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Volume 39, No. 3

"Neighborly News from the Heart of Lookout Mountain"

March 2020

Jimmy Rogers Leaves a Legacy of Loving His Community by Kelly Leavitt

The community of Mentone was stunned when word quickly spread on the morning of Sunday, February 2, that Jimmy Rogers, 62, had suffered a fatal heart attack. Jimmy was the chef and proprietor of the Green Leaf Grill, located in the heart of Mentone in an old and charming log cabin that has hosted many restaurants in its years.

The Green Leaf Grill was relatively new, opening in March 2016, but in its time it garnered press from across the nation, as well as several awards. Jimmy spent most of his life perfecting his skills in both cooking and running a restaurant, and his efforts certainly paid off with the success of the Green Leaf Grill.

Jimmy, also called "JR," was born in Fort Payne and raised in Rainsville, where he graduated from Plainview High School in 1978. After spending time in Texas and Chattanooga, he moved to Perdido Beach, FL, where he owned a restaurant and seafood market. Tiring of the blues and whites of the Gulf Coast landscape, he found himself drawn back to the greens of his native land in 2012. He became the chef at Kamama, where his fine dining blended with art on weekend evenings, when Jimmy set up tables with white linens in the art gallery.

It seems he hit his full stride at the Green Leaf Grill. Aside from the accolades and recognition of the popular restaurant, he was a proud neighbor of the adjacent Log Cabin Village, which he was dedicated to beautifying with additional plantings, including an unusual tree that is native to South Africa that Jimmy was particularly proud of. Last year, he hosted a meeting of concerned citizens to discuss ways to keep Mentone beautiful and free of

litter throughout the year. This meeting led to several initiatives being made by attendees, including the "Do Not Litter" signs posted

around town by the Mentone Homeschool Group and the adoption of roads as part of Alabama's Adopt-a-Mile program that ensures stretches of our roadways and highways remain litter-free.

Not only did Jimmy's heart extend to the beauty of Mentone, but he also had a deep love of animals and was well-known for his tendency to rescue any dog or cat who crossed his path and looked in need of a home. His animals were so important to him

Jimmy Rogers saw his restaurant, the Green Leaf Grill, recognized in many publications and won awards for his catfish. He dared to dream, saw his dream come into its own. We are saddened by his death, but thankful to have known him and to know he made a difference in his own little corner of the world. Rest in peace, JR. —Charlotte Gentry



that on the day of death, his employees immediately committed to giving or finding homes for them.

"Jimmy's best friend for many decades was Mr. Joseph Watkins, 92," said longtime friend Sandra Padgett. "Joe was a second father to him. Jimmy took care of him the last few years, in spite of Joe's failing health. He was determined that Joe would not go to a nursing home. Sadly, Jimmy couldn't keep that promise. Mentone has lost more than a good cook. We lost a good citizen."

Jimmy also had a soft spot for first responders and veterans, offering them discounts and sometimes free meals. In 2016, he began a tradition of opening the Green Leaf's doors on Christmas Day for a

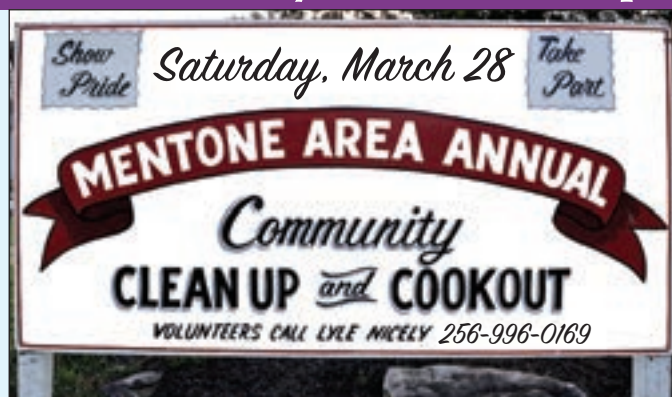
(continued on page 5)

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 28, 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.

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.



Be a Festival Friend!



The Mentone Area Preservation Association is looking forward to presenting our annual Rhododendron Festival on May 16-17. Community sponsorships and donations are vital to the success of our annual arts and crafts festivals. Sponsorship opportunities are detailed on page 14.

This year, we are offering a new level of donors, "Festival Friends," for those who would like to donate any amount less than \$100. No amount is too small; every donation helps MAPA fulfill our mission.

Please visit mapamentone.com/festival-friends to donate or email sharonhmapa@gmail.com with any questions.



THE GROUNDHOG

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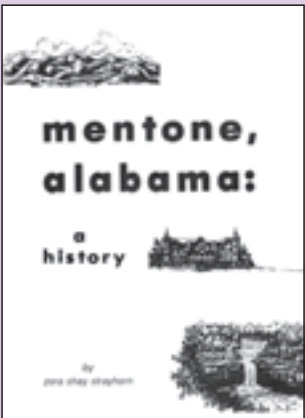
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The opinions, beliefs, and viewpoints expressed by the various authors in this publication do not necessarily reflect the opinions, beliefs, and viewpoints or policies of the Mentone Area Preservation Association.

Groundhog wood cut courtesy of Meg Justice.

**Do you have a story idea?
We welcome contributions!**

Email groundhognews@yahoo.com



Learn about the
History of Mentone

Zora Strayhorn's book, "Mentone, Alabama: A History" is for sale at the Wildflower Café, Moon Lake Community Library, Green Leaf Grill, Little River Hardware, Mentone Market, DeSoto State Park, Earthly Elements, and Bell Battelle. \$15; proceeds benefit MAPA.

Mentone Matters • by Mayor Rob Hammond

Many times our police officers answer a call and upon arrival find a mental health crisis is really the underlying reason for the call. Officers are very limited in their options for getting help. Jail should not be the only option they have. Our state representative and the majority leader, Nathaniel Ledbetter, is working with Governor Kay Ivey to begin addressing mental health issues in Alabama. Governor Ivey proposed setting aside \$31 million dollars in the budget to begin several mental health initiatives. Four bills have been introduced. The first would expand statewide the Stepping Up Program. The goal of this program is to reduce the number of individuals in jails with mental illness. The second bill would provide for a mental health specialist for every school district and eventually provide for a mental health specialist in every school. The third bill would lengthen the time a hospital can detain persons in danger of harming themselves from 24 to 72 hours. The fourth bill would provide for three state mental health crisis units and one mobile crisis unit. We applaud Governor Ivey and Representative Ledbetter's efforts in addressing the mental health crisis in Alabama, which affects all of us.



The Community Room has already been used for several events. To schedule an event, contact Kristen Emory at Town Hall 256-634-4444. Remember the Community Room is now Mentone's polling place. Tuesday will be the first election held there. We hope to be opening the Visitor Center soon on weekends. If you wish to become a volunteer at the Visitor Center, call Kristen at Town Hall. All volunteers must go through a short training at DeKalb Tourism.

Remember, Saturday, March 28, is the community wide litter pick up. Call Lyle Nicely at 256-996-0169 to volunteer or for further details. Electronics recycling will once again take place at Mentone Town Hall beginning at 9 a.m.



Spring is in the air, with bulbs blooming and flowers budding! It's been a cold, wet winter, and I'm sure we're all happily looking forward to warmer days and more comfortably spending time outside enjoying the extraordinary beauty that surrounds us.

The students at Moon Lake School beautifully expressed their own feelings about spring on page 17, thanks to the guidance of school librarian Anna Mae Horn, who worked in particular with the 6th graders as they learned to write traditional (and impressive!) cinquains. I'm sure you'll enjoy them.

Charla Hermann writes from her heart on page 10, describing our special community of service-minded individuals and groups. Next month, look for a listing of all the ways you can become involved...there's truly something for

everyone, based on varying interests. In February, our area lost many good folks, and each death has left behind the pain of saying goodbye. The circle of life is strong, though, with renewal showing itself everywhere. One certain way to experience the renewal of spring is with a visit to "the pocket" on Pigeon Mountain in Georgia. The boardwalk on the Shirley Miller Wildflower Trail suffered some storm damage last year but has now been reopened, all the way to the waterfall. If you've never been, drop by Moon Lake Library and check out a book on native wildflowers, then visit this magical landscape, which never disappoints. Don't forget your camera! Photo opportunities are, literally, at every step, with wildflowers bursting forth everywhere. Have a beautiful spring, everyone! —Kelly

Boy, do I feel angry. I just drove back up to town from Menlo, looking at all the litter that's accumulated along both sides of the road.

You may already know that long-time Mentone resident Lyle Nicely schedules a community clean-up each spring, when volunteers pick up roadside litter and trash in various parts of town, including along AL Highway 117 all the way from the west side of town coming up the mountain to the Georgia border. Why is this necessary?? Who is throwing their trash out of their window and onto our roadsides? This is not about global warming. This is not about a big environmental issue. This is about a very simple concept: love, cherish and take care of your immediate environment. It's not hard to toss that stuff on the floorboard and put in the trash bin when you get home or, if you're like me, let it accumulate for a little while, and then do it.

Ok...I have taken a few deep breaths and calmed down. And I am really happy to report that at our last board meeting, MAPA gratefully and unanimously agreed to fund a grant request from Gwen Stone of Ryleigh's Closet to help her continue clothing the needy in our community. Let's all be inspired by her efforts and care for those who aren't nearly



as fortunate as we are. That is in large part what makes Mentone, MENTONE!

If you love Mentone and the surrounding area, one way you can really help MAPA better fulfill our mission is to become a volunteer or financial sponsor for our upcoming Rhododendron Festival on May 16 and 17. Sponsorships help defray the cost of hosting the festival, so that we can remain in a strong position to continue financially supporting certain needs of our local non-profit organizations. You can learn more at mapamentone.com/sponsor-opportunities. Volunteering is a great way to meet new people, and have fun at the same time. Festival Chair Sharon Habin is organizing our volunteers, so if you'd like to help please email her at sharonhmapa@gmail.com. Organizing and presenting a festival takes an enormous amount of work, and every helping hand makes a difference.

Thank you. As usual, I can be reached directly via email at mhoffmanatty@yahoo.com and would love to hear from you.

Mark Hoffman is the president of Mentone Area Preservation Association.

Rhododendron Festival by Sharon Habin

May 16 & 17 in Mentone
Arts, Crafts, Live Music, Festival Food,
Boat Rides & More!
mapamentone.com/rhododendron-festival

Mark your calendar now for the weekend of May 16 and 17 for the Mentone Area Preservation Association's Rhododendron Festival, always held the third weekend in May.

Vendor and Performers applications, as well as entry forms for the Miss Rhododendron Pageant (to be held on May 8), are online at mapamentone.com/festivals.

"Many hands make light the work!"

Our festivals are staffed by wonderful volunteers. There are many opportunities to volunteer before, during, and after the festival, and for the Miss Rhododendron pageant. These opportunities can take as little as an hour or as much time as you would like to donate. How can you help? Go to mapamentone.com and fill out an interest form; email rhododendronfestival@gmail.com; or join Volunteer Mentone AL Festivals on Facebook.

Sponsor Opportunities

MAPA's two annual festivals, Rhododendron and Colorfest, depend on sponsors to be able to help pay the many costs that add up when putting on such large events. If you would like to be a sponsor for the 2020 Rhododendron Festival, see page 20 for information. You may become a Sponsor online at mapamentone.com. Email sharonhmapa@gmail.com with any questions.

Sharon Habin is the Festival Organizer for the Rhododendron Festival.

CALL FOR

Festival Artists & Craft Makers,
Festival Food Vendors, and
Musicians!

Information and applications at
mapamentone.com/2020-rhododendron-festival-applications

Miss Rhododendron Pageant

Information and entry form at
mapamentone.com/2020-miss-rhododendron-application

Join MAPA Today

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

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

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

Individuals \$20/year

Couples \$30/year

Your membership includes a complimentary subscription to *The Groundhog*.

JOIN AT
MapaMentone.com

or mail your check to MAPA,
P. O. Box 50, Mentone, AL 35984.
Be sure to include your name(s), address, phone, and email address.

MAPA is chartered as a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation.



