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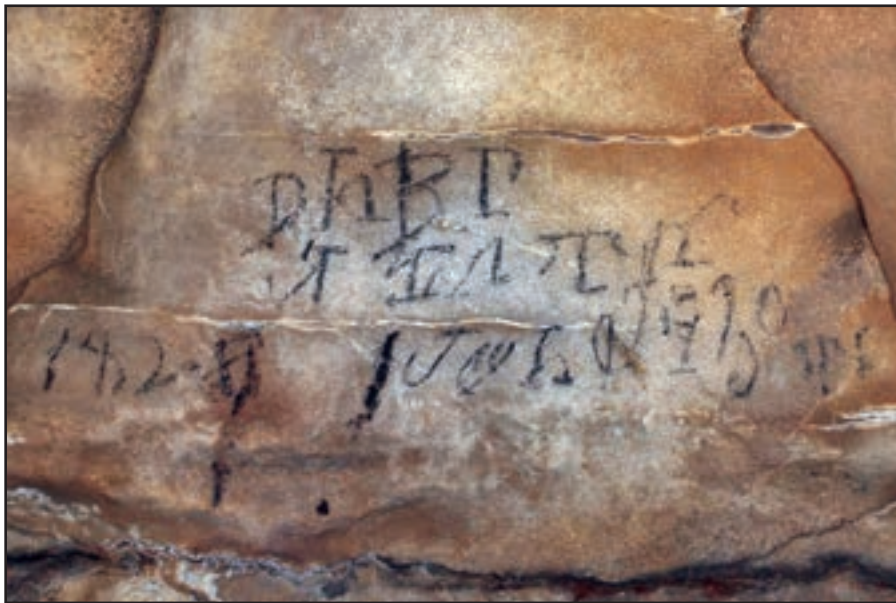
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"Neighborly News from the Heart of Lookout Mountain"

May 2019

TALKING STONES CHEROKEE SYLLABARY IN MANITOU CAVE by Kelly Leavitt



Cherokee syllabary inscription (photograph by A. Cressler)

Manitou Cave, located in Fort Payne, recently received global recognition when *Antiquity Journal* published a report on the presence of Cherokee inscriptions inside the cave. A team of Cherokee scholars and Euro-American archaeologists have recorded and interpreted the inscriptions. Beau Duke Carroll, Alan Cressler, Tom Belt, Julie Reed, and Jan F. Simek authored the report, "Talking Stones: Cherokee Syllabary in Manitou Cave, Alabama."

A syllabary represents the syllables of a language with a set of written characters. Famed scholar Sequoyah developed the Cherokee syllabary during the time he lived in our area in the early 19th century. Sequoyah's syllabary consisted of 85 characters which represented all the sounds of the Cherokee language. Until this time, the Cherokee had no way of writing. Recognizing the significance of the syllabary, it was formally adopted by the tribe in 1825 and was immediately used widely. By the time of the forced removal of the Cherokee on the Trail of Tears in the 1830s, most Cherokee were literate.

Manitou Cave is located in Lookout Mountain near the early 19th century

Cherokee community of Willstown, once called "the most important town in the Cherokee Nation." Willstown has become modern-day Fort Payne.

The cavern is 1.67 kilometers long, with a pristine subterranean stream flowing through it. This is significant because the Cherokee considered access to such water to be important to their rituals.

The *Antiquity Journal* report marks the first time that indigenous uses of the cave have been recorded. From the 1880s until the 1950s and 60s, the cave was a popular tourist attraction. It is assumed that during this time, archaeological evidence of indigenous use became obscured or obliterated. The inscriptions—evidence of first-person accounts for how the cave was used—reveal moments in time during a quite limited period, between the invention of the syllabary and the departure of the Cherokee from the area. These inscriptions reveal evidence for secluded ceremonial activities at a time of crisis for the Cherokee.

Researchers have concentrated on two main groups of Cherokee inscriptions, although further individual or 'stray' syllabary inscriptions exist. The report's

(continued on page 4)

Rhododendron Festival

May 18 & 19 in Mentone
Arts, Crafts, Live Music, Festival Food,
Boat Rides & More!

mapamentone.com/rhododendron-festival



It's May... the traditional time for rhododendrons! The annual Rhododendron Festival will be held on Saturday and Sunday, May 18 and 19. Presented by the Mentone Area Preservation Association (MAPA), the festival will showcase local and regional artists and crafts makers in and around Mentone's Brow Park and the site of the former Mentone Springs Hotel. There is no admission charge to the festival. Festival-goers will have their choice of a variety of traditional festival foods from over 15 vendors who be serving everything from roasted corn to fried Oreos.

Live music will be performed at the Brow Park Pavilion throughout the weekend. A great selection of musicians will have something to please everyone. Free art play will be offered at the big tent on the hotel site, accompanied by music, storytelling, poetry, and more, thanks to Willowynn Art Expressions.

Stop by MAPA's Festival Information Booths at Brow Park and at the old Mentone Hotel Springs site for information or directions. At these booths, you can pick up a festival brochure, buy raffle tickets for a Lydia Randolph painting (\$2 each or 3 for \$5), and purchase

(continued on page 3)

THE GROUNDHOG



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

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Do you have a story idea?

Perhaps a poem or recipe?

We welcome contributions!

Email groundhognews@yahoo.com

Mentone Matters • by Mayor Rob Hammond



center. Restrooms would be available. The large room can be used for public functions—voting, meetings requiring more space than the present council room can accommodate. The room could be rented out for private events. At present the town plans to honor the lease with Plowshares.

Tutwiler Gap has reopened. We appreciate the efforts of District 1 commissioner Shane Wooten, the county commission, and the county road department in expediting this project.

Litter has already begun to accumulate up and down the mountain on AL 117. At some point Chief McKee wants to organize a litter posse of volunteers to pick it up before Rhododendron Festival.

Recently I walked the route of the proposed sidewalk with two engineers from Ladd Environmental and two engineers from ALDOT. The proposed route goes from Mentone Market to Dempsey Avenue. Ladd Environmental will soon submit plans to ALDOT for approval. Hopefully work can begin in the near future.

The council has voted to purchase the Kamama building across from Town Hall for a price of \$250,000. We are excited about the potential uses for this property. The right side could become a visitors' center where we can showcase Mentone. Volunteers could man the

Letter from the Editor



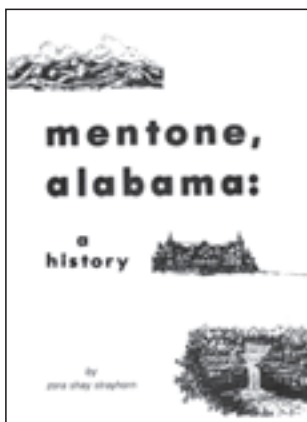
May in Mentone means the Rhododendron Festival is upon us! Much dedicated work has gone into planning and organizing, always with the goal to present the most enjoyable festival possible. It's a time when thousands of folks come to town to savor the beauty and friendliness of Mentone for a day or two, and when artists and crafts makers are able to share their work with the world, in a uniquely beautiful setting. Please drop by *The Groundhog's* booth to say hi!

As you'll see in this issue, there's a lot happening in and around town this month. This being Mentone, much of it centers around art and music. I hope you'll be able to attend some of the events and programs that have been planned. Music and art are always good for the soul, and we're fortunate to be surrounded by so much talent.

I wish a very happy Mother's Day to all you moms and grandmoms. This year marks my daughter's first Mother's Day and I'm thrilled she's getting to know how deeply a mother's love reaches. Of course, it's always a poignant time for those of us whose mothers have already passed on. It really helps us appreciate the time we had with them.

We are all enjoying a beautiful spring this year. The flowers on our land seem especially prolific, perhaps because of the mild, wet winter we experienced. The cosmos are a riot of color, as they fling freely this way and that. The native columbines seem especially abundant this spring, reaching an unusual height, as if to say, "Look at me!" What a pleasure they are. I've been admiring some native trees on our land that have delicate, fringed white flowers, with the most luscious scent. Today I learned they are Fringe trees, commonly known in the South as a Grancy Greybeard. What a name! Some days, it seems that the only thing missing during springtime in Mentone is enough time to enjoy it all. I hope you all are able to fully immerse yourselves in the beauty that surrounds us this spring. —Kelly

Learn about the History of Mentone



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

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

Groundhog wood cut courtesy of Meg Justice.

Mentone Area Preservation Association

by Mark Hoffman



Howdy folks, I hope you are enjoying this glorious spring weather as much as I am. I'm looking forward to my daughter Erin's wedding in Mentone this month. She and her fiancé live just outside of Ashville, NC, but insisted on being in Mentone with family and friends for the big day! Hopefully we can get them here on a more permanent basis at some point in the future.

The MAPA Board was pleased to

approve and fund a grant request from Anne McLeod on behalf of the Moon Lake Elementary School library this past month. She is trying to fill a very important gap in the school library's materials: Alabama history, culture, and literature. We appreciate all of her efforts, and are honored to help provide these invaluable resources for the children of the Mentone community. If your local organization has a specific need that we may be able to assist with, please don't hesitate to go to our website to

complete and submit a grant application. We try to consider and vote on them in prompt fashion.

In parting, don't forget to come join us and all of the wonderful vendors, artists, and entertainers at this year's Rhododendron festival. Please stop by the MAPA booth and say "Hi"!

Mark Hoffman is president of the Mentone Area Preservation Association.

Become a MAPA Member Today!

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

Individuals \$20/year

Couples \$30/year

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

MAPA
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MapaMentone.com

Thank You, Mentone by Jim Byrum

St. Joseph's Episcopal Church expresses thanks to all of Mentone for generously supporting our food ministry programs. We especially thank Desoto Camp for Girls and Camp Laney for donations of food; Mildred's Meadows Farm for donations of meat and eggs; The Farm at Windy Hill for gifts of vegetables and produce and Mountain Sun Farm for their donations of produce. We thank Mentone's community of churches, especially Cove Road Baptist, Moon Lake Baptist, Mentone Community Church, and Mentone United Methodist Church for their financial support and gifts of food throughout the year and our own St. Joseph's parishioners for their ongoing support. We also thank the Upper Sand Mountain Parish in Sylvania for sharing produce and baked goods.

We are appreciative of the mail carriers and staff of the Mentone Post Office for what they do during the Mail Carriers Food Drive in May and Katie Cobble for remembering that many of our food pantry shoppers have pets and keeping us supplied with dog and cat food.

This ministry would not be possible without our group of dedicated volunteers who show up every

week to assist our shoppers, unload food, stock our shelves, prepare and deliver week end Snacks in a Back Pack to Moon Lake School, pick up food from the Upper Sand Mountain Parish and North Alabama Food Bank, and whatever else is needed. We are truly blessed to have these individuals on our side: Liz and Norm Baker, Domenic Fulginiti and Lesly Stephens, Ron and Marsha Merrell, Barbara Umland, Annette Williams, Kathy Norrell, Kat and Wesley Griffith, Buddy Cole, Joan Fisher, JD Trammell, Joan and Jim Byrum, Paul Howell, Kathy Casler, Jan Newhoff, and Mike Keracher. We are thankful for our Administrative Assistant, Melinda Baugh, who receives gifts of food, toilet paper, and dog and cat food throughout the week. We are grateful for our rector, Rev. Bill Winters, who is always ready to help unload food and greet our Wednesday morning shoppers with a joke and a smile.

This is truly a "neighbor helping neighbor" ministry.

For those who need food assistance, we are open every Wednesday from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Rhododendron Festival (continued from page 1)

the book "Mentone, Alabama: A History" by Zora Strayhorn (\$15), collectible festival posters (\$10); and live rhododendron plants (\$45).

This will be a great opportunity to learn more about our community's organizations. Drop by their booths and learn about MAPA, DeSoto Rescue Squad, the Mentone Arts and Cultural Center, the Mentone Educational Resources Foundation, The Groundhog, and Little River Arts Council. Moon Lake Community Library's booth will feature a giant book sale.

The weekend's activities will kick off on Friday night, May 17, when the Little River Arts Council will present a family-friendly concert at the pavilion behind the Mentone Inn. Will Dooley will perform from 7 until 10 p.m. This free concert is made possible thanks to a grant provided by MAPA. A fish fry will begin at 5:30 p.m.

