



THE GROUNDHOG

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Volume 38, No. 3

"Neighborly News from the Heart of Lookout Mountain"

March 2019

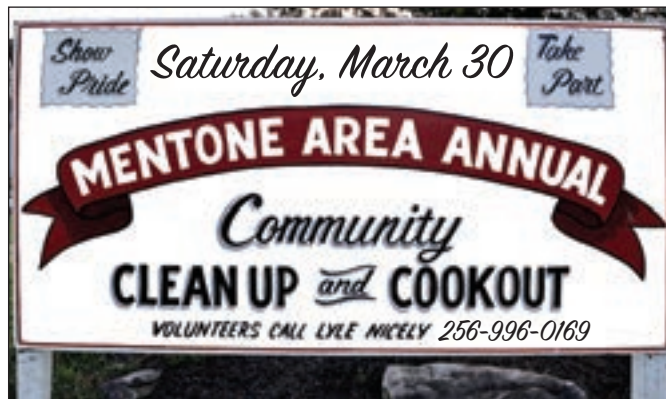
Mentone Community Clean-up

The advent of Spring means it's time once again for Mentone's Community Clean-up, an annual event organized by resident Lyle Nicely and supported by community members and businesses since 2002.

On Saturday, March 30, at 9 a.m., everyone is encouraged to meet at the Town Square (next to the Mentone Inn) to pick up litter grabbers and bags. Lyle will match individuals and groups with locations he's identified that need to be cleaned up. Afterwards, everyone will meet at the Mentone Inn's pavilion for a barbecue lunch, provided at no cost to volunteers. Feel free to bring a covered dish to share.

Community involvement is at a height with this event, both with the clean-up and the lunch. The Rhododendron Garden Club traditionally picks up between the center of town and the eastern town limits. Boy Scout Troop 106 regularly participates, as well. The Town of Mentone provides a dumpster and electronics recycling, Camp Laney provides bags for collecting litter, and Lowes donates litter grabbers. Cynthia Stinson of the Mentone Inn coordinates the luncheon. The Ladies of St. Joseph's and other volunteers bring covered dishes. L.C. Moon of the Wildflower Café donates meat, which is barbecued by David Mays. Larry Joe Hall provides musical entertainment. Little River Hardware, Harvest Roots, and Body Maintenance provide drinks. Mentone Market donates chocolate chip cookies, and the stores at the state line donate drinks, ice, plates and cups.

Mark your calendar now to be a part of this important tradition! If you have any questions, please contact Lyle Nicely at 256-996-0169.



February Storms Challenge Local First Responders

by Kelly Leavitt

Tuesday, February 19, brought straight line winds to our area, especially along County Road 89/DeSoto Parkway south of Mentone. The evening marked the beginning of a long week for members of our local fire and police departments.

Fire Chief Joseph Lee of the North Lookout Mountain Fire Protection District (NLMFPD), which serves the Mentone area, said they were called out around 10 p.m. on the 19th, and a team worked through the night for 11 hours straight. They began cutting and clearing multiple trees that had fallen onto the road, and others which threatened to fall. Around midnight, they decided it was unsafe to continue working because the winds were so strong. They closed the road off and were soon called to another area on CR-89, near Camp Ponderosa, where a tree had fallen.

With daybreak and calmer winds, they returned to DeSoto Parkway and began checking
(continued on page 16)



Rhododendron Festival

**Volunteer Opportunities
by Sharon Habin**

If you are interested in volunteering for May's Rhododendron Festival, join us on Wednesday, March 20, at 1 p.m. for a Festival Volunteer meeting at the Wildflower Café. We will meet in the Wildflower Room. Come learn about the many ways you can help us make this year's Rhododendron Festival a success.

There are many opportunities to volunteer before, during, and after the festival, and for the Miss Rhododendron Pageant. Volunteer opportunities include paperwork, inventory, set up, putting up signs, dropping off items, visiting sponsors, and passing out information at the festival as MAPA booth attendants. These opportunities can take as little as an hour or as much time as you would like to donate.

If you can't attend but want to volunteer:

- please send an email to rhododendronfestival@gmail.com
- or join 'Volunteer Mentone AL Festivals' on Facebook
- or complete the online interest form at mapamentone.com/volunteer-info
- or all of the above!

Those of you who have so graciously volunteered in the past will also be receiving an email the first week of March. For questions email rhododendronfestival@gmail.com or call 256-289-2002 and leave a message. Messages are checked every few days.

Sharon Habin is the Festival Organizer for the Rhododendron Festival.

May 18 & 19 in Mentone
Arts, Crafts, Live Music, Festival Food, Boat Rides & More!
mapamentone.com/rhododendron-festival

New Date for Little River Arts Council Gathering

The Little River Arts Council's Membership Social and Open House was originally scheduled for February 23 but was postponed due to weather. It has been rescheduled for Saturday, March 16 from 5 until 7:30 p.m. Join the board of directors of the Little River Arts Council (LRAC) at DeSoto State Park's Lodge, where members and others will gather in the historic dining room. The fireplace will be lit and the outside deck will be heated. Hors d'oeuvres will be served, and a cash bar will be available. The full dinner menu and salad bar will be available for purchase.

The LRAC board will briefly review the Council's activities of 2018 and discuss plans for 2019. Several artists will demonstrate their skills throughout the evening, and live music will be performed. This event is open to all, including current members and anyone interested in learning more about Little River Arts Council. For details, visit littleriverartscouncil.org.

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 continuous publication for 36 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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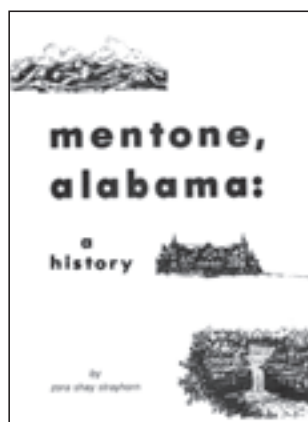
Do you have a story idea?

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



Lake students, scholarships, teacher workshops, Moon Lake's arts education teacher and program, MERF Moms, teacher workshops, the MERF House and walking trail, and the senior lunch program. If you ever want to see the quality of the students' art, come by town hall and view the pieces I have collected over the last few years.

The town has received a \$24,000 grant from ADECA to purchase a police vehicle. Just a couple of weeks ago, the new police Tahoe purchased by camps Alpine, DeSoto, Laney, and Riverview was presented to Chief McKee. The second vehicle will be identical. Both of our full time officers will be in new vehicles and this should meet the department's needs for several years to come.

On April 6, MERF will host its annual Taste of the Mountain and Art Auction at 6 p.m. at Moon Lake Gym. It is always a lot of fun and raises money for enrichment activities for Moon

Letter from the Editor



As we enter March, we approach the vernal equinox, when spring officially begins on March 20. The circle and cycles of life on Earth are perhaps never more evident than during the spring season. Bulbs sprout from the earth, wildflowers make their brief appearance before tree canopies leaf out and steal their sunlight, animals are born, and the air and soil begin to warm as we prepare to plant seeds which will provide food and/or beauty.

This has been a banner year for daffodils, as they show off their shades of yellow, orange and white. Little is more wonderful than a humble gift of a freshly picked bunch of daffodils from a friend or neighbor. (Thank you, Harriet!)

These riotous flowers have already begun their retreat back into the earth, where they'll stay hidden until the solar cycle comes back around. Knowing their fleeting nature helps us appreciate them all the more.

I was able to witness a new kind of birth in February—the birth of my first grandchild, a healthy, alert boy named Tripp. My friends who are grandparents tried their best to tell me about the new kind of love I'd feel, but, honestly, who can

truly describe that? It's too bad the English language doesn't have a word especially for a grandparent's love. Seeing my daughter with her own son in her arms really brings forth the awareness of the circle of life!

And, of course, flowers are always a part of birth, as loved ones offer them as celebratory gifts. I was touched by a volunteer at the hospital who gave the new parents a single red rose. I'm pretty sure she did so to be sure that every parent received a flower, even if no one brought them any. Gifts of flowers run deep in our ancestral memory, I do believe.

I cut some daffodils from my daughter's yard, so she'd have a piece of home in her hospital room. They feel a lot like captured sunlight to me.

On page 27 of this issue, Anne McLeod has written a book review about *hygge*, a Danish concept that suggests the secret to a good life. Making a place for flowers in the home signifies a certain wellness of living. I hope you can find a way to bring beauty from the natural world into your home. It really does help us feel connected. And that's a joyous thing...

Happy Spring! —Kelly

Mentone Area Preservation Association

by Mark Hoffman



Hey folks—it's time to start gearing up for this year's Rhododendron Festival, which will be held on May 18 and 19. The festival, along with Colorfest which is held each fall, are primary sources of revenue for MAPA, and which enable us to generate funds to disburse to other local organizations in our community. Following is a list of just some of the benefits (some tangible, some intangible) these two festivals provide to the area:

- Continues a longstanding Mentone tradition.
- Allows artists and crafts persons to feature and sell their work.
- Offers local musicians an opportunity to be seen and heard.

- Provides volunteers an opportunity to meet and contribute to the community.
- Provides fund raising opportunities for youth groups and participating non-profits.
- Brings people to Mentone, where they spend money at and with local businesses, such as B&B's, rental cabins, hotels, restaurants, shops, etc.
- Provides a family friendly weekend of fun!

We rely heavily on our sponsors to make the festival financially viable. Please consider stepping up and being a sponsor this year. There are four different levels of sponsorship, ranging from \$100 to \$1,000, and each provides excellent name recognition, goodwill and other sponsor benefits. You can find all of the sponsor benefits on page 13 of this issue.

We look forward to a great weekend, and hope to see all of you there.

Mark Hoffman is president of the Mentone Area Preservation Association.

Become a MAPA Member Today!

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

Individuals \$20/year
Couples \$30/year
(includes a subscription
to *The Groundhog*)

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@ mapamentone.
com/groundhog

GA SR-48 Bridge Construction Update

by Kelly Leavitt

You may have noticed that another bridge project has begun on State Route 48 in Cloudland, just east of the Alabama-Georgia state line. The existing bridge over the East Fork of Little River was built in 1937 and is in "structurally deficient" condition, according to the State of Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT). The project is slated to take 18-24 months, depending on weather.

The existing bridge is a 160' x 32' concrete structure with a sufficiency rating of 41. GDOT guidelines state that "a substructure condition... sufficiency rating less than 50 requires the bridge to be replaced." The replacement bridge will also be a concrete structure and will measure 220' x 40'. The approaches will consist of two 12' lanes with 10' rural shoulders (6.5' paved).

Before the bridge is replaced, a temporary bridge will be built to the south of the existing bridge. Recently, trees have been cut and clearing has begun for the temporary bridge, which is being constructed on state construction easement. Wright Brothers Construction is building both this bridge and the new bridge spanning the West Fork of Little River on Alabama Highway 117. Chris Brown of Wright Brothers said that the East Fork project is following a practice called "stumping." They have cut the trees down but will leave the stumps as a protective measure against erosion of the land which could enter Little River. Once the project is complete, a specified variety of plants and trees will be planted in the area.

Mr. Brown referred to the temporary bridge as being like "an erector set." A company that specializes in renting temporary bridges will deliver the components and a Wright Brothers construction team will erect the pieces. The bridge will be able to hold the weight of "commercial motor vehicles" (18-wheelers).

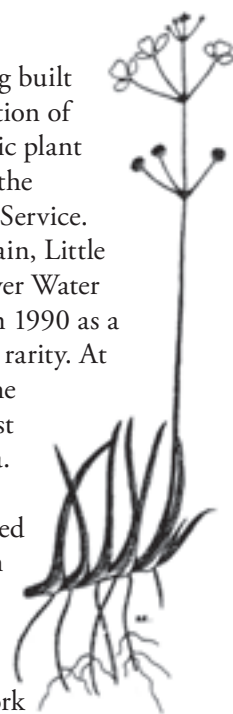
Once the temporary bridge is complete, construction will begin on the existing bridge, which will be closed to traffic. The "on-site" detour will direct drivers traveling from Mentone to Georgia onto the temporary bridge just south and west of the existing bridge and then along Riverhaven Road to the stop sign at SR-48. Drivers coming into Alabama from Georgia will be directed onto Riverhaven Avenue, just east of the bridge, and then across the bridge to proceed on SR-48. A 25-mile-per-hour speed limit will be enforced through the area.

The temporary bridge is being built because of a known population of *Sagittaria Secundifolia*, an aquatic plant that is listed as "threatened" by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

Known as Kral's water-plantain, Little River Arrowhead, and Little River Water Plantain, it gained legal status in 1990 as a threatened species because of its rarity. At the time, it was only found in the Little River drainage of northeast Alabama and northwest Georgia. It was placed on the Threatened list and a Recovery Plan suggested the establishment of the plant in three other territories.

Before that plan was implemented, other populations were discovered in the Sipsey Fork of the Black Warrior River in northwest Alabama and in Hatchet Creek in north-central Alabama.

There was once a report of its presence in Town Creek in Fort Payne, but that population is believed to have been destroyed.



