectar, get trapped, and are digested by the plant's enzymes. It is part of the State Park's work to preserve and develop new areas for the plant to grow, which is being done through the development of a new bog in the DeSoto State Park area. Brittney told us of a \$35,000 grant for the Pitcher Plant Project that will help in this effort. Once the bog is developed, it will be the biggest in this region for the green pitcher plant to grow and develop.

Once Brittney's informative program ended, the business part of the meeting resumed with the Pledge of Allegiance and the meditation, "An Orchard at the Bottom of a Hill" by Maurice Manning, a Pulitzer

Prize finalist, shared by Barbara Umland.

After the meditation, President Marsha Merrell called the meeting to order. During roll call, members were asked to share the name of a pesky weed growing in their garden, and their favorite garden tool. Some of the weeds mentioned were Virginia creeper, creeping Charlie, plantain, poison ivy, and Prickly Sida. The favorite garden tools ranged from pick axes, hoes, weed pullers, garden stools and kneelers, and bulb planters.

For the conservation report, Jan Wilkinson expressed her appreciation for Brittney's program and that she considered the State Park's efforts to save the pitcher plant as her report.

Martha Wood offered us more wildflowers for her Horticulture Report. She brought along samples of trumpet honeysuckle, oxeye daisy, Venus's looking-glass, yellow star-grass, beardtongue Penstemon, phlox, swamp milkweed, fire pink, and Atamasco lily, all growing in Mentone during this spring season.

The meeting continued with reports from the State Convention, attended by Martha Wood, and the District meeting, held in Fort Payne, attended by Marsha Merrell, Barbara Umland, Mellanie Tuttle, and Martha Wood. The Rhododendron Club won several awards at the State Convention, including the Palmer Junior Gardner Award, which we shared with the students at Moon Lake Elementary School for their efforts in the gardening program. Marsha Merrell gave special thanks to Mellanie Tuttle, Martha Wood, and Mary Shurett for their work with the school children in this program.

To end the meeting, Marsha reminded us all that the week of June 2-8 has been declared "Garden Club Week in Alabama" by Governor Kay Ivey. To acknowledge and celebrate this distinction, the Rhododendron Garden Club will plant a dogwood tree in Mason Park that week.

For our next meeting on June 11, we will all be pitching in to clean up the grounds at the MERF House in appreciation for letting us meet there on a regular basis, and tidying up the garden in front of the Mentone post office. All our thanks were given to member Dee Kelley, who regularly maintains this area.

Rhea Pirch serves as secretary for the Rhododendron Garden Club. The Rhododendron Garden Club is a member of National Garden Clubs, Inc., Deep South Region, The Garden Club of Alabama—District II and the Northeast Federation of Garden Clubs.

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Linger Longer Pop-Up Art Series Schedule

June 1 **Scott Thomas** PAINTING
 July 6 **Don Highfield** WOODCARVING
 August 3 **Meg Tannehill Justice** PRINTMAKING
 September 7 **Taylor Allison** BLACKSMITHING
 October 5 **Eugenia Johnston** WATERCOLOR & MORE

The Linger Longer Pop-Up Art Series, sponsored by the Little River Arts Council, showcases a local artist the first Saturday morning of each month at the Mentone Inn pavilion through October. Artists will be at the pavilion with art demonstrations and work for sale from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m., but they are welcome to “linger longer” if they so choose.

Scott Thomas • June 1

Scott is a self-taught artist working primarily in acrylic paint on three-dimensional objects as well as canvas. He was born and raised in the textile mill town of Trion, Georgia, in nearby Chattooga County and has been a resident of Lookout Mountain for 20 years, having lived at Cloudland before moving to Mentone six years ago.

Scott turned to painting as a creative outlet at the age of 58 and has passionately pursued this art form for the last 12 years. He credits his grandmother's quilts as the inspiration for his unique style of art. After gaining confidence through local shows, Scott began selling his work in galleries. You can find his paintings locally at the Boom Town Makers Market in Fort Payne. Search Facebook for Scott's Happy Art to turn up his online gallery of unique paintings, many featuring musical and nature themes.



Don Highfield • July 6

Don began carving in 1995 at Horsin' Around, the carousel horse carving school in Chattanooga, TN. After carving his own horse, currently on display at Nena's produce in Valley Head, he stayed on at the school as a volunteer instructor and also carved Olivia, the female ostrich who now graces the Coolidge Park Carousel in Chattanooga. Don soon branched out into walking sticks and canes, Celtic crosses and relief panels, and figurines, as well as cottage signs.

Over the years Don has exhibited and sold work at the Chattanooga Market, John C. Campbell Folk School Fall Festival, the Celtic Festival in Cincinnati, OH, the Athens Farmers Market, Big City Bread Holiday Market, Northeast Georgia Folk Festival, Artist in Residence at Coolidge Park, Unitarian Universalist Church of Chattanooga, FestiFool in Watkinsville, GA, Hummingbird Lane Art Gallery in Dahlonega, GA, the Mentone Farmers' Market, Rhododendron Festival, and the Creative Spirit Market.

Valley Head Seniors Awarded with Van McCary Scholarships

by Kat Griffith

CONGRATULATIONS to the six Valley Head High School seniors who are worthy recipients of the 2019 Van McCary Scholarship at St. Joseph's On-the-Mountain Episcopal Church in Mentone. They are joined by seven others who are receiving the scholarship again, as each is eligible for four years with compliance of guidelines.

This year's recipients include: Breanna Blalock, Katelyn Busby, Caitlyn Collins, Saddler Emory, Vandila Freeman, Macy Hirst, Keegan Johnson, Devin Leps, Brooke Moore, Brianna Powell, Carol Rodriguez, Julie Smith and Rylee Vest.

St. Joseph's is both blessed and honored to be a connection to these students as they strive to reach their goals. It is likewise a blessing to be a part of a community which invests in its people through education, prayer, and support. KUDOS to all!



L to R: Keegan Johnson, Rylee Vest, Katelyn Busby, Macy Hirst, Julie Smith, and Vandila Freeman.

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MERF News

by Sarah Wilcox



The Mentone Educational Resources Foundation (MERF) is grateful for the many people and organizations that believe in the work being done in Mentone. On May 22, the Harland Jones Fund at the Community Foundation in Anniston choose MERF as a grant recipient this next year to provide Arts Education to all ages and to provide free tutoring to the local students.

Also on May 22, MERF hosted another Afternoon with the Artists. Alice of Alice's Circle in Rainsville, Don Highfield, Ryleigh Hadley, Annette Stone and Buddy Cole graciously gave of their time and their passion to the Moon Lake Students. See Ms. Paula's article on page 9 for more about this fun event.

The week ended with the revelation and receipt of "If I Could Go Anywhere, I Would Go to...", a fabulous book illustrated and written by the kindergarten through 3rd-grade students at Moon Lake Elementary School with great guidance and encouragement from their teachers: Lea Long, Jennifer Gorham, Marc Walsh, Kelbi Ballenger, and Paula Easter. I wish I could capture in a picture or words the joy, excitement, and pride beaming from each student as they received their collaborative creation with shouts of "I did that one!" and "Where is your picture?"

Thanks to a matching grant from Alabama State Council on the Arts and the National Endowment of the Arts, MERF was able to work with Moon Lake students to produce this wonderful piece of art and literature. Congratulations on a job well done! Extra copies are available for purchase.

Thanks to MAPA



diligent tutoring every Tuesday from Annette Stone, Bill Rutledge, Meg Richardson, Carl Ferguson, Ann Bearden, Mary MacMichael, and Tom MacMichael. Thank you for giving of your time and expertise.



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.

Although senior lunches take a summer break, be on the lookout for information on our Facebook page or the post office bulletin board about senior gatherings at local restaurants and summer socials. Make sure I have your contact information if you are interested in joining us. Also, MERF moms will continue to meet at 10 a.m. on Thursday mornings at the MERF house.

As you enjoy summer breezes on the mountain, please remember to support our local artists and restaurants that support so many organizations in Mentone such as MERF. A piece of artwork is a memorable wedding, graduation, or Father's Day gift. And enjoying a wonderful meal at a Mentone

restaurant or cooking with fresh, locally grown vegetables and meat is time well spent. Let's support our artisans so they can keep creating in our community.

Sarah Wilcox is Executive Director of the Mentone Educational Resources Foundation (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.



L to R: Anna Belle Grider, Grayson Phillips, Catie Crawford, Ryan Deal look at their new illustrated books.



Funding for Arts Education and tutoring for Mentone's youth is made possible by the Harland Jones Fund of the Community Foundation of Northeast Alabama. MERF's executive director, Sarah Wilcox (L), receives a check for \$7728.70 from Heather Lamey (R).

for hosting another wonderful Rhododendron Festival! We loved everyone who came by our booth to say hello and to purchase a "Leave Me in Mentone" item. Did you miss a chance to shop MERF items? Don't worry, just stop by the Country Store at DeSoto State Park or Little River Hardware for great Father's Day gifts or gifts for yourself. Thank you for supporting MERF and its programs.

Congratulations to MERF and our volunteer tutors for being recognized with a certificate of appreciation at Moon Lake Elementary School's awards ceremony on May 16. This year, students had encouraging and

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PERHAPS THE BEST VIEW ON THE MARKET TODAY, certainly at this price! Cedar-sided, East-brow-front cabin on 2.41 wooded acres. 1 level, 2400 sq ft; 4BR/3BA; game room (could be 5th BR); open great room/kit/din w/WB heater on stone hearth. Full brow-side porch (open & screened). SS appliances in kitchen. Solid oak parquet floors. Lg laundry. Guest wing offers sep entrance & screen porch off game room. Furnished. Less than 10 miles from downtown, in Mentone's beautiful Laurawood community. Convenient to Cloudland, GA & the beauty of Little River Canyon. \$269,000. (1118414)



SIMPLE LOG CABIN W/ PORCHES ON FRONT & BACK. Comfortable, cozy & cute! This is pretty much the ideal little getaway place, and it comes furnished. All the time! Sit on the porch, enjoy the stars, & the logs are all new, & half dove-tail jointed. Attached dble carport. Fenced area for the pets, too. Sited on 1.4 mostly-wooded ac. \$129,000. (1119105)

PENDING



3BR/2BA CEDAR-SIDED CABIN; stone gas log fireplace w/ bookshelves above. 1 owner cabin was designed to be completely accessible. All wood interior & exterior. Split bedroom design. Private screened back porch runs full length of cabin. Fenced back yard nestled into the woods, gives pets freedom to play in safety. Concrete circle drive. Small yard with some native landscaping. \$149,000 (1119107)

..... LOTS and LAND

GET INTO THE WOODS!! 4.43 wooded acres, unrestricted, holds a lot of promise when you're ready to build. Sentimental public water & septic place! Unimproved, but you could pull your own private right away. A great getaway. Private drive on winding country road & woods between you and Hwy 117 (there's good frontage on the highway, too) give this place plenty of privacy & potential! Price is now only \$32,000 (311288)

COOL STREET brow-front property with beautiful old stone fireplace chimney, part of the foundation, plus a small garage. New survey. An original Mentone summer home once stood here, owned by the same family since early 1920s. Ap-prox 0.45 acre lot in an area where properties are seldom available. Now \$118,000 (1070474)

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

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

HISTORIC EAGLES' NEST PROPERTY! 5 acres. Over 600' brow frontage; more than 1/4 mile paved road frontage; near Mentone Brow Park. Envision a cabin, or two, or three...maybe a compound... But, wait! How about condos? Is that at all possible? Who knows? Go ahead & dream it, build it! \$375,000 (1117380)

LIBBY LANE. It's one of those almost secret places in Mentone; sort of in the heart, but with no traffic; lending itself splendidly to quiet strolls along shaded Libby & East River Rd. 1.47-acre lot; mostly hardwoods, level, public water & power available; paved road. \$39,900 (1095291)

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. \$27,500. (1109345)

HAPPY Summer!