MAPA extends its thanks to festival organizer Sharon Habin, who has worked tirelessly to tend to all the details that need to be addressed. Please be sure to extend your thanks to her if you see her. (She likes hugs!) Thanks, too, to the great Vendor

Team, Chris and Tracy Davenport, who selected this year's featured artists and crafts makers, and who maintain communication with them, from emailing their acceptance letter to welcoming them when they arrive at their booth space. Many thanks, as well, to all the terrific volunteers who have generously offered their time and talents.

Festival proceeds go toward supporting MAPA's mission to preserve and protect the heritage, natural environment, and other unique qualities of life in the Mentone area.

See page 12 for details about parking and shuttle stops, as well as other activities during the weekend. The special pull-out section in the center spread lists the music schedule and booth assignments, as well as a festival map.

Visit mapamentone.com/rhododendron-festival and be sure to check the "Mentone Alabama Festivals" page on Facebook to learn about any added activities, as well as for weather updates during the weekend.

Burn Ban in Effect May 1–October 31

Under Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM) regulations, non-agricultural burns in DeKalb County are not allowed from May through October 31. During this time, the Alabama Forestry Commission does not issue burn permits for miscellaneous burns or for land clearing. Burn permits may only be issued for wildlife, hardwood control, other understory, piled debris (for silvicultural site prep only), scattered debris, and agriculture. For more information, contact Don Barron, ADEM, 334-271-7879.

Manitou Cave (continued from page 1)

authors write, "All of these inscriptions in the two areas concern ceremonial and/or spiritual matters; they were probably made in the seclusion of the cave and were not intended for general audiences. With this in mind, we provide only limited translation of inscriptions that contain culturally sensitive material."

Signatures of Cherokee ceremonial leaders are near the inscriptions, including two by Richard Guess, considered to be one of Sequoyah's children.

The first inscription is translated to mean "the leaders of the stickball team on the 30th day in their month April 1828". The word "their" is taken to refer to the Euro-Americans, who use named months. A nearby inscription reads "we who are those who have blood come out of their nose and mouth." The researchers have concluded that this inscription refers to the traditional Cherokee game of stickball, which is similar to lacrosse. More than a game, though, it is a ceremonial event that can continue over the course of days, with a focus on competition between two communities who, together, "epitomize the spirit and power of the people and their ancestors." It could be a brutal game among the warriors, thus the reference to blood.

Then, and now, before each game the teams undergo ritual preparation in seclusion. Access to "purifying sacred waters" is necessary. This is the event recorded on the walls of Manitou Cave—the ballgame players preparing themselves spiritually for the game and cleansing themselves in the secluded subterranean waters.

Another series of inscriptions is located on the ceiling closer to the entrance of the cave. "All of these ceiling inscriptions relate to sensitive religious subject matters," the report reads. "We will not present their complete translation here; instead we consider their context as much as their content." The ceiling inscriptions are written backwards, as if addressing readers inside the rock itself—this corresponds with part of one inscription which reads "I am your grandson". This is how the Cherokee might formally address the "Old Ones" or Cherokee ancestors. "While Old Ones can include deceased Cherokee ancestors, they can also comprise other supernatural beings who inhabited the world before the Cherokee came into existence," the report states. "If Manitou Cave was seen as a portal to the spirit world—the words or phrases must be written backwards to be legible to spiritual residents."

The inscriptions analyzed by the researchers responsible for the report indicate that caves like Manitou were seen by the Cherokee as "spiritually potent places, where wall embellishment was appropriate in the context of ceremonial action."

Despite layers of more recent signatures and graffiti which cover the walls near the Cherokee message to the Old Ones, the Cherokee voice in Alabama did in fact outlast the Trail of Tears.

To learn more about Manitou Cave or to request a visit, see manitoucaveofal.org, where you can find a link to the *Antiquity Journal* article under the "News" link.

Manitou Cave of Alabama is a non-profit organization founded in 2016 by director and steward Annette Reynolds that is charged with the mission to "respect and protect this historic, sacred site through conservation and education so that the cave, land and water are preserved for visitors and wildlife, as a place of peace."

Highway 117 Looks Fabulous!

by Lyle Nicely

Thank you, thank you, thank you! The Annual Mentone Clean-up is a great way to see a big impact in just three hours of focused trash pickup each year. This year, we were able to clean from the bottom of the mountain to the Georgia state line.

Thank you to all the hard working volunteers who picked up trash along the road side on Saturday, March 30. YOU make our community great! WE could not have had such a successful cleanup without YOUR generous help. This year we had more volunteers and picked up more trash than ever before. YEAH! Have Pride and Take Part!



Clean-up Organizer Lyle Nicely

Special thanks to David Mays for smoking the meat for the picnic to Larry Joe Hall for the wonderful music while we ate, and to the Mentone Inn for the use of their beautiful facilities!

THANK YOU to everyone who picks up trash ALL during the year. Many people notice!

THANK YOU to all the wonderful folks who brought food and helped set up for the picnic:

- Cynthia Stinson
- Hanna Stinson
- Bruce Bonfleur
- Lisa Schad
- Debbie Cohen
- Fontana Stinson
- Donna Hedgepeth
- Lydia Randolph
- Jerry Justice
- Mary Alice Stout
- Donna Sutton
- Liz and Norm Baker
- Christie Plunkett
- Angela Hadley

This really has become a true community event. THANK YOU!



Volunteers enjoy a well-deserved lunch.

Many thanks to our great Sponsors:

- Camp Laney
- Joseph Lee Construction
- Town of Mentone
- BJ's Foodmart
- Wildflower Restaurant
- Mountain Top Store
- Mentone Inn
- Rhododendron Garden Club
- Mentone Market
- Ecological Designs
- Plowshares Bistro
- Mentone Police for blue light assistance
- DeKalb County Sheriff and trustees for cleaning AL-117 up the Mountain



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Little River Arts Council News

Music for the People by Rhea Pirch

Little River Arts Council is delighted to once again offer a summer of music, at no charge, to the Mentone community and beyond.

The first concert will be held on Saturday, May 18, during the Rhododendron Festival. With the help of a grant from the Mentone Area Preservation Association (MAPA), we will present the blue grass sound of Will Dooley and Company from 7 until 10 p.m. at the 'Linger Longer' Pavilion located behind the Mentone Inn on AL Highway 117 in downtown Mentone. A fish fry, provided by Fontana Stinson, will kick off the concert at 5 p.m. until the fish is gone.



Ryan Keefe
June 1

Our annual Summer Music Series starts on Saturday, June 1, at the pavilion with singer-songwriter-musician Ryan Keefe & Friends. Ryan has been playing music his entire life with a clear focus on always improving his skill. For many years, he has worked to bring together local musicians in a variety of bands and venues. We appreciate that he'll be doing the same for us to kick off the music series. Ryan is always a crowd favorite.

On Saturday, July 13, the venue will change to DeSoto State Park for the jazz duo Kathy Veazy and John Rawlston from Chattanooga. This couple, who also play

with Lumbar Five and the vocal group Sistren, soften their style and selections to the jazzier side, featuring songs they don't perform with either group.

Kathy and John return to the pavilion on Saturday, August 3, with Sistren, a harmony-intensive Americana band from Chattanooga featuring three strong lead vocalists (Kathy Veazy,



"Sistren"
Lori Mast, Kathy Veazey & Laura Walker
August 3

Laura Walker and Lori Mast) who also play keyboard, fiddle, slide guitar and stand-up bass. They perform their own songs as well as a wide mixture of interesting covers and are backed by John and his talent on guitar.

On Saturday, September 7, the Arts Council welcomes Microwave Dave and the

Nukes to the pavilion stage. This heritage blues band from Huntsville has been performing for 30 years in multinational venues varying from French soccer stadiums to neighborhood saloons to events such as Daytona Bike Week. Their accomplishments in performing, writing, and preserving blues music led them to receive the Blues Achievement Award in 2001 from the Alabama Blues Society.

They've released six albums, all to high acclaim, and are certain to end this summer's concert series on a high note.

Each concert in the Summer Music Series starts at 7 p.m. and runs until 10. At each venue, "Make Art" tables will be available for kids and adults alike to freely create their own pieces of art to carry home with them.

Free music for all! See you at the concerts!

The Summer Music Series is made possible in part through a grant from the Alabama State Council on the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts.

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



"Microwave Dave & the Nukes"
September 7



Home & Artist Tour Nominations Accepted

The Little River Arts Council is accepting nominations for its home and artists' studio tour on October 26 and 27. We hope to include at least three homes of artists willing to open their studio space for the tour. If you know of a home that would make a great destination on this year's tour, email Wil Henry Cobble at wilhenry@boonlink.net or use this link to access an online nomination form: bit.ly/2019LRACTOUR (case sensitive). The deadline for nominations is June 15, 2019.

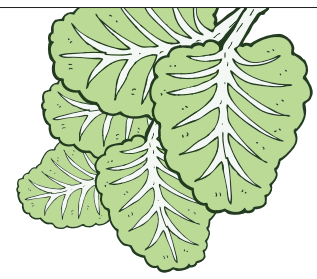


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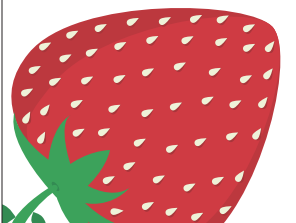
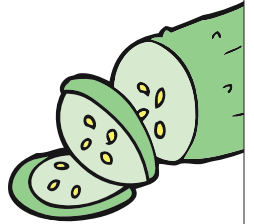


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EVERY FRIDAY
2-5PM

AND BEGINNING MAY 18
EVERY SATURDAY
12-2PM

The Farm at
WINDY HILL
MENTONE, AL

WE WERE OFF TO SEE THE WIZARD!

by Paula Easter



L to R: Sitting in front—Jacqueline Morgan, Gracie Pullen
1st row—Layne Hawkins, Cayden Collins
2nd row—Hayden Bullock, Baylece Walsh, Emily Stone and Cami Evans

Bright and early on Wednesday morning, March 20, Moon Lake 4th, 5th, and 6th grade students, their teachers, Mrs. Lance, some Moon Lake parents and I headed out on an adventure to Atlanta, GA. Our destination was the Alliance Theater at the Woodruff Arts Center to see my friend Rosemary Newcott's version of "The Wizard of Oz." Last summer I attended the Woodruff Arts Center Educator's Conference, where I sat in on Rosemary's workshop, "How Can You Give a Classic a New Spin." Listening to Rosemary talk, I was enchanted with her idea for this production, a story of 'Americana' and of early 20th century folk art and culture. As I listened, I began to envision my ideas for the 2018–2019 Fine Arts classroom, an "American Road Trip" following along Rosemary's ideas. Our field trip to Atlanta was the culmination of what my older Moon Lake students have studied about this year in the Fine Arts classroom.

Before we ever made it to the Woodruff Arts Center, we visited the Varsity, where lunch was enjoyed by everyone. The funny thing to me, having lived in

Atlanta for so many years, was realizing that it was the first-time visit for so many of the students, parents, and even Mr. Walsh!

After lunch, we once again boarded our chartered bus and headed to the Alliance Theatre. It was easy for me to share in the excitement that I saw on all my students' faces, because I was excited about sharing



L to R: Ashton Patterson, Carley Collins, Allyssa Hawkins, Jake Smith, Addison Prestwood, Isaac Crow



L to R: Hayden Bullock, Emily Stone, Gracie Pullen, Jacqueline Morgan, Cami Evans, dad Chris Collins, Cayden Collins, Baylece Walsh, Layne Hawkins

this wonderful experience with them. Rosemary waited to see us before we went into the theatre auditorium and it was so much fun to introduce my Moon Lake students to her.

Everyone enjoyed this an incredible production. Fourth grade student Aydn Heinrich, an artist himself, loved the sets and how they changed so quickly. Fifth grade student Allyssa Hawkins loved everything about the play, especially Dorothy's singing.

Sixth grader Cayden Collins said he thought it was the best play he had ever seen. Carley Collins said she felt like she was a part of the play because their seats were in front of the stage. Actually, everyone who went on our adventure to Atlanta had something positive to say.