The community is invited to a Cantata that will be performed on Palm Sunday, April 5, at 5 p.m. at Moon Lake Baptist Church and again at 7 p.m. at Valley Head Baptist Church. It is titled "Man of Sorrows, King of Glory," a musical for Easter, created and arranged by Marty Parks.

Rhododendron Garden Club by Rhea Pirch



The Rhododendron Garden Club met for their monthly meeting at the MERF House on Tuesday, February 11, at 10 a.m. Nine members were present. Sue Schwarz provided tarts and Alabama cornbread along with some coffee for refreshments. For the meditation, Sue read "Caring for Your Garden" by Susie Schwartz.

The business portion of the meeting started after pledging allegiance to the flag.

President Marsha Merrell led roll call where we were asked to name our favorite house plants. It turned out that we have a wide variety of favorites, including begonias, ferns, orchids, philodendrons, sansevieria (also known as the snake plant), and schefflera (dwarf umbrella tree.) Member Sue Schwarz has a Christmas cactus handed down from her great grandma which still blooms. That impressed us all!

Marsha Merrell filled in the Conservation report for Jan Wilkinson. She reported on a movement being made by the National Wildlife Federation (NWF) to create butterfly habitats on state highways and freeways to benefit the pollinators and save mowing costs for the state. An email from the NWF, shared by Mellanie Tuttle, states that "Roadsides can support a surprising variety of pollinators, bees and butterflies" and that "Research has found that butterflies are less likely to cross a road where there is a good roadside habitat" saving butterflies from being hit by cars by crossing the road. Roadside habitats would also benefit long-distance migratory birds like the ruby-throated hummingbird. The email included a link to send a message to state representatives to adopt such a program, to stay informed of updates on the progress of the plan, and receive other news from the National Wildlife Federation. (support.nwfactionfund.org/page/16485/action/2)

For the Horticulture report, Martha Wood brought in some budding quince and gave us tips on how to force spring flowering trees and shrubs to bloom inside. She said to look for swollen, plump flower buds (not just leaf buds) on the branch before you cut them (on an angle) and bring them inside to immerse in a pitcher of water and watch them bloom in a week to six weeks. She gave us a list of trees and shrubs we can force. Besides quince, there is also apple, maple, dogwood, forsythia, hawthorne, honeysuckle, lilacs, plums, cherry, pussy willow, red buds, magnolia, spirea, viburnum, and witch hazel.

Mark your calendars for the upcoming plant sales! The first one, sponsored by the Master Gardeners of DeKalb County, will be held at the DeKalb County



Budding quince

Fairgrounds on Saturday, April 18. The Federation of Garden Clubs will hold their annual plant sale on Saturday, May 2, at the Henegar Community Park, starting at 9 a.m. An abundance of different plants and flowers will be available for purchase, but they go fast, so get there early if you plan to go.

For the monthly program, we kicked in our creative side and made Valentine-inspired wreaths to use as table decorations for the MERF Senior Lunch, which we hosted on February 12. Before starting on the wreaths, Marsha Merrell gave us some history on them, which she gathered online from a Wikipedia article.

"Wreath" is a word derived from an Old English word meaning to twist, as in a circle. In the ancient Greco-Roman world, wreaths were made from gold or other precious metals and worn as an adornment, most often to represent a person's occupation, rank, achievement and status. The custom of using harvest wreaths as household decorations can be traced back to ancient Europe and is associated with animistic spiritual beliefs.

In Christianity, wreaths are most often used to observe the Advent season. The Advent wreath was first made from a cartwheel and used by Lutherans in the 16th century to educate children about the meaning and purpose of Christmas, as well as to help them count its approach by adding white candles for each Sunday before Christmas. Since then, in many denominations, one candle is added to the center, the Christ candle, and is lit on Christmas day.

Wreaths have also been used at funerals since the time of ancient Greece to represent a circle of eternal life. In the Victorian era, flowers started to take on their own symbolism and were added to funeral wreaths to express certain sentiments.

Wreaths are made and used today for a wide variety of occasions (such as Valentine's Day) and can be easily made from an array of materials. The wreaths we made went home with the Seniors to add a little love and beauty to their surroundings.

Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 11, starting at 10 a.m. at the MERF House. Member and Horticulture Chairperson Martha Wood will present a program on Spring Bulbs for Fall Blooms. We hope to see you there!

To learn more about the Rhododendron Garden Club, email rhododendrongardenclub@gmail.com.

Rhea Pirch is the secretary for the Rhododendron Garden Club.

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Jimmy Rogers (continued from page 1)

community potluck because he never wanted anyone to feel lonely. If someone wanted to attend but lacked transportation, Jimmy would arrange a ride for them. This holiday potluck became a favorite annual event for many locals who didn't have family nearby and could enjoy the day with their neighbors and friends, old and new.

Jimmy was especially proud of being honored in 2018 by the Alabama Catfish Producers, who, after a state-wide search, named his catfish as the best in the state.

He was also proud of his dedicated employees, who were devastated by his passing. The Green Leaf staff consider themselves family and have been relying on each other for support in their grief.

Jimmy is survived by his loving sister, Sharon Rogers Gibson, of Rainsville. Assistant Manager Misty Ogle said that whenever Jimmy knew Sharon was coming to the restaurant, he would always tell his staff, "Now sister gets whatever she wants, and make it extra special for her!" He was preceded in death by his parents, Lelon and Betty Sue Rogers.

Known for greeting most everyone with a hearty, "Hello, friend," Jimmy will be missed by Mentone, not only for his friendliness and community commitment, but for his award-winning food, as well.

Goodbye, friend.

The community is invited
to celebrate the life of Jimmy Rogers
on Sunday, March 1, from 1–3 p.m.
at the Mentone Inn Pavilion.

Bring a potluck dish & beverage. Jerry and Pixie Bloom will perform music and stories about Jimmy will be shared.

For more information, call Cynthia Stinson at 256-634-4836.

For those of you who love exploring Mentone, it's a given you've also enjoyed a meal at The Green Leaf. They were actually just featured in "Alabama Living" this January and have been recognized in several outlets in the recent past for the best catfish in AL. Well, yesterday Mentone lost a beloved local and the great man who put Green Leaf on the map. I haven't lived here long but surely long enough to know what an impact Jimmy has had on this community. Among many other acts of service, every year he opens the doors to his quaint restaurant in the Log Cabin village on Christmas so the community can have some fellowship and company over a potluck of food, including his award-winning fish. Luckily, my family and some friends got to go to it this year. He helped create an atmosphere of togetherness and I met new neighbors. He was there on Christmas Day, cooking away for all who came, with his kind and quiet smile to greet everyone he saw.

He exemplified the beauty and simplicity of generosity and I am thankful I got to meet him. I know many in my sweet little town are grieving this great loss. Love and prayers to Jimmy's friends and family. —Dia White

Our little town is grieving today. One of us left this earth yesterday... Suddenly, unexpectedly... leaving many of us stunned, and I think also sobered a little, at how fragile life can be, and how none of us are promised tomorrow.

Chuck and I didn't know Jimmy as well as others here did, but he still made such a huge impression in our lives. His sweet spirit and his outspokenness were so refreshing. He didn't seem to care what anyone thought of him, but he seemed to care deeply that everyone knew how he thought of them. He seemed to love everyone, and he considered everyone a friend. He was so giving and considerate... Always the first to offer what he had for free to anyone with a need.

He was a fascinating man and a credit to this community and I will miss him.

I hope we will never forget the legacy of love he established here in Mentone, and I hope that many of us will continue it, and pay it forward as often as possible, and in as many creative ways as any of us can think of.

May every tear shed and every loving thought of remembrance of Jimmy be held close and kept forever in every heart ever touched by this sweet man. —Dawn Eaves

Tributes to Jimmy Rogers flooded social media after his passing by friends, locals, and customers of the Green Leaf Grill, from both near and far.



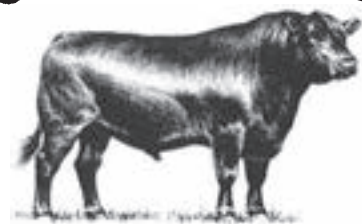
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SURROUNDED BY NATURE IN MENTONE. 2.3ac lot w/ 2 bedrooms, large kitchen w/ cooking bar, sun room, laundry room, covered side porch, screened side porch, detached garage & carport, lots of landscaping and room for more. \$115,000. MLS# 1132899

REDUCED



NEW HOME ON THE BROW! 2 Bedrooms, 2 Bathrooms with loft area. Nestled in the woods with seasonal views, covered back porch, wood burning fireplace, open floor plan, vaulted ceilings, and LAKE ACCESS! \$199,500. MLS #1125898



BROW TOP RETREAT! Vaulted ceilings, rock fireplace, kitchen comes with stainless appliances. 2 BR/ 2.5 BA, screened porches to enjoy the gorgeous brow view! \$389,900. MLS #1130005



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REDUCED



NEW CONSTRUCTION IN MENTONE! 3-bedroom 2-bath cabin. Tongue and groove walls and ceilings, act quickly and you can finish customization. Sitting on over 2 acres lightly restricted. \$129,900. MLS #1125546



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



ONE LEVEL RANCH located near Georgia Line of Alabama, offers 2 bedrooms, 1.5 baths, open floor plan, and screened porch allowing outdoor living you can enjoy! Attached garage plus detached carport situated on 3.5 acre parcel! \$299,900. MLS #1125366



PEACE AND PRIVACY ARE YOURS! Three bed/1 bath home within walking distance to downtown Mentone. \$79,000. MLS #1123288



2500 SQ FEET of One Level Living with Stone and Vinyl exterior, 2 bedrooms, 2 baths, with 15 x 23 Master Suite, Master Bath with soaking tub and separate shower. Home is situated on 2 acres. \$259,900. MLS #1122165



UNIQUE MENTONE CABIN in walking distance of DeSoto Falls. Detailed rustic finishes. 2BR/2BA cabin with stainless steel appliance package, leathered granite countertops, stacked stone wood burning fireplace and amenities to numerous to mention! \$275,000. MLS#1132320

Happy Spring!

LOTS & LAND

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

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

#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 \$83,900.

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

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

#1080922—.54 acres, Mentone Bluffs. \$69,999.

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

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

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

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

#1112787—40 acres in Mentone, AL with stream and untouched family owned

property since 1923! REDUCED TO \$198,000.

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

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

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

#1118815—A GREAT PLACE TO BUILD

YOUR GETAWAY NOW! Level wooded lots with underground utilities, inside gated community. Just minutes to Historic downtown Mentone. Call today for more information. \$25,000.

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

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

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

#1121175—Beautiful Treed Lot in Mentone with underground utilities! \$20,000.

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

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

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

#1133689—3.58-acre property just steps away from downtown Mentone. Build your

wooded home-site, develop a tiny home community, or invest in the rental business. \$69,500.

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

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



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Mentone Arts & Cultural Center News

MACC hosts visiting instructor for weekend watercolor class by Randy Grider



The Mentone Arts & Cultural Center is hosting visiting wildlife artist/instructor Alan R. Young for a weekend arts class March 20–22.

Young has been an instructor at the prestigious John C. Campbell Folk School for the past 20 years and is an award-winning artist.

The class, “Watercolor in Drybrush: Wildlife, Pets, and Nature’s Elements,” runs Friday, March 20, 6–8 p.m.; Saturday, March 21, 9 a.m.–12 p.m. (lunch on your own) and 1:30–5 p.m.; and Sunday, March 22, 9:30 a.m.–12

p.m. at the Town of Mentone’s Community Building (formerly Kamama) located at 5951 AL Highway 117.

The class is limited to the first 10 paid students. (At press time, the class had seven confirmed students.) Please email mentoneartscenter@gmail.com or call 256-674-3366 if interested.

Class Details

Drybrush, by definition, means “not much water.” It is a controlled approach and an alternative to traditional watercolor. It can be used as a supplement or stand-alone medium. Drybrush also is paper dependent. By using hard, compact cold press paper, the artist can lift paint to create highlights, light channels, and other

peak areas. It is “painting by subtraction.”