UNIQUELY MENTONE RIVER-FRONT HOME. Intriguing spaces inside & out. Pagoda-inspired gated entry; privacy fence. Open, vaulted great room w/corner windows & seating; large, masonry & stone, wood-burning fireplace; hardwood & pine plank floors on main level. Inviting outdoor areas w/many native & transplant species & moss garden. Paths down to swimming hole w/big rock river access. \$334,500. (1098813)



BUSINESS IS BOOMING! Mentone's iconic gas station and eatery, Helena's Gas & Deli, is a thriving restaurant, bar & grill, store, and gas station. So, why would Helena want to sell? Well, she says she's ready to retire and be with her grandbabies. (And she's selling it "Lock, stock and brrel.") Locals and visitors to Mentone alike know this is the place to go for delicious food, reasonable gasoline prices & cold beverages. Lots of paved parking & add'l wooded land behind the existing building for future growth. \$325,000 (1119821)



FUNKY, QUIRKY, ARTSY, CLASSIC MENTONE summer home. Your own "Secret Garden" home, w/screened sleeping porch, inter-esting nooks & crannies, library nook; 2 lg BRs; 2 BAs; open kit/living area; studio or 3rd BR on main level; & laundry w/great storage. All wood interior. Sweet little yard. There's work to be done, but this is a place in the heart of Mentone to put your heart into. \$99,000 (1100721)



A DIAMOND IN THE ROUGH ON NORTH COOL STREET. Single-level cottage is quite plain on the outside, simply delightful on the inside! Just a couple blocks from Mentone's Brow Park, dining & browsing Mentone's little shops. Built by local stone artisan Lee Crow & virtually unchanged since 1962. Beautiful, WB, mtn stone fireplace. Vaulted wood ceilings throughout. Yes, it needs some updating & TLC, but this is a sweet opportunity. \$195,000 (1119202)



THREE FEATHERS RANCH is the name given this beautiful, 34-acre (+/-) Mentone property featuring a 3BR/2BA house with 2 bonus rooms and a bath in finished basement! Land is approx 1/2 woods & 1/2 pasture, fenced & cross-fenced; 2 small ponds; tractor shed; picturesque ranch entry way with gently-curving driveway leading to house. Satisfying views of pond & pasture from the front porch. Located about halfway between Mentone & Alpine area near DeSoto State Park! \$299,000 (1107782)



PLENTY OF ROOM in this 3875 sq ft, bungalow-style home, w/1600+ sq ft basement. It will give you space seldom found in Mentone. Ideal for family gatherings, retreats, possible B&B, multi-family home! Pine floors throughout; wood ceilings accented by solid beams in spa-cious, open dining/kitchen. Cabinets galore! 6BR/2BA plus a 1/2 bath in unf basement. Enormous front porch & beautiful yard. Less than a mile from downtown Mentone! New windows & roof. \$225,000 (1104553)

Oh what a week...Afternoon with the Artists & Art Class with the MERF Moms! by Paula Easter #leavemeinmentone



Photo to left—
L to R: Jay Hawkins, Lexi Brown, Catie Crawford, Sydney Ingram, Don Highfield, Kaden Brisendine, Lydia Hulkan, Kenya Heinrich and Addison Lee. Lee Ann Hulkan is at the librarian's desk.

How fun it was to bring artists to Moon Lake School for another afternoon of learning about their joys and having hands-on experience, too. Alice Pettyjohn from Alice's Circle in Rainsville has been so excited about bringing a large canvas to Moon Lake and having all of the students and the staff to create together a beautiful picture of our beloved 108-year-old school and heartbeat of the community.

Don Highfield, a new resident of Mentone and skilled woodcarver, amazed the students with his carving and his creativity. He brought examples of his balsam wood Santas and hand-carved signs. He explained his methods and time it took to create different pieces. The students were very impressed. Check him out if you need a new sign for your home or cabin.

Barbara Umland brought unfinished wooden butterfly houses built by Buddy Cole to Moon Lake for the students to create masterpieces to place on the



Photo above—Alice Pettyjohn looks on as Kenya Heinrich and Lydia Hulkan contribute their creative hands to the painting of Moon Lake School.

Photo to left—Second and third graders working hard to create beautiful and bright butterfly houses to attract new homeowners

grounds of the school and to rebuild the butterfly sanctuary. Rylee Hadley and Annette Stone were a gigantic help in guiding the students in painting and creating houses that will definitely attract the butterflies.

If that wasn't enough fun, the MERF moms and their cuties gathered for another art class at the MERF house! What budding artists we have in Forest, CG, and Titus. So glad that Wallace and Titus joined us, as well as Forest's new brother, Coleman! We missed Selah and her mom this time. And we can't wait for Selah's new brother to join us when he arrives in June! Life couldn't get much better with all these creative children. Summer means I'm headed to Camp Laney to be the "cabin craft teacher," so see you in the fall when school starts back up!



L to R: Paula Easter; Meghan, Coleman, and Forest; CG and Savannah; Titus and Wallace (in front)

THE FARM AT WINDY HILL'S
FOURTH OF JULY

BBQ & PICNIC

**Thursday,
July 4**

4-7 PM CST

445 Road 942
Mentone, AL

**BBQ and sides,
live music,
lawn games,
farm market
and family
pack pick up!**

June

Birthdays

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| 1 Sible Hopper
Kayla Hellums
Rebecca Guinn
Braden Busby
Madie Durham
Josh Williamson
Chad King | 8 Ethan Harrison
Gail Smalley
Rachel Lusk
David Dean
Vince Wright | 15 Campbell Smit
Brad Wright
Barnabas Bettis |
| 2 Skylar Venable
Steve Tate
Glen Black | 9 Sydney Vest
Denita Manifold
Brandon Collins
David Hatfield
Lori Walters | 16 Sara Langston
Kayla Crow
Mason Vest
Emily Hulkan
Ruby Smith |
| 3 Brittney Coleman
Donald Stephens
Byron Haynes
Jack Johnston, Jr. | 10 Amanda Gray
Michelle Chappell
Patty Tucker
Joyce Wright
Rebekah Weldon
Lisa Black Smith
Caitie Belle Jennings | 17 Hope Turner
Andy Beason
Megan Gilreath
Annie Gilbert
Kindal Hamilton |
| 4 Lisa Crowder
Cecily Goza | 11 Andrea Woods | 18 Ashley Ingram
Ozell Thornberry
Josh Smith
Carlotta McGee |
| 5 Doris Chamlee
Hannah Filmore
Hadley Gregory
Haley Hilliard | 12 Jim Connor
Emie Sanderson | 19 Sierra Chambers
Ashley Wooten
Reid Hendon |
| 6 Angela Valentine
Keegan Johnson
Christy Harrison
Brayden Harrison
Kenneth Busby
Caitlyn Collins
Nick Brown
David Dean
Mike Campbell | 13 Kristi Chambers
Taylor Gardner | 20 Keri Miller
Brandy Rosson
Wendy Holloway |
| 7 Luke Johnson
Donnie Goodman | 14 Luke Harrison
Jerry Stokes
Braxton Pridmore | 21 Katherine McDorman
Nick Langston
Nancy W. Smith
Hannah Stinson
Betty S Morrison
Trey Kincer |

Anniversaries

- | | |
|--|---|
| 22 Judy Smith
Zachary Potts
Nathan Keith | 1 Wink & Stacie Painter |
| 23 Benny Goss
Violet Carden | 2 Lawrence & Felicia Harrison |
| 24 Brenda Goss
Kenneth Chambers
Cecily Goza
Patti Watkins
Ethan Black | 5 Alfie & Kristi Chambers |
| 25 Briley Harrison
Stephanie Poe
Jerelyn Turner | 6 Tom & Joyce Tate |
| 26 Andrew Crowe | 11 Ralph & Carolyn Baine |
| 27 Ashtynn Carden
Christine Scott | 12 Steve & Debra Rhodes
Tom & Jacqueline Tipton |
| 28 Josh Baggett
Chris Stokes
Shea Noles | 14 Josh & Angel Baggett |
| 29 Jacob Bain
JoAnn Bain
Jean Crabtree
Jacqueline Tipton
Melinda Whitt | 15 Michael & Jennifer Owen |
| 30 Cooper Hilyer
Rebecca Crawford
Levi Hulkan
Naomi Garcia
Roy Stalvey
Gavin Gatlin | 18 Chad & Amber Smith
Phil & Krissy Harris |
| | 19 Josh & Emmy Smith
John & Trish Sprague
Matt & Traci Hulkan |
| | 20 Brandon & Sherinda Hawkins |
| | 22 Andy & Jimmie Sue Beason |
| | 23 Rusty & Angela Chambers |
| | 26 Jim & Darlene Rotch |
| | 30 Dwight & Jean Powell
Michael & Patty Tucker
Donald & Margie Daniel |

Happy Day!

SENIOR HEALTH When Medicare Covers Home Health Care

by Lynn Hixson

Mental health conditions, like depression or anxiety, can happen to anyone at any time. If you think you may have a problem that affects your mental health, you can get help. Medicare covers mental health care received from general practitioners, nurse practitioners, physician's assistants, psychiatrists, clinical psychologists, clinical social workers, and clinical nurse specialists, as long as they accept payment from Medicare. Ask your doctor or psychiatrist if they accept assignment before you schedule an appointment. The providers listed above who are not medical doctors must accept assignment if they accept Medicare payment. This means that they must accept Medicare's approved amount as full payment for a service. While nonmedical doctors are required to accept assignment if they accept Medicare Payment, psychiatrists and other medical doctors are not required to accept assignment. Psychiatrists and other doctors must accept assignment if they participate in Medicare.

Home Health Care is care provided for you in the home to treat an illness or injury. Medicare covers home health care as long as you meet all of the requirements. In order for Medicare to cover your home health care, you must:

- Be homebound, meaning it is extremely difficult for you to leave the home and you need help doing so.
- Need either skilled nursing care on a part-time basis or skilled therapy services. Skilled care is care that can only be provided by a licensed nurse or therapist.
- Have an office visit with your doctor within 60 days before you begin receiving home care or 30 days after you start receiving home care.
- Get your doctor to sign a home health certification, confirming that you qualify for home care because you are homebound and need skilled care. The certification must also state that your doctor has approved a plan of care for you and that you have had the required office visit.
- Receive care from a Medicare-certified home health agency.

If you meet all of the requirements, Medicare should pay for skilled care you receive in the home, as well as services you receive from a home health aide. Know

that Medicare will not pay for home health aide services (e.g., help with bathing or dressing and using the bathroom), if you do not have a need for skilled care. If you have a Medicare Advantage plan, you should contact your plan directly and ask which home health agencies work with the plan and are in the plan's network of providers. If you have Original Medicare, you can locate a Medicare-certified home health agency by calling 800-MEDICARE.

For more information, please contact your SHIP Counselor, Lynn Hixon, at the DeKalb County Council on Aging at 256-845-8590.

DeSoto Rescue Squad Holds Fundraiser



DeSoto Rescue Squad is hosting a Fundraiser Singing on Saturday, June 22, with the Willie Underwood Family, who will be performing Gospel and Motown to help raise funds for the Squad's operational expenses, including fuel, insurance, and medical supplies. Tickets are \$10.