This was Rosemary's final production in the role of Alliance Theatre's Artistic Director of Theatre and Youth. She still plans to continue to direct and work in other areas. I loved what she had to say about the work she has done, "I have spent most of my professional life making choices that I hope will enhance the lives of children and their grown-ups, and I have had the good fortune to inhabit this wonderful playground while sharing stories."

I cannot close without a tremendous "thank you" to the Mentone Educational Resources Foundation who made the entire trip possible for us through matching grants from Alabama Council on the Arts and the Farley Moody Galbraith grant from the Community Foundation of Northeast Alabama, along with MERF funds. What

a joy to work for such an incredible organization. Now... on to our next adventure!



Rosemary Newcott and Paula Easter

Paula Easter is the Fine Arts teacher at Moon Lake Elementary School.



16 Creekside Drive
38 acres, Chattooga River front
Trion, GA



45 Underbrow Tr.
3 bed 2.5 bath / 7 acres
300 ft East Brow frontage



37 Billy Goat Trail
2 bed 2 bath
Cloudland, GA



3 South Brow Dr.
East Brow building lot
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MERF News

by Sarah Wilcox



Oh the Places We'll Go! MERF's American Road Trip on April 6 at the Taste of the Mountain and Art Auction was another success due to the unbelievable support in a variety of ways from our fantastic community! There was an abundance of delicious food, fabulous artwork, active bidding arms and fun socializing. How fun it was to see everyone in one place for a true community event! MERF is grateful for so many who helped on the decorating committee, the set-up and clean-up crew, and those who transported tables and chairs.

Thanks go to too many to name, but these MERF supporters headed up the following: Dorma Hutcheson (ticket sales and art procurement); Anna Mae Horn (food vendors); Kat Griffith (decorations); and Bill Berry (both programs).

We couldn't have had such a great event without the artistry of: Scott Thomas; Lydia Randolph; Tim Smith; Emily Neel Guin; Phil Faircloth; Rita Winters; Dowe and John Foreman; Brad Lackey; Barbara Umland; Linda and Charlie Munoz; Betsy Scott; Chuck Peters; Moon Lake Trading; Neal and Melinda Whitt; Joan Byrum; Marsha and Bruce Bon Fleur; Jeff Rymer; Silvia Costantino; Beth Harrison; Harry Krippes; Eugenia Johnston; Don Pirch; Cali Sioux; Caroline Nuckolls; Cynthia Luck; Mickey Luck; Kathryn Wheeler; Donna Sutton; Roxy Rabbit (from Darlene Rotch); Becky Oaks; Rachel Stout; Heloise Masters; Claudia Croxton; Kathy Tuttle; Dick and Dianne Tindol; Sue Schwarz; Gail Chambers; Don Highfield; Cheryl Wilborn; and all the students from Moon Lake. Please continue to support these artists by purchasing their artwork. Many have their work available at Boom Town Maker's Market, DeSoto State Park Country Store, Little River Hardware, Mentone shops, and online.

And boy did everyone eat well thanks to the culinary artists from: Mildred's Meadows; Green Leaf

Grill; Plowshares Bistro/33; Chick-fil-A; JoeJohn's Catering; The Farm at Windy Hill; The Lookout Restaurant; Valley Head Foods team; Stinsons' Catering; Mentone Inn; Wildflower Café; Tip Top Bakery; Paula's Biscuits; and Mentone Market. Be sure to visit our food vendors and show your gratitude to them for their gracious offerings!

Gratitude goes also to: Mike Keracher; Jan Newhoff; Mentone Community Church; Accel

Graphics (banners); Camp DeSoto; Robert Moehr (great video!); DeSoto Rescue Squad; and Riverview Camp for providing services and tablecloths. Great job being "Vanna" by Chuck Peters! Her job is not secure. Thanks to Moon Lake

Elementary School for working with MERF and for allowing Paula Easter to bring out the talents of all the students. Thanks to our sponsors: Camp DeSoto; Pam James Realtor; Camp Skyline; and DeKalb County Tourist Association. Final thanks go to our great community for supporting MERF and enjoying the evening! Great pics from Kelly Leavitt can be seen on MERF's YouTube channel found on merfhouse.org.

The end of April brought a close to our weekly senior lunches for the spring with the grilling of burgers and hot dogs by David Gilbreath and the Boy Scouts. Thank you to those who provided a meal this spring for the seniors: Camp Laney; Alpine Camp for Boys; Skyline Camp for Girls; Rhododendron Garden Club; Mentone Community Church; St. Joseph's Episcopal Church; Hazel Bickerstaff; DeeDee Dunkerley; and Wildflower Café. And of course, the weekly serving by the kitchen elves is highly appreciated: Vicky Patrick; Pat Peterson; Paula Tally; Charlene Bence; Carolyn Nail; Susan Heap; and Kathy McMunn. Stay tuned as the seniors will gather for food and fun throughout the summer.

After-school tutoring has also ended. Terrific tutors this school year have been: Carl Ferguson; Bill Rutledge; Ann Bearden; Meg Richardson; Anna Mae Horn; Annette Stone; and Tom and Mary MacMichael.

MERF Moms are still having fun and will continue to meet regularly! Look how much fun everyone had at the first art class with Miss Paula! What fun and beautiful flowers! If you want to join the MERF moms' group, text me at 256-635-8193.

On Wednesday, May 22, MERF will host another Afternoon with the Artists at Moon Lake School. For the fourth year, local artists will meet in groups with the students to talk about and demonstrate their creative expressions of art. The students will be able to



ask questions and learn about different artistic styles.

And don't forget to stop by MERF's booth at MAPA's Rhododendron Festival on May 18 and 19. Thanks to MAPA for hosting such a great festival. "Leave Me in Mentone" shirts, totes, mugs, caps, aprons, and ornaments will be for sale! A new book written by the students should also be available. Stop by and say hello! All proceeds enable MERF to continue the work with the community! #merfisgrateful

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



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Linger Longer Pop-Up Art Series Begins May 4 by Anne McLeod

Linger Longer Pop-Up Art Series Schedule

May 4	Lacy Hope Dobbs	PAINTING
June 1	Scott Thomas	PAINTING
July 6	Don Highfield	WOODCARVING
August 3	Meg Tannehill Justice	PRINTMAKING
September 7	Taylor Allison	BLACKSMITHING
October 5	Eugenia Johnston	WATERCOLOR & MORE

The Linger Longer Pop-Up Art Series, sponsored by the Little River Arts Council, will showcase a local artist the first Saturday morning of each month at the Mentone Inn pavilion from May through October. Artists will be at the pavilion with art demonstrations and work for sale from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m., but they are welcome to “linger longer” if they so choose. The series will open with two local painters, Lacy Hope Dobbs on May 4 and Scott Thomas on June 1.

Lacy Hope Dobbs • May 4

Lacy was born and raised in the southern foothills of Appalachia. She currently lives on Sand Mountain in Fort Payne with her husband and their four children. Lacy is an unschooling mama, so she usually paints in quick bursts throughout the day, working in studio time between trips to the library, playground, and local hiking trails. Lacy creates bright and colorful acrylic paintings inspired by peace, love, magic, and her home in the mountains. She paints on canvas, reclaimed wood, and found objects.

A member of the Little River Arts Council and the Regional Art Alliance of Ooltewah, Tennessee, Lacy is a co-creator and admin of the local Free Art Friday group, which can be found on Facebook at Facebook.com/groups/FAFFP.

You can find her work online at Facebook.com/LacyHopeArt, Instagram @LacyHopeArt, and Etsy at LacyHopeArt.Etsy.com. She is also the owner of Peace, Love, and Paint, an in-home paint party service for children. Peace, Love, and Paint can be found on Instagram and Facebook @peacelovepaint.fpal

Scott Thomas • June 1

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

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

Papa Joe's Art and Cookies by Liz Baker

St. Joseph's parishioners and volunteers will present “Papa Joe's Art and Cookies” on Friday, May 3, from 4–6 p.m. A number of artists and crafts persons have already signed on to participate. We hope that everyone will come out and view their work. Everyone in the community is invited, and the event is FREE.



Original painting by Joan Byrum

Some of the artists will have items for sale, or can take orders. So far, the following people have agreed to present their artwork:

- Joan Byrum (portraits and other pieces)
- Joan Fischer (black and white photography)
- Balpha Noojin (iconography and wire sculptures)
- Rita Winters (weaving and music)
- Barbara Umland (watercolors and gift items)
- Wayne and Phyllis King (we can't wait to see what kinds of artwork they do!)

Since St. Joseph IS our patron saint, we will of course have woodworkers! These include:

- Don Highfield (woodcarving—he even carves carousel horses!) Maybe he'll bring pictures!
- Lenton Williams (Shaker boxes, Nantucket baskets, and handmade brooms)
- Norm Baker (woodcarving, painting, leather carved portraits, handmade musical instruments)

Hopefully, we will also have a very special surprise exhibition that you will definitely want to see. So, come on out, have a cup of tea or punch and a cookie or two before heading out to dinner at one of our wonderful restaurants in Mentone.



Mentone... Immaculate Brow Oasis with great views is calling you. This 4BR/4B home features open plan, 3 master suites, two fireplaces, large kitchen & amazing storage throughout. Enjoy the expansive outdoor entertaining areas & a new water feature with great sound. Move in ready with B&B potential. \$449,000.

Little River Canyon Craftsman Home. Set on 11 acres w/400' of brow. Features vaulted living w/ fireplace, master on main, 3BR 2.5B, cook's kitchen, deck, & screened porch. Wet weather stream w/ waterfall off the brow. Property backs up to LRC Wildlife Management Area. \$279,000.



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“Matching people to the property of their dreams”

May in Mentone's history. . .

Compiled by Annette Stone

1984

Mentone Fire Dept's Rummage and Bake Sale was held on the 9th, to raise funds for the Fire Dept.

The Mentone Springs Hotel was placed on The National Register of Historic Places.

1988

CNN news crews filmed a segment of "Off the Beaten Path" with footage from DeSoto Falls and local shops.

1996

The Dr. J.A. Gorman House, commonly known as the "Hanging Cottage" in Mentone, was added to the National Register of Historic Places.

1997

The MERF house restoration and walking track is approaching completion. An open house was held May 4th.

1998

An opening day of a new camp, Experience Works was held recently. Attendees had a samples of programs, hiking opportunities and a stunning view.

2000

Members of the Moon Lake School Library Committee met to review plans for the new school library. Completion of the Library is expected within a year.

2004

The Moon Lake Library had its first book signing event. Mary Agnes Fine and son Lamar Fine were on hand to sign copies of their books, "I, Remember", "Yesterday's Gone" and "Yesterday's Tomorrow".

2011

The May edition of *The Groundhog* was delayed due to the effects and damage cause by strong storms and tornadoes that ravaged the area on April 27.

Source: Groundhog archives

What's Creative Placemaking? by Kelly Leavitt

Moon Lake School librarian Anne McLeod and I attended the Creative Placemaking Leadership Summit in Columbia, SC, for an inspiring three days in April as representatives of Moon Lake Library. The focus of the summit was on rural communities. Our participation was made possible by funding from South Arts, Alabama State Council on the Arts, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the generous support of the Little River Arts Council, Mentone Area Resources Foundation, Mentone Area Preservation Association, Mentone Arts & Cultural Center, and Moon Lake Community Library. We attended on behalf of our entire community, and we look forward to sharing what we experienced.

Join us on Tuesday, May 21, at 6:30 p.m. at Moon Lake Community Library if you're interested in exploring how we in Mentone can use a largely unseen resource—each of our imaginations—to support all of Mentone's needs being met. It won't be a long meeting, but rather an introduction to further discussions. If "Creative Placemaking" is a new term for you, come learn what it's all about. It may be a new term, but it's an old concept that revolves around people helping people, using the arts as the main vehicle. To learn more, visit cpcommunities.org.