I do not know where to begin or what to say, thank you does not begin to cover how we feel. So many people came together in so many ways to make sure our grandson came home safe when he was missing in December. I am at a loss for words. The volunteers who spent hours in 17 degree weather, the police departments, the fire departments, the rescue squad, the K-9 unit, the helicopter, the prayers, the phone calls, the media messages, the people who took him in, fed him, warmed him and took him to safety, so many people coming together for a teenage boy and a family that many did not know. Thank you will never be enough! I hope I haven't forgotten anyone, I just want everyone to know how thankful we are and how much this means to us. We truly live in the greatest community in the world!! Our love and prayers go with each of you each and every day!

—Wynona Morgan
Mentone

All my bags are packed, I'm ready to go... by Paula Easter

And we have been traveling in our Art and Music classroom this year at Moon Lake...

We started the year off with a virtual visit to New York City, where we looked at all the beautiful architecture, including the Guggenheim Museum. At the museum was one of our favorite artists, Faith Ringgold, and her story quilts. Technology allowed us to experience her reading her book, *Tar Beach*, next to her memory quilts in the Guggenheim. And what would a trip to New York be without a visit to the Statue of Liberty, followed by our own artistic renditions of this famous lady?

Kindergarten and first grade students found two of their favorite artists in Massachusetts. Every Moon Lake student knows that the year starts off with Peter Reynolds and his book, *The Dot*. It's important that each Moon Lake student learns the lesson from *The Dot*—that everybody can make their mark and see where it takes them. Two words banned from the art room are "I can't"; I encourage them to say "I can't yet."



Pigeon by Mo Williams

In Massachusetts, the creativity of Mo Willems is also discovered. Everyone loves the Pigeon but we don't want him to drive the bus! What a fun and colorful pigeon he is to paint.

Moon Lake students in the upper grades have studied different types of landscapes from exciting new artists. The favorite this year is Karla Gerard, an abstract folk artist from Maine, because of her unusual use of color. She doesn't use true-to-life color in her landscapes, but rather bright and bold colors. Then the 4th–6th graders

discovered the more realist landscapes from Georgia O'Keefe with her New Mexico desert scenes. The students were amazed by how she envisioned flowers and had fun creating their own versions with pastels.

Ohio offers one of my favorite artists, Charley Harper, so I was excited to share his artwork with the students. He loves to paint and draw animals, especially raccoons and red cardinals. The National Parks love him and display his work in poster form. His animals are not true-to-life shapes, but he focuses on the lines and shapes of the animals. The first graders used oil pastels with a watercolor wash to depict a fawn in his style. The third graders created raccoons with a mash up of Van Gogh's *Starry Starry Night* as the background. So much fun!



Beautiful Day by Karla Gerard



The Sunflower Quilting Bee at Arles by Faith Ringgold

And we all need some Florida sunshine, so we ventured to see the spectacular coral reef paintings of Florida life by Carolyn Steele. Through the use of YouTube, these mountain students were able to swim among the coral reef and fish that she loves to depict. She believes that her paintings are love letters to the tropics and we agree.

So you can see that we have been on great adventures in the art classroom this year. MERF's Taste of the Mountain and Art Auction will showcase the artistic skills learned and developed by the students. And join us at 6 p.m. on Thursday, March 7, at Family Art night in the school gym. The creativity of the students with



Puff Daddy by Carolyn Steele



Squash Blossoms by Georgia O'Keefe



Warbler by Charley Harper

their use of color, cute pigeons at the party, fawns, raccoons and O'Keefe style flowers are amazing. The night will also include student performances, food and fun!

Our traveling this year is not limited to art but we have also discovered great music and music appreciation. The students have had the joy of learning hand bells this year and have performed for senior lunches, the Veteran's day program, the Christmas program and the upcoming Family art night. The students loved the Huntsville Symphony and can't wait for "The Wizard of Oz". Who knows the places we'll go in our Arts education classes!

MERF's Taste of the Mountain and Art Auction

American Road Trip: Oh the places we'll go!

Saturday, April 6, 2019 - Moon Lake Gym - 6 p.m.



MERF News by Sarah Wilcox

The heart of the MERF House is once again full because the house is rich with weekly love, laughter and good food again. Senior lunches started back in February, with great decorations and food from Mentone Community Church and the Rhododendron Garden club. And how amazing that there are more food providers than dates available this spring! What a great problem to have! So thankful for such a giving



community. Great lunches will be provided until the end of April by Chick-Fil-A, Wildflower Café, Alpine Camp, Camp Laney, As Close as Family services, Camp Skyline, the Garden Club, St. Joseph's Episcopal Church, the Boy Scouts, Hazel Bickerstaff, and Dee Dee Dunkerley.

Did you hear the Moon Lake 4th and 5th



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.



graders talking about their trip to the Young People's concert by the Huntsville Symphony on February 1? With Ms. Paula's preparation, their theatre etiquette was amazing and they learned all about the instruments and parts of the orchestra. A 4th grader on her first exposure to an orchestra felt like the musicians were almost mechanical in their precision. The harp was her favorite instrument to watch and to hear. A student even recognized a tune played from an old movie. MERF and Moon Lake are very thankful for being able to provide several exposures to professional performances. Funding for Field Trips to professional performances is made possible by a grant from the Farley Moody Galbraith fund of the Community Foundation of Northeast Alabama. And a field trip grant awarded by the Alabama State Council on the Arts which is made

possible through funding from an annual appropriation from the Alabama State Legislature and the National Endowment for the Arts. These grants will also provide a trip on March

20th to the Alliance Theater's production of "The Wizard of Oz".

This past Friday, hearing all the learning and fun happening in MS Paula's art/music class,

I sneaked in for a peek on the work being prepared for the Family Art night and the MERF Art Auction. The first graders were creating wonderful pictures of Mo Willem's pigeon from Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus and colorful animals in the woods. And what a treat to hear the kindergartners sing and dance to their favorite The Dot Song. Hope you are able to catch their performance at Family Art night and to see all the great artwork the students have been doing this year. The

Art Auction committee picked some fantastic pieces for this year's Taste of the Mountain and Art Auction on April 6. Tickets are available until sold out for \$35 a

ticket or \$250 for a table of eight from a MERF board member or Little River Hardware. There is a creative and fun group spearheading the theme this year of "American Road Trip: Oh the places we'll go!", with amazing centerpieces and décor. Follow MERF's Facebook page @merfhouse and Instagram @leave_me_in_mentone to see the artwork that will be up for auction and a list of the participating food who coming. As you'll read in Paula Easter's article, the Moon Lake students are studying artists across America and are recreating their versions for the auction. "Oh the places we'll go" also reflects the MERF programs and the dreams we have to continue strengthening our community, discovering human lighthouses, and meeting needs from ages 1 to 101! Hope to see you there!

Sarah Wilcox is Executive Director of the Mentone Educational Resources Foundation (MERF), a local non-profit with the mission "to enrich the learning and living of the community by identifying needs and coordinating resources." If you would like to support our programs, tax-deductible donations can be mailed to P.O. Box 107, Mentone, AL 35984, or you may contribute online at merfhouse.org. Contact us at merf.mentone@gmail.com or 256-635-8193 for more information.





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A TRUE ORIGINAL. Handcrafted details & locally-sourced woods; fireplaces on the porch & in living area; twin-tree kitchen island; poplar beams; wide plank pine floors; stone elements...this is a mountain cabin befitting of its name, "Knotty Pines"! Rugged good looks & all the creature comforts. 3BR/2BA; front & back porches. Most of the furnishings stay, too. 1.53 wooded acres. Why settle for less than extraordinary? \$225,000. (1110729)



IRIS MEADOWS FARM. Beautifully-updated, one-level cottage; 3BR/3BA; on 8 delightful acres of pasture & woodland, w/ small pond, seasonal waterfall, fruit trees & 22'x24' workshop w/ pavilion area. This place offers space indoors & out. Location perfect for road-side commercial endeavor for the farm or shop. Land is unrestricted & mostly fenced. Cottage features fab kitchen w/ lots of counter & cabinets; wide-plank pine floors throughout; inviting dining nook w/ built-in benches around hand-made plank table. Large dog kennel area attached to house. Not too much land, not too little. \$274,900 (1109864)



HMM. WHAT DO WE HAVE HERE? A cute little board-n-batten cabin. 1BR/1BA with loft bonus room. Great location between downtown Mentone & DeSoto State Park. Yes, it could use a bit of fixing up here & there. But, this cabin has an extra lot to sweeten the deal! Approx 1.8 acres in all, with great frontage on DeSoto Parkway. (Cabin is built on Rd 934, which is a quiet little road off the parkway). Cabin & 1-acre bonus lot priced at \$149,000. (1107800).

..... LOTS and LAND

DESOTO FALLS AREA LAKEFRONT 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)

30 ACRES (+/-) IN MENTONE of mostly hardwood forest, some pastureland. 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)

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



ALMOST LIKE HAVING YOUR CAKE AND EATING IT, TOO!

Two cabins, each very different from the other, but when you combine the two, you get a whole lot of possibilities! Rustic garage cabin on the left; a bit more "cottage-y" cabin on the right. This little "compound" could be the perfect gathering place for friends, family, groups, what-have-you! Sorta quirky (but nice) things like the big claw-foot soaking tub in right-hand garage area; or how about the queen-size custom-made hanging bed for the left-hand garage area? It's almost like going back to camp! Both cabins, one price, only \$258,500. (1112773)



DEFINITELY NOT A TINY HOME! 3875 sq ft, bungalow-style home, w/ 1900+ sq ft basement gives you space seldom found in Mentone. Ideal for family gatherings, retreats, possible B&B, multi-family home... well, whatever your inspiration can come up with! Pine floors throughout; wood ceilings accented by solid beams in spacious, open dining/kitchen. 6BR/2BA. Upgrades underway: new windows & exterior trim color change. \$265,000 (1104553)



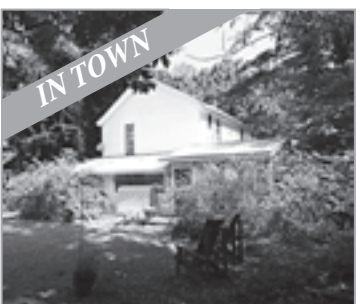
"THE BURREN." Snuggled into intriguing rock formations, huge boulders & woods on 1.9 acres, you'll find this 3BR/2BA mountain retreat. Photo ops galore; w/ a cozy fireplace; private winter day (sleighs), private back deck w/ new hot tub; 2nd floor balconies. Large screened porch offers expanded living area outdoors. Active vacation rental with great rental history! \$185,000 (1087665)

SOUTH COOL STREET brow-front property w/beautiful old stone 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. Approx 0.45 acre lot in an area where properties are seldom available. Build your own memories! \$125,000 (1070474)

EASTERN LOOKOUT MTN'S EDGE, expansive views, gorgeous sunrises. 1-acre lot w/ approx 120' brow frontage; paved road; public water. Driveway tile already in place. Just right for your mountain home or getaway. Lake on the Brow Subdivision allows for use of lakes in common areas. Only a mile or so from famed Little River Canyon Nat'l Preserve, Jacksonville Center & favorite swimming holes of Little River. Less than 15 minutes to Ft Payne. \$59,900 (1088539)



CUTE CABIN WITH 1.4 AC OF WOODLAND! If you're looking for a personal retreat that could also be used as a rental, this could be the cabin for you! Combination of rustic & civilized elements: HW floor & mtn stone, WB Fplce in LR; spacious BR; galley kitchen; shower bath; CH/A; lg laundry; new roof; updated ext paint; HUGE screen porch with hot tub; timber-frame pavilion that could be made into a studio or garage. \$133,500 (1104545)



FUNKY, QUIRKY, CLASSIC MENTONE summer home, nestled in the shelter & privacy of a privet hedge. Your own "Secret Garden" home, complete w/ screened sleeping porch, interesting nooks & crannies; library nook; 2 large BRs; 2 BAs (one has a claw foot tub); open kitchen/living area; studio or 3rd bedroom on main level; & laundry room w/great storage. All wood interior. Yes, there's work to be done, but this is a place in the heart of Mentone to put your heart into. \$99,000 (1100721)



THREE FEATHERS RANCH was 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 house's full front porch. Located about halfway between Mentone and Alpine area near DeSoto State Park. This is definitely some-thing to get excited about! Not many properties like this come on the market at Mentone. Priced at \$299,900. (1107782)



Think Spring!

Mentone Arts & Cultural Center Update

The Undying Spirit of Winnie Scott by Randy Grider

On a late January Sunday afternoon, I found myself at a memorial service for a woman I had never personally met. I had heard of Winnie Scott over the years, but I was not fortunate to have her as a teacher or to see one of her students' performances.

Still, I felt somewhat of an obligation to find out more about the woman whose family asked that in lieu of flowers, contributions in her memory be made to the Mentone Arts & Cultural Center (MACC). I left the DeKalb Theatre in Fort Payne following "The Life and Times of Winifred Larmore Scott" memorial service feeling blessed that I had gone.