The performance will be held at Mentone Community Church from 5 until 7pm. Tickets can be purchased from any Squad member, at Little River Hardware, or you can send a message on Facebook.



River Voice: Designations Don't Protect Rivers, People Do by Bill Shugart

Little River Waterkeeper is a licensed member of the Waterkeeper Alliance, a growing international organization dedicated to Clean Water, Clean Air and

Healthy Communities. Little River Waterkeeper is the legal voice for your Little River located on Lookout Mountain in Northeast Alabama. The Little River Watershed is in the northeastern portion of the Upper Coosa Watershed and has a drainage basin of approximately 199 square miles. The headwaters of the Little River and its East Fork and West Fork tributaries are in Georgia's Dade, Walker, and Chattooga counties. Then Little River flows southwesterly, then easterly through Alabama's DeKalb and Cherokee counties into Weiss Lake. The majority of the watershed is located in DeKalb County with Little River flowing through DeSoto State Park and Little River Canyon National Preserve. Little River attracts more than 400,000 visitors each year. The river supports abundant plant and wildlife and gives us crisp, cool waters to enjoy during the summer months. Clean water is a resource we can all be thankful for. Even though we consider it a basic human right, not everyone has access to clean water. The Little River Waterkeeper monitors and patrols regularly to ensure this right for all users and stakeholders.

Earlier this month, I met with the executive director and staff from Alabama Rivers Alliance (ARA) to plan for three exciting opportunities. ARA's policy director Curt Chaffin and I are working to designate Little River as a "Wild and Scenic River." Our amazing resource is currently protected from degradation by holding the highest designation given by the EPA, "Outstanding National Resource Water." By adding the Wild & Scenic title, Little River will be recognized as possessing outstandingly remarkable scenic, recreational, geologic, fish and wildlife, historic, and cultural values. We would like to thank Curt and ARA for the work they do to protect rivers in the hydrologically abundant state of Alabama. Please take a moment and look at all of the great work Alabama Rivers Alliance is doing by visiting alabamarivers.org.

The next point of our meeting with ARA is really exciting. As many of our supporters know, Little River Waterkeeper hosts Southern Exposure Films each year to bring awareness of Alabama's amazing biodiversity



Bill Shugart tests the waters of Little River.

and the issues we face. The innovative Southern Exposure Summer Fellowship brings emerging filmmakers from across the country to tell authentic, engaging stories through short documentary films about Alabama's environment—and the people who cherish it—from the mountains to the coast. This summer, Little River was chosen as a film topic! And, even better, the fellow chosen to make this film, Jeb Brackner, grew up going to the Little River, so he is very familiar and VERY excited to be assigned this topic. Part of the film will include our effort to designate Little River as Wild and Scenic. Filming will take place in June and July and a special premier screening will take place in Birmingham at the Altamont School on September 12, 2019. The Little River Waterkeeper will also locally hold a Southern Exposure Film Festival in October that will highlight the film about Little River along with films from other fellows.

The third point of the meeting with ARA was strategic planning. As part of our organization's mission to deliver quality programs to the community we serve, Alabama Rivers Alliance will assist the Little River Waterkeeper in a strategic planning session in August. This important planning process will help us determine the course of the organization for the next three years. If there is a direction that you would like to see your Little River waterkeeper include, we encourage feedback from you, our supporters who know and love Little River as much as we do.

SwimGuide

"Know before you go!" is the slogan we use for our summer SwimGuide program. On May 22, we kicked off a season of weekly water testing in eight popular swimming locations throughout the Little River watershed which will continue through Labor Day weekend. A list of the test sites is listed below. It is our commitment to everyone who relies on clean water for swimming and other forms of recreation to make sure water quality standards are being met in Little River.

What is the problem with swimming in water that doesn't meet water quality standards? Primary contact with water containing high levels of fecal bacteria and other pollutants can lead to disease, infection, and rashes. Swallowing contaminated water can lead to gastrointestinal infection, causing nausea, diarrhea, and vomiting. More serious diseases and illnesses may also be contracted in heavily polluted waters including typhoid fever, hepatitis, gastroenteritis, and dysentery. Each Thursday, test results will be published on TheSwimGuide.org, LittleRiverWaterkeeper.org and our Facebook and Instagram pages in an easy-to-read map with red or green flags representing "No" or "Go." If you are like us and love water science, we invite you to volunteer to take weekly water samples.

List of test sites

Lake Lahusage	Indian Falls
Taylor's Ford	Blue Hole
Mentone Bridge	Martha's Falls
DeSoto Falls	Canyon Mouth Park

Join the Little River Waterkeeper Swim Club!!

Little River Waterkeeper's Swim Club is a membership campaign tied directly to the Swim Guide water quality monitoring program. Supporters can donate \$10 to join Swim Club and sponsor a sample. In return, we write the donor's name on one of the Swim Guide samples, take a photo of that sample in the field, and post it on social media and tag the donor. It's a really direct way to connect the donation with our work. Go to littleriverwaterkeeper.org, click on our link to PayPal, and choose Swim Club 2019 as the recipient.

As always, thank you for your ongoing support and encouragement. Have a wonderful summer. We hope to see you on the water!

Bill Shugart is the Little River Waterkeeper. He can be reached at wyshugart@littleriverwaterkeeper.org.

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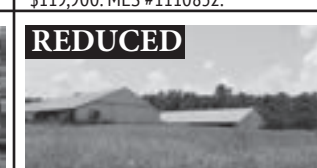
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Agency, Inc.

 NEW JUST THE PLACE FOR YOU TO CALL HOME! This three-bedroom, 1 bath home features newer CH/A unit, hardwood flooring, fireplace, and rear patio all within walking distance to downtown Mentone. The large lot includes 1.6 acres. \$169,000. MLS #1117032	 NEW KNOWN AS HIGHPOINT AND ONE OF THE MOST CELESTIAL AREAS FOR STAR GAZING... This 7 BR, 6 BA manor boast white pine walls/ceilings from Maine, 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	 NEW NICE, NEAT, AND MOVE IN READY! Double-wide mobile home sitting on 1.82 acres. 3BR/2BA open floor plan with gas fireplace, separate dining, kitchen with ample cabinets, appliances, and center island/breakfast bar. \$79,900. MLS #1119654	 NEW LOOKING FOR THAT GET-A-WAY that you will NOT want to leave? Take a look at this one of a kind property in Mentone. 1.2 acres with 100-year-old farmhouse and barn. \$199,500. MLS #1119979	 REDUCED MENTONE BROW HOME! 2BR/2BA brow home with tons of character! Enjoy all the extras like hardwood floors, rustic wood walls, gas log fireplace & more. Being sold furnished. Call today! \$295,000. MLS #1076700	 REDUCED NEW CONSTRUCTION! Don't miss your chance to customize the finishes in this new cabin now under construction in Mentone. Covered front porch, screened back porch, 2 bedrooms, 2-1/2 baths, laundry, open kitchen and living with corner gas log fireplace unit. If you're looking for just the right place...call now to make this home all your own! \$162,500. MLS#1109748.
 QUAINT DOWNTOWN BUNGALOW Looking for a new owner to enjoy the character and charm it offers. Built in 1910, the house has been fully restored, updated, and expanded. GREAT location on a quiet street. \$174,900. MLS# 1108601	 SUNSET EVENINGS are abundant & lovely from this beautiful Mentone home on the brow. Spacious home 3BR (large bonus/4thBR), 2 1/2BA lends itself to entertaining & enjoying the views! Commercial kitchen w/ island prep center/work space, gas cooktop, double wall ovens, side-by-side refrigerator, wine cooler, disposal, compactor & large pantry makes entertaining a pleasure. Hardwood floors, gas log fireplaces, vaulted wood ceilings, main level master bedroom, detached 3-car garage w/ bonus guest area. \$389,900. MLS #1114168.	 3 BEDROOM/2 BATH HOME IN THE COUNTRY AT MENTONE. One-level brick and vinyl home offers updated kitchen and baths, hardwood flooring, central heat & air, office space, large pantry/utility room, rear porch enclosed for great sun porch. \$119,900. MLS #1110832.	 Mentone Cottage! Fully remodeled spacious two bedroom with bath in each room and additional half bath. This home comes completely furnished and just in time for the beautiful Fall season. Property has been used as resort rental and can easily transition to your primary residence. Only \$179,900! MLS#1102065.	 REDUCED CRYSTAL LAKE LODGE in Mentone... Fifty breathtaking acres surround you in this one-of-a-kind property. Call today for your private tour! \$570,000. MLS#1070805	 MENTONE BROW HOME! Just around the corner from DeSoto State Park and Desoto Falls. Home features split bedroom design offering 3 bedrooms and 2 baths, open living and dining combo with vault ceiling, wood burning fireplace, spacious kitchen with breakfast bar. \$350,000 MLS #1099721.
 GREAT BEGINNINGS & OPTIONS are endless in Mentone with an unfinished home! Approximately 4,800 sq ft on 7.5 acres. Great investment opportunity to create a neighborhood of cabins leading to the Owner's Estate or Common Gathering Area. Great Investment Opportunity, especially with the growth of the Mentone Resort area! \$165,000. MLS#1099079.	 REDUCED THE HISTORIC CRAGSMERE MANOR on 5+ acres serves as rental lodging and/or event hosting. Perfect setting for large or small groups, 6BR/4BA, Large kitchen, dining, and living area, covered pavilion. \$675,000. MLS#1066481	 REDUCED WORKING POULTRY FARM with approx. 16 acres! Two 42x500 operating Pullet houses built in 2006. Houses operate on well water with city water back-up. Contract currently with Pilgrim's Pride. Property has pond and fencing. 25x50 3-bay shed. 3BR, 2BA house. \$135,000. MLS#1096127.	 GORGEOUS COUNTRY SETTING with a Modern 1-level, 4BR/3 Full BR home. Built in 2014! Open floor plan with a split bedroom design. Many upscale touches include a wood-burning fireplace that heats the home through the central unit duct work, full stainless steel appliance package, crown molding, tile flooring, security system. \$365,000. MLS#1099363.	 REDUCED OWNER FINANCING CONSIDERED! This tastefully designed cabin comes furnished and decorated! Enjoy the elegance of the cabin along with the serenity of Lookout Mountain. Main living area has open floor plan. Main level master has one of a-kind style with reclaimed furniture. Loft bedroom, utility room, screened porch and wood burning fireplace! \$189,900. MLS #1110505.	

LOTS & LAND

- #1014183—1.5 acres. Brow Lot on CR 89. \$124,900.
- #1021165—2-acre lot offering lake and brow footage. \$59,900.
- #1034997—Approx. 6 acres on Middle Fork of Little River. \$48,900.
- #1038089—Own a piece of the Brow! This lot provides approx. 250' of road frontage and 1-1/2 acres of level land for a secluded home site. This lot totals almost 6 1/2 acres, encompassing large trees and majestic rock formations as prominent features of the landscape. \$99,900.
- #1039769—6.32+/- waterfront building lot in Mountain River Estates! **REDUCED TO \$44,950.**
- #1065542—90 acres on Co. Rd. 89 in Mentone. **REDUCED TO \$299,000.**
- #1070628—3.01 acres. 152' on West Fork of Little River. \$49,700.
- #1070629—3.01 acres. 152' on West Fork of Little River. \$59,500.