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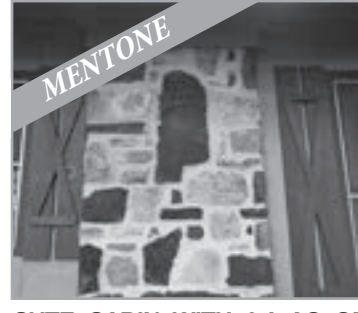
Stop by and visit on the porch during Mentone's Rhododendron Festival, May 18 and 19. Or any time!



UNPARALLELED PROPERTY. Sited on approx 7 acres, with an elevation offering pleasing views of the lake below & mountains beyond. Interior filled with rich native woods, cut & milled locally: cherry, walnut, wormy maple, cedar, poplar, oak, alder, pine. A Master closet larger than many bedrooms, fitted with a multitude of cedar built-ins. Two complete living spaces, one on the main-level, the other in the daylight basement area. 5BR/3BA. And most surprising of all, gorgeous Georgia marble throughout! Large shop. Fruit trees, blueberries, garden spot & more. \$535,000 (1112805)



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



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

LOTS and LAND

HISTORIC EAGLES' NEST PROPERTY! 5 acres. Over 600' brow frontage; more than ¼ mile paved road frontage; near Mentone Brow Park. Envision a cabin, or two, or three...maybe a compound... But, wait! How about condos? Is that at all possible? Who knows? Go ahead & dream it, build it! \$375,000 (1117380)

3.79 ACRES, LEVEL, WOODED LAND, just 2.5 miles from downtown Mentone. 1400' frontage on paved road and private water & electric available on both roads. \$37,900 (1114438)

30 ACRES (+/-) IN MENTONE of mostly hardwood forest, some pasture land. Slight slope to offer a great elevation for future cabins, a farm, hunting cabin or whatever your Mentone dream dictates. \$105,000 (\$3,500 per acre). (1067525)

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

REDUCED! SOUTH COOL ST. brow-front property with a beautiful old stone fireplace chimney, part of the foundation, plus a small garage. New survey. An original Mentone summer home once stood here, built and owned by the same family since early 1920s. Approx 0.45 acre lot in an area where properties are seldom available. Build your own memories! \$118,000. (1070474)

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

NEED A BIT OF EARTH? Well, here it is! Less than 5 minutes from downtown Mentone. Public water & power avail. A single acre, unrestricted, has been very hard to find in this area until now. \$27,500. (1109345)



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



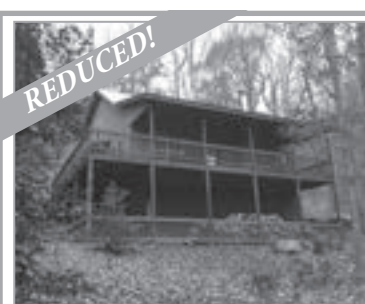
ALMOST LIKE HAVING YOUR CAKE AND EATING IT, TOO! Two cabins, each very different from the other, but when you combine the two, you get a whole lot of possibilities! Rustic garage cabin on the left; a bit more "cottage-y" cabin on the right. This little "compound" could be the perfect gathering place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



IRIS MEADOWS FARM. 3BR/3BA, beautifully-updated, one-level cottage; on 8 delightful acres, pasture & woodland, w/small pond, seasonal waterfall, fruit trees & 22'x24' workshop w/pavilion area. Land is unrestricted & mostly fenced. Cottage features fab kitchen w/lots of counter & cabinets; wide-plank pine floors; dining nook w/built-in benches & hand-made plank table. Large dog kennel area. \$274,900. (1109864)



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



FURNISHED CABIN ON 5 WOODED ACRES. 3BR/2BA, approx 1800 sq ft; wood-burning fireplace; open living/dining; spacious kitchen w/lots of cabinets. Beautifully furnished, including locally-crafted table & benches. Front porch & side deck. Land is lush with native holly trees, huge boulders, large hardwoods. PLUS this property offers a river-side park area across the road with OVER 300' ON W FORK LITTLE RIVER. There's a nice launch site for kayaks; river-side deck; level areas for picnicking, camping, outdoor adventures of all sorts. New driveway & parking under construction for easier access to cabin. Now \$229,000 (1086017)



CUTE, CUTE, CUTE! Newly-renovated Mid-Century Mentone cottage offers the best of the old; updated with the best of the new! Improvements just completed include: new metal roof, CH/A, windows, granite countertops, fresh paint inside & out, new bath, stainless appliances, new electrical & plumbing throughout, and more! Ready for relaxation, or perfect rental, or both. \$164,950 (1107811)

Happy Mother's Day

May

Birthdays

- 1

Junior Bell
Kathleen Johnson
Jennifer Owen
Michael Stone
Sue Anderson
- 2

Morgan Blalock
Ella Voils
Cory Dobbins
Isaac Vaughan
Emerson Jean Bell
- 3

Abel James Baggett
Paula Coots
Steven Barkley
Annabelle Gifford
- 4

Mollie Sanderson
Kathy Clure
Cathy White
Jody Nance
- 5

Alex Dupree
Bobby Browder
Emily Hilliard
Jeffrey Bain
Kathy Clure
- 6

LA Smith
Lee Worthey
Phil Harris
Carlie Kirby
Cody Hodge
Taylor Williams
Dewayne Grisham
Avaleigh Hawkins
- 7

John Johnson
Tracy Coots
Jessie Baggett
Carl Griffith
Kelly Blansit
Tony Garner
- 8

Connie Clark
Ella Kate Wagner
Sherry Durham
Camdyn Goza
- 9

Shaunathan Bell
Megan Miller
Ryker Shankles
- 10

Gail Jones
Angela Flanagan
Jacob Hawkins
- 11

Jessie Coots
Ricky Barkley
Merle Stokes
Gerald Biddle
Tanner Meadows
- 12

Hubert Blalock
Allison Kirby
Chris Davis
Alyssa Cooper
- 13

Andrea Kirby
Hayden Kirby
Linda Hawthorne
Angela Hadley
- 14

Ann Nelson
Madi Gregory
Logan McGee
Raymond Evans
Christy Miller Evans
Lonny Pendergrass
- 15

Shirley Zange
- 16

Amy Kirby
Riley Mae Owen
Kaylynn Hulgan
Harli Burton
- 17

Shuan Flannigan
Melinda Miller
Owen Crouse
- 18

Chad Smith
Nelson Kerby
Traci Hulgan
- 19

Dillon Brown
LeAnn Underwood
Megan Smith Brown
- 20

Alexis Manifold
Jessica McKenzie
Susan Elliott
Elli Stone
Joyce Tate
Kenzlee Callahan
- 21

Lisa Crow
Katie Villarreal
Desiree Cash
Jackson Mann
- 22

Sandy Blalock
Caitlin Kirby
- 23

Terry Pangle
Adrienne Guice
Nathan Baggett
Ronald "Cotton"
Baggett
Jackson Mann
Amelia Stott
- 24

Joe Elrod
Amber Parker
Adam Miller
Sadie Durham
- 25

Tristan Smith
- 26

Paige Smith
Rodney Mitchell

Anniversaries

- 1

Chris & LeAnn Underwood
- 3

Corey & Amanda Blalock
Thomas & Ginger Kearney
- 4

Donnie & Carlotta Sharpton
- 5

Charlie & Pam Harwell
- 6

Craig & Katie Smith
- 8

Wayne & Angie Miller
- 10

Alan & Beth Hawkins
- 15

Doug & Karen Powell
Keith & Dawn Langston
Shane & Valerie Burt
- 16

Preston & Amy Kirby
- 17

Casey & Jessica Battles
- 18

Chad & Amber Smith
- 20

Jeremy & Lindsay Webb
Doug & Judy McMahan
Kurt & Staci Winn
- 24

Wesley & Tammy Frost
- 26

Soni & Sheila Larock
Ray & Bobbie Zachary
- 28

Adam & Wendy Haynes
Easton & Anna Bailey
- 29

Alfred & Eddie Langston
Johnny & JoAnn Bain
- 30

Tommy & Cindy Harrison
- 31

Jimmy & Adele Phillips – 50th



SENIOR HEALTH Mental Health Services by Lynn Hixson

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

doctors must accept assignment if they participate in Medicare. Mental health care includes services and programs to help diagnose and treat mental health conditions. These services and programs may be provided in outpatient and in-patient settings. Medicare helps cover outpatient and inpatient mental health care, as well as prescription drugs you may need to treat a mental health condition. If you get your Medicare benefits through a Medicare Advantage Plan (like an HMO or PPO) or other Medicare health plan, check your plan’s membership materials, and call the plan for details about how to get your Medicare-covered mental health benefits. For help in understanding Medicare benefits, contact your SHIP Counselor, Lynn Hixson, at the DeKalb County Council on Aging at 256-845-8590.

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Rhododendron Festival Shuttles & Parking Info

This will mark our third event when festival-goers must park in designated parking lots and take a short shuttle ride (or walk) to the festival site. The smaller activity buses we used at Colorfest last October will again be used as shuttles. They are easier to maneuver in town and easier for adults to get on and off. MAPA certainly appreciates everyone's effort for safety. Mentone is a tiny town, with limited public parking, and every effort counts when keeping the streets clear of vehicles.

Parking is available for \$5/day at two locations on AL Hwy. 117—at the parking lot across from the Mentone Market and at the future site of the Mentone Arts and Cultural Center, 1.6 miles east of the flashing light in Mentone. Look for signs as you drive into Mentone. Handicapped parking (with a placard or license plate) will be available at the corner of County Road 89 and South Street.

Festival Shuttle Stops

- MACC parking site
- Mason Drive at Town Hall
- Co. Rd. 89 & N. Cool St.
- Co. Rd. 89 & and South St.
- Co. Rd. 89 at the driveway to the old Mentone Springs Hotel site
- Co. Rd. 89 across from Log Cabin Village driveway
- Parking lot across from the Mentone Market

Support the Arts Programs & Free Art @ the Big Tent

Willowynn Art Expressions will present "Support the Arts" at the Demo Stage (the big tent on the hotel site), where music, poetry, storytelling, and free art play will be enjoyed. On Saturday, Chris Roberts' School of Music will perform, local environmentalist Kay Kiker will present "Environmental Awareness," "The Black Hat Poet" Doug Kiker will recite his original (often very humorous) poetry, and Ed Norman will perform live music.

On Sunday, authors Alex Moore, Crystal Shadrick, and Debbie Happy Cohen will present summaries of their books. Other stories and poems will be shared, and music will be performed by Rylee Hadley, Bryce Barrett, and James Roberts.

On both days, all ages will be invited to enjoy free art play, which will include painting, working with clay, face painting, and other creative activities.

Stop by the tent during the festival to check out the chalkboard for a complete schedule of the weekend's "Support the Arts" activities!

Little River Boat Rides

Enjoy Little River in the spring, with native flowers teeming along its banks. Take in the view from the water while enjoying a pontoon boat ride. The trips last about 45 minutes and cost \$15/person. The boat launches near the parking lot at DeSoto Falls on Friday, May 17, 1 p.m.—dusk; Saturday, May 18, 9 a.m.—dusk; and Sunday, May 19, 11 a.m.—4 p.m.

Single and tandem kayaks will be available to rent at DeSoto State Park's Miller's Bend Paddle Shack at DeSoto Falls on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. To learn more, call 256-845-5380 or visit alapark.com/desoto-state-park.

Free Concert by Will Dooley & Co.

The weekend of the Rhododendron Festival will kick off on Friday, May 17, from 7–10 p.m. with a free, family-friendly concert by Will Dooley and Company at the pavilion behind the Mentone Inn. This concert is presented by the Little River Arts Council with a grant funded by the Mentone Area Preservation Association. A fish fry will begin at 5 p.m. and continue until the food's gone. Bring a blanket or a chair and enjoy an evening under the stars while listening to great music.



7th Annual Rhododendron Festival Sacred Harp Singing

Experience an age-old tradition! Sacred Harp singing will begin at 10 a.m. on Saturday, May 18, at St. Joseph's on-the-Mountain Episcopal Church in Mentone. It will run until about 2 p.m., with an hour break between 12 and 1 p.m. The public is invited to stop in to listen or to grab a loaner book and sing along. For more information, call Susan at 706-859-1124.