Additional subtracting and/or adding paint by layer and any other reworking can only be performed after the previous layer is completely dry. This is to maintain the integrity of the paper in use. Masking

fluids are also used periodically to maintain negative areas. Basic drawing fundamentals are also covered in this class. Students are encouraged to bring their own hardcopy reference photos, such as pets and animals.

Critiques and consultations are always cost-free for any previous student.



About the artist/instructor

Wildlife Artist Alan R. Young is well established throughout the South for his “Birds of the Appalachian” paintings. His technique, watercolor in drybrush, differs from traditional watercolor, allowing for increased detail and contrast. Many who view his paintings for the first time often mistake the work for photography.

Among his many followers and collectors, his “split study” portraits of both the Great Horned Owl and Barred Owl (circa 2018) continue to receive tremendous accolades. In total, Alan Young has more than 50 awards in Fine Arts in various competitions.

His work also resides in corporate collections, including Coca-Cola, Georgia Power and TBS. He remains the only artist to be featured at Calloway Gardens Festival in Lights for three consecutive years.

Last year marked his 20th anniversary teaching “Pen and Ink Drawing” classes at the John C. Campbell Folk School in Brasstown, North Carolina.

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



Charlie Stone of Blue Sky Photography has been documenting the progress of the bridge on AL Hwy 117 near Camp Skyline. This photo was taken on 2/22/20.

... In Memoriam ...

“Kountry Chef” Dessie Brown

Odessie “Dessie” Brown, 84, of Mentone, passed away on Monday, February 10, 2020. She was born August 6, 1935 in Chattanooga, TN, to the late Robert Eli Brown and Jessie Young Brown. She was owner and operator of Dessie’s Kountry Chef and was renowned for her catfish and her homemade pies. People travelled from afar to Mentone just to eat at Dessie’s, and she was voted one of the Most Recognized Ladies in Alabama. She attended Howard’s Chapel and was a member of the Mentone Area Preservation Association (MAPA) and the Mentone Ladies Club. She helped present many of MAPA’s festivals over the years.

Dessie is survived by her son, David Cryer and wife, Janice; daughter, Sharon Yoder and husband, Ronnie; Daughter In law, Tena Cryer; brothers, Charles Edward Brown and wife, Carolyn, and Carl Brown and wife, Pat; grandchildren, David Glenn Cryer II, Danyale Kyles, and Alexandra Wooten; and great-grandson, Sawyer Curtis. She was preceded in death by her son, Michael Wayne Cryer, brother, Robert Eli Brown, and sister, Katherine Wright.



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March

Birthdays

- 1

Ally Smith
Jonathan Cuzzort
Roland Hendon
Susanna Munoz
- 2

Jimmie Sue Beason
Dewayne Pierce
Holley Midgley
- 3

Kama Jade Blalock
Dawson Bone
Charity Crowe
Kaleb Cronnon
Laura Hill
Michael Smith
Jason Smith
Matt Sharp
- 4

Corey Ingram
Jeff Bain
Lance Woods
Clara Lee
Becky Stott
Durrell Owens
Denise Brown
- 5

Ashley Gifford
Maci Hammon
Eiko Key
Beth McKinney
- 6

Annabelle Gracie
Grider
Randy Hilliard
Inez Guffey
Josh Gregory
Clint Phillips
Sara Boatwright
- 7

Paige Ware
Kisha Moore
Bella Stokes
Easton Ferguson
- 8

Whitney Smith
Mayson Bailey
Rhett Dean
- 9

Adalynn Phillips
Randy Ballinger
- 10

David Rape
Autumn Hulkan
Frances Day
JD Clements
- 11

Bo Hammond
Jay Chadwick
Lauren Everett
- 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
- 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

- 17

Camden Bell
Lily Smith
- 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
Willa Ingram
Joy Ana Conley
- 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
Ethan Blevins
- 23

Guy "Squeak" Smith
Wyatt McGee
Lori Blackburn
Roberta Cash
Cutter Battles
Kathy Graham
- 24

Dylan Lee
Jimmy Phillips
Lydia Wright
Bobbie Zakary
Barry Blalock
- 25

Vickie Blackburn
Evelyn Graves
Skylar Haney
Skeeter Hilliard
Robert Smith
Maliyah Turner
- 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
Mamie Jo Miller
- 29

Sara Lee
Donna Hilliard
Dru Hill
Shannon Meadows
- 31

Lyli Wright
Marlana Beasley
Lindsey Blalock
Chad Wooten

Anniversaries

- 3

Darrin & Amanda Smith
Jimmy & Gaynell Worthey
- 5

Michael & Donna Smith
- 7

Tommy & Ruth Battles
- 8

Blake & Brittany Villarreal
Garrett & Amanda Collins
- 10

Tom & Alice Shanklin
- 11

Hobson & Martha Kirby
- 18

Rodney & Christine Bal-
lenger
- 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



Cloudland/Menlo News by Pat Johnson

Menlo's Annual Spring Quilt Show and Raffle on March 21, 2020

On Saturday, March 21, Menlo will hold its annual Quilt Show at the Lawrence Center in Menlo. The show will be between 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. EDT. Admission is \$3. There will be quilting demonstrations, refreshments, prizes with vintage quilt displays, and a country store. For those wanting to enter their quilt(s) in the show, you must bring your entries to the Lawrence Center on Friday, March 20, between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. EDT. You will need to leave your quilt(s) and fill out a registration form for each quilt. The categories are: hand quilted; machine quilted; and "other items" which includes crochet, embroidery, needlepoint, etc. Ribbons will be awarded for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd places. There will also be a ribbon for "Viewers' Choice Award."

The Menlo Housing Authority Resident Association is also selling raffle tickets for \$1 for a chance



to win a beautiful quilt made by friends of the Association. The quilt measures 82x102 inches and the pattern is called Storm at Sea. The pattern depicts the rolling water of a stormy sea with its simple color and wave-like imagery. It is believed to be based on biblical scripture. Tickets can be purchased at the Housing Authority office, Menlo Town Hall, Menlo Restaurant, Chattooga County Commissioner's Office in Summerville, Willow Tree Restaurant in Summerville, and from volunteers helping with the sale. The drawing for the quilt will be held at the Spring Quilt Show on March 21.

The quilt show and the raffle are sponsored by the Menlo Housing Authority Resident Association, along with Reading Buddies volunteers. All proceeds go to fund Menlo's Veteran Marker Project and the Reading Buddies Program. The goal is to make a difference and a positive impact on the Menlo Community. For additional information, call the Housing Authority at 706-862-2240.

Save the Date!

Valley Head's "Memories of Mayberry" festival will be held on Saturday, May 2. Traditionally, this annual festival has been held the first weekend of June, but will now be held on the first weekend of May, in part to avoid the warmer temperatures. Look for more details in the April issue of *The Groundhog*.

Lookout Restaurant at Cloudland

The Lookout Restaurant in Cloudland has closed. The owners, Chuck and Cindy Lopopolo, were only leasing the building. The owner of the building, Mr. Lawson Dempsey, wants to sell it and has listed it with Rick Watt Realty in Summerville. Chuck and Cindy were both very sick during December and then Chuck developed some blood clots in January and had to suspend service for several weeks. They are both in good health now, but are not in a position to buy the restaurant. They will still cater until the restaurant sells and they hope whoever buys it will reopen it. Chuck wanted to convey his sincere thanks and gratitude to all the customers who frequented the Lookout while he was there.

MERF News

by Sarah Wilcox



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

March mantra is the magic of Mentone and the magic of MERF! As we prepare for MERF's 8th annual Taste of the Mountain and Art Auction, MERF celebrates the magic of the Mentone community. On Saturday, April 4, the Magic of MERF will be the theme of MERF's fundraiser. Magic of community will be seen in the transformation of the Moon Lake Elementary School gym performed by the fun and talented decorating committee. (Volunteers for set up and clean up are still needed). Magic and talent will be seen in the artistic works from local artists and the Moon Lake students and in the culinary artistry of the local chefs. For sponsorship opportunities or artwork donations, contact Dorma Hutcheson at dormahutcheson@

gmail.com by March 6. Once again, Paula Easter and the students from Moon Lake had a fabulous family art night on February 25. The artwork for the auction was chosen before the event and is always difficult for the judges. The student artists didn't disappoint, once again. The students have wonderful work in the style of artists such as Heather Galler, Claude Monet, Yayoi Kusama and Henri Matisse. Can't wait to post these masterpieces on Facebook! Loved the bell performance too! What fun, pride, and intensity in this performance by the students.

Magic also happens in many kitchens on the mountain for the auction, as creative chefs abound in our area! Can't wait to enjoy the different Tastes of the Mountain in April. For food vendor opportunities, contact Anna Mae Horn at mrsannahorn@gmail.com or 256-635-8908 by March 6. Ticket sales will begin on March 2. A single ticket is \$35 and a table of 8 is \$250. Space is limited, so tickets must be purchased in advance from Sarah Wilcox or from the Mentone Market (cash or check only). If you are unable to attend, don't fret—watch MERF's Facebook page @ [merfhouse](https://www.facebook.com/merfhouse) for a possible online auction opportunity!

March magic and serious tail wagging is also happening on Tuesday, March 10, as the entire Moon Lake Elementary School heads to the Alliance Theatre in Atlanta to see Mo Willem's book "The Naked Mole Rat Gets Dressed" transformed into a rock musical! As described by the Alliance theater,

"With tail-shaking tunes, empowering messages of individuality and Mo Willems humor, this family-friendly musical is sure to rock audiences of all ages." The students are familiar with Mo Willems, as they know many of his award-winning children's books and characters such as "Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus" and "Knuffle Bunny." If you have never met these inspiring characters, check out the books at our great community library. Funding for this magical adventure is thanks to our wonderful MERF financial donors and this exposure to the arts experience has been made possible by grants from the Alabama State Council on the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts.

MERF magic also happens weekly at the MERF house with our Tuesday afternoon tutoring, Wednesday lunches, and Thursday

MERF moms! Thanks to our tutors—Ann Bearden, Annette Peteck, Dia White, Bill Rutledge, Craig Sheldon, Victoria Gaston, and Mary and Tom MacMichael—Moon Lake Elementary School students continue to improve in their study skills, math facts and reading abilities! Wednesday MERF lunches happen thanks to the busy kitchen elves and many local friends who provide the meal. The delicious food for the winter/spring lunches will be provided by the Rhododendron Garden Club, Camp DeSoto with the Farm at Windy Hill, Mentone Market, Skyline Camp, Alpine Camp for Boys, Chick-Fil-A, Mentone Community Church, Camp Laney, St. Joseph's Episcopal Church, Moon Lake Baptist Church, Wildflower Cafe, and Boy Scout Troop 106. And our MERF moms and kiddos meet weekly on Thursday mornings at 10:30 a.m. with a monthly art/music class.

MERF magic happens with a vision and a supportive board. The MERF board is grateful for Kristen Emory serving as President for the past five years and accepted her resignation as president and board member at the January board meeting. The future of MERF is in good hands with President Dr. Bill Berry, Vice President Vicky Patrick, Secretary Kathy McMunn, Treasurer Marsha Merrell, Carol Hazell, Roland Hendon, Kayla Worthey, and Walt Pullen.



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Dessie Brown and Jimmy Rogers

Loving and serving the community also has heartaches. February meant saying goodbye to two MERF lunch friends and great country cooks, Dessie Brown and Jimmy Rogers. We are thankful for their friendship and their generosity. Here's a great picture of them at a Wednesday lunch when Jimmy was hoping to get the secret to Dessie's buttermilk pie. Rest in peace, MERF friends.

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

The Circle of Service That Holds Us

by Charla Hermann

It never fails to happen, when we gather for events on Lookout Mountain: As we greet guests from around the country, we are also greeting our future neighbors. Each festival brings in the latest couple who just moved here to retire or find a new beginning. There is something magic about this area and it tends to call in some of the most generous and kind humans I have ever met. This best-kept secret and bubble of history and humanity is a rich blessing that blends together a community of people from all places and walks of life. There seems to be one thing everyone has in common and that is the urge to reach out and serve and support the community around them.