- #1073864—Brow Lot! .78 acres. **REDUCED TO \$89,500.**
- #1076239—Cleared & wooded 3.6 acres on Scenic Hwy. **REDUCED TO \$74,500.**
- #1076286—1.75 acre building lot in West Fork Subdivision. **REDUCED TO \$39,900.**
- #1078140—18.3 acres, unrestricted, partially wooded! \$66,800.
- #1079713—Gorgeous lot in Mentone with .81+/- acres in Hunter's Ridge Subdivision. \$15,000.
- #1080922—.54 acres, Mentone Bluffs. \$69,999.
- #1083789—2.11 acres with 300' of waterfront in beautiful West Fork Subdivision. \$39,500.
- #1092235—Building lot in Laurel Creek Lakes. \$24,500.
- #1098785—Beautiful wooded BROW lot in Mentone with winter views! Build your dream cabin here within walking distance to DeSoto Falls! \$77,640.

- #1099911—LAST CHANCE to buy open land before entering into Georgia!!! This 26 acres has lots of road frontage. Old farmhouse on property. Lots of potential with this property. \$179,000.
- #1100905—A RARE FIND! Don't miss the opportunity to own 239 rolling wooded acres in Mentone with multiple pond sites, streams and abundant wildlife and "trophy deer"... \$669,200.
- #1107397—Build here! \$99,900.
- #1107398—Build here! \$99,900.
- #1107408—Build here! \$99,900.
- #1107411—Build here! \$99,900.
- #1107412—Build here! \$99,900.
- #1108339—Better Than a Bargain... this is a STEAL! Build your dream home here... on this 1.20 brow lot in Mentone with amazing views! Don't hesitate on this outstanding opportunity. Call TODAY for more details. \$99,000.
- #1111628—AMAZING VIEWS! YES, VIEWS!!! Enjoy the scenery that ONLY Mother Nature provides! Live in PARADISE with your 2nd

- or retirement home located on the brow of Lookout Mountain, Mentone Bluffs in Mentone, AL. **REDUCED TO \$81,900.**
- #1112787—40 acres in Mentone, AL with stream and untouched family owned property since 1923! Back to nature with wildlife and beautiful stream for your discretion. Call for an appointment today! \$200,000.
- #1113936—Looking for a brow lot inside the city limits of Mentone? Look no further!!! Almost an acre within walking distance to downtown Mentone...buy here, build here and enjoy all the special things Mentone has to offer! Call TODAY for more information! \$78,500.
- #1116127—VISTAS AND VIEWS are breathtaking from this 3.2-acre tract on the brow in Mentone near DeSoto State Park. This is a great site for your home or vacation cabin! Over 500' of brow frontage. \$199,900.
- #1118229—A great little investment property or place for your weekend get-a-way. \$49,900.

Congratulations Valley Head Graduates!



Bryan Boyzo



Erik Boyzo



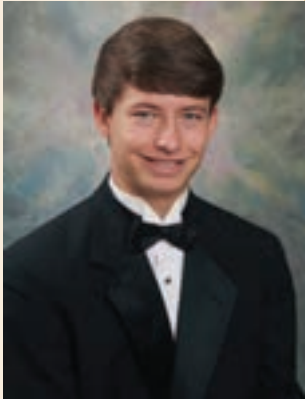
Dustin Brown



Ethan Burch



Katelyn Busby



Jordan Cordell



Naelia Cruz



Dakota Edwards



Vandila Freeman



Jimmy Gibson



Shelby Golden



Haleigh Gregory



Madison Gregory



Destiny Hatfield



Macy Hirst



Owen Izell



Drake Jackson



Keegan Johnson



Jaxon Landers



Jamie Mayhew



Logan McGee



Ashlee Smith



Julie Smith



Marcus Stanfill

Class of 2019

Rhododendron Festival

The Rhododendron Festival weekend weather was lovely. The crowd moderate. The use of the shuttles tremendous. This was only the third time using shuttles and folks have learned quickly. We will have to have a third bus for Colorfest. The activities and performances provided by Willowynn Expressions at the Mentone Springs Hotel stage, as well as the plant walk by Darryl Patton, were wonderful additions.

Our festivals are totally dependent on our volunteers and so many people have volunteered. MAPA is truly grateful for their many gifts of time. We were short on folks putting up signs that go up one or two days before, and hopefully for Colorfest we will have enough volunteers to get more signs up to get folks to the site at Brow Park. It has been a problem I know for over five years (10 festivals), so even when parking was available at the Brow many folks didn't find their way there...

A well deserved Thank You to all who attended, all vendors, our local police, DeSoto Rescue Squad, shop owners, restaurants, all volunteers, and everyone in town who is patient with the sometimes overwhelming crowd. A special Thank You to the Vendor Team of Chris and Tracey Davenport. Hugs to y'all. —*Sharon Habin, Festival Organizer*

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the sponsorship
support of*

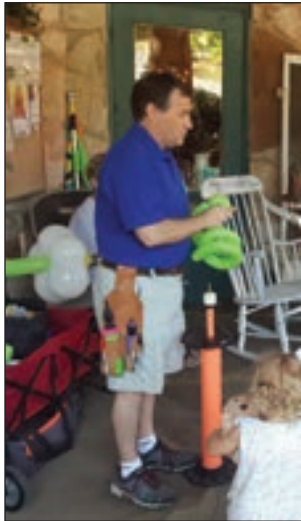


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Miss Rhododendron 2019, MacKenzie Hollmer, drew the winning ticket for our raffle of Lydia's Randolph's original painting. Cynthia Stinson, innkeeper of the Mentone Inn was the winner!



"Balloons by Stacy," added to the unique



DeSoto Rescue Squad members served up cotton candy animals! L to R: Dodge Justice, JD Trammell, James Justice; Front row—Maria Justice, River Justice



Strollers enjoyed browsing the vendor booths at Brow Park, and at the old Mentone Springs Hotel site.



Hired by Mountain Properties, the entertainment of the festival.



The world's best book-sale-with-a-view!



Riggs and Olivia Morgan enjoyed trying on hats at the Steampunk Butterfly booth.



Martha and other children enjoyed making marble art with Ms. Paula at the MERF booth.

*We appreciate
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DeKalb Tourism
DeSoto Printing
Mentone Realty
Skelton Orthodontics
Times-Journal

Miss Rhododendron Pageant

by Sharon Habin

Oh, what a night! Congratulations to our 2019 Miss Rhododendron, Miss MacKenzie Hollmer of Fort Payne, AL. MacKenzie recently graduated as an honor student from Fort Payne High School, where she was a member of FBLA, SADD, Key Club, National Honor Society, National Technical Honor Society, Mu Alpha Theta, and Varsity Volleyball.

MacKenzie enjoys playing volleyball, spending time with family, and working at DeKalb Foot Clinic. She will attend Northeast Alabama Community College (NACC) with the one-year full-time scholarship traditionally given by NACC to Miss Rhododendron, where she will begin studying to become a nurse practitioner.

Miss Rhododendron
Makenzie Hollmer

Teen Miss
LillieBelle Gentry

Pre-Teen Miss
LauraBeth Farmer

Mini Miss
Sydney Crane

Tiny Miss
Madison Shipman

Baby Miss
Molly Claire Andrews

The Miss Rhododendron Pageant was enhanced by remodeling that has been done by the Mentone Community Church, including comfortable chairs and lovely additions to the decor. Thank you, Pastor Tim Miller and MCC, for letting us use your wonderful facility.

This year, our judges were Ashley Little, Bethany Hancock, Genevieve Wilhelm. They have all have held titles and have been involved in pageants a long time. Our Tally/Auditor was Cyndi Stills. The MC for the evening was Paige Parnell, a former Miss Alabama and 1st Runner up Miss America. She brought her friend Tito, a furry bird soft puppet (because he is no dummy). He chatted, sang in Spanish, and even yodeled for us. She and he were delightful.

Teresa Little, who has been a judge for the pageant the past two years, changed roles this year and oversaw the judges and auditor. Miss Teresa is co-owner of Glitz and Glamour Consignment Prom and Pageant Dresses in Rome, GA. New volunteers to this pageant (but not to pageants) were Bruce and Marsha BonFleur. They took part in the planning, publicity, and check in; they became our 'go to' folks. Miss Rhododendron 2018 Cyndee Thoreson fulfilled her duties by helping the contestants with their stage time, as well as with planning and decorating. Captain Mike Stone of DeSoto Rescue Squad handled our sound, lights, and big screens. Everyone helped with other jobs as they appeared along the way. Our continued thank you to MAPA for presenting the pageant and Skelton Orthodontics for sponsoring it. Thank you, Northeast Alabama Community College, for providing our winner with a one-year scholarship. Yay, Team Rhodo Pageant!



Miss Rhododendron, MacKenzie Hollmer, and 1st Alternate Julie Smith



Winners of all divisions



Mini Miss contestants



Tiny Miss division contestants

Miss Rhododendron division contestants



L to R: Miss Rhododendron 2018 Cyndee Thoreson, Baby Miss winner Molly Andrews, and 1st runner up Layley Meadows, held by their moms

Ongoing Community Calendar

Mentone Town Council meets the 2nd Tuesday every month at 5pm at Mentone Town Hall. Everyone is welcome.

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

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

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

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

FREE FOOD for eligible persons and families. Wednesdays, 9–11am. New applicants are welcome 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 4–8pm. Mentone Community Church, 90 Summerville Rd. 256-634-4210.

The Farm Market at The Farm at Windy Hill is open Fridays from 2–5pm. Seasonal produce, grass-fed and finished beef, pastured and wooded pork, and pasture-raised eggs. 445 Road 942, Mentone, AL.

Moon Lake Community Library is open on Saturdays from 9am–1pm, and Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3–6pm. Enjoy complimentary coffee, wi-fi, and use of 2 computers. Visit moonlakelibrary.org for an online catalog.

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

The Lookout Mountain Knitters meet each Tuesday at 3pm at Moon Lake Community Library. All are welcome.

Writing anyone? Point of the Pen is a small, supportive writing group that welcomes anyone to join us for a casual sharing time with other writers interested in life stories, poetry, and fiction. Come to Moon Lake Community Library on the 1st Thursday of each month at 3:15pm. Call 256-635-8775 for details.

Lookout Mountain Strummers mountain dulcimer group meets on alternate Thursdays at 1pm at St. Joseph's Episcopal Church. For a schedule and directions, send an email to normbaker194@gmail.com. Beginners are welcome.

Beginning yoga classes are taught by certified teacher Jamie Baugh on Wednesdays at 1pm. \$5. St. Joseph's Parish Hall, Mentone. 256-634-4476.

DeKalb Quilters meet every 4th Tuesday at 9:30am. Second Baptist Church in Fort Payne.

The DeKalb County Genealogical Society meets the 2nd Saturday of every month in the DeKalb County Public Library, 10am.

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.

Exercise Room is open at the Fort Payne Senior Center, Monday through Friday (except for certain holidays), from 8am to noon. 600 Tyler Ave. SE, Fort Payne. 256-845-8590.

Free Low Impact Fitness Class is held every Monday, Wednesday and Friday 9:30–10am at the Fort Payne Senior Center. 600 Tyler Ave. SE, Fort Payne. 256-845-8590.

Ballroom dancing lessons are offered at the Fort Payne Senior Center on Mondays from 6–8pm. Call 662-213-2401 to register.

Line dancing lessons are offered at the Fort Payne Senior Center on Tuesdays from 1:30–2:30pm (beginners) and 2:30–3:30pm (experienced). 256-845-8590.

Bowling League for Seniors at Mountain Lanes in Rainsville. Wednesdays at 1pm. 256-638-1710.

Ceramics/Pottery Club meets at the Fort Payne Senior Center on Tuesdays and Fridays 9am–12pm. New students meet Mondays & Wednesdays 9am–12pm. 600 Tyler Ave. SE, Fort Payne. 256-845-8590.