I know many of you knew Winnie Scott, but I have included a few highlights from her obituary, which I edited for space:

Winnie was born December 20, 1934, on the Larmore family farm, off Highway 11 near Hammondville. She earned her GED at the age of 16 and enrolled that same year at the Alabama State College for Women (now known as the University of Montevallo). After two years, she matriculated to the University of Alabama, where she completed both undergraduate and master's degrees. While in Tuscaloosa, she studied acting and performance with the legendary professor of drama, Marian Gallaway. Her performance during the 1953-54 season, in the role of Abigail Williams in *The Crucible*, was of particular note for its power and authenticity.

Her 35 years of work as an English, journalism, and yearbook teacher at both Plainview High School and Fort Payne High School was renowned, influential, and widely remarked upon, by both students and colleagues. Her wit, intelligence, and passion for learning were always on display in the classroom, as well as in the teacher's lounge and hallways. Her influence, moreover, extended beyond school and into the local fine arts scene, where she was celebrated for her acting in local productions of plays as diverse and engaging as *Tobacco Road*, *My Three Angels*, and *Steel Magnolias*. She also worked behind the scenes on several other productions, including directing her

FPHS colleague Katie Gillis in a stellar version of the Emily Dickinson bio-drama, *The Belle of Amherst*. Moreover, the "Senior Class Plays" that she directed (most often in tandem with her FPHS colleagues Joanna Titshaw Bazemore and Joanne Durham) are still talked about, cherished, and recollected. These included *Shenandoah*, *Oklahoma*, *You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown*, and *Little Mary Sunshine*. In the late 1970s, she helped to create a local Fort Payne youth choir, "The Star-Spangled Singers," comprised of some of the city's most musically talented teenagers. Under her leadership and inspiration, the group performed at many venues, including before the Alabama State Legislature in the State Capitol Building and on the main stage of Bicentennial Mall in Philadelphia on July 4, 1976, as part of our nation's bicentennial celebration.

An impressive body of work, indeed! But what struck me and moved me the most were the stories from family, friends and former students. I laughed a great deal and shed a couple of tears. I can't do these stories justice, but a sampling included:

- Having a group of FPHS boy move a piano from her home to the Opera House despite obstacles like its sheer size and weight, hills, grass ... (Winnie needed a piano at the Opera House and nothing was going to stop her from getting it there);
- Chasing intruding bears with a skillet and hot bacon grease while camping with family;
- Moving a student into her recently-vacated son's room so he could finish school despite his family moving to another state. "You can stay in Chuck's room," Winnie told the student who was depressed that he wasn't going to be able to finish the year with his FPHS classmates. The fact that Winnie made her decision on the spur of the moment without consulting his parents first was not problem in her mind. It was a solution. The student stayed in Chuck's room and finished at FPHS.

Each Winnie story was unique, but many were similar in one aspect: they highlighted her undying spirit and steadfast determination. Problems weren't problems—there is always a way to make things work. You just have to be courageous enough to make it happen.

The service was indeed a celebration of life. My only tinge of sadness is that I didn't meet Winnie Scott before she passed. I want to thank her family, friends and former students for allowing me a chance to catch a brief glimpse into the life of Winnie Scott—a life well lived.

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



Harriet Turner of the Lookout Mountain Knitters teaches young Ian DePaul the basics of knitting. The knitters meet at Moon Lake Community Library every Tuesday at 3 p.m. Everyone is welcome.

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Rhododendron Garden Club

by Rhea Pirch



can fill water jugs with water, let them soak up the heat of the sun, cover them up and place them near the plants at night. The warmth that emits from the jugs will help protect plants from the cold. Also, since water is a natural insulator, it is always a good idea to keep your plants on a regular watering schedule in dry, cold weather to keep them protected from freezing temperatures.

The Master Gardeners will be having their annual plant sale on Saturday, April 13, starting at 7 a.m. On April 20, the Federation plant sale will be held at the Henagar Community Center. These plant sales offer a wide selection of locally grown flowers and plants and are open to the public.

Mellanie Tuttle reported the program with Moon Lake Elementary students continued as they planted

growing. New plant species are still being discovered by botanists. In the last decade, nearly 150 new plant species have been discovered and named. Georgia botanist Jim Allison explored the Cahaba River in the 1990s and considers it "a botanical lost world." During his excursions, he discovered several plants and flowers that were thought to be extinct or have never been known to science. Some were so rare, they were placed on the Endangered Species List. Some plants are found only in Alabama, including the Canebrake Pitcher Plant, the Cahaba Prairie Clover and the Alabama Gladecress.

Why is plant diversity so important? Plants provide the entire ecosystem with services that support life. Everything we eat comes from plant materials, or are derived from plants and converted

The February 12th meeting of Rhododendron Garden Club (RGC) was held in the MERF House at 10 o'clock. Hostess Sue Schwarz made a delicious overnight apple coffee cake for us to enjoy, and Marsha Merrell read the meditation, a poem called "Creator's Hand."

President Marsha Merrell called the meeting to order. During roll call, members brought in samples of evergreen that were growing in their yard, such as Cryptomeria, Boxwoods and Leyland Cypress, along with Camelia and Lenten Rose. Mellanie Tuttle shared some of her forced pear, peach, and apple stems with us to plant in our own yards.

Members were also asked to name ways to protect plants from frost. Wrapping plants in burlap is a good idea, along with mulching with leaves and pine straw. You can also spray plants with water before a freeze, so a protective barrier forms around the plant, or you



Unique to Alabama, from left to right: Canebrake Pitcher Plant, Alabama Gladecress, Cahaba Prairie Clover

zinnias, sunflowers and marigold in pots and placed them in the greenhouse to grow. They talked about forcing pear, apple and peach trees into bloom. Each student took a stem home to try the forcing experiment. The art project consisted of using finger and thumb prints to paint blossoms on a tree.

After business was completed, member Dianne Kuehl gave her presentation on Plant Diversity in Alabama. Our state is rich not only in plant diversity, but also has more biological and geological diversity than most anywhere else in North America, and its biodiversity is still

into meats, milk and eggs. They provide us with the oxygen we breath. They are made into medicines that soothe our aches and have the potential to cure cancer. Appreciating plants and caring for them, whether they be the flowers we grow in our garden, or trees that grow in our yard, is an important first step into preserving the abundant biodiversity that we find in Alabama.

The March meeting will be held at the MERF House on Tuesday, March 12 at 10 a.m. Mellanie Tuttle will lead us in a program on flower design, so we'll all be eager to submit a design in September's flower show during the DeKalb County Fair!

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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Moon Lake Community Library News by Kelly Leavitt



Dot Mandala Rock Painting Saturday, March 30 10:30am

Painting dot mandalas on rocks is a very relaxing activity that produces a beautiful piece of art at the same time. Kerry Breithaupt has offered to donate smooth river rocks and she'll teach us how to paint on them using tools that provide perfect circles. All supplies will be provided. There is no charge for this workshop, but a donation to the library will be appreciated.

Moon Lake Library has become a vibrant community center, thanks to our patrons and those who attend events, come for the writer's group, the book club, and the knitting circle, and to browse our sale books.

Over the course of 11 "open" days in February, 86 books and 70 DVDs were checked out. We issued library cards to 10 new patrons. We have deleted 85 books from our stacks and added 45 that are fresh and relevant to our community's interests.

The library is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3 until 5 p.m. and on Saturdays from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. **Please note!** Beginning on March 12, our hours on Tuesdays and Thursdays will be extended to 6 p.m. Check our Facebook page or web site (moonlakelibrary.org) for updates or to join our email list. The library is located at 4607 AL Hwy. 117 in Mentone.

See you at the library!

Kelly Leavitt is Mentone's community librarian.

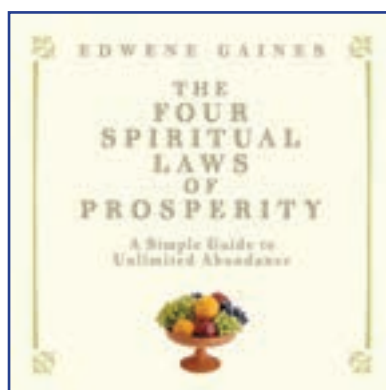


Moon Lake Book Club 3/23

Join fellow book lovers on for a discussion of *The Alice Network*, a best-selling historical novel by Kate Quinn. The book club will

meet on Saturday, March 23, 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: Edwene Gaines Monday, March 18 @ 6:30pm



Rev. Edwene Gaines is the author of *The Four Spiritual Laws of Prosperity: A Simple Guide to Unlimited Abundance* and *I Choose Forgiveness*. A resident of Valley Head, Edwene has extensively traveled the world as a presenter of workshops and seminars. She will discuss her books as well as her process as an author. Light refreshments will be served, as well as coffee and hot tea. This event is free of charge.

The Poetry of Wendell Berry Saturday, March 16 @ 10:30am

Join us on Saturday, March 16, at 10:30 a.m., for a casual poetry reading of the works of Wendell Berry. Bring your favorite poem or essay to read. If you're not familiar with Wendell Berry or his poetry, feel free to come anyway to enjoy the reading.



In the August 2018 issue of *The Groundhog*, Judge David Raines wrote an article, "The Road to Chickamauga," which heavily quoted the Civil War journal of Chesley A. Mosman, a Union soldier who wrote about his time spent in the Mentone area while the troops rested before proceeding to Chickamauga. Mayor

Rob Hammond generously donated \$85 so we could acquire *The Rough Side of War*, which contains Mosman's prolific journal entries. It is a book which is sure to please anyone interested in Civil War or local history. Thank you, Mayor Hammond!

Community Game Nights Friday, March 8 & 22 @ 6pm

Our Community Game Nights in February have continued to be so popular that folks have asked for two more evenings to be scheduled in March. So! Join us on March 8 and/or March 22 at 6 p.m. for a good 'ol family-friendly time. We'll share in a finger-food pot-luck. We have plenty of board games, but you're welcome to bring your own!



Ask about our 10-Day Health Challenge

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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. We will have two Ash Wednesday services on March 6, at 12 noon and 6pm. Open for daily prayer and thanksgiving. Supporting our community with outreach. 21145 Scenic Highway. 256-634-4476. 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.

That Love is
all there is,
Is all we know
of Love.

Emily Dickenson

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*
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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, sunroom/den area, large deck for entertaining and an enclosed garage. \$350,000 MLS #1099721.

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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! \$289,000. MLS #1110505.

NEW



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.



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

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



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! \$179,000. MLS#1109748.



JUST MINUTES FROM MENTONE & 1.5 mi. from DeSoto State Park. "Stone's Throw" offers 3BR/2BA with tons of extras! \$189,000. MLS#1089979.



3.3 ACRES of historic property in the heart of Mentone. Starting at \$325,000. Call for details. MLS#1045206.



CRYSTAL LAKE LODGE in Mentone... Fifty breathtaking acres surround you in this one-of-a-kind property. Call today for your private tour! \$734,900. MLS#1070805



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.



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 with carport built in 1970 also on the property. \$279,000. 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.



BLUEBIRDS NEST Located in Laurel Creek Lakes, nestled on a wooded corner lot w/ a small lake in the back yard. Screened porch, open kitchen/dining/living area w/ custom features throughout. Gas log fireplace w/ stone surround, main floor master bedroom w/ vaulted ceiling & sitting area. Spacious laundry room w/ storage, main level bath w/ more storage. \$189,900. MLS#1099514.



A unique business opportunity in the heart of Mentone! Largest retail property in this tourist-oriented resort community w/ 4,931sq.ft. Fully furnished property with equipment, furniture and fixtures. The building currently accommodates a coffee bar, restaurant, office space, art gallery, live music and approved for an alcohol license. Only \$295,000! MLS#1102896.



CUSTOM LOG CABIN in Mentone with breathtaking BROW views that will give you all the "feels"...Exposed beam ceilings, rock fireplace, office with view, sleeping loft, 2 bedrooms with 2 full baths, and a large back deck that will satisfy all your entertaining needs. This cabin is well maintained and MOVE-IN ready! Call TODAY for your private tour! \$344,000. MLS# 1103561.



VINTAGE BUNGALOW, completely remodeled, zoned Commercial/Residential w/250' on Hwy 117. Bright & sturdy 1940's-era, 3BR/1BA gem. Wood walls; period trim details. Updated with new electrical, plumbing, floors & cabinets. \$125,000. MLS#1046940.



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. \$699,000. MLS#1066481



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.

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.

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

#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.**

#1078002—Brow view, 4.4 acres. \$99,900.

#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. \$64,900.

#1083789—2.11 acres with 300' of waterfront in beautiful West Fork Subdivision. \$39,500.

#1092235—Building lot in Laurel Creek Lakes. \$24,500.

#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.

#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.

#1107397—Build here! \$99,900.

#1107398—Build here! \$99,900.

#1107408—Build here! \$99,900.

#1107412—Build here! \$99,900.

#1107411—Build here! \$99,900.

#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.

#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. \$82,900.