There is a rich history of service in this area that many do not know about—a community of heart that manages to maintain all form of support services out of our local pocket. A group of 20 people recently met at Moon Lake Community Library to discuss the ways we can better coordinate our outreach efforts and become even more effective. It was a wonderful group of folks who showed up to share what they offer to keep this wonderful place alive and thriving. Countless local volunteers offer a rich generosity as they work to maintain and expand the growth and services that are so needed for us all to enjoy our country living.

We are of course, blessed with an amazing rescue squad—men and women who provide emergency medical services. Our volunteer firefighters are dedicated to being on call, whenever we need them, whether it's to fight a fire, remove a tree from a roadway, or teach our children about fire safety. Ryleigh's Closet at Mentone Community Church provides clothing for the entire family, free of charge, twice each month, and a local group of women hold quarterly clothing exchanges. The Food Bank at St. Joseph's makes sure no one goes hungry and the group of Methodist Women creates all form of support for our youth. MERF's list of services is ever-growing, ranging from hosting weekly senior lunches to tutoring our local youth.

We are a really special community. Our art community brings a variety of cultural programs to the area, and our newspaper helps spread the word. We are able to enjoy music, art, and family entertainment throughout the year. Our connecting projects have developed wonderful things, like the tile mosaic on the step risers at DeSoto Falls, made by the hands of over a thousand of our neighbors and friends. We can see this form of connection in every corner.

Without even knowing it, folks move here to be blessed with a surprising abundance of ways to make a community of heart and soul. Small bands of folks manage our library and smaller outreach services. For more than 15 years, they have made sure that Valley Head High School graduates have been given laptop computers. Backpacks of school supplies or weekend lunches are freely offered. This community feeds and cares for its youth like no other. It is small and mighty in its ability to see a problem and provide a solution.

We have river guardians, and a garden club to enrich the local flora and fauna. Countless volunteers work the roadsides to clean up and make this place special for the tourists who help us pay our bills during the high season. We have hidden secrets like a ski resort and numerous camps for children who come here from all over the world. Out of those visitors come our future neighbors. We hope they feel welcome to come and reach into the circles of service and become part of this wonderful home we have all co-created and maintain. Oddly, we don't always even know each other in our day-to-day. Yet when it comes time to gather, serve and support our seniors with food and fellowship, or serve our children, there is someone around every corner.

There is a gratitude that happens when helping hands come together. That gratitude grows with each new hand that joins the circle. Together, we have found endless opportunities to help Lookout Mountain to continue to be the home of many nations who form one heart. The ancestors who lived in these hills left behind a legacy that seems to be alive and well in these times. We as a community are in a place of growth and endless opportunity to maintain our nature and our little corner of magic that brings an ancient song of wholeness to this place that has a rich history of community and soul.

SENIOR HEALTH SenioRx & Medicare Part D submitted by Lynn Hixon

There are times when Medicare Part C or D can work with SenioRx to help you get your needed medications. If you are in the Gap or "Doughnut Hole," there could be options available to assist you in getting those medications free or at a low-cost through the SenioRx program. Most of the time, the medications must be the more expensive brand-name drugs.

SenioRx is a prescription drug assistance program that helps eligible clients receive free or low-cost prescription drugs from the

drug companies. This is for people age 55 and older AND people with disabilities of any age who have a chronic medical condition and need brand-name medicines. This program is brought to you by the Alabama Department of Senior Services and the 13 Area Agencies on Aging, serving as Aging and Disability Resource Centers for Alabama. There are income requirements. Certain Medicare Part D insurances are accepted. To see if you qualify, call DiAnne Callahan or Lynn Hixon at the DeKalb County Council on Aging at 256-845-8590.

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River Voice by Bill Shugart

"Water connects us with who we are as a people, and enriches us both culturally and spiritually."

—Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., President, Waterkeeper Alliance

Nine years ago, in March 2011, I met a waterkeeper, John Wathan, the Hurricane Creekkeeper of the Black Warrior River Basin. It was at the Alabama Water Rally at Camp McDowell. John was presenting his coverage of the Gulf Horizon Oil Disaster in 2010 that, over a span of five months, leaked 210 million gallons of oil into our emerald Gulf. The accidental environmentalist finished with an inspiring question. "Who has the authority to say someone else is not being a good steward of the environment? Anyone who notices." The following year, we joined the Waterkeeper Alliance, which is made up of 300 groups worldwide and we joined nine other local Waterkeeper organizations in the fight to preserve and protect citizens' rights to clean water in Alabama. Since then, we have committed ourselves personally and professionally to protect the integrity of Little River and its tributaries. In order to do this, we set goals for the organization to achieve desired outcomes. Our most important goal is education. When the community is informed on the issues that threaten our watershed, we hope that can prevent negative impacts and encourage smart practices. We love helping the public better understand the Little River system in its entirety, geographically and biologically speaking. To make it easier, we will soon launch an interactive map of Little River on our website that will highlight the river's outstanding remarkable values.

While winter months are usually busy with grant writing, preparing budgets, and planning events, this winter has been a particularly wet season, which had us patrolling the watershed more than usual for this time of year. In January and February, we responded to several citizen complaints about excessive sediment pollution in several areas on the river due to land disturbances from bad roads, land development, and logging cuts. This type of non-point discharge is detrimental to the health of the river and is not permitted on Outstanding

National Resource Waters (ONRW), a title claimed by Little River. Section 131.12(a)(3) of the EPA's antidegradation policy says, "States may allow some limited activities which result in temporary and short-term changes in water quality," but such changes in water quality should not impact existing uses or alter the essential character or special use that makes the water an ONRW. A good example of short-term changes is the bridge replacement over Highway 117 in Mentone. ALDOT had to disturb the land in order to construct the bridge, however their environmental management plan states they are required to replant the streambank to restore the river's natural habitat to protect the long-term health of the river. We strongly encourage private landowners along the river corridor and along streams leading to Little River, to keep their riverbank intact with native shrubs to prevent long-term degradation. Impacts of sedimentation in the river decrease plant productivity, negatively impacting fish and bird species and causing abrasion to fish gills, thus increasing potential for disease. Turbidity (muddy water) can also cause visual impairment for predatory fish, affecting their feeding habits. Aquatic macroinvertebrates (dragonflies, caddisflies, snails, mussels) that provide important ecological services in our shallow riverbed, such as filtration, are threatened by sediment pollution. Antidegradation is not a "no growth" rule and was never designed or intended to be; these regulations are designed to maintain and protect high quality waters. As we move into the future, growth in the watershed is inevitable. As we make choices for the future, let's keep in mind the generations that will enjoy Little River after we are gone and leave Little River better than we discovered it.

Help us protect clean water! Join Little River Waterkeeper Today.

Becoming a member of Little River Waterkeeper comes with a number of benefits, such as the satisfaction of knowing you're helping protect our clean water future. But it's also more than a typical membership. We rely on our members to protect our ability to protect your right to clean water. Our members and their love of Little River help us advocate for drinkable, swimmable, and fishable waters.

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Make checks payable to Little River Waterkeeper and mail to 215 Grand Ave. SW, Ste. A, Fort Payne, AL 35967.

Bill Shugart is the Little River Waterkeeper. Visit littleriverwaterkeeper.org for more information.

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Remembering the Mentone Springs Hotel

March 1 marks six years since Mentone lost one of its icons, when the Mentone Springs Hotel burned to the ground. The “Grand Old Lady” is still missed by many, including owner Darlene Rotch’s 13-year-old granddaughter, Elle, who wrote the following poem in response to a school assignment in which she was asked to use poetry to describe a photo using her five senses.

“Elle was just 7 when it burned and had been coming there to visit since she was 3,” said Darlene. “It’s such an accurate description of how it made a lot of us feel.”



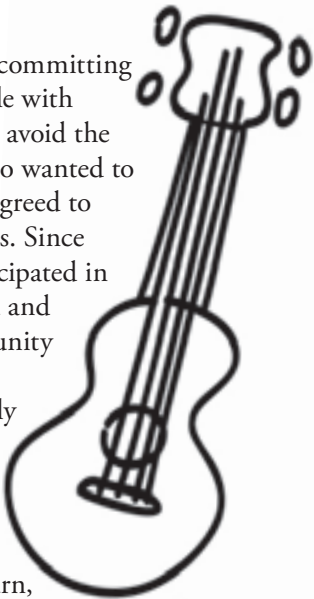
Photo by Raegan A. - Own work, CC BY-SA 3.0, commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=21837440

*I see the old white paint chipping off the sides of the building
I hear people chatter as they enjoy their lunch on the porch
I smell the sweet smell of the freshly cut grass
I feel the wind as it blows against my face
I taste the freshness of the air as I breathe in
I think this is the happiest place on earth*

Strum and Be Happy!

by Debra Fey

Last fall, Jerry Megli and I were considering committing to a bi-monthly drive to Arab to play ukulele with others when it occurred to us that we could avoid the drive if there were people in the Mentone area who wanted to play together. Artist and musician Mickey Luck agreed to join us in leading free ukulele classes for beginners. Since November, an average of 15–20 people have participated in each of the sessions, which are held on the second and fourth Saturdays at 1 p.m. at Moon Lake Community Library (March 14 and 28).



Our ongoing ukulele group was created initially to see if there were people locally with a shared interest in the ukulele. Lo and behold, we found out that there is! So our ukulele group is firmly established and here to stay.

The ukulele is a fun and easy instrument to learn, they are reasonably priced, the nylon strings are easy on the fingers, and the four strings make most chords quite easy to learn and play. In literally one session folks can be playing tunes.

Over the last five months, a friendly bunch of folks have regularly attended our ongoing sessions and learned many chords and strumming techniques. Sheet music has been handed out for lots of songs from a wide range of genres. At every session, folks leave with three or four new songs to practice.

But at just about every session, we also have new folks attend who are completely new to the instrument. We make it easy for beginners to join in the fun! Newcomers are finding that they can easily and quickly get on board and catch up with the folks who attend regularly. We have limited loaner instruments available courtesy of Moon Lake Elementary School, and have created a Beginners Ukulele Packet for all newcomers, who are offered a session with the instructors to get up to speed on the ins and outs of the ukulele and how to strum a few simple chords.

You can now find us on Facebook! “Mentone Ukes” was created to share stories and songs, and to encourage one another in between sessions. Feel free to contact Debra Fey on Facebook, email debrajfe@moonlakeschool.org or text/call 404-630-2918 if you have any questions or would like to be added to our ukulele contact list.

Plant Sale at Moon Lake School

Plants are for sale at Moon Lake School’s “Plants R Us” greenhouse. Pansies, violas, dianthus, snapdragons, and lace crystal cost \$1.50 for a 6-pack, \$3 for a quart pot, or \$10 for a hanging basket. All of these plants are able to be planted now, for early splashes of color in your garden. Six-packs of head and leaf lettuce are also for sale for \$1.50. To purchase plants, call the school office at 256-634-4113 or come by Moon Lake Community Library during open hours.





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Moon Lake Community Library News by Kelly Leavitt

Open Tues. & Thur. 3–6, Sat. 9-1 • 4607 AL-Hwy 117, Mentone • moonlakelibrary.org



Introducing Whisper Wednesday Wednesday 3/4, 4–6 pm

Our library is truly a community center, in so many ways. It's not a "quiet" library, since folks are often talking together, catching up on their lives and meeting new friends. Sometimes, though, it is nice to have that traditional quiet library experience, when you can browse the shelves, or sit in a comfortable chair and read, or use free wi-fi on your own device or one of the library's laptops that are free to use by patrons.

The first Wednesday of each month will be "Whisper Wednesday," when the library will be open from 4 until 6 p.m., and only whispering will be allowed. We will also be open on some additional Wednesdays, pop-up style, when we'll announce in emails and on Facebook that we'll be open. Be sure to keep informed about what's happening at the library by Liking our Facebook page or joining our email list at bit.ly/moonlakelibraryemail.