Bridge Club meets at the Fort Payne Senior Center on Wednesdays and Thursdays 12:30–3:30pm. 600 Tyler Ave. SE, Fort Payne. 256-845-8590.

Round Dancing is held the Fort Payne Senior Center on Tuesdays 5–8:30pm. The cost is \$5/class. New students can start in February with FREE admission for the month. 600 Tyler Ave. SE, Fort Payne. Call 256-244-5320 to register.

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

Swim & Kayak at DeSoto State Park

The Olympic-size swimming pool at DeSoto State Park is open for the summer season. Pool hours are 11 a.m. until 6 p.m. The fee is \$4 per swimmer. See alapark.com/swimming for more details.

Enjoy a peaceful flatwater paddle on Little River above beautiful DeSoto Falls by renting a sit-on-top kayak. Your trip can be up to four miles round-trip, or as long as you want to make it. Paddle trips are perfect for individuals or groups. Life vests and paddles are provided. The boat shack hours are Fridays from 2 until 6 p.m., and Saturdays and Sundays from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. The fee for single sit-on-top kayaks is \$15 per hour; tandem sit-on-top kayak cost \$25 per hour. Visit alapark.com/kayak-little-river for information.

Summer on the Mountain

Do your best to find and circle the words listed in this fun Word Search puzzle.

(Hint: You'll have to look forwards, backwards, up and down!)

- BERRIES
CAMPS
FAMILY
FLOWERS
FRUIT
GARDENING
HEAT
HIKING
HUMIDITY
ICECREAM
- PICNICS
RELAXING
SANDALS
STORMS
SUNSHINE
SWIMMING
THUNDER
VACATION
VEGETABLES
WATERMELON

B G Q H E T S N V E B G X S F
T B N B I T H A T Z B N C R A
D I X I O K C F G Y R I B E M
R T U R N A I N V S Y M T W I
T E M R T E I N E I V M S O L
A S D I F X D I G E F I U L Y
E V O N A L R R G Q N W N F E
H N M L U R I E A E U S S V D
N I E G E H T C V G T Z H L B
U R X B Z A T A E R E O I F M
Z U T K B S C I N C I P N Y X
V I U L S P M A C S R P E M E
F C E H U M I D I T Y E H A X
M S N O L E M R E T A W A V R
S A N D A L S V R Y P K Z M F

Young Eagles Free Plane Rides

Young Eagles is an Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) nationally sponsored event in which Chapter members volunteer their time and aircraft to take youth ages 8 to 17 on free flights from their local airports. "We do this to spark aviation interest in young people, who are the aviators of tomorrow, and because we love having fun with our neighbors and their kids!"

This year's event, hosted by EAA Chapter 890, will be held on Saturday, June 8, from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m., weather-permitting. Flights will depart from Isbell Field, Fort Payne's municipal airport. See facebook.com/ea890 for more information.



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June 2019 Community Calendar

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

June 1—Memories of Mayberry. Join the Valley Head Volunteer Fire Department for a great day for the whole family! There will be a cruise in, food, fun, entertainment and more. Special guest will be Barney Fife. All proceeds go to the Fire Department. Will be held in the downtown square of Valley Head. 9 a.m. 256-899-3776 or 256-635-6814.

June 1—The Linger Longer Pop Up Art Series. Hosted by the Little River Arts Council, this series features an artist of the month at the Linger Longer Pavilion behind the Mentone Inn. Come out and support your local artists the first Saturday of each month from May through October. Artists will be available from 10am until they decide to leave.

June 1—Summer Music Series: Ryan Keef and Friends. FREE & open to everyone! Singer-songwriter-musician Ryan Keef has been playing music his entire life with a clear focus on always improving his skill. For many years, he has worked to bring together local musicians in a variety of bands and venues. Ryan is always a crowd favorite. 7–10pm. Linger Longer Pavilion, behind the Mentone Inn. Sponsored by Little River Arts Council, made possible in part by the Alabama State Council on the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts. For any details, email info@littleriverartscouncil.org.

June 1—Moon Lake Community Library Pop-up Book Sale. Come by and browse pre-read and new books for sale. All proceeds benefit the library. Mentone Farmers Market. 10am–1pm.

June 1—The Isaaca at The Pickin' Post. Come enjoy The Isaaca at The Pickin' Post. Tickets are available at Black's Tire in Rainsville, Dallas' Place in Crossville and Roger's Pawn & Music in Fort Payne. Located at 833 Old Hwy 35 East. Tickets are \$25 per person. 6 p.m. For more information call 256-657-3817 or 256-996-8910.

June 1—Brant & Lee @ Vintage 1889. 7pm. Vintage 1889, 151 8th St NE, Fort Payne.

June 2 & 22—Guided Kayaking Trip on Little River. Enjoy a guided kayaking trip on the West Fork of Little River above AA Miller Dam at DeSoto Falls with One World Adventure. Bring a lunch for a shoreline picnic and admire the peaceful river. Bring a hammock to string up too! This is a great way to enjoy a Sunday and is recommended for all ages. Cost includes guide, kayak, paddle and life vest. Reservations are required and space is limited. \$35 adults; \$25 kids 12–17. Kids under 12 who are not paddling are free. To register, call 256-634-8370 or email

angie@oneworldadventureco.org.

June 3–5—Youth Top Rope Rock Climbing Camp. One World Adventure PCIA certified guide will offer a class to learn skills in top-rope rock climbing, bouldering, camping, outdoor cooking. This fun adventure is designed for youth and builds confidence in the outdoors and is appropriate for ages 12–15. Includes all meals and snacks, camping equipment (tents, tarps, hammocks), cookware, and climbing gear including harnesses. \$225. Cherokee Rock Village. Registration required. To register, call 256-634-8370 or email angie@oneworldadventureco.org.

June 4–7—Canyon Camp. Our annual summer camp is back! Hands-on environmental education, outdoor fun, arts and exploration of the natural world abound in this camp. Children learn all about Little River Canyon and Desoto State Park...the river, the plants and the animals! Remember that all camps fill quickly, so please register early. Note: no lunch will be provided, so please bring lunch/snacks. 2nd–4th Graders (grade just completed). 8 am–4 pm; drop off begins at 7:30am. \$150 per child covers materials and instructors. Canyon Center, Fort Payne. Limit 10 kids. *Pre-registration required for all Canyon Camps by calling Niki Wayner at 256-845-3548.

June 6—Art in the Alley. Bring your friends and let's have some fun! Join us after work for Art in the Alley, and enjoy local food, music, and art in downtown Ft Payne. Boom Town Makers Market. 5–8 pm.

June 6—Annual Farm-to-Table BBQ. We want to welcome friends and neighbors to The Farm at Windy Hill for our Farm-to-Table BBQ. We will be serving BBQ plates featuring our own pastured pork, fresh-picked-vegetable sides, and homemade pound cake. We will also have more of those great local musician as well as lawn games for all! We will be selling plates of food (BBQ plates and sandwiches, with a senior discount offered on plates), and the event is free for all to attend. 4 p.m. till 7 p.m.

June 7—Clare Donohue Quintet Performs the Songs of Johnny Mercer. Green Leaf Grill, Mentone. 7–9pm. \$10.

June 8—Young Eagles Plane Rides. Free airplane rides for youth ages 7–17. Hosted by EAA Chapter 890 at Fort Payne Municipal Airport. 10am–1pm. Weather permitting. See facebook.com/Eaa890 for info.

June 8—Clare Donohue Performs a Tribute to Patsy Cline. Green Leaf Grill, Mentone. 7–9pm. \$10.

June 8 & 29—Guided Bat Cave Kayaking Adventure. Guided evening paddle trip to Nickajack Cave to view the bats as they emerge from a flooded cave! We will launch

from Shellmound Campground at 7pm and paddle 1.5 miles (3 miles round trip) to witness an unbelievable sight. One World Adventure Company. \$40 adults; \$30 kids 12–17. Kids under 12 who are not paddling are free. To register, call 256-634-8370 or email angie@oneworldadventureco.org.

June 8—Bluegrass on the Rim. Jacksonville State University and the staff of the Little River Canyon Center is pleased to announce the 6th annual "Bluegrass on the Rim." Join the crowd on June 8, starting at 5pm with music at 6pm, for an evening of serious Bluegrass from accomplished Southeastern artists: Barefoot Nellie & Co., Foggy Hollow, and Bent Creek. Also enjoy Alabama's best barbeque tents along with fun for the whole family. Advance tickets \$15; Day of Show tickets \$20. For more information or to purchase tickets please visit jsu.edu/epic/canyonconcerts or call 256-845-3548. Coolers welcome! Proceeds benefit environmental education.

June 9 & 30—Guided Yellow Creek Kayak Adventure & Waterfall Swim. Join One World Adventure Company for an EXCITING guided kayak adventure at Yellow Creek with a swim under a magnificent WATERFALL! You won't want to miss this amazing excursion at of Alabama's hidden gems. Spaces are limited. \$35 adults; \$25 kids 12–17. Kids under 12 who are not paddling are free. To register, call 256-634-8370 or email angie@oneworldadventureco.org

June 10—Screening of the foil "Cloudmont". Free. 6:30pm. Moon Lake Community Library

June 10–14—The 2019 Summer Manufacturing Camps (Girls Only) will be held on the NACC campus. The cost of each camp is \$59, which includes lunches each day. Participants will show off what they've learned at a completion celebration held the evening of June 14. Camp selections include: 1) Welding: During this workshop, you will make one or two projects using welding techniques. 2) Exploring Programming for Arduino: Arduino is an open-source electronics platform based on small, easy-to-use hardware and software. Arduino boards are able to read inputs—light on a sensor, a finger on a button—and turn it into an output—activating a motor, turning on an LED, making sounds. Students will get first-hand experience learning the basics of programming on the Arduino platform. Each day a new programming skill will be learned in the morning with several projects to practice in the afternoon, all in a relaxed "summer camp" atmosphere. 3) Robotics Camp: During this camp, students will learn to build, program and operate simple robots. Visit nacc.edu/summerstem for more information and to download the registration form.

June 11—Courtyard Concert: "Alabama". Come early, stay late. Note: Time slots have changed. Courtyard Concerts take place every 2nd and 4th Tuesday. Featuring local, regional, and special guest artists. Admission is free. Cash bar. Gates open at 5:30pm, show begins at 6pm.

June 12—Wild Child Wednesday : Mountain Biking/Swimming. One World Adventure will hold local outdoor trips to keep children ages 7–13 active and having a great summer outdoors. Each week is a new adventure! Sign up for all 5 weeks and receive a discount. \$50 includes transportation, lunch, snacks, and all equipment. To register, call 256-634-8370 or email angie@oneworldadventureco.org.

June 13–14—Youth Camping Trip. Kids ages 12–15 will learn important outdoor skills while camping with One World Adventure. Lessons in outdoor cooking, how to choose a campsite, pitch a tent, hang a hammock, and start a campfire will create a memorable experience that will last a lifetime! \$90 includes all meals, snacks and all equipment. To register, call 256-634-8370 or email angie@oneworldadventureco.org.

JUNE 14 Flag Day

June 14 & 28—Community Game Night. Free and open to everyone! Come play games with your friends and neighbors. Finger food potluck. 6pm. Moon Lake Community Library, 4607 AL-Hwy 117, Mentone

June 14 & 22—Craft Your Own Paperweight. This class is designed for those who really just want see what molten glass is all about. Feel the heat, gather from the furnace, sculpt the glass into you own design. Please join us for some in-depth discovery at Orbix Hot Glass. Reservations required. \$145 per person. 9am–1 p.m. 256-523-3188.