Native Plant Walking Tours with Darryl Patton

On Sunday, May 19, respected naturalist Darryl Patton will offer free walking tours around downtown Mentone, where he'll point out both native and medicinal plants. Meet him at the MAPA booth at the Mentone Springs Hotel site. The walking tours will depart at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m.

Miss Rhododendron



Presented by

Mentone Area Preservation Association

Friday, May 10 at 6 p.m. CDT

Mentone Community Church, 90 Summerville Road, Mentone

Come Be Part of the Audience

Crowns and sashes have been ordered, the judges, MC, and auditor have been selected, and light and sound has been arranged for MAPA's annual Miss Rhododendron Pageant, which will be held on Friday, May 10, at 6 p.m. at Mentone Community Church. Audience tickets are \$5 at the door. Come cheer on this year's entrants. Miss Rhododendron will receive a one-year scholarship generously funded by Northeast Alabama Community College.

Welcome to Rhododendron Festival 2019

Live Music Schedule @ Brow Park Pavilion

Saturday May 18

10:00 Brett Greer
11:15 Richard Schrei
12:30 Django Riders
1:45 Kaley Pearson
3:00 Vegetaters
4:15 Lisa Crow & James Roberts

Sunday May 19

11:15 Csilla and Emily
12:30 DENI
1:45 Craig Hendricks
2:30 Raffle Drawing
3:00 Joe Johnson
It's all free!

Brett Greer @ 10 Saturday

Singer, songwriter, and musician Brett Greer is an award-winning Nashville recording artist. He has played regionally and nationally for the past 14 years.

Richard Schrei @ 11:15 Saturday

Richard Schrei is an international recording artist whose eclectic musical experiences – classical, new age, ambient, blues, jazz, Chinese modal music, musical Qigong, Sui Zen, Tibetan & Sanskrit chanting, and Native American – make him a truly versatile and interesting musician. His music has tremendous depth of feeling and the capacity to touch the innermost places of mind, body and spirit to bring profound release, healing and relaxation.

Django Riders @ 12:30 Saturday

The Django Riders are a 4-piece group of “jive honkies” coming from the Middle Tennessee, “looking to make a name for themselves off the almighty religion that is Rock ‘n Roll.”

Kaley Pearson @ 1:45 Saturday

Kaley Pearson is a seasoned singer-songwriter from Tennessee. Her album, “Perfectly Imperfect”, won 2017 TN Music’s Album of the Year. Her latest EP, due out late spring, is compiled of songs co-written with great influential writers. Kaley identifies as a modern country singer, with influences ranging from Kelsea Ballerini to Charlie Puth. She has made television appearances and has had numerous exposures in a variety of venues.

The Vegetaters @ 3 Saturday

The Vegetaters are a genuine old-time string band from DeKalb County. They got their start and name from playing their wildly entertaining mixture of local and regional numbers, traditional fiddle tunes, and old-time banjo songs at local farmers markets.

Lisa Crow & James Roberts @ 4:15 Saturday

Lisa and James play a little rock ‘n roll, a little folk, and a little bluegrass, with wonderful harmony. “That’s what we like to do.”

Csilla and Emily @ 11:15 Sunday

Csilla Elam sang for many years as a worship leader, and at coffee houses, conferences, and festivals until she was diagnosed with cancer and lost her singing voice. Her daughter, Emily, was 3 years old. Csilla survived the cancer and regained her voice. Now Emily is 14 and sings with her mother, who says, “I am really blessed and grateful to be alive and come out and show others through music that God is with us through the hardest times in our lives.”

DENI @ 12:30 Sunday

At only 14, Danielle Salabarria, aka ‘DENI’, began writing and performing with her sister around the metro Atlanta area in 2009 as half of the acoustic duo ‘Luna & Sol’. And while the sisters continue to play and record together occasionally, DENI’s solo career as a singer/songwriter began to take off in late 2013. She is a multi-instrumentalist who brings amazing stage presence and intense emotion into her songs, and she continues to build a fan base everywhere she performs. Her unique style can best be described as Pop R&B, and she incorporates both piano and guitar into her repertoire. Musically reminiscent of Adele, Carole King, or John Legend, her actual sound is totally individual and distinct. She is best known for her hard-hitting, crystal-clear, and wide-ranging vocals combined with intensely poetic and personal lyrics.

Craig Hendricks @ 1:45 Sunday

Southern-raised, Craig Hendricks has laid his head from the Piedmont of Middle Georgia to the Alabama heights of Lookout Mountain. He has found his place on stages from Savannah, GA, to Rangeley, ME, and from Florence, AL, to Gatlinburg, TN. Craig brings his own unique character and smooth style to create a personal and interactive experience for his listeners, with the charisma often found in troubadours of yesteryear. He is also a national award winner for his songwriting and recognition of his vocal talents. Between a variety of covers and originals, Craig can keep you listening...or maybe on your feet!

Joe Johnson @ 3 Sunday Joe Johnson has been playing instruments and singing since he was 10 years old. A multi-instrumentalist, pure country vocalist, and songwriter, he has played and recorded with many brand name country acts, performing on the same bill with acts such as Dr. Ralph Stanley, Marty Rabon (Shenandoah), and Doug Stone.

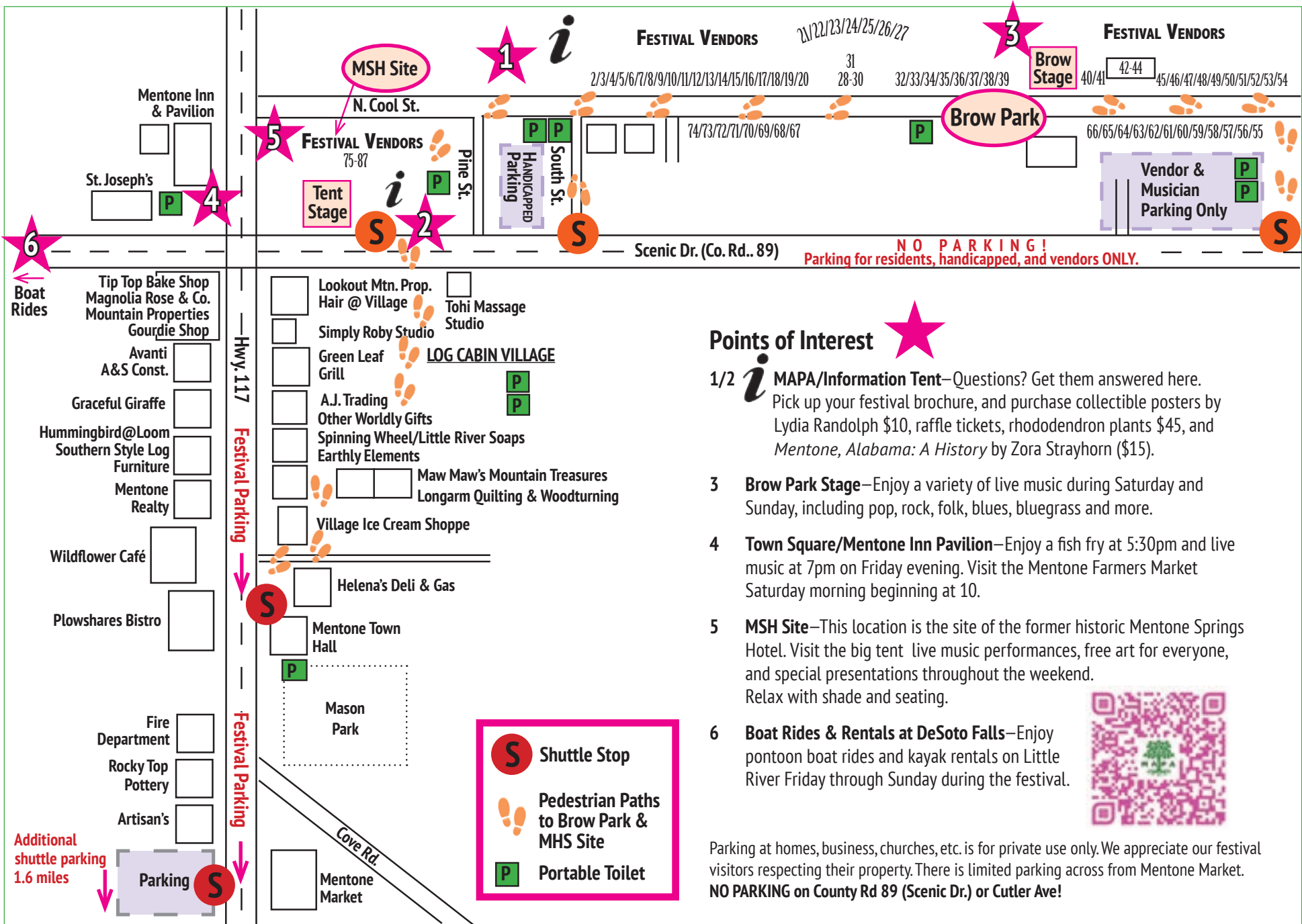
Thanks to



for supporting the Rhododendron Festival

May 18 & 19 in Mentone

Map of Mentone Town Center & Festival Vendors



Points of Interest

- 1/2 MAPA/Information Tent**—Questions? Get them answered here. Pick up your festival brochure, and purchase collectible posters by Lydia Randolph \$10, raffle tickets, rhododendron plants \$45, and *Mentone, Alabama: A History* by Zora Strayhorn (\$15).
- 3 Brow Park Stage**—Enjoy a variety of live music during Saturday and Sunday, including pop, rock, folk, blues, bluegrass and more.
- 4 Town Square/Mentone Inn Pavilion**—Enjoy a fish fry at 5:30pm and live music at 7pm on Friday evening. Visit the Mentone Farmers Market Saturday morning beginning at 10.
- 5 MSH Site**—This location is the site of the former historic Mentone Springs Hotel. Visit the big tent live music performances, free art for everyone, and special presentations throughout the weekend. Relax with shade and seating.
- 6 Boat Rides & Rentals at DeSoto Falls**—Enjoy pontoon boat rides and kayak rentals on Little River Friday through Sunday during the festival.



Parking at homes, business, churches, etc. is for private use only. We appreciate our festival visitors respecting their property. There is limited parking across from Mentone Market. **NO PARKING on County Rd 89 (Scenic Dr.) or Cutler Ave!**

NOTE: This is not intended to be a complete map of the Town of Mentone. It only highlights venues for activities, events, food, music, and arts/crafts vendors during the festival.

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For your convenience, pull out this special section

Booth Directory

Arts & Crafts

- 9 3rd Generation Sewing Creation
- 25 1950s Barnyard Picks
- 5 A.T.L.E.H.A.
- 77 Arts & Creations by Rita
- 87 Cali & Co.
- 16 Campbell's Creations in Wood
- 22 Cotton Pickin' Pottery
- 55 Crafting Cousins
- 35 Crafts by Virg
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- 73 Dining Room Wreaths
- 80 Dixon Designs
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- 56 Earthen Magic Essence
- 70 Eastaboga Bee Company
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- 51 Georgia Girl Candles
- 67 Glenda and Larry Jones
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- 10 Sweet Tea Pottery
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TIMES-JOURNAL

Don't forget to take with you to the Rhododendron Festival!

Stop by MAPA's festival information booths at Brow Park and the MSH site for schedules, maps, shuttle bus information, raffle tickets, and live rhododendron plants!

Rhododendron Festival Raffle



Local artist Lydia Randolph created for MAPA a lovely 16"x16" painting for Rhododendron Festival's traditional raffle. In advance of the festival, the painting can be seen around town where raffle tickets are being sold (the location can be found on Mentone Alabama Festivals Facebook page.) Proceeds will benefit the Mentone Area Preservation Association. Tickets cost \$2 each, or 3 for \$5, and are available in Mentone at Green Leaf Grill, Moon Lake Community Library, Wildflower Café, Mentone Market,

and Plowshares Bistro. Tickets cost \$2 each, or 3 for \$5, and are available in Mentone at Green Leaf Grill, Moon Lake Community Library, Wildflower Café, Mentone Market, and Plowshares Bistro.

During the festival, tickets may be purchased at the MAPA festival information booths at Brow Park and at the old Mentone Springs Hotel site.

The drawing will be held on Sunday afternoon at 2:30 at the Brow Park stage. Winner need not be present.