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March

Birthdays

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 Ally Smith
Jonathan Cuzzort
Roland Hendon | 7 Paige Ware
Kisha Moore
Bella Stokes
Easton Ferguson |
| 2 Jimmie Sue Beason
Dewayne Pierce
Holley Midgley | 8 Whitney Smith
Mayson Bailey
Rhett Dean |
| 3 Kama Jade Blalock
Dawson Bone
Charity Crowe
Kaleb Cronnon
Laura Hill | 9 Adalynn Phillips |
| 4 Corey Ingram
Jeff Bain
Lance Woods
Clara Lee
Becky Stott
Durrell Owens
Denise Brown | 10 David Rape
Autumn Hulgán
Frances Day
JD Clements |
| 5 Ashley Gifford
Maci Hammon
Eiko Key
Beth McKinney | 11 Bo Hammond
Jay Chadwick
Lauren Everett |
| 6 Annabelle Gracie
Grider
Randy Hilliard
Inez Guffey
Josh Gregory
Clint Phillips | 12 Tonya Shanklin
Jeremy Hope
Krystal Johnson
Tommy Hairel
Emily Allen
Jaydon Bain
Julie Prestwood |
| | 13 Josh Pullen
Kelsey Wade
Gracie Shank
Julia Ross
Adam Brown |

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| 14 Elizabeth Hodge
Hunter Robertson
Benton VanPelt
Bonnie Ware
Mike Neel |
| 15 Carter Wright
Ronnie Hilliard |
| 16 Raymond Coots
Jesse Bone
Johnny Crider
Van Battles
Finley Darwin
Debra Williamson
Koley Thompson |
| 17 Camden Bell |
| 18 Sydney Johnson
Jeremy Henderson
Kendall Israel
Alexis Nance
Sherryl Lewis
Ruth Kean |
| 19 Dean Freeman
Olivia Harrison |
| 20 Zach Jones
Hobson Kirby
Koley Thompson
Greg Wheat
Willi Ingram |

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| 21 Mary J. Chambers
Paul Peppers
Reese McCurdy
Sam McCurdy
Aimee Grace Smith
Wanda Black
Ariel Bolton |
| 22 Kallie Ingram
Lue Smith
Jon Bain
Steve Patton
Robert Baker |
| 23 Guy "Squeak" Smith
Wyatt McGee
Lori Blackburn
Roberta Cash
Cutter Battles
Kathy Graham
Taylor Roe |
| 24 Dylan Lee
Jimmy Phillips
Lydia Wright
Bobbie Zakary |
| 25 Vickie Blackburn
Evelyn Graves
Skylar Haney
Skeeter Hilliard
Robert Smith |

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| 26 Anna Carden
Sandra Boehringer
Beth Hawkins
Samantha Blalock
Ariah Bickerstaff |
| 27 Abby Davis
Jamie Darwin
Dudley Easler |
| 28 Holly Owen
Cindy Bethune
Arden Shanklin
Kathy Blalock
Don Ingram |
| 29 Sara Lee
Donna Hilliard
Dru Hill |
| 31 Lyli Wright
Marlana Beasley
Lindsey Blalock
Chad Wooten |

Anniversaries

- | |
|---|
| 3 Darrin & Amanda Smith
Jimmy & Gaynell Worthey |
| 7 Tommy & Ruth Battles |
| 8 Blake & Brittany Villarreal
Garrett & Amanda Collins |
| 10 Tom & Alice Shanklin |
| 11 Hobson & Martha Kirby |
| 18 Rodney & Christine Ballenger |
| 19 Tommy & Joan Harrison |
| 20 Grant & Shelley Meadows |
| 23 Nick & Tina Langston |
| 25 Tommy & Christie Langston |
| 26 Dudley & Becky Easler |
| 27 Shaunathan & Abby Bell |
| 30 Chris & Melissa Stokes
Brian & Melissa Carden |

Happy Day!

It's College Scholarship Time! by Kat Griffith

Now is the time to get your motor running if you are planning on revving up for post-high school education this fall. St. Joseph's is grateful to have the opportunity, by way of its Vann-McCary Scholarship Fund, to offer generous college scholarships. Our scholarships are available to any student coming out of high school, as well as anyone up to 99 years of age, living in the Mentone area. If you desire to continue your education at an accredited college or university, this scholarship might be just right for you.

The 2019 Vann-McCary Scholarship Committee at St. Joseph's encourages and welcomes prospective students to submit their applications for this generous and prestigious award. The student does not need to be an Episcopalian. The Vann-McCary Scholarship is solely based on financial need and academic record.

Another remarkable aspect of this scholarship is that it is available for up to four years, providing the student fulfills all the very manageable guidelines.

Packets are available at the St. Joseph's on-the-Mountain Episcopal Church office, at the corner of Highway 117 and Scenic Highway, in Mentone, as well as the school counselor's office at Valley Head High School. If you need more information, our telephone number at St. Joseph's is 256-634-4476 and our email is stjom@centurytel.net. You can also find scholarship information on our website at stjom.dioala.org.

Scholarship applications must be completed and returned with proof of college acceptance to St. Joseph's on-the-Mountain Episcopal Church, P.O. Box 161, Mentone, AL 35984, no later than May 1, 2019. So, put your pedal to the metal and get busy as this is a great opportunity to help finance your education.

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St. Joseph's on-the-Mountain Welcomes All to Annual St. Patrick's Day Dinner

by Joan Byrum



What's for Sunday dinner at your house on March 17? A traditional Irish dinner will be cooked by the Episcopal Church Women (ECW) and served in the St. Joseph's on-the-Mountain church parish hall from noon until 2 p.m. Corned beef and cabbage, potatoes, carrots and buttered cornbread are on the menu, as well as a drink and dessert. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children. Purchase your tickets from any ECW member, the church office or the Mentone Market.

Proceeds from ticket sales will support the Food Bank Outreach Ministry at St. Joseph's, which helps feed members of our community who are in need. The program serves approximately 50 families per week. ECW's growing Children's Backpack Program provides a "pack" of food on Fridays to support each child's nutritional needs during the weekend.

"St. Joseph's on-the-Mountain has made feeding the hungry in our community an outreach focus for years," said Marsha Cox Merrell, ECW St. Pat's Day Dinner chairwoman. "We hope Mentone residents and visitors alike will help us in this endeavor by attending our dinner and bringing one non-perishable food item for the food bank as well. Proceeds from the dinner will help us provide for our neighbors in need."

For information about the dinner or ECW's programs, contact Marsha Merrell, Joan Byrum or the church office at 256-634-4476.

Sponsorship Opportunities

Mentone's RHODODENDRON FESTIVAL



MAPA's funding comes from our two annual festivals (October's Colorfest and May's Rhododendron Festival), festival sponsorships, membership dues, and *Groundhog* subscriptions and advertising. We invite you to be a Festival Sponsor and partner with MAPA in financially supporting organizations that contribute to our community needs. In the past year, MAPA has granted funds to local non-profits who are committed to the environment, education, emergency services, and nutrition programs. Sponsorships help us provide the best festival experience possible. Please visit mapamentone.com/rhodofest-info for a sponsorship form or call 256-289-2002 with any questions.

Rhododendron Sponsor \$1,000

*Naming opportunity for Festival event ((Availability on first-come basis.) Name/logo recognition on 2' x 8' individual banner displayed at Festival, individual 1/4-page color ad in May's *Groundhog* (\$125 value), and individual 1/6-page color ad in June's *Groundhog* (\$95 value)

Mountain Laurel Sponsor \$500

*Naming opportunity for Festival event ((Availability on first-come basis.) Name/logo recognition on 2' x 6' individual banner displayed at Festival and individual 1/6-page color ad in May's *Groundhog* (\$95 value); Name recognition on group "Mountain Laurel Sponsors" 1/4-page color ad in June's *Groundhog*

Wild Azalea \$250

Name/logo recognition on group banner displayed at the festival and individual 1/8-page color ad in May's *Groundhog* (\$65 value); Name recognition on group "Wild Azalea Sponsors" 1/6-page color ad in June's *Groundhog*

Wild Hydrangea \$100

Name recognition on group "Wild Hydrangea Sponsors" 1/8-page color ad in May's *Groundhog*

* Naming Opportunities for Rhododendron & Mountain Laurel sponsors

- Parking Shuttles • Sounds of Mentone • Miss Rhododendron Pageant
- Second Event Stage • Children's Activities

All sponsors will receive:

Name recognition in the festival brochure, press releases, on MAPA's website (mapamentone.com), and in social media.

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Original painting by Lydia Adele Randolph

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The Magic Behind the Moon

Mentone. I love this town. My heart swells when I come and breaks when I have to leave. Darned real world, and real job. Mentone is surely the center of sanity, if not the center of the actual universe.

Some part of my family's been here since the late 1800s. Until recently, I'd only lived in Mentone from birth through second grade (1977, thank you) when my immediate family moved to the big city, Fort Payne.

Maybe as a child time moves more slowly, or maybe without cable TV, internet, or decent home insulation, the winters back then made the whole year seem eternal. So seven years there felt like 27, and I call Mentone my home when anyone asks, even after living elsewhere 40 years.

Then, two years ago, my family bought the old Mentone home place and once again, certainly on weekends, Mentone is the center of my universe. Why it's special or memorable makes little sense. Mentone takes up a blink of the eye for travelers in route to Atlanta. A flashing light at the top of a foggy ridge. Memory of the deer crossing the road too close. The too-narrow bridge that makes you scared to meet a transfer truck.

But Mentone's as close to heaven as you can get in Alabama, both mentally and altitudinally. Stomp through the leaves down a trail...watch a goose fly over. Listen to a squirrel scurry up an oak tree. My mother would know what kind of oak; I'm lucky to



Sharon Doviet
2nd grade, Moon Lake School

know it's even an oak. The air is clean. My thoughts get clearer. Enough time here and surely a really smart person, high on fresh air, could think up a cure for cancer or a cure for our dependence on instant gratification.

I love every part of Mentone. The moss growing on aging cabins. The smoke and smell of leaves burning. Things made of rock—every structure on the

planet should be made of rock. If not rock, then of logs, chinked with mortar. We try to refill the gas tank here to support the local economy and I marvel inside the store that beer and wine sales are now legal. A copy of *The Groundhog* and a Bud Light? We've entered the modern age.

A *Groundhog* cover story bragging on Moon Lake Elementary's outstanding test scores, beating every other county school and 90% of all Alabama schools makes me nod knowingly. That's MY school. That's my brother's school.

That was Dad and Aunt Gwen's school. The older cousins, too. When my family discusses education, we always attribute our good fortunes in the brains department to interested parents and our good starts at Moon Lake. The last names in the yearbook stay the same, while the first names become stranger and stranger. What they name children now—and how they spell it—surprises me, but those scores showing that Moon Lake kids get a great start in life, do not.

After I finished second grade, my family moved to the city, and I went on to schools with more of everything, but never to any place with more impact on its students, across the board. All the kids I've ever known from Moon Lake could add and subtract, could read well, and could get themselves wherever they wanted badly to go. There was

something taught there that is not taught everywhere, and it isn't a matter of funding or resources.

Two years ago, I took my husband, Chris Russell, inside Moon Lake School for the first time. We arrived in Mentone on a Friday, a little earlier than normal. School was just out but a few kids and teachers remained. The teachers let me look around to reminisce and the first place I took my husband was to the school's first library, created toward the end of my first-grade year. This was still a time when the fifth and sixth grades shared one teacher, Mr. Bell. My brother was in Mr. Bell's class. Though multiple grades were still sharing classrooms, the new Title One reading program was pushing ever harder to grow good readers. The school leaders carved out space for a dedicated Title One reading classroom by cutting another classroom in half—putting a wall right down the middle. Title One funds were big news to small schools. Moon Lake had "U.S.S.R." just about every day—which was a Cold War funny name for "Uninterrupted Sustained Silent Reading." Every student and every teacher pulled out a book and just read quietly for thirty uninterrupted minutes, or sometimes more. Shut it all down and read! And everyone seemed to love it.

Then in 1977, someone at the school got another big idea. Moon Lake needed a library. I was little and just reading but I loved books and the very idea of having a school library made me toasty. My family, both sides, were book lovers. One grandmother (Granny Annie Young) worked for the Fort Payne public library for years, but that was so very far away. A library at the school would be amazing.

But there was no room for a library and no money to build one. Back then, there still wasn't a gym. There was no structured P.E. class—the teachers just turned everyone loose for "recess" to go play outside, unsupervised. Delicious, fun times! Who needed a gym anyway, when you'd rather have freedom for an hour? But a library, now that I could use.

The brave idea was to start the library small—so small they would put the new library inside a closet... inside the mop closet actually, and inside the tiny Title One reading room. The mop closet had no windows. It barely had a light bulb dangling on a wire, to my memory. And no one was removing the bucket and mops. They were just adding a bookcase. One bookcase.

As a six-year-old, it seemed enormous—as tall as I was, and as wide as I could reach. I think it held three shelves in total, each shelf divided in half. So, there was half a shelf for first grade books and the other half for second grade books. Third and fourth shared. Fifth and sixth shared. And that's how they were labelled, so you could find your level of reading. But there were no restrictions—choose whatever you're up for reading. All the spare books teachers could rust were put in the "library." The shelves were full. Looking back, there were maybe 75 books to start, but it was heaven compared to having no library before.