June 15—"The Magic of Reading" Magic Show with Mike Ellis. Moon Lake Community Library kicks off the summer with a magic show for all ages! Children and adults will enjoy Mike's high-energy, entertaining, and encouraging program. Mike is an active member of the International Brotherhood of Magicians and the Georgia Magic Club. His "magic" has been enjoyed in classrooms, at corporate events, and at community gatherings across the Southeast as well as in New York, California, Hawaii, and Bermuda. Free. 4607 AL Hwy. 117, Mentone.

June 15–11th Annual Freedom Fest 5K & 10K. Don't miss the area's largest fun run/walk. Registration and starting of race is at Broadway Baptist Church in Rainsville. This year we will close registration at 1,000 runners/walkers. Proceeds go to local charities. For online registration,

June 2019 Community Calendar

contact info and more, visit the website racesonline.com. Race begins at 8am. For details: rainsvillefreedomfest.racesonline.com.

June 15—Glass Tumbler Glassblowing Class. This introductory glassblowing class teaches many fundamentals through the process of making a small tumbler (cup). Plenty of hands-on experience from choosing colors, gathering, paddling, blowing and shaping is gained in this four hour experience. Class size is maximum of four students so everyone has adequate time at the bench working. Some safety material is provided before the class for you to review. Please join us for some in-depth discovery. Call us at 256.523.3188 or email us at info@orbixhotglass.com for more information or to make a reservation. Reservations and full payment required. Cost – \$145. 2-4 students Minimum age is 13 years old with parent.

June 15—Guided Rappelling Adventure. Rappel over a 60-foot sandstone ledge called Chicken Rock with a professional Guide at One World Adventure. This exhilarating challenge is recommended for ages 14 and up and difficulty is moderate. Reservations are required and

space is limited. Location: Desoto Falls Basin Trailhead. \$40. To register, call 256-634-8370.

JUNE 16 Happy Father's Day!

June 16—Full Moon Kayak Adventure. Join One World Adventure & The Little River Waterkeeper for a special moon lit kayak tour on Lake Lahusage near Mentone. Enjoy a leisurely guided tour on the flat section of Little River, beginning at sunset and ending by the light of the full moon. The trip is appropriate for adults and kids ages 14 and older when accompanied by an adult. Pre-registration is required. Trip lasts approximately 2 to 2-1/2 hours and has a maximum of 20 people. Difficulty: Easy-Moderate. 7-9:30pm. \$40 per person includes all equipment (kayak, paddle, PFD). You only need to bring a headlamp. To register, call 256-634-8370 or email angie@oneworldadventureco.org.

June 17—Author Talk: Cathy Haven Howard. Moon Lake Community Library, 4706 AL-Hwy. 117, Mentone. 6pm. Free. Light refreshments will be served.

June 19—Wild Child Wednesday: Rock Climbing/Swimming. One World Adventure will hold local outdoor trips to keep children

ages 7-13 active and having a great summer outdoors. Each week is a new adventure! Sign up for all 5 weeks and receive a discount. \$50 includes transportation, lunch, snacks, and all equipment. To register, call 256-634-8370 or email angie@oneworldadventureco.org.

June 20 through 23—50th Anniversary Alabama Fan Appreciation Week.

June 20—Singing with the Stars. Teddy Gentry and The Children's Advocacy Center Presents Singing with the Stars! Held at the NACC Lyceum in Section. Featuring Teddy Gentry and the Rocket City Band. \$15 for adults, \$8 for students (5-18). Doors open at 5:30pm. Show starts at 6pm. All proceeds go the Children's Advocacy Center. 256-997-9700.

JUNE 21 Summer Solstice

June 21—Sculpt a Flower. Have you ever wanted to actually sit at the gaffer bench and feel what it is like to shape hot glass? It's all about hands on experience in a safe and fun atmosphere with a final product we know you will love. There is a minimum of 3 people and a maximum of 5 in each class. 1 p.m. Reservations are required. 256-523-3188.

June 22—DeSoto Rescue Squad Fundraiser Singing with the Willie Underwood Family. The Willie Underwood Family will be performing Gospel and Motown to help raise some funds for the Squad's operational expenses including fuel, insurance, and medical supplies! Tickets are \$10. Mentone Community Church. 5-7pm. Tickets can be purchased from any Squad member, at Little River Hardware.

June 22 & 29—Blow an Ornament. Come design and blow your own ornament with the help of one of our glass artists. No reservations are needed, it is on a first come, first serve basis. 9am-2pm. Orbix Hot Glass. Cost is \$38 per ornament blown. 256-523-3188.

June 25—Courtyard Concert: Southern Rock. Come early, stay late. Note: Time slots have changed. Courtyard Concerts takes place every 2nd and 4th Tuesday. Featuring local, regional, and special guest artists. Admission is free. Cash bar. Gates open at 5:30pm, show begins at 6pm.

June 26—Wild Child Wednesday: Swimming Hole Tour. One World Adventure will hold local outdoor trips to keep children ages 7-13 active and having a great summer outdoors. Each week is a new adventure! Sign

up for all 5 weeks and receive a discount. \$50 includes, transportation, lunch, snacks, and all equipment. To register, call 256-634-8370 or email angie@oneworldadventureco.org.

June 29—Readers' Theatre at Moon Lake Community Library. This children's program led by librarian Anne McLeod will focus on fun as kids act out Readers' Theatre scripts. It may seem like play, but reading aloud builds fluency and helps students read with expression. Children of all ages are welcome to participate in this free program which will be held from 10-11:30 a.m. 4607 AL-Hwy. 117, Mentone.

June 29— Keep On Rockin'!: Tribute to The Steve Miller Band. The show will feature a full band as well as acoustic performances from our very special guests. Join us for a celebration as we pay homage to the Steve Miller Band's legacy of musicianship and summertime fun! Doors open at 6pm, show begins at 7pm. Advance Tickets \$10. Day of show \$12. VIP Tickets \$20 (includes select reserve seating, snacks, and drinks.) This band includes Marc Womack, Jamie Bell, David Lusk, Scooter Hilyer, Chuck Sawyer, and Ryan Keef.



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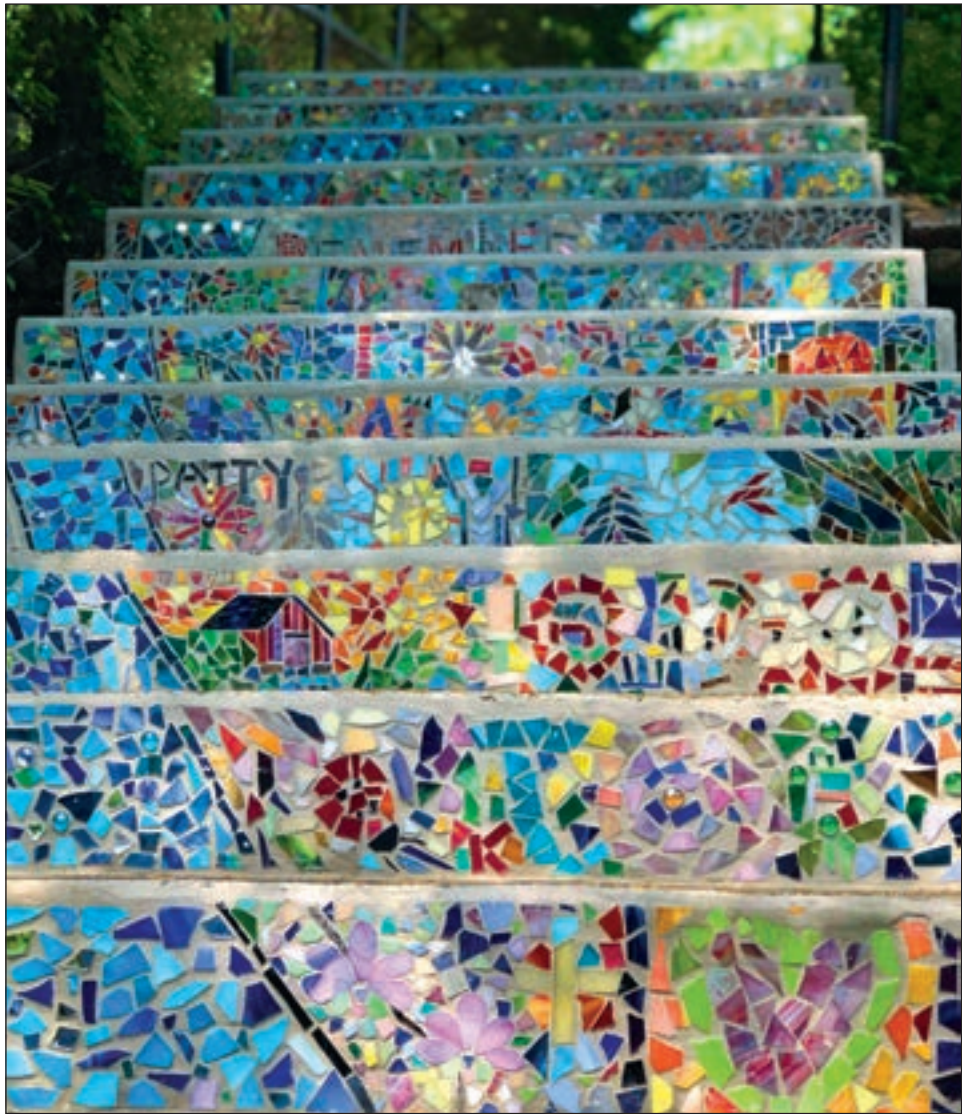


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Art Comes to DeSoto Falls



If you've recently visited DeSoto State Park's DeSoto Falls, you'll likely have noticed the new mosaic tile art installation on the risers of the concrete steps leading down to the viewing area. This project was conceived by DeSoto State Park Naturalist and Little River Arts Council board member Brittney Hughes. She collaborated with celebrated mosaic artist Linda Munoz to create a series of mosaic step risers depicting the west fork of Little River. The Little River Arts Council and DeSoto State Park funded the project, several artists donated glass tiles for the cause, and over 1,000 people volunteered their time to decorate areas of the mosaic risers—a true labor of love. Photos of the 10-month-long process can be seen at littleriverartscouncil.org/desoto-falls-art-project.



Brittney Hughes and Linda Munoz



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- & a growing list of healthy snacks & other items



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Lookout Mountain Lakefront Living in this 4BR/3B home w/ attached 2-car garage. This well-appointed home offers a split plan, fireplace, hardwood throughout living area. The Bonus 4th bedroom is above the 2-car garage with its own full bath. The waterfront on the lake has a stationary dock and fire pit area. Connects to 1500+ acres, w/ 600 acres in common area, 4 stocked lakes, waterfalls & hiking. \$399,000



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June in Mentone's history...

Compiled by Annette Stone

1983

\$2,052 is raised Mentone's fire department through the rummage and bake sale.

1984

Crafts Festival Committee coordinates new brow shelter, with plans for treated posts and a possible concrete floor.

1986

Lookout Mountain Scenic Parkway completion was celebrated at this year's Rhododendron Festival.

1993

Mentone's Little River Hardware Store celebrates their first anniversary with a cake cutting, hot dogs, drinks and door prizes.

1998

The entire student body of Moon Lake Elementary School recently assembled for a ceremony to dedicate the gazebo, butterfly garden, and eco-center to all Moon Lake students, present, past and future.

Source:
Groundhog archives

Home & Artist Tour Nominations Accepted

The Little River Arts Council is accepting nominations for its home and artists' studio tour on October 26 and 27. We hope to include at least three homes of artists willing to open their studio space for the tour. If you know of a home

that would make a great destination on this year's tour, email Wil Henry Cobble at wilhenry@boonlink.net or use this link to access an online nomination form: bit.ly/2019LRACTOUR (case sensitive). The deadline for nominations is June 15, 2019.