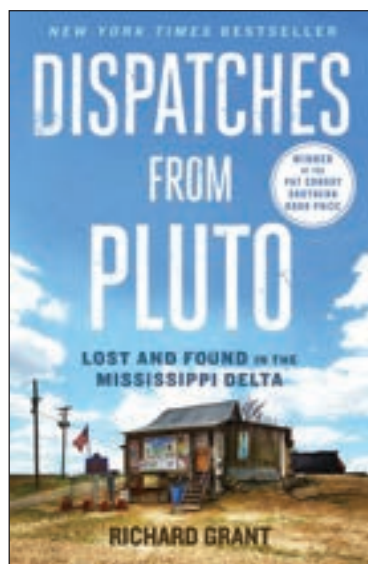
Moon Lake Book Club Saturday 3/14 @ 10:30 am

In *Dispatches from Pluto*, adventure writer Richard Grant takes on "the most American place on Earth"—the enigmatic, beautiful, often derided Mississippi Delta.

Richard Grant and his girlfriend were living in a shoebox apartment in New York City when they decided on a whim to buy an old plantation house in the Mississippi Delta. *Dispatches from Pluto* is their journey of discovery into this strange and wonderful American place. Imagine A Year In Provence with alligators and assassins, or Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil with hunting scenes and swamp-to-table dining.

On a remote, isolated strip of land, three miles beyond the tiny community of Pluto, Richard and his girlfriend, Mariah, embark on a new life. They learn to hunt, grow their own food, and fend off alligators, snakes, and varmints galore. They befriend an array of unforgettable local characters—blues legend T-Model Ford, cookbook maven Martha Foose, catfish farmers, eccentric millionaires, and the actor Morgan Freeman. Grant brings an adept, empathetic eye to the fascinating people he meets, capturing the rich, extraordinary culture of the Delta, while tracking its utterly bizarre and criminal extremes. Reporting from all angles as only an outsider can, Grant also delves deeply into the Delta's lingering racial tensions. He finds that de facto segregation continues. Yet even as he observes major structural problems, he encounters many close, loving, and interdependent relationships between black and white families—and good reasons for hope.

Dispatches from Pluto is a book as unique as the Delta itself. It's lively, entertaining, and funny, containing a travel writer's flair for in-depth reporting alongside insightful reflections on poverty, community, and race. It's also a love story, as the nomadic Grant learns to settle down. He falls not just for his girlfriend but for the beguiling place they now call home. Mississippi, Grant concludes, is the best-kept secret in America.



Community Game Nights Fridays 3/13 & 27 @ 6 pm

Enjoy playing a variety of games with your neighbors and friends (old and new) at Moon Lake Community Library. Bring your favorite game or come learn how to play a new one. Bring a finger food to share in the pot luck. Coffee, tea, and water will be provided. All ages are welcome.

AUTHOR TALK: Glenn Wills "Forgotten Alabama" Monday 3/16 @ 6:30 pm

Glenn Wills found his passion through a chance encounter with a collection of early 20th century photos in an old Victorian house in the Twickenham district of his hometown, Huntsville. "I was fascinated by them," he said. "To see life frozen in time—a mere fraction of a second from an earlier time, captured for all eternity. I realized how much I enjoyed seeing photos from the past. While I could not go back in time and recreate the photos, I could still find the remnants of what was. One day all these things will be gone and I felt an obligation to find and document them the best way I knew how. Through pictures."

While enjoying a career in television news as a photographer, and spending a great deal of time on the road, "I began to notice collapsing reminders of Alabama's past everywhere I went," said Glenn. "In 2012, I began to seriously pursue these vanishing remnants. The next year, I devised a comprehensive plan to map the entire state. I broke it up into 16 manageable sections and began going through those sections one by one. Every time I would find something I thought worthy, I would mark it on the map. What was initially a handful of locations grew to about 3000.

"Eventually, I managed to make it to all 67 counties, logged over 50,000 miles, and took about 40,000



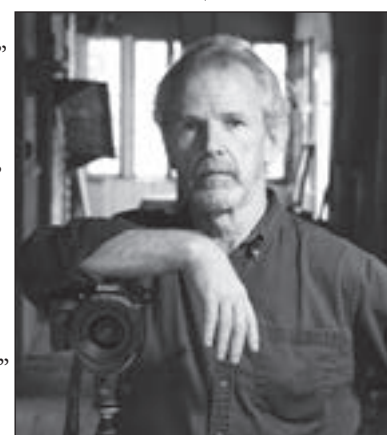
photographs. My first book, *Forgotten Alabama*, came out in early 2016. While waiting for its release, I gathered enough material for my second book, *More Forgotten Alabama*, which was released in December 2016. I envisioned a third book, and I wanted it to be the one that defined my journey. It took nearly three more years to create *200 Years of Forgotten Alabama*. This edition is truly the one I always wanted

to do. The vast majority of the book is new discoveries. I also revisited a few old favorites with new perspectives and included many of the things we lost. Many times, I wondered if I was the last person to document something while it still existed. I will say it was always a melancholy moment

to discover something

that was now gone. I am grateful to have had the opportunities to capture these lasting memories."

Join us for a multi-media presentation by author Glenn Wills on Monday, March 16, at 6:30 p.m. Light refreshments will be served. You can learn more about Glenn and his work at forgottenalabama.com or on his popular Facebook group at [facebook.com/groups/forgottenalabama1819](https://www.facebook.com/groups/forgottenalabama1819).



Glenn Wills



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GREAT VISIBILITY & TRAFFIC COUNT ON HWY 117 IN MENTONE! Work is completed on the exterior painting, roofing & general upgrading of the exterior of Mentone's iconic gas station and eatery, Helena's Gas & Deli. This is a thriving restaurant, bar & grill, store, and gas station business. So, why would Helena want to sell? Well, she says she's ready to retire and be with her grandbabies. (And she's selling it "Lock, stock and barrel.") Locals and visitors to Mentone alike know this is the place to go for delicious food, reasonable gasoline prices & cold beverages. Lots of paved parking & add'l wooded land behind the existing building for future growth. \$345,000 (1119821)

Mentone Realty is pleased to welcome Elizabeth Thornell to our Real Estate family. Elizabeth and her family are residents of Mentone and Tuscaloosa.

Let Elizabeth help you realize your Mentone dream!

Call or text her at 205-792-3580.



Elizabeth Way Thornell
Assoc. REALTOR®



A CABIN FOR EVERY SEASON. 2BR/2BA on 1.75 wooded acres. All wood interior; wood-burning Fplce w/stone hearth in vaulted living; handy galley kitchen; 2 screened porches; welcoming front porch w/swing; large deck w/add'd supports (for future hot tub); mostly furnished. Property is wooded, borders a small creek, & has a great outdoor fire ring w/benches for chilly evenings around the fire. Located in Laurel Creek Lakes which offers lakes for canoeing & well-maintained walking paths. \$179,900 (1128107)



KNOCK, KNOCK! Who's there? Well, it could be you! Cute & cozy cottage w/private upstairs guest quarters. Furnished. Front & back porches w/benches & swings. Main level w/hardwood floors; 1BR/1BA; light & breezy living area; handy kitchen. Upstairs is a tree-house-feel, efficiency apt w/claw-foot tub nook, privy closet, wood floors & multiple beds. Storage bldg. Near DeSoto Falls, State Park, Comer Scout Camp. Just off the parkway. \$119,000 (1124542)



TURN THE TENSION METER DOWN & shift the clocks to slow speed, because this custom home, with a view of a small lake, is the place for you to RELAX. Originally built as a full-time residence, it has become a top earner in rental program. Sold furnished. 4BR/3.5BA. Custom cabinetry; granite counter tops; SS appliances; stone FPLCE w/gas logs; open floor plan; exposed beams & wide-plank floors. Just off DeSoto Pkwy; easy access to Mentone, DeSoto St Park & Falls. \$295,000 (1130640)



SUMMERS REST. What a treasure! Filled with eclectic treasures gathered by the family through the years (that stay in the cottage, too!) Since 1950 for the family, this home is now for sale. Walking distance of downtown Mentone. A simple, cozy cottage, tucked into a tree-filled yard, just waiting for the next generation of owners to put their stamp on it. \$129,900 (1127722)

SOLD

LOTS and LAND

NEW LISTING! 10 ACRES OF WOODED LAND, WITH SPRING. Public water/power avail nearby. A driveway was cut into the property several years ago, still viable. If you've been considering building your own cabin in the woods, this might just be the place to start. \$65,000. (1137280)

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

11.03 UNRESTRICTED ACRES IN MENTONE, cornering 2 county roads (one paved, one chert), with driveway. Wooded, generally level-rolling in terrain, rich with wildlife. Ideal for someone who wants a few acres, maybe have a place to park a camper, build, do a little hunting, too. \$60,000 (1132226)

10.8 ACRES ON THE SOUTH BROW. The property is about 1/2 mile from the town of Mentone, with a view of the mountains in the distance. \$137,500 (1128138)

SOUTH COOL STREET BROW-FRONT property w/old stone fireplace chimney, part of foundation, plus small garage. Owned by the same family since early '20s. Approx 0.45-acre lot in an area where properties are seldom available. \$118,000 (1070474)

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



SPACIOUS CABIN HOME ON 3.31 ACRES, with pleasant, winding, private drive. 3BR/2.5BA, 2500 sq ft, one-owner home features a welcoming front porch & a deep, oversized back porch for easy entertaining outdoors. Open living/dining/kitchen features an efficient, wood-burning heater; hardwood floors. Main-level master suite. First level also offers a laundry room & 1/2 bath. Upstairs are two large bedrooms & guest bath. Two new CH/A units in Aug 2019. Outdoors, the property includes a well-equipped workshop/garage; a large pole barn for firewood with an attached chicken coop; and a combination of cleared/wooded land. Add'l land avail. \$264,500 (1128526)



OWN YOUR OWN LITTLE CANYON with Johnnie's Creek cascading through the forest below and 36 acres of beautiful, mostly-wooded land (on both sides of creek) & a fabulous, custom-built, cypress-sided home. Approx 3600 sq ft of deliciously-designed living inside, tremendous tree-top decks & porches outside! Two wood-burning fireplaces (one w/insert); Brazilian floors, windows galore, fab light fixtures throughout. Huge, open kitchen/living area. Tons of cabinetry, commercial-grade gas range, granite countertops; large pantry. A mountain escape, with simple luxury in a residence, hunting lodge or getaway. \$599,000 (1010510)





Little River Arts Council News by Rhea Pirch

The Little River Arts Council (LRAC) board of directors met for their monthly meeting on Wednesday, February 12, at the

Mentone Inn. We reviewed the plans for our annual meeting, which will be held on Saturday, March 14, at the DeSoto State Park Lodge. The event will include hors d'oeuvres, a cash bar, artist demonstrations, and the Native American flute music of musician Linda Arthur. The get-together is from 5 to 7:30 p.m. and is open to the public.

Two board members have announced their resignation from our board of directors. Holley Midgley and Jerry Megli have decided to leave the board for personal reasons. Folk artist Lacy Hope Dobbs and photographer/writer Steven Stiefel have been chosen to fill these positions, pending a membership vote at the annual meeting.

We're all looking forward to welcoming the

Fellowship Company of the Alabama Shakespeare Festival for their private performance of "A Midsummer's Night Dream" at Moon Lake School on Thursday, February 27. This performance is made possible in part through a grant from the Alabama State Council on the Arts. This year, Jessica Harper-Brown, LRAC board member and executive director



of Landmarks of DeKalb County, was able to schedule two additional performances of the play at the Fort Payne Opera House. The first performance, on Friday, February 28, will be for the students of DeKalb County schools, and the second performance, open to the public, is scheduled for Saturday, February 29. Tickets for Saturday's performance, which begins at 2 p.m., are \$10. Email landmarksdekalb@bellsouth.net or call 256-845-6888 to purchase tickets.

The Mentone Area Preservation Association (MAPA) has granted Little River Arts Council the funds to provide a free concert for the community on Friday, May 15, to kick off that weekend's Rhododendron Festival. Local favorite Will Dooley

and Friends will again entertain with old favorites and new songs from their upcoming album, which will be released at the concert. Be sure to mark your calendar!

Plans are in motion to start work on the "Pathway to Community," a collaborative project with the Mentone Educational Resources Foundation (MERF) and Little River Arts Council. This community-wide effort will enhance the walking trail adjacent to the MERF House with musical instruments, art, landscaping, lighting, and seating, thanks to a \$20,000 grant provided by the Community Foundation for Northeast Alabama. If you would like more information or to volunteer to help, email pathwaytocommunity@gmail.com.