To get a book, you just asked permission from your teacher when you weren't busy. And they always said yes. You could come whenever—whenever you finished your last book or whenever you decided you just didn't like the last book. You walked on your own, free as a bird, to the Title One room—where the school office is now. You slipped quietly into the classroom, so as not to disturb others practicing



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on Lake Mop Closet

by Sharon Doviet

reading and who didn't stop on account of you. You let yourself into the mop closet, and you flipped on the light. You straddled the big metal rolling mop bucket, often still with dirty water and wet mop inside, to peer over all those books and make an important selection. Books of all kinds. There were no rules here. It's books. We LOVE books. New ideas! Pictures! The future! The past! Other places and things to learn! Make your choice, take it back to class with you and enjoy...read and enjoy. Until you come again for another wonderful book. When's the next U.S.S.R. time? Life was simple.

Before third grade, we moved to town. Our rental of the old family house in Mentone was no longer available, such as it had been. Strip miners' dynamite blasts had jarred the wells out of commission, and we'd been without usable plumbing nearly two years. My parents were tired of hauling water for washing and flushing and tired of driving to a laundromat 20 miles away. They bought a tidy, efficient, fully-plumbed little brick house in a rural subdivision of Fort Payne. My brother and I would catch the bus for new schools—Forest Avenue Elementary for me.

I'd never seen the likes of my new school. My mom, Judy Dowiat, and I drove by several times that summer and went in once. They needed five classrooms and five teachers for all the kids in third grade alone. That school seemed modern and big, like something on the Brady Bunch reruns. It felt wrong for little me, from the sticks, the boonies, to go in that fancy school. Staircases—it was two stories.

A gym. P.E. teachers organizing relay races and exercises. Those first few weeks in the big school were frightening and exciting, both. I'd been worried my Moon Lake education put me far behind the city kids, but wrong! I was ahead of the city kids. Smart little girl, they thought. I tried not to show them otherwise.

And I eagerly awaited the best feature of the new school—the school library. I was shocked that it wasn't open during in the summer. Wouldn't they open it for kids to get books in the summer—when they had all the time in the world to read? It was one thing for Moon Lake to not be able to let you into the mop closet during the summer, but this school had a whole big library annex building just at the end of the third-grade hall.

In the first days, when my bus got there very early, I went down to check the library doors—still locked up, even a week into the school year. What was up? The teacher said it took about two weeks for the library to open. I wondered what they'd done to all the library books that required two weeks prep. Imagine. Had they boxed all the books up for safekeeping during the summer? In case of fire or burglars? Maybe this fancy school got lots of new books in over the summer and had to unpack and alphabetize.

The library entrance had big double doors with round windows up high, like ship portholes. When I got to school early, I'd go down and look. If I stood on my tiptoes I could barely see inside—a gigantic open room with 10 or 12 tables and the entire

outer wall wrapped in bookshelves, built child-height. Their shelves were all about as tall as the one in the mop closet library back at Moon Lake, but these stretched

for what seemed miles around that huge room, and all full. Books, books, books. I couldn't wait.

In my head, I started the two-week countdown until library opening day. With my bus getting to school early, I figured I could go sit and read every single morning. I loved my new school!

I asked my sweet new teacher, Mrs. Long, when I could go. She wore prettier shoes than the country teachers—but then she didn't have to go rescue kids from mud puddles or the forbidden swamp area at recess, like country teachers. Or go do maintenance on the school furnace outside like Mr. Brown did one week. She wore pretty sandals with different colored straps we called her "disco shoes."

She seemed surprised by my question. Go to the library alone? Students could not go alone; the class went as a group, all together. I thought that must be just for the first visit, to get kids used to where it was and how it all worked. My grandmother was a librarian, but you couldn't expect every child to understand the library right off the bat.

I asked about the following trips. No, she said, every trip to the library had to be as a class, together. Really? I couldn't fathom why all of us had to go. That made no sense. Well, I would just have to get lots of books on each visit to tide me over until the next trip. How often could we all go?

Mrs. Long's answers were so baffling: once every two weeks. Two weeks? You've got to be kidding. It's just at the end of the hall—it's right down there! It's closer than the gym, closer than the lunchroom. It may have been closer than the bathrooms. Two weeks between visits! I would have to get five or 10 books at a time to get through two weeks. This was going to take some serious planning on my part.

Then the next letdown from Mrs. Long: No, each

(continued on page 22)



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Little River Arts Council News

Promoting the Artist by Rhea Pirch

The Little River Arts Council board of directors postponed our annual open house and social, originally scheduled for February 23, due to a forecast of potentially dangerous storms that evening. The new date for the event will be published as soon as it is determined.

A large part of the Arts Council's mission has to do with supporting not only community arts projects and activities, but the artists themselves, of all genres. We see, yearly, an influx of artists who move to the Mentone area. However, we're unsure of how many are aware of how we can promote them and their work through a membership in the Little River Arts Council.

Each summer, we offer member artists the opportunity to set up, without charge, their art for sale at any of our Summer Music Series concerts,

held one Saturday a month from June to September. Vendor booths at our yearly Creative Spirit Market, a two-day event held on Veteran's Day weekend at DeSoto State Park, are also free of charge for our members.

Last summer, we introduced the concept of "pop-up" events, where member artists set up their own gallery of work at the Mentone Inn Pavilion during Farmer's Market hours, Saturday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. We are also open to assisting in setting up other pop-up events at various venues in Mentone, at various times, whether it be an acoustic concert in the park, a poetry reading on the square, or any other inventive pop-up ideas the artist may have.

If you enjoy teaching, we welcome the opportunity to offer a class in your form of art. We provide a stipend to member artists to hold their class and allow them to keep whatever class fees are collected.

As an additional way to support local member artists, we are eager to create the LRAC Artist

Registry on our web site, to provide online exposure for each artist with their own page and links directly to their own website. This valuable online resource will provide artists who have little or no exposure on the internet with a way to be seen and contacted.

We are also willing to promote activities for member artists through our website, weekly e-mails and our Facebook page. We'll even help to hang flyers around town!

Membership in the Little River Arts Council is open to everyone. You don't have to be an artist to join. Dues are payable annually, and membership is available at a variety of levels: Individual \$25, Family \$40, Supporter \$100+ and Patron \$500+. Click on the membership page on our website: littleriverartscouncil.org. We thank you for your support!

Rhea Pirch is the treasurer for the Little River Arts Council.



47th Annual Mardi Gras Pancake Supper at St. Joseph's

Every Shrove Tuesday (Fat Tuesday), St. Joseph's Church cooks up pancakes, bacon, and more to serve FREE to the community. This year's Mardi Gras Pancake Supper is Tuesday, March 5, from 5-7 p.m. Donations will be welcomed for a local cause. In past years, proceeds from this meal have been given to MERF, the Mentone Fire Department, etc. Mark your calendar!

Storm Aftermath (continued from page 1)



Storm damage on County Road 89/DeSoto Parkway
Photo by Toby Manifold

the unstable roadways await repairs by county road crews. Tutwiler Gap has a 100-foot-long landslide that covers one of the lanes. Wade Gap has developed a significant crack along the roadway, where part of one lane has sunk below the other.

On Sunday, on AL Highway 117 near the turnout with the commemorative marker, the

houses for fallen trees and continued cutting and clearing. "Someone suggested we'd cleared 100 trees," said Chief Lee. "I don't think it was 100, but I do know it was more than 50."

They were also called out to Tutwiler Gap and Wade Gap, which are currently closed while

(continued on page 22)



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Ongoing 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.

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.

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.

Moon Lake Community Library is open on Saturdays from 9am–1pm, and Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3–5pm. Enjoy complimentary coffee, wi-fi, and use of 2 computers. Visit moonlakelibrary.org for an online catalog.

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 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 norbaker194@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.

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.

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. Both meetings are 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.*



*Time to spring forward!
Sunday, March 10*

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March 2019 Community Calendar

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

March 1—Pint Night Fundraiser at the Mentone Market.

This will be a night of food, fun and fundraising to support the ongoing work of the Little River Waterkeeper. Our host, The Mentone Market will donate \$1 on every pint of draft beer sold. The money raised helps keep Little River clean for the community and future generations. Invite your friends and come to learn more about our mission and to just have a great night with great dinner specials and live music. 5pm-8pm. Mentone Market, 5872 AL Hwy. 117, Mentone.

March 1, 9—Paperweight Class. 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-1pm. 256-523-3188.

March 1—Ronnie Lewis Memorial Gospel Singing. 1st Annual Memorial Singing for Dr. Ronnie Lewis. Refreshments served after the singing. Lees Chapel in Henagar. 6:30-8:30pm.

March 2—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. Orbix Hot Glass. 9am-2pm. Cost is \$38 per ornament blown 256-523-3188.

March 2, 4, 5, 7, 9, 14, 15, 16, 26, 28—Rappelling Adventure. Come experience the thrill of rappelling down the sheer sandstone gems of NE AL. Each trip includes all the gear plus basic instruction. True Adventure Sports. 10am-2pm. 256-997-9577.

March 2—Gospel Comedian Aaron Wilburn at the Pickin Post. 6pm. \$15. For more information, call 256-657-3817 or 256-845-4115.

MARCH 5 Mardi Gras

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March 5—47th Annual Mardi Gras Pancake Supper. Every Shrove Tuesday (Fat Tuesday), St. Joseph's Church cooks up pancakes, bacon, and more to serve FREE to the community! Donations will be welcomed for a local cause. In past years, we have given to MERF, Mentone's fire department, etc. This is 100% what you donate! We hope to see you here! 5-7pm. St Joseph's on-the-Mountain Episcopal Church, Mentone.

March 5—Music for Mardi Gras. Come celebrate Mardi Gras with the Northeast Alabama Community College Department of Music! NACC Campus. 6pm.

March 6, 16—Night Zip Line Adventure. All our zip lines are set up just before the adventure to ford a gorge or cross from one high point to another. Pre-registration required at True Adventure Sports by 6 pm the day before the adventure. 7:30-9:30pm. 256-997-9577.

March 7—Family Art Night. See the students' artwork they have created this school year, in anticipation of April's Art Auction. Moon Lake School Gym. 6pm.

March 7—Made in DeKalb Expo. Business representatives will have the opportunity to network with peers, representatives from education, the Alabama Department of Commerce-Export Alliance, the Small Business Administration, the USDA, the Fort Payne Career Center and others. Students (9th & 12th) from DeKalb County and Fort Payne Schools will have the opportunity to learn about local business career options and about DeKalb County's manufacturers. Northeast Alabama Agri-Business Center in Rainsville. 256-638-1650

March 7—Wild Cave Tour. This 2.5-hour adventure is for those of you ready to explore on your knees, on your belly, in the mud and through tight tunnels. Adventure includes helmet, cave lamps plus a fun informative guide. True Adventure Sports. 5-8pm. 256-997-9577.

March 8—Moon Lake School Kindergarten Registration. 8am-12pm. 256-634-4113.

March 8 & 16—Tumbler Glassblowing Class. This introductory glassblowing class at Orbix Hot Glass 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. Minimum age is 13 years old with parent. \$145. Reservations and full payment required. Call 256-523-3188 or email info@orbixhotglass.com for more information or to make a reservation.

March 8, 22—Rock Climbing Adventure. Come experience first-hand what rock climbing is all about with guides who are fun, safe and energetic. This trip includes all the gear plus basic instruction. No prior climbing experience is needed. True Adventure Sports. 10am.-2pm. 256-997-9577.

March 8—Community Game Night. In January was attended by 35 people who played a variety of games—checkers, Uno, Clue, chess, backgammon, Telestrations, Sagrada, Mexican Train dominoes, Apples to Apples Junior, and Rummikub. We had so much fun that we've decided to have Game Nights every two weeks for the remainder of winter. Join us on Fridays, February 8, February 22, and March 8 at 6:30 p.m. We'll share in a finger-food pot-luck. We have plenty of board games, but you're welcome to bring your own!

MARCH 10 Daylight Savings Time

March 12—GPS Basic Training and Navigation Class Part 1. Learn how to use a map, compass, and a handheld GPS. Learn basic navigation and how to pinpoint a location for quick return, or quick rescue. Also learn how to search by waypoints or coordinates. True Adventure Sports. 10am-4pm. 256-997-9577.

March 13—Take a Hike: Waterfalls Tour & Easy Hike. Join JSU Field School and Desoto State Park staff on a tour exploring Little River Canyon National Preserve and DeSoto State Park waterfalls. Easy to moderate hikes on rocky dirt trails. Will see some well-known waterfalls as well as some hidden treasures. Trip is dependent on water level. Things to bring: Plenty of water and/or sports drink, snacks, hiking poles/staff (optional), sturdy shoes (open toe shoes are not recommended). Please be sure to dress appropriately according to seasonal temperatures/weather. We will be stopping at DeSoto State Park's restaurant (or please bring lunch if desired.) WEATHER: As with all outdoor events, if it's raining/stormy or very poor trail conditions, we may have to cancel. If the weather is questionable, please check with the park before leaving home. Please make every effort to arrive early or on time so that you do not hold up the group. Little River Canyon and DeSoto State Park. Meet at JSU's Little River Canyon Center. 9am-2pm. JSU van shuttle for tour \$25 per person; pre-registration is required by March 11 by calling Niki Wayner at 256-845-3548. Limit 9 participants.