Lookout Mountain Plein Air Group Forms

Artists Don David, Barbara Umland, and Eugenia Johnston have formed the Lookout Mountain Plein Air group, a group of plein air artists who will meet weekly at locations in and around Mentone to paint out-of-doors. All levels of painters are welcome, and everyone is welcome to observe. If you have any questions or would like to join the group, contact Barbara Umland at 256-619-1004.



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St. Joe's Sacred Garden by Rebecca Henderson

Many journeys become richer when shared. The journey of St. Joseph's Sacred Garden has taken on new dimensions, thanks to each visitor who has entered to reflect, search, pray, or simply enjoy the quiet respite of this gift to the town. And the hope of the church is that the garden enriches the life journeys of all who explore it.

Many have already stopped to walk the natural area and check out the ongoing developments. Thus far, the serene pathways envelop nine memorial benches, two memorial swings, permanent stations of the cross, a gazebo, and, most recently, a prayer labyrinth that is not yet complete but is ready to be walked.

St. Joseph's sexton Kat Griffith describes the labyrinth this way: "A labyrinth is a spiritual tool, a path of prayer, a walking meditation. It can be a model or metaphor for life. The path winds throughout, but has

one well-defined pathway to the center. The path can be used to seek healing, forgiveness, release, courage, guidance, or renewal. "Labyrinths have been used for over 5,000 years. Today you can find them in church yards, hospitals, retreat centers, parks, recovery centers, and residential gardens."



The St. Joe labyrinth has seven circuits leading to the center, then back out to the point of beginning. The inward journey is used to release the distractions of life, and the center calls for pause to look deep within for wholeness and healing.

In addition to the completion of the labyrinth, plans for the coming year include the installation of a



pet cemetery for the cremated remains of beloved animals; a healing garden with a selection of medicinal plants and common herbs, such as lavender, aloe, chamomile, garlic and rosemary; and the addition of 1,000 daffodil bulbs this fall (talk about a colorful show next year!).

St. Joseph's encourages all to visit the garden. Not only is it a gift to Mentone, but those who share their journeys there will enrich its soil forever.

Menlo News by Pat Johnson

Menlo School Principal Retires

Mark Pickle is retiring as principal of Menlo School. Mr. Pickle was a student at Menlo School when Mr. Thompson was principal. It was Mr. Thompson who encouraged him to go into education. Mr. Pickle has taught at the school for over 30 years. For most of those years he was the Physical Education teacher; when he retired as PE teacher, he returned to serve as principal. He will now coach volleyball at Chattooga High School. Paula Buice is taking his place as principal at Menlo School.

Menlo Reading Buddies Wraps Up Another Year

Students and volunteers enjoyed their last monthly get-together in April with a cookout at the Lawrence Center. Reading Buddies is a program sponsored by the Menlo School and the Menlo Housing Authority. Menlo students are paired with volunteers from the Menlo community. They meet once a month at the Lawrence Center in Menlo. Each month they select a book for them both to read. The books are supplied by Menlo School. Both students and volunteers love reading and discussing their books and getting to know each other.

The program will begin again in September. Anyone interested in being a volunteer can contact Glenda Hamilton, Menlo Housing Authority, 706-862-2240, menlohousing@windstream.net.



Reading Buddies Students: L to R, bottom row, Laurie Brown, Kaylee Campbell, Dixie Shelton, Anslee Rosson, Landon Nixon, Braden Bevel. Back row: Haley Grace Maddux, Anslee Evans, Olivia Bratcher, Chloe Middleton, Kayleigh Rosson, Nicholas Glasscock, Kasen Elsberry, Tuff Shepherd, Riley Willis, Ben Woods, Austin Anderson, Chance Elrod. Not pictured: Aiden Lackey



Reading Buddies Volunteers, L to R: Rodney White, Carolyn Tanner, Barbara Cavin, Linda Leslie, Mary Jay, Sara Pless, Tom Carter, Peggy Carter, Iva Spears, James Spears, Joy Phelan, Burmah Green, Pat Johnson, DeJoly Labrier, and Glenda Hamilton, Executive Director.



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Moon Lake Community Library Summer Programming by Kelly Leavitt

"THE MAGIC OF READING" magic show with Mike Ellis 6/15



Mike Ellis will present "The Magic of Reading" show to kick off our summer program on Saturday, June 15, at 11 a.m. Children and adults will enjoy his high-energy, entertaining, and encouraging program. Mike is an active member of the International Brotherhood of Magicians and the Georgia Magic Club. His "magic" has been enjoyed in classrooms, at corporate events, and at community gatherings across the Southeast as well as in New York, California, Hawaii, and Bermuda.

Mike believes you will laugh, learn and live differently because of "The Magic of Reading" show he has planned just for YOU!

This program is free of charge for ALL ages. Invite your friends and family!

readers' theatre 6/29

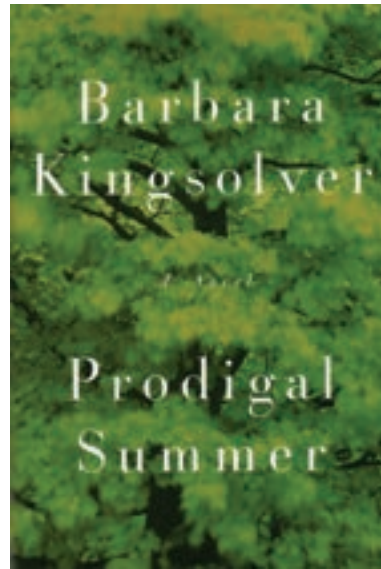
A summer children's program led by librarian Anne McLeod will focus on fun as kids act out Readers' Theatre scripts. It may seem like play, but reading aloud builds fluency and helps students read with expression. Children of all ages are welcome to participate in this free program which will be held from 10–11:30 a.m.

stay on track with summer library bingo

Students and adults alike can sign up for Summer Library Bingo, tracking their reading and attending events at the Moon Lake Community Library. Sign up at the library during the month of June!

community game nights

Friday nights 6/14 and 6/28 ♥ 6 PM



Moon Lake Book Club 6/22 "Prodigal Summer"

Join fellow book lovers on for a discussion of *Prodigal Summer*, by best-selling author Barbara Kingsolver. The book club will meet on Saturday, June 22, at 10:30 a.m. at Moon Lake Community Library in Mentone (where the book is available for check-out). Everyone is welcome to join the discussion. Organic coffee and hot tea will be served.

Author Talk: Cathy Haven Howard 6/17



about what she wanted to be, she said an "authoress." The solitude of living in the woods in Mentone for the past 19 years has allowed her to write three books and she is currently working on her first novel and another non-fiction book.

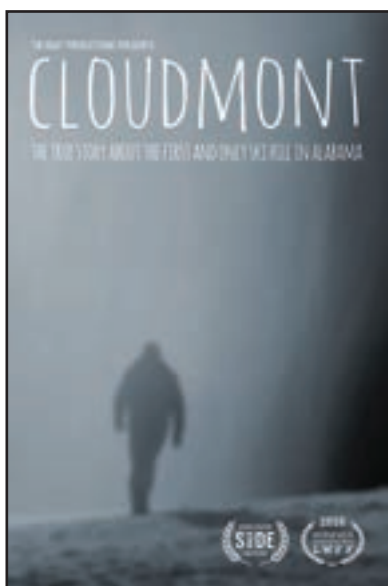
Cathy will share her practices of using meditation as a method for her writing, as well as what she has learned about the world of self-publishing, e-books, and personal sacred texts.

Cathy is retired from a career in child abuse prevention and family support during which she served in many leadership capacities at the state and local levels. She is the founder of Spirit Expression Ministry based in Mentone at Heartwood Sanctuary.

There is no charge for this program. Attendees will have the opportunity to buy Cathy's books. Light refreshments, coffee, and tea will be served.

On Monday, June 17, at 6:30 p.m., Mentone author Cathy Haven Howard will discuss her books: *Spirit Expression for EveryOne—A Guide to Living a Soul-driven Life*; *Get Your Love On—How to Increase the Power of Love in Your Life*; and *Living the Truth of Who You Really Are, Book One: How to Live from Inside Out with Money, Work and the Body*.

When Cathy was asked for her 6th grade graduation publication



Film Screening: "Cloudmont" 6/10

Cloudmont tells the story of the Jones family and their remarkable struggle against all odds to create the first and only ski hill in Alabama. The screening is free and will begin at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, June 10, at the library.



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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 9am and is led by Pastor Carol Gullatt. Sunday School is at 10am. The service of Holy Communion is held the first Sunday of each month and fifth Sundays are a service of music. 415 Cutler Avenue. 256-634-8006.

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

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.

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.

Those who bring
sunshine into the
lives of others
cannot keep it
from themselves.
—J. M. Barrie

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 the Woodmen of the World 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 (Eastern) and Worship at 10am (Eastern). 150 Partain Road.

Menlo, Georgia

Alpine Community Church Pastor and Rev. Rodney Blaylock welcome each and every one to worship service Sunday morning at 11am GA time; Sunday School 10am GA time; Wednesday night Bible Study 7pm GA time. 115 Hwy. 337. 706-862-6641.

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

Menlo Presbyterian Church (ECO) invites everyone to attend services with us. Sunday School at 10am (Eastern) and Worship Service at 11:15am (Eastern). 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; Chosen Generation Youth 6:30pm. Sundays: Sunday School 9:30am; Morning Celebration 10:30am. Pastors Dr. David & Penny Reeves. 174 West First Avenue. 706-808-0909.

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

Edwin Coleman Thompson, Sr. March 17, 1931–April 27, 2019

Mr. Ed Thompson passed peacefully on April 27 at his residence. A memorial service was held on May 3 at the Menlo Presbyterian Church. He is survived by two daughters, a son, a granddaughter, and a great-grandson.

Mr. Thompson was principal of Menlo School for 30 years, a Lifetime Elder of Menlo Presbyterian Church, charter member of Menlo Lions Club, and the first pack master of Menlo Cub Scouts. He also served several terms on the Board of Menlo Housing Authority and participated in Menlo's Reading Buddies Program.

In 1963, he agreed to serve a one-year term as principal of Menlo School until they could find the right applicant. Thirty years later, he retired. He loved all the children of Menlo School and encouraged them to do their best in life and be good human beings.

"He was my principal when I was growing up, in 1963," said current principal Menlo School Mark Pickle, who is retiring this month. "He was my neighbor, as well, when I was growing up. I did things with his children and he took my brother and

I arrowhead hunting, hunting for old Civil War relics. Their farm adjoined our farm and we grew up working for him. Our families helped each other out. He hired me in 1983 and I've been at Menlo School ever since.

"His philosophy, which I also followed, was that when you hire a teacher for a position, you need to make sure that they have a love for children. If you don't have a love for children, it's going to be hard to teach kids and reach certain kids. If you love children, everything's going to fall into place. I miss seeing him out in the community. He was a staple in the Menlo community. It's like a piece of the community is gone."

The family requests donations to be made in Mr. Thompson's memory to a special fund which will be used to sponsor 8th grade students from Menlo School on the special spring trips to the coast of Georgia as well as other student needs that arise. Donations may be mailed to the attention of Anita Willingham-Smith at United Community Bank, 9699 Rome Blvd., Summerville, GA 30747.