We hope to see you all at our membership social on Saturday, March 14!

Rhea Pirch serves as the treasurer for Little River Arts Council.



Blessing of the Sacred Garden by Mike Keracher



The community is invited by St. Joseph's on-the-Mountain Episcopal Church to a short ceremony which will include a blessing for the church's sacred garden from Bishop Kee Sloan (the bishop of the Alabama Diocese) and the dedication of the garden to the entire community of Mentone. This ceremony will begin at 12:30 p.m. on Sunday, March 8, in the garden on Scenic Highway adjacent to the church.

Everyone is invited to take a walk through the garden after the ceremony to enjoy the peace and beauty of this wonderful new landmark in Mentone, which features a walking trail, seating, and a labyrinth.

Fireman of the Year by Ken Trowbridge and Vicky Patrick



Gary Smith, one of the North Lookout Mountain Fire Protection District's (Mentone) firemen, was elected "Fireman of the Year" at the Department's Christmas party. He and his lovely wife, Mary, moved to Mentone in 2013 upon his retirement. He joined the Fire Department in 2016 and has been a great addition to the Department. Besides his regular duties as a fireman, Gary has taken it upon himself to maintain the vehicles and Stations 1 and 2. Gary has done exceptional work in getting fire station #2 on CR 165 better organized and ensuring the vehicles are ready for the next call. Congratulations to Gary for a job well done!

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Ongoing Community Calendar

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Moon Lake Community Library is open on Saturdays from 9am–1pm, and Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3–5pm. Visit moonlakelibrary.org.

Chess players of all levels meet at Moon Lake Community Library on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3–5pm to play together. Visit moonlakelibrary.org.

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.

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.

Vinaya (flow) and Yin (restorative) yoga class with a certified instructor is held on Tuesdays from 6–7pm at Blue Jug. Suggested donation \$5—pay what you think is fair or can afford. Bring your own mat. Water is provided. 519 Gault Ave. N., Fort Payne. 256-648-5550

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

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

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

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

Exercise Room is open at the Fort Payne Senior Center, Monday through Friday (except for certain holidays), from

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

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.

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

Duos & Solos Square Dancing Club meets at the Fort Payne Senior Center on Thursdays 6:30–8:30pm. 600 Tyler Ave. SE, Fort Payne. Free Classes in February. Call 256-244-5320 to register.

Bridge Club meets at the Fort Payne Senior Center on Wednesdays from 12:30–3:30pm. 256-845-8590.

Sacred Harp singing at the Fort Payne Senior Center on the last Tuesday of each month through Oct. 6:30–8:30pm. 256-845-8590.

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It's Application Time for College Scholarships!

by Kat Griffith

For all of you high school seniors who are barreling down the home stretch of your final year, and all of you college students who are cramming at night and working hard during the day to fund your college experience... Now is the time to get excited and motivated to do what you can do to secure the education to fulfill your goals and dreams!

St. Joseph's on-the-Mountain Episcopal Church is grateful to continue its partnership with students in the Mentone area to offer college scholarships. We invite you to submit an application for our Van McCary Scholarship. Applications are being accepted through May 1.

This opportunity is open to you as a high school senior or someone interested in embarking on the challenges of further education or even a career change. The Van McCary Scholarship is based on financial need and academic record. It is available to those who live in or near Mentone and is available to students for four years, providing that applicants adhere to the stated guidelines each year.

Students at Valley Head High School can receive an application packet in the Counselor's office. Packets are also available at St. Joseph's on-the-Mountain at the corner of AL Highway 117 and Scenic Highway (CR 89). If you have questions or need more information, you can call the church at 256-634-4476 (Monday–Thursday 9 a.m.–2 p.m.), or Scholarship Chairperson Kat Griffith at 256-418-0092.

On Spring

BY THE STUDENTS OF MOON LAKE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Kindergarten

Brantley likes the hot weather.
Bryson likes going to the park.
Kate enjoys the water park.
Kaylee likes swimming.
Rhett likes playing with the toy that wiggles and shoots out water.
Ryland enjoys reading books outside.
Waylyn likes swimming.

Grade 1

Anna is happy when the flowers bloom, especially the roses.
Baxter likes the sun being out and playing basketball with his dad.
Christian likes seeing the flowers bloom and feeling the sun on his hands.
Landon picks flowers.
Mikey plays football with his brother.
Myles goes hunting with his dad and brother.
Naomi goes to the pool and has fun with her brother.
Randall enjoys the sunshine, picking apples, and his brother growing up.

Grade 3

Abby My favorite things about spring are school, swimming, and my birthday.

Alex My favorite thing about spring is the flowers bloom and some of them are yellow.
Aric My favorite about springtime is shooting nerf guns at my friends.
James My favorite thing about spring is spring break.
Jasmine My favorite thing about spring is the animals.
Jay My favorite thing about spring is to swim and play with my cat.
Lexi My favorite thing about spring is picking flowers, especially buttercups.
Madi My favorite thing about spring is when it gets hot and we get to play outside.
Maggie My favorite thing about spring is all of the pretty flowers.
Reid My favorite thing about spring is to ride my four wheeler.
Sydney My favorite thing about spring is the flowers.
Tripp My favorite thing about spring is when it starts getting hotter.

Grade 4

Addison My favorite part of spring is going on vacation.
Cade My favorite thing about spring is riding my bike and swimming and playing with toads.
Carson What I like about spring is playing outside and taking a break from school.

Kenya My favorite part of spring is Easter, because it is fun to play with family members and friends and it's fun to find the eggs.
Hunter I like spring because I like the flowers.
Lydia My favorite part about spring is when the flowers grow and the wind blows.
Sydney My favorite thing about spring is when the beautiful flowers come out.

Grade 6

Addison
Roses
Red, Beautiful
Sprouting, Growing, Gleaming
A beautiful, growing kind of flower
Gorgeous
Allyssa
Easter
Christian, religious
Finding, rejoicing, trusting
A joyful time of believing
Celebration
America
Flowers
pretty, unique
Growing, blooming, lasting
Pretty red flower in the field
Rose

Carly
Flower
Pretty, colorful
Blooming, growing, sprouting
sweet tasting flower by the lake
Honeysuckles
Isaac
Farming
garden, plant
Planting, weeding, picking
Planting food & watching it grow
gardening
Levi
flowers
beautiful, fresh
blooming, growing, smelling
they are pretty
roses
Owen
Break
Fun, happy
Playing, laughing, exciting
spend time with my Pawpaw & Nana
freedom
Raegan
Sunshine
Bright, Warm
Giggling, swimming, running
A time for having fun
Spring



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Nestled in the woods atop Lookout Mountain, near Mentone, Alabama, this quaint little chapel is surrounded by ferns, forest and flowers. The chapel is a scaled version of traditional Appalachian churches of days gone by. Stained glass windows filtering soft forest sunrays and soft organ music accent an ambience fitting the wedding ceremony. Inside, wooden pews will seat approximately 60 guests.
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.

To arrange your wedding or renewing of your wedding vows, call
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March Community Calendar

March 1—Memorial Celebration of Jimmy Rogers. Music, stories, & potluck at the Mentone Inn Pavilion. 1–3pm. Open to the entire community.

March 4 & 7—Waterfalls Van 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. These are easy-to-moderate hikes on rocky dirt trails. You will see some well-known waterfalls, as well as some hidden treasures. This trip is dependent on water levels. Bring plenty of water and/or sports drink, snacks, hiking poles/staff (optional), sturdy shoes (open toe shoes are not recommended). Be sure to dress appropriately according to seasonal temperatures/weather. We will be stopping at DeSoto State Park's restaurant for lunch or you can bring your lunch. Meet at JSU's Little River Canyon Center. 9am–2pm. JSU van shuttle for tour: \$25. Limited to 9 participants (ages 14 and up). Pre-registration is required. For more details and pre-registration, call 256-845-3548 or email jwayner@jsu.edu.

March 6—Canyon Kids: Discovery Hike. Bring your children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and neighbors to creatively learn about animals, plants, bugs, and more with JSU Field Schools. Your children (ages 3 years–3rd graders) will want to attend ALL of these hands-on outdoor adventures! Limited to 15 students. Little River Canyon Center. 9–10am. Pre-registration required. For more details and for pre-registration, call 256-845-3548 or email jwayner@jsu.edu.

March 7—Paperweight Class. This class is designed for those who really want to see what molten glass is all about. Feel the heat, gather from the furnace, and sculpt the glass into your own design. Reservations required. \$145 per person. Orbix Hot Glass. 9am–1pm. 256–523–3188.

March 7—Archaeology Hike: Sacred Stone Structures. Rock mounds, stone effigy structures and more. Join JSU archaeologist Dr. Harry Holstein for this fascinating hike in the Mountain Longleaf Refuge near White Plains, AL. The group will begin with a 45-minute “Sacred Stone” program in the Archaeology Lab at JSU. Hikes are moderate level with some steep, short trails to get to these structures. Meet in Room 142 Martin Hall (JSU Campus). 9am–3pm. \$20.

Limit 10 participants (ages 14 and up). Pre-registration required. For more details and pre-registration, call 256-845-3548 or email jwayner@jsu.edu.

March 7 & 14—Painting Party. Come join us as we paint a fun colorful unicorn on an 8”x10” canvas. \$25. Reservations must be made in advance. You can reserve your spot by paying in advance on Facebook or in store. Box Leaf Co. 430 Gault Ave. No., Fort Payne. 10am–11:30am.

MARCH 8 Daylight Saving Time

March 8—Blessing of the Sacred Garden. St. Joseph's on-the-Mountain Episcopal Church's community Sacred Garden will be blessed by the bishop of the Alabama Archdiocese. Everyone is welcome to attend this short ceremony. 12:30pm. 21145 Scenic Highway, Mentone.

March 9 & 23—Yoga on the Stage. Better your mind and body while appreciating your local history on the stage of the 130-year-old Fort Payne Opera House. Instructor Destin Padgett will lead you through a one-hour class to help reach your yoga and fitness goals. \$8/Landmarks of DeKalb members; \$10/non-members. 11am. Space is limited. For more information or to reserve your space, call 256–845–6888 or email landmarksdekalb@bellsouth.net.

March 11—Rhododendron Garden Club Meeting. Member and Horticulture Chairperson Martha Wood will present a program on Spring Bulbs for Fall Blooms. 10am. MERF House, 4561 AL Hwy 117, Mentone. To learn more about the Rhododendron Garden Club, email rhododendrongardenclub@gmail.com.

March 13 & 27—Community Game Nights. Bring your friends and family for an evening of playing a variety of board games at Moon Lake Community Library. Finger food potluck dishes are welcome. 6pm. 4607 AL Hwy. 117, Mentone. Free. moonlakelibrary.org.

March 14—Moon Lake Library Book Club. Discussion of “Dispatches from Pluto” by Richard Grant. Please read the book in advance and come join in the discussion. 10:30am. Moon Lake Library, 4607 AL Hwy. 117, Mentone. moonlakelibrary.org.

March 14—Little River Arts Council Membership Social & Open House. We'll

gather in the historic dining room (featuring the beautiful stonework laid by the men of the CCC in the 1930s). The fireplace will be lit, and the outside deck will be heated. Hors d'œuvres will be served, and a cash bar will be available. The full dinner menu and salad bar will be available for purchase. We will briefly review our activities of 2019 and discuss our plans for 2020. Several artists will demonstrate their skills throughout the evening, and live music will be performed. This event is open to all. We look forward to socializing with our members, as well as with those interested in learning more about the Arts Council! DeSoto State Park Lodge. 5–7:30pm. For information, email info@littleriverartscouncil.org or go to littleriverartscouncil.org/events.

March 14 & 28—Ukulele for Beginners. Free classes. 1pm. Moon Lake Community Library, 4607 AL Hwy. 117, Mentone. Look for Mentone Ukes on Facebook.

March 14—Free Dental Event. This is a free day of dental care that we offer to the adults in our community who do not have insurance and could not otherwise afford the care they need. You will have the opportunity to have one free service. You may have a free cleaning, a free extraction or a free filling. 7am–3pm. The first 75 people are guaranteed to be seen. Must be 18 years and older. Wilson & Fiquett Office. 256–845–0765.