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Enjoy the festival!



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 NEW BEAUTIFUL ROCK COTTAGE in Mentone with breathtaking view overlooking the valley. Truly one-of-a-kind with hardwood and rock displayed in craftsman detail throughout. Greatroom with vaulted beamed ceiling, woodburning fireplace, master bedroom on main level with loft bedroom upstairs. Situated on 2.7 acres with unique rock structure near brow. 1.8 miles from downtown Mentone! \$329,000. MLS #1113486.	 REDUCED OWNER FINANCING CONSIDERED! This tastefully designed cabin comes furnished and decorated! Enjoy the elegance of the cabin along with the serenity of Lookout Mountain. Main living area has open floor plan. Main level master has one of-a-kind style with reclaimed furniture. Loft bedroom, utility room, screened porch and wood burning fireplace! \$189,900. MLS #1110505.	 3 BEDROOM/2 BATH HOME IN THE COUNTRY AT MENTONE. One-level brick and vinyl home offers updated kitchen and baths, hardwood flooring, central heat & air, office space, large pantry/utility room, rear porch enclosed for great sun porch. \$119,900. MLS #1110832.	 MENTONE BROW HOME! Just around the corner from DeSoto State Park and Desoto Falls. Home features split bedroom design offering 3 bedrooms and 2 baths, open living and dining combo with vault ceiling, wood burning fireplace, spacious kitchen with breakfast bar, sunroom/den area, large deck for entertaining and an enclosed garage. \$350,000. MLS #1099721.	 MENTONE BROW HOME! 2BR/2BA brow home with tons of character! Enjoy all the extras like hardwood floors, rustic wood walls, gas log fireplace & more. Being sold furnished. Call today! \$295,000. MLS #1076700	 NEW CONSTRUCTION! Don't miss your chance to customize the finishes in this new cabin now under construction in Mentone. Covered front porch, screened back porch, 2 bedrooms, 2-1/2 baths, laundry, open kitchen and living with corner gas log fireplace unit. If you're looking for just the right place...call now to make this home all your own! \$179,900. MLS#1109748.
 QUAINT DOWNTOWN BUNGALOW Looking for a new owner to enjoy the character and charm it offers. Built in 1910, the house has been fully restored, updated, and expanded. GREAT location on a quiet street. \$174,900. MLS# 1108601	 SUNSET EVENINGS are abundant & lovely from this beautiful Mentone home on the brow. Spacious home 3BR (large bonus/4thBR), 2 1/2 BA lends itself to entertaining & enjoying the views! Commercial kitchen w/ island prep center/work space, gas cooktop, double wall ovens, side-by-side refrigerator, wine cooler, disposal, compactor & large pantry makes entertaining a pleasure. Hardwood floors, gas log fireplaces, vaulted wood ceilings, main level master bedroom, detached 3-car garage w/ bonus guest area. Beautiful views from the screened porch, side patio or deck! \$389,900. MLS #1114168.	 CRYSTAL LAKE LODGE in Mentone... Fifty breathtaking acres surround you in this one-of-a-kind property. Call today for your private tour! \$734,900. MLS#1070805	 Mentone Cottage! Fully remodeled spacious two bedroom with bath in each room and additional half bath. This home comes completely furnished and just in time for the beautiful Fall season. Property has been used as resort rental and can easily transition to your primary residence. Only \$179,900! MLS#1102065.		
 GREAT BEGINNINGS & OPTIONS are endless in Mentone with an unfinished home! Approximately 4,800 sq ft on 7.5 acres. Great investment opportunity to create a neighborhood of cabins leading to the Owner's Estate or Common Gathering Area. Great Investment Opportunity, especially with the growth of the Mentone Resort area! \$165,000. MLS#1099079.	 REDUCED THE HISTORIC CRAGSMERE MANOR on 5+ acres serves as rental lodging and/or event hosting. Perfect setting for large or small groups, 6BR/4BA, Large kitchen, dining, and living area, covered pavilion. \$675,000. MLS#1066481	 REDUCED WORKING POULTRY FARM with approx. 16 acres! Two 42x500 operating Pullet houses built in 2006. Houses operate on well water with city water back-up. Contract currently with Pilgrim's Pride. Property has pond and fencing. 25x50 3-bay shed. 3BR, 2BA house with carport built in 1970 also on the property. \$179,000. MLS#1096127.	 GORGEOUS COUNTRY SETTING with a Modern 1-level, 4BR/3 Full BR home. Built in 2014! Open floor plan with a split bedroom design. Many upscale touches include a wood-burning fireplace that heats the home through the central unit duct work, full stainless steel appliance package, crown molding, tile flooring, security system. \$365,000. MLS#1099363.		

LOTS & LAND

#1014183—1.5 acres. Brow Lot on CR 89. \$124,900.

#1021165—2-acre lot offering lake and brow footage. \$59,900.

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

#1038089—Own a piece of the Brow! This lot provides approx. 250' of road frontage and 1-1/2 acres of level land for a secluded home site. This lot totals almost 6 1/2 acres, encompassing large trees and majestic rock formations as prominent features of the landscape. \$99,900.

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

#1065542—90 acres on Co. Rd. 89 in Mentone. **REDUCED TO \$299,000.**

#1070628—3.01 acres. 152' on West Fork of Little River. \$49,700.

#1070629—3.01 acres. 152' on West Fork of Little River. \$59,500.

#1073864—Brow Lot! .78 acres. **REDUCED TO \$89,500.**

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

#1076286—1.75 acre building lot in West Fork Subdivision. **REDUCED TO \$39,900.**

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

#1079713—Gorgeous lot in Mentone with .81+/- acres in Hunter's Ridge Subdivision. \$15,000.

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

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

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

#1098785—Beautiful wooded BROW lot in Mentone with winter views! Build your dream cabin here within walking distance to DeSoto Falls! \$77,640.

#1099911—LAST CHANCE to buy open land before entering into Georgia!!! This 26 acres has lots of road frontage. Old farmhouse on property. Lots of potential with this property. \$179,000.

#1100905—A RARE FIND! Don't miss the opportunity to own 239 rolling wooded acres in Mentone with multiple pond sites, streams and abundant wildlife and "trophy deer"... \$669,200.

#1107397—Build here! \$99,900.

#1107398—Build here! \$99,900.

#1107408—Build here! \$99,900.

#1107411—Build here! \$99,900.

#1107412—Build here! \$99,900.

#1108339—Better Than a Bargain... this is a STEAL! Build your dream home here... on this 1.20 brow lot in Mentone with amazing views! Don't hesitate on this outstanding opportunity. Call TODAY for more details. \$99,000.

#1111628—AMAZING VIEWS! YES, VIEWS!!! Enjoy the scenery that ONLY Mother Nature provides!

Live in PARADISE with your 2nd or retirement home located on the brow of Lookout Mountain, Mentone Bluffs in Mentone, AL. **REDUCED TO \$81,900.**

#1112787—40 acres in Mentone, AL with stream and untouched family owned property since 1923! Back to nature with wildlife and beautiful stream for your discretion. Call for an appointment today! \$200,000.

#1113936—Looking for a brow lot inside the city limits of Mentone? Look no further!!! Almost an acre within walking distance to downtown Mentone...buy here, build here and enjoy all the special things Mentone has to offer! Call TODAY for more information! \$78,500.

#1116127—VISTAS AND VIEWS are breathtaking from this 3.2-acre tract on the brow in Mentone near DeSoto State Park. This is a great site for your home or vacation cabin! Over 500' of brow frontage. \$199,900.

May 2019 Community Calendar

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

May 2—Afternoon Rappelling. Come experience the thrill of rappelling down the sheer sandstone gems of NE AL. Each trip includes all the gear plus basic instruction. 3–7pm. 256-997-9577.

May 3 & 24—Community Game Night. Come to the library to enjoy playing games, a finger food potluck, and socializing. 6pm. Moon Lake Community Library, Mentone.

May 3—Zip Line Adventure. All our zip lines are set up just before the adventure to ford a gorge or cross from one high point to another. Pre-registration required at True Adventure Sports by 6pm the day before the adventure. 10am–12pm. 256-997-9577.

May 3 & 4—Wildflower Saturday. Springtime at DeSoto State Park is truly beautiful, with wildflowers & trees blooming around every corner. Join DeSoto State Park staff & guest speakers for a wonderful weekend of learning about the many species of blooming plants found on Lookout Mountain. DeSoto State Park Lodge. Free & open to everyone, no pre-registration required. For any information needed, call 256-997-5025

May 3 & 4—Spring Vintage Pickin' Barn Sale. Shop from some of the best vendors from around the South! Vintage marketplace featuring: Farmhouse • Primitives • Rustic Junk • Industrial • Shabby & French Country • Repurposed goods and more. There will be live music and local food vendors! Priority Pickin' Passes for both days or general admission are available. vintagepickin.com

May 4—"Linger Longer" Pop-Up Art Show. Presented by Little River Arts Council. Featuring artist Lacy Hope Dobbs. At the Linger Longer Pavilion behind the Mentone Inn. 10am–1pm. littleriverartscouncil.org.

May 4—Mountaineering Adventure. This 4–6-hour adventure starts with a rappel into

a low light maze where we will stop and anchor part of the way down the rock wall and travel on the rock face mountaineering style to get to our main destination. True Adventure Sports. 10am–1pm. 256-997-9577.

May 4 & 17—Paperweight Class. This class is designed for those who really just want see what molten glass is all about. Feel the heat, gather from the furnace, sculpt the glass into you own design. Please join us for some in-depth discovery at Orbix Hot Glass. Reservations Required \$145 per person. 12–4pm. 256-523-3188.

May 4, 7, 18, 25, 31—Rappelling Adventure. Come experience the thrill of rappelling down the sheer sandstone gems of NE AL. Each trip includes all the gear plus basic instruction. 10am–2pm. 256-997-9577.

May 4—Elvis Chris Roberts School of Music

May 5—DARE 5K Run/Walk. The DeKalb County Sheriff office is sponsoring a 5K Run/Walk for a Drug-free DeKalb. Fyffe High School Gym is the starting point for the race. 8am.

May 6, 10, 28—Rock Climbing/Rappelling Adventure Combo. Come experience first-hand what rock climbing and rappelling is all about with guides who are fun, safe and energetic. This trip includes all the gear plus basic instruction. No prior climbing experience is needed. 10am–2pm. 256-997-9577.

May 8—Basic Rock Climbing Class. True Adventure Sports 10am–4pm.

May 9—13th Annual Mayor's Cup. Please join the Fort Payne Chamber of Commerce and the City of Fort Payne for our 13th Annual Mayor's Cup. Tee off will be at 9am at Terrapin Hills Country Club. Cash prizes for winners and we plan on making this a fun day for everyone. To learn more email us at info@fortpaynechamber.com or call us at 256.845.2741.

May 9—Rock Climbing Adventure. Come experience first-hand what rock climbing

is all about with guides who are fun, safe and energetic. This trip includes all the gear plus basic instruction. No prior climbing experience is needed. 10am–2pm. 256-997-9577.

May 10 & 18—Tumbler Glassblowing Class. This introductory glassblowing class teaches many fundamentals through the process of making a small tumbler (cup). Plenty of hands-on experience from choosing colors, gathering, paddling, blowing and shaping is gained in this four hour experience. Class size is maximum of four students so everyone has adequate time at the bench working. Some safety material is provided before the class for you to review. Please join us for some in-depth discovery. Call us at 256-523-3188 or email us at info@orbixhotglass.com for more information or to make a reservation. Reservations and full payment required. \$145. 2–4 students. Minimum age is 13 years old with parent.

May 10—Miss Rhododendron Pageant. Presented by Mentone Area Preservation Association. Audience tickets \$5. Mentone Community Church. 6pm. Email rhododendronfestival@gmail.com.

May 11 & 24—Sculpt Your Own Flower. Have you ever wanted to actually sit at the gaffer bench and feel what it is like to shape hot glass? It's all about hands on experience in a safe and fun atmosphere with a final product we know you will love. There is a minimum of 3 people and a maximum of 5 in each class. 1pm. Reservations are required. 256-523-3188.