Mellie Pennington Lyday July 16, 1924–May 21, 2019

Mellie Brown Pennington Lyday died peacefully in her home on May 22. She was born on July 16, 1924, to Annie Lee and Edward Pennington in Hazlehurst, GA. Being the fourth of five girls—Marion, Anne, Murrell, Mellie, and Baby Edd—the tiny girl quickly secured and dominated her niche in the family. On the Pennington farm, her domain was all indoors—no milking or feeding animals, no weeding or picking vegetables. Floors were spotless, clothes in their place and recipes perfected, and woe to one who did not toe the line. (One sister found her slip in the yard when she forgot to follow directions!)

For six months she had no name until Murrell exclaimed, "We can call the baby Mellie Brown the Baptist" (after a book she was reading). Her father said, "Well, we can call her Mellie Brown but she'll have to decide on the Baptist part herself!" (and she did). Her second name and the one that the family still calls her is Betts because she played Betsy Ross in a school play. When she went to college at the University of Georgia with a last name like Pennington, it was inevitable that her nickname would become Penny. Sister Baby Edd followed, and was also called Penny, so they became Penny 1 and Penny 2.

Penny met Jim Lyday at college and they were wed in 1947. Both started teaching careers in Georgia and continued after a move to Cincinnati in 1961. Penny designed the Home Economics department when the new Greenhills High School was built. She organized fashion shows, entered her seamstresses and cooks in competitions, and was expected those Blue Ribbons. She helped secure after-school jobs, and counseled and influenced future homemakers for 40 years.

The girl raised in the piney flat lands of South Georgia loved the mountains as much as Jim, who was from our area, so in 1961, the "Rock House" was purchased in Mentone. From that point, almost all vacations were based around the Rock House and always included aunts, uncles, cousins, friends, and lots of homemade food. Penny was always a First

Church person so they joined the First Baptist Church in Fort Payne, became involved in MAPA and the Singing Seniors, and adopted Howard's Chapel as a closer, second church home.

Penny's gift was hospitality. She was in her element with sit-down dinners. She would set a table for 12 with china, crystal, cloth napkins, and the good silver; prepare the meal; clean the pots and pans before serving, all hot and ready at the same time; and then sit down to enjoy the meal. Homemade rolls and desserts were her specialties. Her house was immaculately clean and neat, even though it was loaded with furniture and knick knacks collected from "junking" trips. She and Jim would earn "mad money" refinishing and selling furniture they couldn't fit in the house.

Penny was a person in her own right, but her passion was Jim Lyday. From the start, their marriage was one of love, respect, humor, and being with each other. He called her a "Dandy" and she adored him. It was a love match of 61 years. Left behind are children Mellanie Tuttle and Beau Lyday with spouses David Kendall and Brenda. Grandchildren are Kenda Tuttle Rakusin, Sarah Lyday Tilson, Kaylon Tuttle, and Amalie Lyday Martin. Grand in-laws are Ronnie Rakusin with Chantal and Levi Prescott, Adam Tilson, Meg Tuttle and Paul Martin. Arlo Ellsworth Tuttle is the golden great-grandchild who brought much joy.

Her precious Jim died in 2008 and the family knew that Penny would follow soon after, but with her spunk and competitive drive she entered the Miss Golden Girl Contest in 2009 and won! This was literally a crowning glory for her. Penny wore her tiara proudly for her year of reign, and went to all the contributing businesses with cookies and personal thank yous! She was a force and survivor with a life well lived.

Her funeral was held on May 25, with burial following in Howard's Chapel Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to the Benevolence Fund of Howard's Chapel Church.



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OTHER
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Priscilla Russell Shurtleff Gregory Monroe April 7, 1924 – April 1, 2019

Mrs. Priscilla Russell Shurtleff Gregory Monroe, 94, of Valley Head, passed away on April 1 at her residence. She was born on April 7, 1924, in Carver, MA to Perez L. and Alice Russell Shurtleff.

She served in the Marines during WWII and worked as a secretary for Dr. Noble and Dr. Weatherly. She was a faithful and loyal member of Valley Head Baptist Church for many years.

Survivors include her son: James C. Gregory Jr. (Linda S.); grandchildren Jason Gregory (Nicole Anderton) and Wendy Bryant (Michael); great-grandchildren Cory Dobbins (Keisha), Ariana Jenkins (Chris), Austin Harrison, Blake Gregory, Samantha Bryant & Dallas Gregory (Morgan); and great-great-grandchildren: Bradyn Jenkins, Carter Bryant, Ryan Dobbins, Samuel Dobbins, Jase Gregory, and Jalen Gregory.

Memorial Service for Stevan Davis

A memorial service with military honors will celebrate the life of Stevan Rodney Davis on Saturday, June 8, at 2 p.m. at St. Joseph's on-the-Mountain Episcopal Church in Mentone, with a reception to follow in the church parish hall. Stevan passed away on February 26, 2019, at the age of 72.

Stevan's wife Becky would like for everyone who has sent their prayers and words of encouragement to know how very much she and the family appreciate their love and thoughtfulness.

"I would like to thank my neighbors, Carol and Jackie Smith, and Mickey Lemaster, along with Father Bill Winters, for their immediate response to my cry for help when my husband died," said Becky. "Their love and strength meant so much. Also I want to express my deep gratitude to the emergency personnel and authorities who came so promptly and were not only proficient and professional but kind and courteous. My 'rock of Gibraltar' was Mike Stone, captain of the DeSoto Rescue Squad. His patience and genuinely empathetic manner were so sincere, reassuring, and comforting as he carried out his duties. He really is a 'gift from God' and Mentone and DeKalb County are truly blessed to have him."

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Join the Groundhog Team!

We always welcome our community's contributions to *The Groundhog*. If you enjoy writing or have ideas for stories that you think would interest our readers, let us know!

Do you enjoy talking to others about local history or memorable events? Do you recall with fondness certain people who made Mentone what it is today? Help us sustain *The Groundhog's* tradition of preserving Mentone's history and serving its current population.

The Groundhog staff and MAPA board are here to assist you if you will help us get these important stories and biographies written down to share and save for posterity. (If you are worried about your writing skills, everything is edited before print.)

We'd also appreciate your ongoing submissions of photographs, artwork, poetry and recipes. Email us at groundhognews@yahoo.com or give us a call at 256-289-2002 to let us know how you would like to be a part of this great paper.



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Join Clare Donohue in Mentone for Two Farewell Concerts



On Friday, June 7, Clare will appear with her quintet and perform the songs of JOHNNY MERCER (one of the South's greatest composers and lyricists). She will also feature several numbers from her latest CD "Melancholy Serenader." It is the first time it will be made available for sale and Clare has dedicated this CD to the people of the South, with special mention being made to the people of Mentone, Alabama.

On Saturday, June 8, she will perform a tribute to PATSY CLINE.

Both shows will be performed at the Green Leaf Grill, next to the Log Cabin Village on Hwy. 117 in Mentone.

The shows will be from 7-9 p.m., with a \$10 per person cover charge for music each evening.

Stop by and pick up a CD to support her on her tour.

20% of the purchase price of each CD goes to Clubhouse International, which provides housing and jobs for people with mental illness. To order a copy of the CD, email 0711clare@gmail.com



Olive & Jack Jones *(continued from page 4)*

store. Marsha's love for the village prompted her parents to bequeath the property to her. She continues to actively manage the village, often spending her weekends there.

"Dad would see something he wanted to do, and he'd get focused on it," said Janis. "He'd ride around with mother in their car and come up with ideas as he was travelling down the road. He'd see a cow and say, 'I'm gonna raise cows.' Mother reined him in a lot."

Jack and Olive were both athletic types. Spending his summers at Camp Cloudmont "really made him who he was," said Angela. "It taught him a lot of self-respect." It also taught him how to stay busy, and he channelled that energy throughout his life into raising his family, influencing countless children at his camps, and endlessly following his dreams.

During World War II, Jack served in the U.S. Army Air Corps as a 1st Lieutenant and developed physical rehabilitation programs across the nation. While now commonplace, at the time specialized activity programs were a new way of preparing young men for service, as well as rehabilitating wounded soldiers and veterans. Jack saw that he could use his years of experience at Camp Cloudmont to provide a much-needed service. "At camp," explained Janis, "they did all kinds of activities, so Dad said, 'Hey I know I can help the boys when they come in and go out.' He developed programs that included exercises, and crafts, everything they did at camp. He wanted to help get the boys ready, because he knew those boys were scared to death, to go to war. He wanted to help boost their ego and get them in shape." "He also exercised the doctors and nurses," said Marsha. He was commissioned an honorary Colonel in 2002.

After the war was over and the couple began running Camp Cloudmont, Olive put her secretarial skills to work while running the camp's office and keeping the books. She also helped keep a campful of boys in line and tried to match Jack's indefatigable energy.

At one point, Jack made a trade of 40 acres that Olive and her sisters owned in Miami for 5,000 acres on Lookout Mountain, where he developed some of the land, and sold some of it. Around 1954, he went to an auction of the Fulze Farm in Cloudland, not intending to make a bid. But when he saw how the bidding was going, he decided to get in on what he saw as a good deal. He made the winning bid, and then scurried to the bank in Valley Head to see about securing a loan to cover that bid. This unintended purchase of 800 acres signalled the birth of Valley View Ranch. At first, it was a camp for boys. His girls clamoured for a camp they could attend as girls, so a few years later it became Valley View Equestrian Camp for Girls. The Jones' eldest daughter, Nancy, currently owns and operates the camp; for a while, she and Marsha were partners in the business. Girls at Valley View learn to ride during camp sessions and are completely responsible for the care



Original painting by Jack Jones of the Country Store. Daughter Marsha is seen on the porch.

of their horses. Between them, Marsha and Janis earned 88 saddleseat equitation trophies as teenagers.

Because sons Michael and Oliver also liked horses, Jack developed part of the land at Cloudmont as Shady Grove Dude Ranch, a camp for 25 boys. It continues to operate, no longer as a camp, but offering horseback rides through the woods and along Little River near DeSoto Falls. "When he sold Camp Cloudmont, he started entertaining families at Shady Grove. Square dances up in the loft in the barn, story time around the camp fire, wagon rides, all of it," said Janis.

An avid pilot, Jack built an airstrip near Shady Grove, which he used when he flew (often) between Mentone and Florida. The Jones family cemetery is also on the land; sons Michael and Jack, Jr. are buried there, as are their parents.

Late in life, Jack began to paint under the mentorship of Bill Roberts in Cedar Key, Florida. At first, he focused on ocean scenes, but once he returned to Mentone, he painted the mountain. He entered his prolific work in shows and opened a gallery in Mentone at Shady Grove. He served as president of the Mentone Area Preservation Association in 1988 and 1989.

In 1970, the Jack Jones family accomplished what many thought to be unthinkable—they opened the United States' southernmost ski resort at Cloudmont. Now owned and run by son Gary and his wife, Cindy, with help from Marsha and other family members, the Cloudmont ski slope is a winter favorite for ski afficiandos from all over. Some years are better than others; last year only saw nine days of skiing due to the temperate weather. The remarkable story of how the ski slope was conceived and built inspired filmmakers Mark David and Jan Jensen to document the family's efforts, struggles, and successes. The documentary "Cloudmont" was released in 2014. Moon Lake Community Library will host a free screening of this inspiring family-friendly movie on Monday, June 10, at 6:30 p.m. Some of the Jones children will be in attendance.

This brief history only skims the surface of Jack and Olive's life together. Jack wrote two books, "Come and Sit a Spell, and "No Rocking Chair for Me Yet," both of which are available to check out at Moon Lake Community Library. The books are filled with entertaining and informative anecdotes about the couple's life together.

"Dad was our cheerleader," said Angela. "Mom was the glue that held us all together."





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