March 14—Trail Trekker Hike Series: Waterfall Hike. Join DeSoto State Park & JSU Field School Staff for a fun day of hiking throughout the park to see some of DeSoto's waterfalls, big & small. See Lost Falls, Laurel Falls, Indian Falls, & more water features like Laurel Creek & the West Fork of Little River. Come on out and burn those calories while enjoying the Great Outdoors! The trail will be moderate, rugged terrain over approx. 5 to 6 miles. We will utilize the white, silver, & orange trails for this hike. 10am–3pm. Meet at DeSoto State Park's Country Store & Information Center on County Road 89. Free and open to everyone. No pre-registration required. Email Brittney.Hughes@dcnr.alabama.gov for details.

March 14—Sculpt Your Own Flower. Have you ever wanted to 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. 10:30am & 12:30pm. Reservations are required. 256–523–3188.

March 14–21—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! Will be held at the VFW Fairgrounds. Special pre-sale hours for consignors. 256–632–2420 or 256–638–5998.

March 15—St. Joseph's on-the-Mountain Annual St. Patrick's Day Dinner. Benefits the Food Bank Outreach Ministry at St. Joseph's. Menu includes corned beef, cabbage, potatoes, carrots, bread, drink, & dessert.

Tickets \$10/adults & \$5/children 12 & under. Available at the Mentone Market and the St. Joseph's office. 12 to 2 p.m. 256-634-4476.

March 16—Author Talk: “200 Years of Forgotten Alabama.” Photographer Glenn Wills will give a multi-media presentation. 6:30pm. Moon Lake Community Library, 4607 AL Hwy. 117, Mentone. Free.

MARCH 17 St. Patrick's Day

March 18—DeKalb County Kindergarten Registration. 8am–12pm.

MARCH 19 Happy Spring!

March 19—Yoga on the Mountain: Neverland Trail Yoga Hike. Join instructor Destin Padgett and park naturalist Brittney Hughes for a great outdoor experience of strengthening yoga poses AND hiking along beautiful trails. This hike will be a mix of trail hiking with an outdoor yoga session. Combining hiking and yoga practice in the great outdoors confers benefits unmatched in any other setting. You get the light cardio and strength building that hiking offers, the toning, flexibility, and relaxation that yoga offers, and the powerful connection to Mother Nature that being outdoors offers. Yoga poses are alignment-based, making them perfect for those beginning or continuing their yoga practice. Hike is approx. 3–1/2 miles round-trip, moderate difficulty. Trail weaves through hardwood forest with sandstone outcroppings, streams, wetlands, and an old homeplace along the trail. Open to ages 8 to adult. Wear closed-toe shoes & weather appropriate clothes; bring a hike-friendly yoga mat or towel if you wish (most poses will be standing poses), water and a snack. 4pm. \$10 per person; meet at DeSoto's Country Store on Co. Rd. 89. We will caravan to Lost Falls Trailhead. Pre-registration is required. Email Brittney.Hughes@dcnr.alabama.gov for more info or to pre-register.

March 21—Menlo's Annual Quilt Show. Quilting demonstrations, refreshments, prizes with vintage quilt displays, & a country store. 9am–3pm EDT. \$3. Lawrence Center, 71 Edison St., Menlo, GA.

March 21—Third Saturday Sunset Cruise In. A family fun event featuring a cruise-in, children activities, food, art show, and live entertainment! Gault Avenue in Downtown Fort Payne is closed from 1st to 5th Street for the event. A car cruise-in, music, and other entertainment will take place throughout the event as well. 5pm–9pm. For more information, contact Amelia at 256-996-3857 or Terry at 256-996-2668.

March 21—Fort Payne Reservoir and Wills Creek Cleanup. Little River Waterkeeper will team up with Nucor/Vulcraft and Fort Payne Water Works for the annual cleanup that removes litter from our drinking water reservoir. Nucor volunteers will also install 4 monofilament line recycling tubes for fishermen. Fort Payne Water Works will provide pizza for volunteers and Blue Jug Water will provide a water station in order to eliminate single use plastics. Little River



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March Community Calendar

Waterkeeper will provide supplies such as bags, work gloves and litter grabbers. 9am-1pm. For information call 256-634-8370 or email angie@littleriverwaterkeeper.org.

March 21—Season of Spring: Plants and their Remedies. Join Field School Instructor, Donna Smith, for our Spring class in the Seasonal Wellness Series. For the beginner to the experienced, this series will assist you in learning more about our native plants, their many uses, and seasonal preparation of your herbal medicine garden. JSU's Little River Canyon Center. 9am-3pm. \$25 supply fee. Pre-registration required. Call 256-845-3548 or email jwayner@jsu.edu. Limited to 20 students (ages 14 and up). Be sure to bring your lunch for the day, since lunch is not provided.

March 21—Trail Trekker Hike Series: DeSoto Scout Trail Section. Hike is approx. 5 miles round trip, moderate to strenuous along rocky mountainous terrain (from DSP Lodge to DST exit 2, come back CCC road). 10am-3pm. Meet at DeSoto State Park Lodge. Free and open to everyone; no pre-registration required.

March 21—Yoga on the Mountain: Dusk to Dark Yoga. Enjoy a yoga class along the banks of Little River, as the sun goes down and the full moon comes up. Experience the peace & quiet of the gloaming-time as yoga instructor Destin Padgett guides you with relaxing, alignment-based poses. Perfect for those beginning their yoga practice or for those wanting to try something new! Classes are open to local residents and park visitors alike. Bring mat/towel & water. Some mats and props available for use. Classes can be booked for groups. No pre-registration required! 5-6pm. Meet at DeSoto Fall Picnic area. \$5 per person. For any information, email Brittney.Hughes@dcnr.alabama.gov. If weather is questionable, please check with DSP Lodge before coming at 256-845-5380.

MARCH 23-27 Spring Break

March 23-27—Spring Break Camp For Kids. Has your child ever wanted to learn more about being outdoors? This class presented by Robert Wilson of Seven Pines Survival is perfect for them! The "Spring Break: Survival Adventure," for children ages 9-13 years of age, is a five-day class focused on

keeping you safe in the woods. We do not provide meals for this adventure, so we ask that you pack two snacks and a lunch for your kids' days out, along with a full water bottle, sun screen, and bug screen. We suggest wearing pants and hiking boots, a hat if they wish, and some gloves if they want. We will be tramping around in long grass, briers, and mud (aka having a blast!) This camp will also focus on nature and art. 8am drop off. 3pm pick up. Little River Canyon Center. \$200 per child. Pre-registration required; for more details and for pre-registration, call 256-845-3548 or email jwayner@jsu.edu. Limited to 10 students (minimum of 5).

March 26—DeKalb County Senior Prom "Sock Hop." Dress casual or 50s style with poodle skirts, saddle shoes, etc. Dance the night away. Or just eat fellowship and listen to amazing music. For DeKalb County residents only. 5-8pm. Wills Valley Recreation Center. Register by March 10. 256-845-8590.

March 26—Yoga on the Mountain: DeSoto Falls Basin Yoga Hike. Join instructor Destin Padgett and park naturalist Brittney Hughes for a great outdoor experience of strengthening yoga poses AND hiking along beautiful trails. This hike will be a mix of trail hiking with an outdoor yoga session. Combining hiking and yoga practice in the great outdoors confers benefits unmatched in any other setting. You get the light cardio and strength building that hiking offers, the toning, flexibility, and relaxation that yoga offers, and the powerful connection to Mother Nature that being outdoors offers. Yoga poses are alignment based which makes them perfect for those beginning or continuing their yoga practice. This hike is approximately 1.5 miles total but considered moderate to strenuous due to the mountainous terrain and elevation. We will be hiking on rocky terrain down to the West Fork of Little River and walking upstream to the view of DeSoto Falls. Hike is open to ages 8-adult. Please bring plenty of water and/or sports drink, snacks/lunch, hiking poles/staff (optional), sturdy shoes (open toe shoes are not recommended). Wear closed-toe shoes & weather appropriate clothes; bring a hike-friendly yoga mat or towel if you wish (most poses will be standing poses), water and a snack. 4pm. Meet at DeSoto Falls Picnic Area. \$10

per person. Pre-registration is required. Email Brittney.Hughes@dcnr.alabama.gov for more info or to pre-register.

March 28—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-served basis. 9am-2pm. Orbix Hot Glass. Cost is \$38 per ornament blown. 256-523-3188.

March 28—2nd Annual Art on the Wild Side. Tigers For Tomorrow presents the 2nd Annual Art on the Wild Side. We will have some very special and gifted artists on the grounds among the furies, as well as some great food, and more! Bring all of your family and friends! tigersfortomorrow.org

March 28—Art of Woodburning: Country Magnets. Pyrography, or woodburning, is the art of decorating wood or other materials, the term meaning "writing with fire" dating back to the 17th century. Participants in this class will learn the basic techniques of decorative wood burning and painting designs from artist April Blanks, and will work on their choice of designs for 3 magnets to take home. Ages 14-adult. 10am-12am and 1-3pm (2 class times to choose from). DeSoto State Park. \$25-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.

March 28—Guided Waterfall & Lost Cave Hike. Join the Little River Waterkeeper on a moderate hike to the legendary Welsh Caves and DeSoto Falls Basin. The trip will take approximately 2 ½ hours and group size is limited. \$20 per person. To register, call 256-634-8370 or email angie@littleriverwaterkeeper.org.

March 28—Hernando's Adventure Storytime Hike. Join Park Ranger Michael Langston on a hike along the Azalea Cascade Interpretive Trail in DeSoto State Park. Hike along and stop at points along the trail to hear the tale of a little raccoon named Hernando. Hernando is a little on the lazy side...and he gets left behind while his mother and siblings are off hunting for food. He awakens some time later to find himself alone...and hungry...and not really sure what to do! About the book: "Hernando's Adventure" is a short book for

children in which the ways of the woods are explained so that kids from pre-school to elementary school can understand them. About the hike: Trail is approx. .7 of a mile long on slightly rocky terrain (not suitable for strollers). Bring snacks/drinks/daypack if you wish. 12pm. Meet at DeSoto State Park's Country Store. Free, open to all age children & their family. No pre-registration required. For any details email Brittney. Hughes@dcnr.alabama.gov.

March 28—The Browders at the Pickin Post. Show at 6pm Tickets are \$15 For more information call 256-657-3817, 256-996-8910 or 256-845-4115.

March 30—Nature's Classroom: Plants. Are you ready to take the classroom outside beyond the typical 4 walls? This class series is designed for the home-schooling family. This program is 8 weeks long and will meet on the same day at the same time every week (for the entire day). To get the most out of this series, you should attend every class. Each week will build from the previous week's lessons. This class is designed for the family (ages 6 and up). This series will focus on plant education and some wildcrafting. This a great class for kids: draw, write, build your own journal for plant identification, and build your own herbariums. Extra information is also provided each week so that the parents can go home and reinforce/ further instruct on that week's lesson material. 9:30am-3pm. Little River Canyon Center. \$200 per family for the full 8 weeks. Pre-registration required. For more details and for pre-registration, contact Robert Wilson at Seven Pines Survival (sps@sevenpinesurvival.com). Must have a minimum of 3 families for this class.

March 30—Hike with a Naturalist. Join the JSU Field School staff as we hit the trail and explore Little River Canyon National Preserve. Bring plenty of water and/or sports drink, snacks, hiking poles/staff (optional), sturdy shoes (open toe shoes are not recommended). Be sure to dress appropriately according to seasonal temperatures/weather. As with all outdoor events, if it's raining/stormy or very poor trail conditions, we may have to cancel, so check with the park before leaving home. 9am. For details, contact 256-845-3548.

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Sponsorship Opportunities

Mentone's RHODODENDRON FESTIVAL



Funding for the Mentone Area Preservation Association (MAPA) comes from our two annual festivals (May's Rhododendron Festival and October's Colorfest), festival sponsorships, membership dues, and *Groundhog* subscriptions and advertising. We invite you to be a Festival Sponsor and partner with MAPA so we can fulfill our mission and continue to support 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/sponsor-opportunities for a sponsorship form or email sharonhmapa@gmail.com with any questions.