March 14—Rock Climbing Adventure. Come experience first-hand what rock climbing is all about with guides who are fun, safe and energetic. This trip includes all the gear plus basic instruction. No prior climbing experience is needed. True Adventure Sports. 2-6pm. 256-997-9577.

March 16—Jim Connor Concert. Bluegrass Hall of Fame banjo player performs at MACC Gallery, Mentone. \$10 donation.

March 16—Plant Discovery Hike. DeSoto State Park. Join naturalist Robert Wilson, "The Traveling Herbalist," from Seven Pines Survival for an experiential journey within the forest, taking in every opportunity to learn more about the natural world. On this easy-to-moderate meandering hike, Robert will identify many native plants of the southern Appalachians and will teach you how to recognize the natives found in the park. Journey throughout DeSoto State Park to see what can be seen along the trail. As with all outdoor events, if it is stormy or very poor trail conditions, the hike may be cancelled. If the weather is questionable, please call ahead to make sure the hike is a go. 9am. Meet on the porch at DeSoto's Country Store on County Road 89. Free and open to everyone! Have questions? Email Robert at sps@sevenpinessurvival.com or call 209-559-0040. sevenpinessurvival.com/desoto-state-park.

March 16-23—Finder Keepers Consignment Sale. You will find gently used, good quality name brand children and adult clothing and shoes, home furnishings, electronics, books, toys, furniture and more, all at great prices. Sign up now to become a consignor! VFW Fairgrounds, Fort Payne. Special pre-sale hours for consignors. SALE HOURS Sat, March 16: 9-5pm; Monday, March 18 through Thursday, March 21: 9-5pm; 1/2 PRICE SALE HOURS Friday, March 22: 9-5pm & Saturday, March 23: 9-2pm. Call 256-632-2420 or 256-638-5998 for more information.

March 2019 Community Calendar

March 16—Evening Wine & Cheese Hike. Join the Little River Waterkeeper for a unique hike around along upper Hurricane Creek among a stand of old growth Beech trees. Here you will get to see a wide variety of native plants, thriving within this protected land. After the hike, dine on wine, craft beer, cheeses, and hors d'œuvres. While you enjoy your wine, Bill Shugart, the Little River Waterkeeper, will discuss the organization's mission to protect the Little River and its tributaries. Reservations are required and space is limited so please purchase your tickets early. We will gather at venue at 5:30pm for socializing and the hike will be from 5:45–6:45pm. All proceeds from this event benefit the Little River Waterkeeper mission to protect, restore, and promote Little River and its tributaries. Location: Murdock Road, Fort Payne (Address released at registration). 5:30–8pm. \$10 in advance, \$15 day of event. To register, call Angie at 256-634-8370 or email angie@oneworldadventureco.org.

MARCH 17 Happy St. Patrick's Day!

March 17—Valley Head & Mentone Police Depts. Fish Fry Fundraiser at Tiger's Inn Restaurant, Valley Head. Dine In or Carry Out. Plates \$8.50 each. All Proceeds to Benefit Toys for Tots. Tickets can be purchased from any Valley Head or Mentone police officer, Valley Head or Mentone Town Hall, or you can pay the day of. 11 a.m. 'til ???

March 17—St. Patrick's Day Dinner. A traditional Irish dinner presented by the Episcopal Church Women of St. Joseph's on-the-Mountain in Mentone. Tickets \$10 adults & \$5 children (under 12). 12–2pm in the Parish Hall. Tickets available from any ECW member, the church office, or the Mentone Market.

March 19—Take a Hike: Waterfalls Tour & Easy Hike. See 3/13 for description. Pre-registration is required by March 15 by calling Niki Wayner at 256-845-3548.

March 19–21—High Adventure Trip. This is a 3-day adventure including a Wild Cave Tour, Rock Climbing, An Extreme Night Hike and end with a relaxing canoe trip. Price includes all activities, attractions, permits, fees, gear, and guides. True Adventure Sports. 10 a.m. 256-997-9577.

MARCH 20 Spring Equinox

March 21, 22 & 23—Krazy Kudzu Follies. This event offers you the opportunity to see community leaders take the stage to perform random acts so silly they leave the audience breathless with laughter. Sponsored by the Fort Payne Chamber of Commerce and held at the Historic DeKalb Theatre in Fort Payne. 6pm. \$15/person or 2/\$20. 256-845-2741.

March 23—Spring Farm to Table Dinner. The Farm at Windy Hill hosts a Spring Farm to Table Dinner, featuring its own produce and meat beginning at 5:30pm. Seating is limited. Tickets are \$75 and must be purchased by March 16. Visit thefarmatwindyhill.com for more information or to purchase.

March 23— Guided Mountain Biking. Explore nearby mountain bike trails with One World Adventure. Specialized mountain bikes and helmets are provided. Difficulty: Easy to Moderate. Reservations are required and space is limited. Meetup is at the Gilliam Loop Trailhead @ DeSoto State Park. (Directions sent upon registration.) 9am–11am. \$25 adults, \$15 kids ages 12-15. To register, call 256-634-8370 or visit oneworldadventure.org/shop.

March 23 & 29—Sculpt Your Own Flower. Have you ever wanted to actually sit at the gaffer bench and feel what it is like to shape hot glass? 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. Orbix Hot Glass. 1pm. Reservations are required. 256-523-3188.

March 24— Guided Waterfall Hike. Journey into the Desoto Falls basin and witness the 104-foot waterfall from below. This hike is considered difficult to Moderate-Strenuous. Reservations are required and space is limited. Meet at Desoto Falls Basin Trailhead. (Directions sent upon registration.) 9–11:30am. \$15 adult, \$10 kids 10-14 (not recommended for ages under 10). To register, call 256-634-8370 or visit oneworldadventure.org/shop.

March 25–29—Moon Lake School Spring Break.

March 25—Author Talk: Edwene Gaines. Edwene Gaines is the author of "The Four Spiritual Laws of Prosperity" and "I Choose Forgiveness." 6:30 pm. Free. Moon Lake Community Library, Mentone.

March 25 & 30—Rock Climbing / Rappelling Adventure Combo. Come experience first-hand what rock climbing and rappelling is all about with guides who are fun, safe and energetic. This trip includes all the gear plus basic instruction. No prior climbing experience is needed. True Adventure Sports. 10am–2pm. 256-997-9577.

March 26—Knot Class & Application. Introduction and instruction to essential knots and their application for camping, rappelling, rock climbing, outdoor survival, and other applications. True Adventure Sports. 1–5pm. 256-997-9577.

March 26—DeKalb County Senior Prom. Open for all DeKalb County Seniors age 55 and over. Still Kickin' band will provide the music. Dress casually or formally, it's your choice. Sponsored by the DeKalb County Council on Aging at no cost to you. Wills Valley Recreation Center. 5–8 p.m. Registration deadline is March 12. Call 256-845-8590 or coa@dekalbcountyga.us.

March 29—Mountaineering Adventure. This 4– to 6-hour adventure starts with a rappel into a low light maze where we will stop and anchor part of the way down the rock wall and travel on the rock face mountaineering style to get to our main destination. True Adventure Sports. 10am–1pm. 256-997-9577.

March 30–31— Women's Guided Overnight Backpacking Trip for Beginners. DeSoto State Park. Have you ever wanted to get into backpacking, but you were not sure where to start? If so, this trip has everything you need to get started—learn all you need to know so that you can head out on your own outdoor adventure! A Spring backpacking class just for women, and a great class for beginners/intermediate. This class will center around teaching participants the basic skills need to backpack. This includes pitching and striking camp, fire craft, water processing, proper camping etiquettes, food & bear safety, and map reading basics. There are different sleeping options to try: tent, hammock, or shelter. Instructor will also demonstrate making your own backpacking food and cooking on the camp fire. Hiking is moderate, about 4 ½ miles round trip. Sign up for this fun trip soon! Check in 9am on 3/30; check out the morning of 3/31. Meet at DeSoto's State Park's Nature Center, next to the Country Store on County Road 89. \$85 per person—includes all food & supplies. Pre-registration is required, as

class size is limited. Have questions? Call 209-559-0040 or Email Robert Wilson (Seven Pines Survival) for more details: sps@sevenpinessurvival.com. Visit sevenpinessurvival.com/desoto-state-park.

March 30—Beginner Rappelling Adventure. Rappel over an 80-foot sandstone ledge called Chicken Rock. This exhilarating challenge is recommended for ages 14 and up and difficulty is moderate. Reservations are required and space is limited. Meet at Desoto Falls Basin Trailhead. (Directions sent upon registration.) One World Adventure Company. 9am–12pm. \$40/person. To register, call 256-634-8370 or visit oneworldadventure.org/shop.

March 30—Art on the Wild Side. Tigers for Tomorrow will have some special and gifted artists on the grounds among the furies, as well as some great food, drumming circles and more! Tickets will be discounted on this special day, so bring all of your family and friends to attend the 1st Annual Art on the Wild Side. 9am–5pm. 256-524-4150.

March 31— Guided Kayaking Trip. Enjoy a scenic flat-water guided kayaking trip on the West Fork of Little River above AA Miller Dam. This trip is recommended for all ages. Sit-on-top kayaks and canoes are available. Reservations are required and space is limited. Meet at Desoto Falls. (Directions sent upon registration.) One World Adventure Company. 10am–2pm. \$35 for adults, \$25 kids 12-17 (kids under 12 who are not paddling are free). To register, call 256-634-8370 or visit oneworldadventure.org/shop.

March 31—Serious Skills Series: Paper Curling Class. Hosted by DeSoto State Park and Little River Arts Council. Learn how to curl paper into a beautiful mandala design to take home and proudly display. This design will teach the basics of quilling from curling the paper, to shaping, placing, and tips and tricks to this paper craft. This class is for ages 15 and older. 1–5pm. DeSoto State Park. (Location disclosed at time of registration.) \$35 includes all supplies. Workshop space is limited to 10. Pre-registration is required for attendance in this class. Call 256.997.5025 or email Brittney. Hughes@dcnr.alabama.gov to sign up or for more info.

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River Voice

by Bill Shugart

Two hundred years ago, the Alabama State Seal was adopted. It features the state's 130,000 miles of lakes, rivers, and streams. Bodies of water connect communities and clean water is essential to each of our lives. The State Seal highlights how important this precious natural resource is to the citizens of Alabama.

Next time you look at the Great Seal of

Alabama, notice where Little River is located in the northeastern corner of the state. It is in its own basin, with no headwater source other than springs fed by the rain, but her waters flow all the way down to the Gulf of Mexico, through Mobile Bay.

The Little River Waterkeeper was formed in 2012. The job of the Waterkeeper is to monitor the river's quality and provide a point of contact for the public on issues related to the Little River. Staff and volunteers work on your behalf to keep Little River one of Alabama's favorite spots.

Here are updates on some of our current projects:

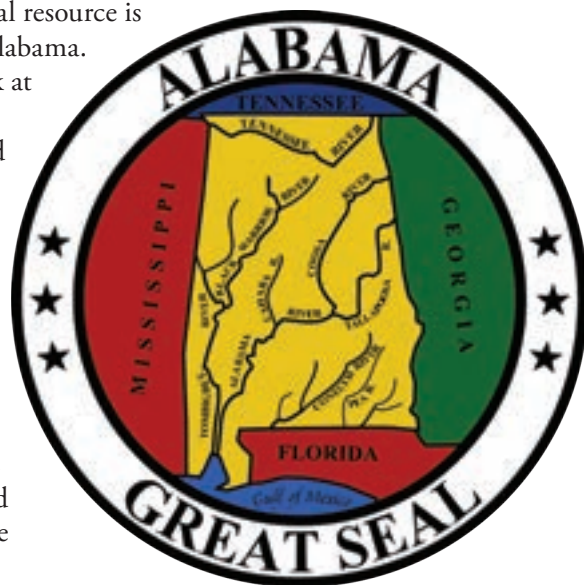
- **Mentone Bridge Project**—Sediment is a major pollutant and is detrimental to life in Little River. The LRWK communicates with ALDOT project staff and monitors their Best Management Practices that prevent sediment pollution in Little River. We respond to citizen reports where muddy water is observed and take action to resolve any pollution issues.
- **Reducing Herbicide Application**—We partner with SMEC and the DeKalb County Commission to reduce the number of herbicides sprayed in the Little River Watershed. The annual letter campaign allows us to request no spraying in sensitive areas. Please help us reduce the number of toxins sprayed by contributing a letter asking not to spray in your right-of-way.
- **Summer Water Quality Monitoring Program**—We are always looking for talented volunteers to take water samples! First, we train you to test the water. Then, once a week, volunteers take water samples from popular swimming sites on Little River. The results are posted via a great website and app called SwimGuide, to notify users whether or not their favorite spot is safe to swim in. Little River needs special attention. If you are interested in giving your time to this task, please contact us at 256-516-2877. We will hold a volunteer training day on Saturday, May 4, at DeSoto Falls from 10 a.m. until noon. Spaces are limited in the class. If you plan to attend, please register in advance.
- **Stakeholder Meetings**—If you love Little River, you are a stakeholder and are invited to learn more about our mission to protect Little River and her tributaries. Our next stakeholder meeting will be held on Thursday, March 28, at the Green Leaf Grill in Mentone.