May 11—Evening Wine & Cheese Hike. Join the Little River Waterkeeper for a unique hike along upper Hurricane Creek, among a stand of old-growth Beech trees. Here you will get to see a wide variety of native plants, thriving within this protected land. After the hike, dine on wine, craft beer, cheeses, and hors d'oeuvres. While you enjoy your vino, Bill Shugart, the Little River Waterkeeper, will discuss the organization's mission to protect the Little River and its

tributaries. Reservations are required and space is limited so please purchase your tickets early. We will gather at venue at 5:30 p.m. for socializing and the hike will be from 5:45–6:45pm. All proceeds from this event benefit the Little River Waterkeeper mission to protect, restore, and promote Little River and its tributaries. Location: Murdock Road (Address released at registration) 5:30–8pm: \$10 in advance \$15 day of event. To register, call Angie @ 256-634-8370 or email angie@oneworldadventureco.org.

May 11–12—Women's Guided Backpacking Trip for Beginners. Have you ever wanted to get into backpacking, but you were not sure where to start? If so, this trip has everything you need to get started and learn all you need to know so that you can head out on your own outdoor adventure! A Spring backpacking class just for women, and a great class for beginners/intermediate. This class will center around learning the basic skills need to backpack. This includes pitching and striking camp, fire craft, water processing, proper camping etiquettes, food & bear safety, and map reading basics. There are different sleeping options to try: tent, hammock, or shelter. Instructor will also demonstrate making your own backpacking food and cooking on the camp fire. Hiking is moderate, about 4 ½ miles round trip. Check in 9am on 11th; check out the morning of May 12. DeSoto State Park. Meet at DeSoto's Nature Center, next to the Country Store on County Road 89. \$85 per person includes all food & supplies. Mother's Day weekend special \$120 for mom and daughter. Pre-registration is required, as class size is limited. Have questions? Call 209-559-0040 or email Robert Wilson (Seven Pines Survival) for more details: sps@sevenpinesurvival.com

**MAY 12
Happy
Mother's Day!**

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CAT**

Last seen on April 17
near Miracle Pottery
on AL-Hwy 117

Male • Long Hair • Red

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@ 954-292-8130

May 2019 Community Calendar

May 13—Orienteering Class. Basic yet essential skills for survival navigation are brought to you in map reading, compass reading, and topography. 10am–1pm. 256-997-9577.

May 14–16—High Adventure Trip. This is a 3 day adventure including a Wild Cave Tour, Rock Climbing, An Extreme Night Hike and end with a relaxing canoe trip. Price includes all activities, attractions, permits, fees, gear, and guides. 10am Tues–1pm Thurs. 256-997-9577.

May 16–19—US 11 Antique Alley Yard Sale. Follow the scenic U.S. Highway 11 from Meridian, MS to Bristol, VA for more than 500-miles of yard sales! Explore charming historic communities and downtown districts like the 1889 boom town district of Fort Payne, Alabama. 888-805-4740 & 877-871-1386. visitlookoutmountain.com..

May 17—Hike of Seven Waterfalls. Hiking trip that includes hiking, swimming, bouldering, sightseeing, survival, teambuilding, waterfalls, and just plain fun. You will need to bring a small backpack, compass, flashlight, change of socks, change of clothes, camera, trail mix, water, small first aid kit, and swimsuit. We offer three different versions of this amazing hike.

Contact True Adventure Sports for details and pricing. 256-997-9577.

May 17 & 18—Bioblitz 2019 Little River Canyon National Preserve Annual Bioblitz. Plan on coming out sometime from Friday, May 18 to Sunday, May 20 to help us document the flora and fauna of the park. This service-wide initiative is a chance to inspire and engage a new generation of stewards of our fantastic natural resources, all while taking a vast snapshot of the biodiversity that is protected by our nation's parks. Schedule to be determined. Call 256-845-3548 (National Park Service) for more details. Little River Canyon Center. 256-845-9605.

May 18—Sacred Harp Singing at St. Joseph's. All are welcome. Loaner books are available, 9:30am–12pm, 1–2pm.

May 18—DRCF 30th Anniversary Fly In. We are celebrating our 30th Anniversary as a chartered club with the Academy of Model Aeronautics. Fun day with Fun, Flying, Food and Fellowship. Raffle prizes, events and who who knows what else. Mark your calendars. A day of celebration. 8am–5pm. 23rd St., Fort Payne. For more info: (404)502-0933 or glennhb007@gmail.com

May 18—Full Moon Kayak Adventure Experience. Come see Little River at Dusk and watch the full moon rise over the treeline and light up the water. \$20 per person. 6:30–9pm. To register contact 256-634-8370.

May 18 & 27—Night Zip Line Adventure. All our zip lines are set up just before the adventure to ford a gorge or cross from one high point to another. Pre-registration required at True Adventure Sports by 6 pm the day before the adventure. 7:30–9:30pm. 256-997-9577.

May 18 & 19—Mentone Rhododendron Festival. Visit mapamentone.com for the most up-to-date list of vendors and booth locations. rhododendronfestival@gmail.com.

May 20—Author Talk. Raymond Atkins, Valley Head graduate and GA Author of the Year, will discuss his books. Booksigning to follow. Light refreshments.. 6:30pm. Moon Lake Community Library, Mentone.

May 20—Bouldering Adventure. Atop Lookout Mountain Come experience first-hand what bouldering is all about with guides who are fun, safe and energetic. No prior climbing or bouldering experience is needed. Meet at True Adventure Sports. 2–6pm. 256-997-9577.

May 21—Valley Head Graduation. Lowell Howell Barron Gymnasium. 6pm.

May 21—Creative Placemaking. What is creative placemaking? It's about creatively making place! Learn more about to impact your community through the arts at this round-table discussion. Moon Lake Community Library, Mentone. 6:30pm.

May 21—Treasure Hunt Adventure. Do you enjoy trying to solve riddles and clues? This 5-hour adventure will take you deep into the heart of a cave. You will have to solve and follow each clue in order to find the next one, and ultimately the Treasure! True Adventure Sports. 3–8pm. 256-997-9577.

May 22 - 23—Overnight Camping Skills Class. Most needed camping skills are brought to you as well as advanced skills such as how to find dry fuels, how to build a fire without smoke, how to start a fire without matches or flint, lean to construction, and safety barriers. True Adventure Sports 5pm–9am. 256-997-9577.

May 25—Moon Lake Book Club. Open to everyone. Discusion of "The Library Book" by Susan Orleans. 10:30am. Moon Lake Community Library, Mentone.

May 25—Blow an Ornament. Come design and blow your own ornament with the help of one of our glass artists. No reservations are needed, it is on a first come, first serve basis. 9am–2pm. Orbix Hot Glass. Cost is \$38 per ornament blown. 256-523-3188.

May 25—Evening Lake Tour. True Adventure Sports. 4–7pm.

MAY 27 Memorial Day

May 29—Workline Rappel Class. True Adventure Sports. 9am–6pm.

May 30—GPS Basic Training and Navigation Class Part 1. Learn how to use a map, compass, and a handheld GPS. Learn basic navigation and how to pinpoint a location for quick return, or quick rescue. Also learn how to search by waypoints or coordinates. True Adventure Sports. 10am–4pm. 256-997-9577.

May 31—Celestial Navigation. This two-hour class is a basic introduction to navigation by the stars. Learn how to navigate without the use of a compass or GPS with the same rules used for almost six thousand years. Meet at True Adventure Sports. 7:30pm–9:30pm. 256-997-9577.

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Mentone Area Church Directory

Mentone, Alabama

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

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

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

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

Mentone United Methodist Church invites you to come and worship with us. Each Sunday our worship service is held at 9am and is led by Pastor Carol Gullatt. Sunday School is at 10am. The service of Holy Communion is held the first Sunday of each month and fifth Sundays are a service of music. 415 Cutler Avenue. 256-634-8006.

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

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

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

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

Hammondville, Alabama

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

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

Valley Head, Alabama

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

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

Let everything you say
be good and helpful,
so that your words
will be an encouragement
to those who hear them.
—EPHESIANS 4:29

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

Wildwood Seventh Day Adventist Church, Mentone Chapter, holds services in the Woodmen of the World Hall. All are invited to attend. Sabbath School and Song Service 9:30-10:45am, Worship Service 11am-12:15pm. Pastor - Wilbur Atwood; Lay Pastors - James Hartley and Ryan Bunnel.

Fort Payne, Alabama

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

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

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

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

New Oregon United Methodist Church is located just off DeSoto Parkway, 1/4 mile south of Fischer Crossroads. We

invite you to worship with us on Sundays. Sunday School for all ages 9:45am, Traditional Worship 11am, and Sunday Evening Service 6pm. Sunday Evening youth meet at 5:30pm. We have Wonderful Wednesdays during the school year with Bible studies for all ages, meal at 5:30pm and classes at 6:15pm. We also have Wednesday morning Bible study at 8:45am, and knitting every Tuesday at 9am. Pastor Ian Conerly. 1204 New Oregon Drive NE. 256-845-7446.

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

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

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

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

Cloudland, Georgia

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

Menlo, Georgia

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

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

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

Summerville, Georgia

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

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

Earth Day Is Everyday by Kelly Leavitt

Area residents have showed their community pride this spring in a variety of ways. The Annual Community Clean-up took place on Saturday, March 30, with over 75 volunteers taking to the roads around Mentone and collecting close to 200 large bags of litter. "This was the best clean-up we've ever had, ever," said Lyle Nicely, who has organized the event for the last 18 years. "We were able to do every section from the middle of town to the state line. It was a really great, great effort by everybody."

Jimmy Rogers of the Green Leaf Grill called a meeting at the restaurant on April 8 to address how we can keep Mentone free of litter throughout the year. Everyone agreed that it's important that when we see someone else's litter, we pick it up and dispose of it properly. To this end, one suggestion was to strategically place trash cans around town, so pedestrians



Two-year-old Rollins Hendon helped pick up litter along East River Road during the Community Clean-up.



L to R: Alton Dobbs, Riley Plunkett, Laikon Dobbs, Colton Hadley, Landon Dobbs, Alyssa Dobbs, Mayor Rob Hammond

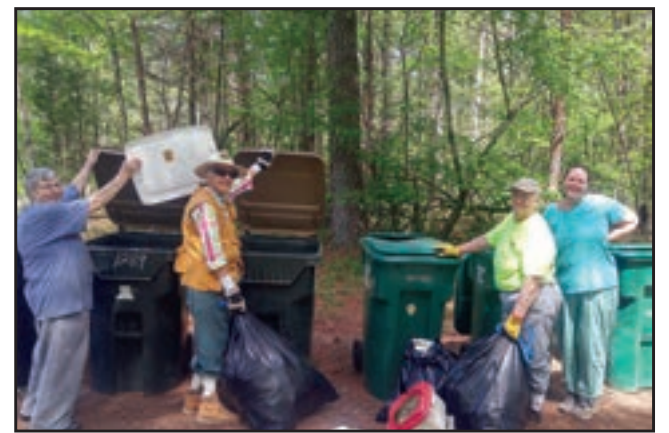
will have somewhere to dispose of their trash. The Mentone Homeschool Group are collecting donations to help the town with the cost of town trash cans. The Mayor has invited the children to a town council meeting. Several businesses have donated to the homeschool group for this cause.

Another solution to the persistent littering problem that was discussed at the meeting was the Adopt-a-Mile program, in which individuals and groups commit to keep one-mile sections of state or county roads free of litter for one year. The state provides safety vests and trash grabbers for state roads. They also provide, free of charge, the large blue signs that designate stretches of road and show who has claimed responsibility for keeping that stretch clean. The Mentone Homeschool Group has

signed up for East River Road. Todd and Christy Plunkett, as Honey Dew Farm, have adopted a section of CR-631, from Cove Church to Wright's Landscaping. MAPA has signed up for CR-613, which stretches from the stop sign at CR-89 and Tutwiler Gap all the way to DeSoto Falls. Debra Fey and Jerry Megli have adopted a mile of CR-89 stretching from Brow Park north. To learn more, visit alpals.org and search for the Adopt-a-Mile program.