Sponsors will receive name recognition on festival brochures, press releases, social media, and MAPA's website. Varying levels receive the following:

- * Rhododendron Sponsor \$1,000**
Name and logo recognition on an individual 1/4-page color announcement in May's *Groundhog* (\$125 value) and an individual 1/6-page color announcement in June's *Groundhog* (\$95 value)
- * Mountain Laurel Sponsor \$500**
Name and logo recognition on an individual 1/6-page color announcement in May's *Groundhog* (\$95 value); Name recognition on group "Mountain Laurel Sponsors" 1/4-page color announcement in June's *Groundhog*
- Wild Azalea \$250**
Name and logo recognition on an individual 1/8-page color announcement in May's *Groundhog* (\$65 value); Name recognition on group "Wild Azalea Sponsors" 1/6-page color announcement in June's *Groundhog*
- Wild Hydrangea \$100**
Name recognition on group "Wild Hydrangea Sponsors" 1/8-page color announcement 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

JOIN IN THE FEAST OF ST. PATRICK

by Rebecca Henderson

March is upon us, and it soon will be time to celebrate St. Patrick's Day. But in Mentone we don't just wear green — we join together to eat and help those in need. Everyone in the community is invited to St. Joseph's on-the-Mountain for the annual St. Patrick's Day Dinner on Sunday, March 15, from 12 to 2 p.m. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children age 12 and under and are available at the Mentone Market and the St. Joseph's office.

The menu includes corned beef, cabbage, potatoes, carrots, bread, drink, and dessert.

Prepared by the Episcopal Church Women (ECW), the traditional Irish meal benefits the Food Bank Outreach Ministry at St. Joseph's, which serves approximately 50 families per week. Come, bring your loved ones and know that you're helping prevent others from going hungry.

If you're lucky enough to eat this meal, you're lucky enough!

For information about the dinner or ECW's programs, call the church office at 256-634-4476.



A SPRING FARM-TO-TABLE DINNER

Saturday, April 25th

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Experience Tiny Living on Lookout Mountain!

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

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

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12333 Hwy 48, Menlo, GA 30731
RiverRidgeEscape.com 706-936-0007

... In Memoriam ...

CORRECTION

In our February issue, Charles Hammonds' birthday was incorrectly listed. His correct birthday is October 10, 1927. We apologize for the mistake, which was pointed out by Mr. Hammonds' daughter, Pam: "If he had been born in 1940, he wouldn't have been 92 years old (haha). However, about 60 is how old he acted and felt! He was in excellent health for his age. Dad loved the MERF meeting and lunches!"

CECIL EDWARD BATY

July 16, 1928 – Jan. 30, 2020

Cecil Baty passed away on January 30, 2020. He is survived by his sons, Edward Baty (Veronica), Billy Baty (Debbie), and Rickey Baty (Max Mitchell); sister, Willie Jean Baty; grandchildren, Starla Graves, Robin Schrader, Jennifer Davis, Tessica Bullock, and Colby Baty; great-grandchildren, Brittany Lucia, Courtney Graves, Connor Schrader, Haden Bullock, Carson Bullock, Micayla Baty, and Violet Baty; great great-grandchildren, Kallie Graves and Brooklyn Lucia; special friend, Marilyn Blanton Campbell; and special buddy (cat): Tigger. He was preceded in death by parents, Bill and Ida Baty; wife, Jewel Land Baty; sisters, Burma Womack, Delphie Taylor, and Margie Coots; and brother, Eugene Baty. Burial was in Bankhead Cemetery in Mentone.

BOBBY SCOTT BLALOCK

Dec. 28, 1962 – Feb. 4, 2020

Bobby Scott "Ace" Blalock, age 57, of Menlo, GA, died Tuesday, February 4, 2020. Mr. Blalock was born December 28, 1962, in Summerville, GA, son of Martha Sue Posey Morgan and the late Bobby Joe Blalock. Mr. Blalock is survived by his son, Tyler Blalock; daughters, Terri Blalock and Khloe Bryant; mother, Martha Sue Morgan; brother, Chris Morgan; and grandchildren, Adaleigh Triplett, Emmaleigh Blalock, Jaicee McGregor, and Berkeley McGregor.

DONNIE LOY BLANSIT

Feb. 22, 1959 – Jan. 26, 2020

Donnie Loy Blansit, 60, of Valley Head, passed away on January 26, 2020. He is survived by his sons, Chris Baldwin, Patrick Baldwin, and Simon Abel; brother, Tommy Blansit (Michelle); sisters, Patricia Blansit and Barbara Davis (Leonard); five grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews. He was preceded in

death by his parents, Loy and Myrtle Blansit; brothers, Roy Blansit and Ronald "Bones" Blansit; and sister, Carolyn Blansit. Burial was at Head Springs Cemetery in Valley Head.

JOSHUA EDWARD ELROD

Oct. 10, 1982 – Feb. 23, 2020

Joshua Edward "Josh" Elrod, age 37, of Menlo, GA, passed away Sunday, February 23, 2020, at his residence. Mr. Elrod was born October 10, 1982, in Rome, GA, the son of Charles Edward Elrod and the late Phyllis Ann Elrod. He was an avid hunter and fisherman and a member of Chelsea Baptist Church. Survivors include his wife, Anna Elrod; son, Chance Elrod; daughter, Rosie Elrod; father, Eddie Elrod; and brother, Justin (Jaci) Elrod.

CLAUDE HOYT HAMPTON

Aug. 27, 1935 – Feb. 20, 2020

Claude Hoyt Hampton, age 84, of Cloudland, GA, died Thursday, February 20, 2020, at his residence. Mr. Hampton was born August 27, 1935, in Cloudland, son of the late William Ira and Charlotte Maude Tallent Hampton. Prior to his retirement, he was employed with J.P. Smith Lumber Company. In addition to his parents, Mr. Hampton was preceded in death by his wife of 52 years, Carolyn Ann Hollingsworth Hampton; a son, Rickey Lamar Hampton; and a grandson, David Guffey.

Survivors include a son, Terry Hampton; daughters, Lisa Hampton, Brenda Guffey, Barbara Hampton, and Linda Erwin; a sister, Ruth Campbell; grandchildren, Carrie Patty, Kayla (Kevin) Hartline, Levi Smith, Christy Downey, Steven Downey; and great-grandchildren, D.J. Etchison, Karson Hartline, Brayden McCowen, Sierra Downey, and Anthony Downey.

JAMES ALBERT JOHNSON

Oct. 20, 1932 – Feb. 23, 2020

James "Albert" Johnson, Sr. age 87, of Mentone, died Sunday, February 23, 2020, at Redmond Medical Center in Rome, GA. Mr. Johnson was born October 20, 1932, in Cherokee County, AL, son of the late James P. and Florence Mae Frances Johnson. He was a retired farmer and contractor. In addition to his parents, he is preceded in death by a brother, George Johnson and one sister, Thelma June Scruggs. Mr. Johnson is survived by his wife, Cynthia Johnson; one son, James A. "Muscles" Johnson and his wife Tammy; five sisters, Virginia Nichols, Agnus Farmer, Mary Youngblood, Gladys Bentley and

Jan Black; five grandchildren, Jennifer Reese (Robert Hays), Emily (Jason) Hampton, Maggie Johnson, Andrew Flood, and Sam Johnson; and five great-grandchildren.

CLAUDE FRANCIS MAJORS

June 2, 1942 – Feb. 8, 2020

Claude Francis "Frank" Majors, age 77, of Menlo, GA, passed away Saturday, February 8, 2020, following an extended illness. He was born in Chattoogaville, GA, on June 2, 1942, the son of the late Charlie S. and Vera Mae Ray Majors. Besides his parents, he was also preceded in death by a brother, the late Donald E. Majors. Mr. Majors was a loving husband, father, granddad, and great granddad. He was a member of the Faith Baptist Church in Menlo and the Mohawk Elite Club, and he was a Mason. He was employed with Bigelow/Mohawk for 33 years; was a part-time deputy for Sheriff John Frank McConnell; served as Fire Chief and Councilman for the Town of Lyerly; and was a Chattooga EMT for over 12 years. Surviving are his wife, Nancy E. Majors, to whom he was married for 52 years; three sons, Troy Allen Staehly, Cedar Bluff, AL, Tony Ray Staehly, Piedmont, AL, and Frankie E. (Debbie) Majors, Summerville; three grandchildren, John Staehly, Nicholas S. Staehly, and Tiffany Majors Bearden; several great grandchildren; and a number of nieces, nephews and other relatives.

EMILY MCNEW

Aug. 27, 1953 – Feb. 7, 2020

Emily Norwood McNew, 66, passed away Friday, February 7, 2020, at her home surrounded by her beloved family. She was born August 27, 1953, in Scottsboro, Alabama, to the late Welton Hoover Norwood and Sue Austin Norwood. She was a faithful member of First United Methodist Church for over 40 years.

Emily loved to read and to relax at the beach and the lake. She loved her family, her friends, her animals, and she was always on time! She is survived by her husband of 41 years, Dr. Joe McNew; daughter, Suzanne Baggett and husband, Jon; son, Alan McNew and wife, Whitley; her beloved grandchildren, who did not have a granny or a memaw, but who affectionately knew her as "Emme": Zoey Kate and Luke Joseph Baggett and Brexley Kate and Pippa Grace McNew; brother, Thomas Norwood; sister, Sharon Chastain; special family friend and caregiver, Renee Thomas; and a host of beloved friends.

BILL RUPIL

May 8, 1946 – Jan. 31, 2020

William E. "Bill" Rupil, age 73, of Valley Head, passed away January 31, 2020, at DeKalb Regional Medical Center. Mr. Rupil was born in Fort Payne on May 8, 1946, to the late Marion and Neda Green Rupil. Mr. Rupil was a lifelong educator, directly touching the lives of children for a total of 41 years. Employed by the Fort Payne Board of Education, he began his career as a history teacher at Williams Avenue Elementary School, where, after 11 years, he served as principal from 1979–1983. He became Assistant Superintendent in 1984 where he remained until retiring in June of 2009. He also served as the time keeper of high school basketball and football games. Mr. Rupil is survived by his wife of 46 years, Rita Chambers Rupil; children, Bethany Lynn Rupil, Jason Marion Rupil, and Jared Trent; chosen daughter, Abby Abbott; brother, Kenneth Rupil; sisters, Lois Horton and Mildred Barnes; nephews, Jim Kirby, Bobby Horton, Pat Horton, and David Barnes; nieces, Neda Goggans and Caroline Gentry; along with multiple great-nephews, great-nieces, friends, and church family.

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Rim of the Canyon Café
& Grocery

Mentone Area Church Directory

Mentone, Alabama

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Hammondville, Alabama

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

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

Valley Head, Alabama

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

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

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

Wildwood Seventh Day Adventist Church, Mentone Chapter, holds services in 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.

*Every day is a renewal,
every morning
the daily miracle.*
—Gertrude Stein

Fort Payne, Alabama

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

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

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

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

New Oregon United Methodist Church is located just off DeSoto Parkway, 1/4 mile south of Fischer Crossroads. We invite you to worship with us on Sundays. Sunday School for all ages 9:45am, Traditional Worship 11am, and Sunday Evening Service 6pm. Sunday Evening youth meet at 5:30pm. We have Wonderful Wednesdays during the school year with Bible studies for all ages, meal at 5:30pm and classes at 6:15pm. We also have Wednesday morning Bible study at 8:45am, and

knitting every Tuesday at 9am. Pastor Ian Conerly. 1204 New Oregon Drive NE. 256-845-7446.

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

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

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

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

Cloudland, Georgia

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

Menlo, Georgia

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

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

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

Summerville, Georgia

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

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

Please send any changes to
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Miss Rhododendron Pageant



Presented by Mentone Area Preservation Association

Friday, May 8, 2020 at 6 p.m. CDT

Mentone Community Church, Worship Center
90 Summerville Road, Mentone

Miss Rhododendron is part of the annual Rhododendron Festival, May 16 & 17

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