Little River is...well little, but plays a very big role, as it provides recreation for thousands of children each summer. Visitors drive from miles around for waterfall hikes, full moon kayaking adventures and to soak in the cool waters atop this peaceful plateau mountain. Locals have Little River stories that date back generations.

Let us be stewards of her, for all our sakes.

To report pollution, call 256-516-2877. Donations can be mailed to Little River Waterkeeper, 215 Grand Ave. SW Ste. A, Fort Payne, AL 35967.

Bill Shugart is the Little River Waterkeeper.



Banjo Player Jim Conner to Perform in Mentone

by Sandra Padgett

Jim Connor, a Bluegrass Hall of Fame banjo player and songwriter, who is best known for his tune "Grandma's Feather Bed," made popular by John Denver and others, will perform in Mentone on March 16.

Jim's grandmother, Florence Setzer, had a major influence on his life and music. From the 1920s through the 1970s, she owned and ran Setzer's Boarding House, located in the Woodlawn area of Birmingham. Many musicians frequented the boarding house at the time. Jim visited often and enjoyed listening to his grandmother's nightly stories and traditional songs. Her songs were not the current ones on the radio; they were the ones that had been passed from generation to generation. In 1964, at the Great Southern Folk Music Jamboree at the Alabama State Fair, Granny Florence—at age 86—brought the house down as she sang her ballads of Appalachia, accompanied by grandson Jim Connor on banjo and guitar.

Jim was a member of the Kingston Trio from 1968 until 1973. Earlier, he had formed a duo with Richard Lockmiller, called R & J. They toured Europe and England with success and recorded an album while in London. They also opened Barbra Streisand's original New York nightclub show.



Jim Conner

During this time on the road, Jim wrote many letters to family and friends. Years later, while cleaning out his banjo case, he found a letter which recalled the happy times spent with his eight cousins at Granny's Boarding House. In the letter, he mentioned the feather bed they all slept on. This memory inspired Jim to write the song, "Grandma's Feather Bed," which became one of John Denver's greatest worldwide hits at the peak of his career in the 1970s.

Jim has played harmonica for Claire Lynch and for Linda Ronstadt on "Love Is A Rose" and has appeared in specials with Dolly Parton, The Wayfarers, Judy Collins, and John Denver, plus dozens more Nashville and Hollywood stars. He has received multiple gold and platinum records for his songs and work with most of the above artists. In 2018, Jim was inducted into the Alabama Bluegrass Hall of Fame.

Jim attended Harvard College, West Alabama University, and Birmingham-Southern College. He and his wife, Dr. Cynthia Connor, who is an associate professor at Jacksonville State University, love Mentone. In 1988, they were married at St Joseph's Episcopal Church and their reception followed at the Mentone Springs Hotel. Jim expresses the soul, heart, and voice of our mountain. Don't miss this special event at the Mentone Arts & Cultural Center's temporary home at 5951 AL Hwy. 117 in Mentone on Saturday, March 16, 2019, from 6–8 p.m. Admission is \$10 (donation). For further information, call 256-674-3366.





Attention Alabama Fans!

University of Alabama Quilt Being Raffled

by Pat Johnson

Menlo Housing Authority is sponsoring a Quilt Raffle for a large (88"x 98") red and gray quilt featuring fabric with a University of Alabama motif. Proceeds will fund the Reading Buddies Program and the Veteran Marker Project.

The drawing will be held on Saturday, March 16, at Menlo's Annual Spring Quilt Show, which is held at the Lawrence Center, 71 Edison Circle, Menlo, GA.

You do not need to be present to win. Tickets are \$1 each and are available at the following area locations:

- **Menlo:** Menlo City Hall, Menlo Restaurant, Design Cuts
- **Mentone:** Little River Hardware, Helena's Deli
- **Summerville:** Chattooga County Commissioner's Office, T's Salon
- **Ft. Payne:** Woodmen of the World Office

All proceeds from the raffle will go to support the Reading Buddies Program and the Veteran Marker Project.



Highest Scout Honor Achieved



Brendan Teverino achieved the highest level of Boy Scouting when he received his Eagle Scout Badge in Marietta, Georgia, on December 20, 2018. His grandparents, Anthony and Eleanor Teverino, who run the Raven Haven Bed & Breakfast in Mentone, said, "We and Brendan's parents, Scot and Beth Teverino, are very proud of his accomplishments. We are proud to let everyone know this is our fourth Eagle Scout in the Teverino family."

Menlo Notes by Diane Smith Mealer

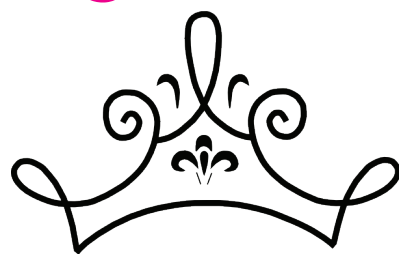
In my neighborhood, the trees are leafing, the ornamental pears are in bloom, daffodils, crocus, and hyacinths are showing their spring dressings. My yellow bell shrubs are in full color and the peach trees are showing tiny blooms. It seems Mother Nature has lulled the South into a false spring. But I believe "ole man winter" is not through with his seasonal fling and we will be in for a big surprise. I personally, do not like the cold. The sight of a snow-covered mountain or an ice-covered pond is worthy of its beauty, but give me tropical temps and days filled with sunshine. My DNA is not tempered for anything less. But, spring is on its way and around the corner. It seems that in a blink of an eye, time flies,

and there we are. Hope blooms eternal, new life for both human and nature...we can't wait to pack away the coats and flannel pjs, cut off the electric blankets, open the doors and windows, and trade boots for sandals, sweaters for sleeveless, and long pants for short. Life is abundant.

We live in a beautiful world. Take the time to look around you and enjoy the beauty of all seasons, for even in the coldest day of winter, things may seem dormant. But the roots are growing and if you look, each branch will have tiny nodules awaiting the warmer weather, when they again will burst forth and spread their faces to the sun.

Have patience, spring is soon to arrive.

Miss Rhododendron



Presented by Mentone Area Preservation Association

Friday, May 10, 2019 at 6 p.m. CDT

Mentone Community Church, Worship Center
90 Summerville Road, Mentone

Miss Rhododendron is part of the annual Rhododendron Festival, May 18 & 19

Six Age Divisions for Girls Ages 0 – 18

Miss Rhododendron (Senior Division) will win a One-year Scholarship to Northeast Alabama Community College (NACC admission requirements apply)

For more information and entry packets, please enter online at mapamentone.com/miss-rhododendron-pageant-2019 or email rhododendronfestival@gmail.com Packets are also available at Moon Lake Community Library.

March in Mentone's history. . .

Compiled by Annette Stone

1984

Recipient of the March Groundhog Award for the most improved building is the Moon Lake Baptist Church. The most recent additions are the new vestibule and spire. There is now a paved parking lot, extended sidewalks and a ramp for the handicapped. During the month of March, the Groundhog Award sign will be displayed on the grounds of the church.

1986

Cloudmont Ski Resort has had some 3,500 skiers so far this season. One of the best seasons they have had.

1987

Moon Lake School was able to buy 2 wonderful books with the Campbell's Soup Labels Mentone residents helped collect.

Source: Groundhog archives

1995

The Town of Mentone and the State of Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT) invited the town to a dedication of the rock wall on Hwy. 117, with a reception following at Mentone Town Hall. The wall had been reconstructed using the original native rock reinforced with a core of steel set in concrete.

2010

Moon Lake Elementary school celebrates 100 years. Over a century ago, Martha Berry gifted the Mentone community with land to create a community school and church.

2012

Little River Arts Council (formerly the Mentone Area Arts Council) brought the Alabama Shakespeare Festival Traveling Troupe to Moon Lake School for a performance of "A Midsummer Night's Dream."

SENIOR HEALTH Be Aware of Genetic Testing Lures by Lynn Hixson

Be on the alert for a potential scam being perpetrated on Medicare beneficiaries. The scam involves genetic testing and promises that the simple submission of a painless cheek swab will entitle them to a DNA test. The DNA test, seniors are told, will be helpful in determining which and how much of common medications, such as Coumadin, will give the optimal result. Better cognition, vitality, and function are the inferred results of the testing.

The beneficiaries are told that the testing is free because Medicare will pay for the testing. The truth is, Medicare does not pay for genetic testing under such circumstances, and the disclosure of one's Medicare numbers will leave them vulnerable to further fraud in the form of medical identity theft.

For further information please call the DeKalb County Council on Aging and ask for Lynn Hixson, your SHIP Counselor at 256-845-8590.

Moon Lake Mop Closet
(continued from page 15)

child could get only one book. One. One book. Per trip. Every two weeks. And if you finish it early? Have to wait two weeks. And if you forget to bring it back on library day? Then, no new books for you at all—wait two more weeks! Four weeks total on one book if you missed a library day. Oh, my stars! What is this place? You're kidding.

Nearly a month of school had passed before Mrs. Long's class got the first library visit. We all single-filed it down the hall and waited against the wall for the previous class to exit the big ship doors. I remember my new classmate, Alex, telling me we had to be quiet. He was at the front of the line. I was second. Maybe he was as excited as I was about the library.

Quiet. Shhhh, shhh. We can't go in until we're all quiet, boys and girls.

Finally, those double doors swung in wide and I could see! Oh, it was beautiful. Books, books. I rushed to the closest shelf to start looking, knowing we got just 40 minutes. This library alphabetized all the books by subjects. "Animal" books were grouped on the near shelf. "Cooking" books were a little ways down. My first quick survey was unsettling. I'd never be able to choose one book. The room was huge. I went down the wall toward the Es and the Fs.

Psst! Psst! I heard a noise and turned to look. All the other kids had come to this same school last year and the year before, and kindergarten before that (a citified invention, I thought, as Moon Lake didn't do kindergarten or Head Start) and were sitting still and quiet as mice in the little chairs around the little tables in the middle of the room. I was the only one scouting the books. Alex was signaling me to get with the program. I realized my faux pas. I was a rube from the boonies. Everyone was looking at me, even sweet Mrs. Long. Silly little country girl, they must all think, doesn't know how a library works.

I was stunned at what happened next! They turned out the lights and ran a movie projector! Our library time was eaten up by a whirring film

of puppets and nonsense! Later, I quizzed my new classmates whether on return visits we would get the full 40 minutes to look at books. They looked at me puzzled—no, there was always a movie or filmstrip to start.

We lined up, got shushed again, and marched single file back to the classroom. I'd gotten one book, a mystery, from an entire full "M" bookshelf of nothing but mysteries—something thick, for two whole weeks. Then I started doing the math. School lasted about nine months. If I got two visits to the library per month, that was 18. Eighteen if I didn't ever get sick on a library day. Eighteen if the librarian didn't get sick on my library day. Eighteen if it didn't snow on any of my library days. Eighteen books. Tops. I thought of the mop closet, open all day, every day. Read as many as you want to read. Read first-grade books or sixth-grade books. Come again tomorrow. Change your mind and choose again. The only limit was me and what effort I was willing to put in. Ahh, Moon Lake School. Ahh, Mentone and teensy towns. Places supposedly with fewer "resources."

Touring what remains of the mop closet at Moon Lake Elementary 40 years later, I open the door and looked in. My husband looks in. The closet is still there, even smaller than I remembered. Today it's crammed full of duct work for heating and air. (Air conditioning at Moon Lake?) Not a mop or a book inside.

But almost 20 years ago, a joint effort between DeKalb County Schools and local community residents culminated in the construction of a beautiful brick school/community library connected off the north side, past where the monkey bars (made of iron plumbing pipes) used to be. It's connected to the school by covered walkways. The parking lot side is by the highway, overlooking those transfer trucks headed for the narrow bridge and travelers racing through Mentone to catch planes in Atlanta. During school hours, the library is just for the school kids. Afternoons, evenings and weekends, it's open to everyone...and all...summer...long.

There are no check-out limits.

Storm Aftermath (continued from page 22)

asphalt developed a crack along a 75-foot stretch of road on top of a culvert which had collapsed. Police Chief Gene McKee closed the highway while waiting for the county to send someone who applied a patch material to the crack. The county had one of their men monitoring the repair overnight. Once 24 hours had passed with no noticeable change, the road was deemed safe to travel on.

Core samples were recently taken which are being assessed by geologists in Montgomery so they can determine the most effective repair. AL Hwy. 117 going up the mountain will be closed or narrowed to one lane while the permanent repairs are made.

Chief Lee said they have communicated with the governor's office and made sure they understand the importance of the road to our community, especially with the two gap roads closed. A meeting will soon take place with county officials and first responders to determine how to best arrange for smooth continuation of emergency services while one or both lanes of the highway are closed.

With the help of thermal drones, DeSoto Rescue Squad's drone team spent that Saturday searching for an 18-year-old young man whose vehicle was washed off a bridge at Buck's Pocket State Park on the Tuesday prior. They cannot fly in rainy conditions, so they were forced to wait until Saturday's break in the rain. NLMFPD volunteers also spent many hours assisting in that search, walking the banks of the river. As of print time, neither the young man nor his vehicle has been found. Two occupants in the car were rescued.

Speaking for all of our area's first responders, Captain Mike Stone said, "We're definitely going to do everything we can to make sure that the citizens are taken care of, the best we can."

The Groundhog will post updates on area road closures on its Facebook page, so check there for the latest news during this ongoing situation.

And, please...thank our first responders for continuing to do a hard job well. We are fortunate to have each and every one of them looking out for us.

..... Recipes to Enjoy

Irish Soda Bread

submitted by Eleanor Teverino

4 cups flour
3/4-cup sugar
3 tsp. baking powder
1 tsp. baking soda
1 tsp. salt
1/2-cup butter
2 cups seedless raisins
2 Tbs caraway seeds (optional)
2 cups buttermilk

Pre-heat oven to 325°. Mix the dry ingredients in a bowl and cut in the butter until mixture is crumbly. Stir in the raisins and caraway seed, then the buttermilk.

Place in 2 well-greased 9x5" loaf pans. Bake at 325 for 1 hour. Slice thinly and spread with cream cheese, if desired.

Italian Potato Soup

submitted by Annette Stone

1-1/2 cups spicy sausage links (can use chicken sausage)
2 medium potatoes, cut in half lengthwise
1/2-pound bacon, cooked and crumbled
3/4-cup onions, diced
1-1/4 tsp garlic, minced
2 cups kale leaves, cut in half, then sliced
2 Tbsp chicken base
4 cups water
1/3-cup heavy whipping cream

Preheat oven to 350°. Place sausage links onto a sheet pan and bake for 25 mins. or until done. Cut into half lengthwise, then cut at an angle into 1/2-inch slices.

Place onions and bacon in large saucepan and cook over medium heat until onions are almost clear. Add garlic and cook and additional 1 minute.

Add chicken base, water and potatoes. Simmer 15 minutes. Add sausage, kale and cream. Simmer 4 minutes. Stir and serve with warm bread.

Apple Clafoutis

"A great low-sugar treat"

submitted by Eleanor Teverino

4 large eggs
1/2-cup plus 2 Tbs. sugar (I use Truvia)
Pinch of salt
1/2-cup all-purpose flour (I use gluten-free flour)
1-1/4-cups milk
1 tsp vanilla extract
1 apple, peeled, quartered, and cored
1/2-cup raisins
1 Tbs unsalted butter plus more for baking dish
Confectioners sugar

Preheat oven to 400°. Butter a 10" tart dish or 9-1/2" pie plate. In a bowl, combine eggs, 1/2-cup sugar or sugar substitute, and salt, until well-mixed. Whisk in flour, milk, and vanilla.

Cut apple into thin slices. Place over bottom of dish in concentric circles. Gently pour egg mixture over apple. Scatter raisins over mixture.

Cut butter into small bits and sprinkle over the batter. Sprinkle 2 Tbsp. sugar on top.

Place dish on baking sheet and bake until puffed and golden brown around edges, 25 to 30 minutes. Cool on rack. Sprinkle with confectioners' sugar.

Serve cut into wedges, at room temperature or chilled. Store in refrigerator. Serves 8.

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Sugar-free Pie

"Easy, quick, awesome"

submitted by Susan Ellis

Graham cracker pie crust mix
1/2-cup butter, softened
1 can crushed pineapple (must be in its own juice)
2 boxes of your choice of sugar-free pudding
1 small container (8-oz.) sour cream

Stir butter into graham cracker mix. Line a pie pan with the crust. Drain pineapple and stir with sour cream into the pudding mix. Pour into pie crust. Top with fat-free whipped topping, if desired.

We welcome recipes! Please email your recipe to groundhognews@yahoo.com or mail to The Groundhog, P.O. Box 387, Mentone, AL 35984

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In Memory of Philip Johnston III

April 20, 1956 – February 4, 2019

The North Lookout Mountain Fire Protection District (Mentone Fire Department) has lost one of its valuable members. Philip Johnston III, affectionately known in the department as “Coastie” due to his previous US Coast Guard career, passed away quietly on the 4th of February. Philip was one of the most reliable members, showing up at fire or accident scenes even in the nastiest of weather. Philip’s experience as a mechanic in the Coast Guard was also an asset to the Fire Department in truck maintenance. Coastie joined the Fire Department in 2016, after previously living in Lincoln, AL, and Winder GA, before moving to Mentone in April of 2016.



Philip was born in Birmingham on April 20, 1956, attended Erwin High school and served a total of 22 years in the Coast Guard on three different ships. His most harrowing experience was on the West Wind, when blue ice ripped open the hull of his ship! He joked that the worst weather we have in Mentone was nothing compared to what he had seen on a Coast Guard icebreaker in the Antarctic, when a warm day was -40°!

Philip married his wife Patey in October 2005, after they met on Match.com. Patey says it was “love at first sight.” Philip is survived by his wife, Patey, three sons, and two stepchildren. His hobby was collecting anything related to lighthouses. Patey related that he loved God, Country, the Fire Department, and family in that order.

All the members of the Valley Head and Mentone Fire Departments will miss him. To Philip, they say, “We’ll take it from here, Coastie!”

—Ken Trowbridge and Vicky Patrick



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

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Name/s of Performers _____

Website Address _____ Facebook Page _____

Address _____ City State Zip _____

A short biography (100 words or less) that we can use for promotional purposes. _____

Notification of acceptance will be on April 12. Only the application is necessary if you performed in 2018 at a MAPA Festival, unless you would like to use a different bio or picture.

We appreciate the effort to submit the following:

- 1. This application
- 2. A picture to be used for media. Email to rhododendronfestival@gmail.com OR Mail to: MAPA, PO Box 50, Mentone, AL 35984
- 3. A performance sample. This could be a CD OR video OR a link to Facebook, or website, or YouTube. It will to be used for our selection process.

Performer Applications should be mailed to MAPA, P. O. Box 50, Mentone, AL 35984.
Please email rhododendronfestival@gmail.com with any questions.



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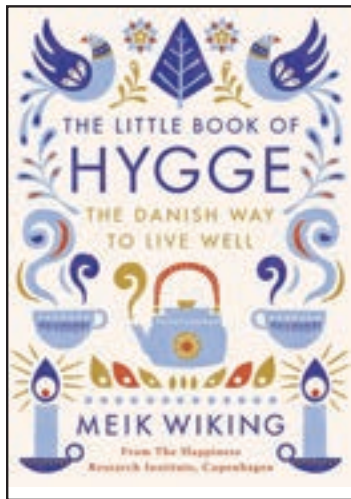
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The Little Book of Hygge: Danish Secrets of Happy Living by Meik Wiking (William Morrow, 2017)

Book Review by Anne McLeod



The Danish concept of “hygge” found its way across the Atlantic a few years ago, taking wing on social media and popping up in American books and magazines. Hygge, pronounced “hoo-ga,” is one of the things that author Meik Wiking, CEO of the Happiness Research Institute in Copenhagen, credits with making Denmark one of the happiest countries on earth.

Yes, cold, dark, highly taxed Denmark. People love it there because of, well, hygge. According to Wiking, “Hygge is about an atmosphere and an experience, rather than about things. It is about being with the people we love. A feeling of home. A feeling that we are safe, that we are shielded

from the world and allow ourselves to let our guard down.”

Candles, hot chocolate, wooly sweaters, fireplaces, and fuzzy throws may come into play but what makes a moment hyggeligt (the adjective form of the word) is the presence of friends in this comfortable and cozy atmosphere. This element of sociability elevates hygge from a superficial lifestyle choice to a cultural construct that strengthens the fabric of society. Wiking guides the reader through the Danish experience of community during hyggeligt, while also describing foods (cake, bread, coffee), clothes (sweaters, scarves), and activities (casual dinners, barbecues, family movie nights) that add to those experiences.

Does any of this feel a bit familiar? It might. Since moving to Mentone, I’ve experienced hygge on a regular basis:

Sunset at the brow on summer evenings combined with tai chi led by one of the circle of friends;

The village Christmas tree lighting Cynthia arranged in front of the Inn, complete with cookies, hot cocoa, carols, and a visit from Santa (in Denmark, Christmas is one of the top ways to get your hygge on);

Evenings with friends at the Mentone Market, especially Taco Tuesdays;

Casual suppers at home when a friend or neighbor stopped by and stayed to enjoy whatever we were having, even if it’s nothing fancy;

The knitting group on Tuesdays at the library where we knit or crochet those woolly scarves, sweaters, and socks to keep us and our loved ones warm, drink coffee or tea, and catch up on the latest news.

Experiences like these are why life here feels so right to me. Mentone is hyggeligt, a saving grace when the sun sets early and the wind is cold. That these experiences take place in an area with extraordinary natural beauty adds to the charm. Because life will always throw down some challenges, some of which will inevitably shake us to our core, hygge allows us to recognize and appreciate the moments that sustain us in good times and bad and to consciously recreate them when we can.

The Little Book of Hygge explains how to enjoy hygge year-round, and Wiking goes into some detail about how to sustain the mood during warmer months, but right now in North Alabama we have a few more weeks of winter to get through. So, channel your inner Dane, throw another log on the fire, and get hyggeligt with friends and family.

The Little Book of Hygge is available for checkout from the Moon Lake Community Library.

Anne McLeod is the librarian at Moon Lake Elementary School.

The Wish to Be Generous by Wendell Berry

All that I serve will die, my delights,
the flesh kindled from my flesh, garden and field,
the silent lilies standing in the woods,
the woods, the hill, the whole earth, all
will burn in man's evil, or dwindle
in its own age. Let the world bring on me
the sleep of darkness without stars, so I may know
my little light taken from me into the seed
of the beginning and the end, so I may bow
to mystery, and take my stand on the earth
like a tree in a field, passing without haste
or regret toward what will be, my life
a patient willing descent into the grass.

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Alpacas Enjoy Life in Mentone

by Rhea Pirch

Our decision to buy four alpacas was easy. They sold us on their charm from the moment we saw them at an alpaca farm in Wisconsin, where we were living in 2009. Once the purchase was complete, we knew two things; we'd have to find a home for them, and that home would be in the south. My husband Don was ready to retire, and I was about to complete my life-long dream of earning a college degree. It was time to move on.

In May, 2010, we began our search, traveling through North Carolina, South Carolina and northern Georgia. After three weeks and no prospects, we agreed to visit Don's cousins back in Mentone, and go from there. Don was born in Valley Head, and we lived here in the '90s. We never expected to return, but as we headed up Lookout Mountain from Menlo, we were met with a most comforting feeling. We knew we were headed home. A day later, we found the five-acre property where Cutler Avenue meets West River Road and named it "Moonglow Alpaca Farm." In September 2010, after the purchase of the farm, we packed our belongings and our alpacas, moved back to Mentone, and started our new life as alpaca farmers.



Alpacas, native to Peru, are often confused with llamas. Although they are both from the camelid family, their differences are obvious. Alpacas are bred as fiber producing animals and are half the size of their cousin llamas, which are bred as pack animals. The ears on a llama are banana-shaped, and their coats are much courser than that of an alpaca. Alpacas do spit at each other in a squabble over food, but for the most part, they don't purposely spit at people.

Although alpacas are most often raised for breeding, we decided to make Moonglow a hobby farm, and raise ours as pets. They are gentle and easy to care

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for. They graze on grass in the summer and eat hay in the winter, along with a handful of alpaca grain, twice a day.

Because their fleece is so warm, we get them sheared once a year, in May, before the true heat of the summer sets in. Once sheared, they leave us with four to five pounds of fleece per alpaca. Alpaca fleece is highly prized for its numerous qualities. It is soft as cashmere, warmer than wool, and lacks lanolin, so is hypo-allergenic and not itchy. After the fleece is skirted and spun into yarn, it can be made into a variety of products

including socks, scarves, sweaters, blankets and rugs.

Alpaca "beans" (manure) make quality plant and flower fertilizer. It can be used immediately without composting, doesn't burn plants or flowers, and lacks the

strong smell of other livestock manures.

The hardest part of being an alpaca farmer is losing them. Alpacas, we learned, are most susceptible to every livestock parasite imaginable. After three years we lost our first alpaca, our ribbon winning Paramount, to a severe case of anemia from *Haemonchus contortus*, or "Barber Pole", a parasite that aggressively sucks the blood from an alpaca's stomach. After this loss, we

adopted two more alpaca from a farm in Gadsden. We then had five: Percussion, Diablo, Rebel, Pistoli and Crasher. Despite consistent parasite control by burning their "bean" piles and scooping twice a day, four years later we lost Pistoli to the same parasite that infected Paramount.

Last summer, we lost Rebel to heat exhaustion after he fell asleep in one of the shelters under the hot July sun.

We invite the public to visit Percussion, Diablo and Crasher at Moonglow Alpaca Farm, 164 West River Road in Mentone, and discover the unique personalities of these three boys.

They tend to melt hearts, as they did ours, with their liquid black eyes, long eyelashes, curious nature, and unique personalities. They welcome open hands filled with grain, and always smile for the camera.



- Photos: 1 • Furry Face, Percussion
2 • Alpacas love the snow
3 • Hey, where's the hay? (Crasher, full fleece)
4 • Alpacas cool off on a hot summer day