Have you seen the bright and colorful "Do Not Litter" signs the Mentone Homeschool Group painted and posted around town in mid-April?

(continued on page 18)



Jan Smith, Barbara Lieu, Rand Hall, and Jan Jennings dump bags of beer bottles, cans, and assorted trash picked up along CR-72 in Mentone. The clean-up is an annual community project for residents of Alapine.



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Earth Day Is Every Day (continued from page 17)

They're a delightful addition to Mentone's landscape. They were funded by some local residents and business owners. If you'd like a sign, you can contact mentonehomeschool@gmail.com or call Christy Plunkett at 214-973-9953. "These young people also participated in the Clean-up, and have taken such pride in learning the importance of keeping their environment clean," said Christy Plunkett, who, with Lacy Dobbs, prepared the boards and painted the lettering that the children colorfully painted around. "Besides the aesthetics," Christy continued, "the children understand all litter will not decompose and will eventually make it's way to our water sources, harming our natural resources."

On the roads through Mentone, thousands of vehicles pass through every day. Litter accumulates. The fine for littering is \$250 for the first offense and \$500 thereafter. Chief McKee has stated that he and the other Mentone police officers will write a ticket to anyone they see littering.

Most people do not litter. But sadly, some do. It is up to the rest of us to help educate, and to pick up after others. It is a simple gift of service we can offer our beloved landscape.



Baked Texas Orange French Toast

submitted by Eleanor Teverino, Raven Haven B & B

1/2 cup butter, melted
1/4 cup honey
2-1/2 tsp. cinnamon, divided
6 eggs
1/4 cup sugar
1 cup half & half
1 cup orange juice
2 tsp. orange zest
16 slices Texas toast
6-oz. frozen orange juice concentrate, thawed and heated
Powdered sugar

Preheat oven to 400°. In a small bowl, combine butter, honey, and 2 tsp. cinnamon. Pour mixture into each of 2 ungreased 15"x10" jelly roll pans. Beat together eggs, sugar, half & half, orange juice, orange zest, and remaining cinnamon. Dip bread slices into egg mixture and place in prepared pans in a single layer. Pour any remaining egg mixture over bread. Bake for 10 minutes, turn slices over and bake an additional 10 minutes or until golden brown. Serve with warm orange juice concentrate and garnish with powdered sugar.

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Finster Fest at Paradise Garden

Howard Finster's Paradise Garden hosts its annual Finster Fest art and music extravaganza on Memorial Day weekend, Saturday and Sunday, May 25 and 26, in Summerville, Georgia. Finster Fest will feature more than 60 artists, live music, barbecue and other southern fare, a children's art activity area, and the chance to tour Howard Finster's famous folk-art environment. Finster Fest will feature a variety of nationally recognized self-taught artists.

Hours for the family-friendly festival are 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Eastern on both days. Admission is \$5, with free parking at the Walmart on U.S. 27 just north of the Garden, with complimentary shuttle provided. Handicap parking is available on site. Proceeds from Finster Fest benefit the nonprofit Paradise Garden Foundation, which operates and continues restoration of Howard Finster's 2-acre plus attraction.

How to Irritate Your Mother

by Dawson Williams, age 11

First, best done when she gets home from work, ask her the same question over and over again. Make sure you don't give her enough time to answer between questions. Next make sure she has to ask you multiple times to clean your room or do your homework. She will love that. Then you can always fight with your brother or sister for 10 minutes straight. It seems to work really good. Finally, you can always run upstairs and slam the door to your bedroom. I have found these 4 steps when done together are the best way to irritate your mother.

P.S. Sunday is Mother's Day, so I suggest you do not follow my directions. That way, your mother has the best Mother's Day ever.

Thanks to Kerry Breithaupt for submitting this delightful essay written by her grandson several years ago. Happy Mother's Day!



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Moon Lake Community Library News

Reading...It's Good for You by Kelly Leavitt

Many thanks to all who attended "Books and Brews" at Mentone Market in April! We sold a good many books, and everyone enjoyed socializing together. Thanks to the Mentone Market for generously donating \$1 for each beer and wine purchase. All together, we raised almost \$400.

Huge thanks to Kerry Breithaupt, who led a class on dot mandala rock painting which was attended by 38 people, including many children. Kerry donated her time and supplies, and suggested to participants that they offer a donation to the library. On that one morning, we raised \$389.

These are significant funds for our little library and they go a long way towards our ability to continue to purchase relevant books and movies for our patrons.

We also deeply appreciate our "Friends of the Library" for their annual contributions at various levels: Susan Noel, David Darr, and Jennifer Booker (Individuals); Norm & Liz Baker, Chris & Tracey Davenport, Dianne Gamble, Gay & Ron Godbois, Ruth Hathorn, Terry & Dorma Hutcheson, Mary MacMichael, Frank Mason, Anne McLeod & Don Highfield, Mr. & Mrs. Charles Runnells, Dennis & Sheila Traylor (Couple/Family); Margie Brown, John Carr, Francis & Elisabeth Cline, Amelia Kirk Lolli, Anthony & Eleanor Teverino, Jill Whitten (Patrons); Jane Faile & Wayne Gautreau, Mike Houghland, Clifford & Josie LaGuerra, Cynthia & Mickey Luck, Craig & Elizabeth Sheldon, Mellanie Tuttle & Penny

Lyday; Ben & Mary Shurrett, Sue Schwarz, Jan Wilkinson (Angels). If you'd like to "Be a Friend," drop by the library or visit moonlakelibrary.org.

Research proves that reading is good for all ages, from birth to old age. It affects cognitive skills, as well as empathy and understanding. Children are exposed to 50% more words through reading than by watching TV, according to one study, and older readers have significantly less cognitive decline than non-readers. Did you know that one study shows that reading reduces stress by 68%, more so than listening to music, having a cup of tea, or taking a walk? Many people claim "lack of time" is the main reason they don't read, but another study claims that Americans spend 10 times more time watching TV than reading. The statistics are impressive. Reading is good for you!

We have a wonderful collection of both books and movies, so stop by and see what's new.

Moon Lake Community Library is open to everyone, and library cards are issued free of charge. The use of laptop computers and wireless internet are available free of charge. Copies and prints cost 10 cents each.

Kelly Leavitt is the community librarian. Moon Lake Community Library is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3 until 6 p.m. and on Saturdays from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. Check the library's Facebook page or web site (moonlakelibrary.org) for updates or to join the email list. The library is located at 4607 AL Hwy. 117 in Mentone.

Community Game Nights Return 5/3 & 24

Game nights in February and March were so much fun, you've asked for more! We've scheduled two Friday evenings this month, May 3 and May 24, at 6 p.m. when we'll come together and enjoy playing games together. Come and play a traditional game or a new one—or bring one of your favorites to teach others.

Bring a finger food for potluck-style snacking. All ages are welcome.

What's New on the Shelves? (a partial list)

Laura Ingalls Wilder: A Writer's Life

by Pamela Smith Hill

Presidents of War by Michael R. Beschloss

How to Raise Chickens: Everything You

Need to Know by Christine Heinrichs

On Writing: A Memoir of the Craft

by Steven King

Send the Alabamians: World War I Fighters

in the Rainbow Division by Nimrod Frazer

Decision Points by George W. Bush

Becoming by Michelle Obama

Beartown by Fredrik Backman

Us Against You by Fredrik Backman

The Fallen by David Baldacci

Jayber Crow by Wendell Berry

The Guest Room by Chris Bohjalian

Robicheaux by James Lee Burke

Rules of Civility by Amor Towles

Where the Forest Meets the Stars

by Glendy Vanderah

Body of Lies by Iris Johansen

Author Talk: Raymond Atkins 5/20



The Moon Lake Community Library will host author Raymond Atkins this month on May 20 at 6:30 p.m. A graduate of Valley Head High School, Atkins was honored as Georgia Author of the Year for First Novel in 2008 for "The Front Porch Prophet." With several critically acclaimed books under his belt, he was awarded a Lifetime Achievement Award by the Georgia Writers Association in 2017.

His latest novel is "Set List," which traces the lives of members of a North Georgia bar band from the 1970s to the present day.

Join us for an evening with one of the South's most celebrated voices. The library will offer Raymond Atkins' books for sale and the author will be happy to autograph.

There is no charge for this program. Light refreshments will be served.



Moon Lake Book Club 5/25 "The Library Book"

Join fellow book lovers on for a discussion of *The Library Book*, a best-selling work of non-fiction by journalist Susan Orlean. The book club will meet on Saturday, May 25, at 10:30 a.m. at Moon Lake Community Library in Mentone (where the book is available for check-out). Everyone is welcome to join the discussion. Organic coffee and hot tea will be served.

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Volunteer Firefighters Hold Pork Butt Fundraiser & Barbeque Lunch by Vicky Patrick

The North Lookout Mountain Fire Protection District (our local volunteer firefighters) are currently holding a fundraiser with the sale of cooked and smoked pork butts. The cost of each (8–10 pounds) is \$30. They may be purchased in advance through May 11 at Mentone Market or by contacting any of the firefighters. The butts will be available for pick up on Saturday, May 18, at the fire station. If you're not free to pick yours up on that day, contact Vicky Patrick at 205-283-4081 to arrange for delivery.

Come by the fire house on Saturday, May 18 (during the Rhododendron Festival) to buy a pork sandwich, hot dogs, chips, and soft drinks. All proceeds benefit the NLMFPD.

NLMFPD Members

Joseph Lee, Chief
Kaleb McMunn, Asst. Chief
Wes Pullen, Training Officer
Will Blackburn
Dustin Burt
John Chambers
Terry Durham
Ezekiel Durham
Dan Green
Mitch Gregory
Thad Heinrich
Nathan Lawton
Toby Manifold
Gene McKee
Gary Smith
Ken Trowbridge
David Tucker

Memories of Mayberry

Saturday, June 2 • 9 a.m.

Downtown Square in Valley Head

Join the Valley Head Volunteer Fire Department for a great day for the whole family! There will be a cruise in, food, fun, entertainment and more. Featuring Mayberry characters. All proceeds go to Valley Head's Volunteer Fire Department.



This national effort by Letter Carriers helps feed our nation's hungry. The Mentone mail carriers collected nearly 500 pounds of non-perishable food for the Mentone Food Bank at St. Joseph's last year. Put your non-perishable donation in a bag by your mailbox on Saturday, May 11, or drop it off at the Mentone post office. Every donation helps.



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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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Ongoing Community Calendar

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

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

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

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

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

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

Ryleigh's Closet is a clothing closet that provides men's, women's, and children's clothing to those in need on 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month from 4–8pm. Mentone Community Church, 90 Summerville Rd. 256-634-4210.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

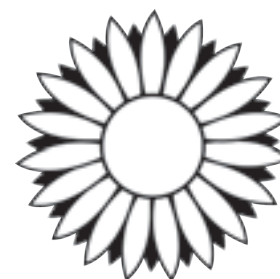
Bowling League for Seniors at Mountain Lanes in Rainsville. Wednesdays at 1pm. 256-638-1710.

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

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

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

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



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Peggy Pullen...a Woman Who Loved to Sing

by Kelly Leavitt

On Sunday, April 14, a community Easter cantata was performed in honor of the late Peggy Pullen at Moon Lake Baptist Church and Valley Head Baptist Church. For many years, Peggy was the director of the Easter and Christmas cantatas. She was arranging this April's performance when she passed away in late February.

Peggy was actively involved in music throughout her life. As a child, she was fascinated by her Russian father's balalaika (which was discussed in the July 2018 issue

of *The Groundhog*). She went on to become a teacher of many subjects, often music. On a recent visit to the Pullen home, her husband Walt proudly showed me a quilt that Peggy had received from a former student, Karen Worley Bouton. "Karen was a student of Peggy's in her first year of teaching, in 1956," he said, "and she found Peggy on Facebook after all these years." The quilt top and backing are printed with countless musical notes, and Walt said each note is meant to represent a student who was influenced in some way by Peggy.

As a mother, school teacher, and Sunday School teacher, Peggy's life was devoted to education and children. During several summers in the 1970s, she accompanied groups of elementary school children to various cities in Europe. That her students (many now middle-aged and older) actively stayed in touch with her through social media reveals how important she was to them in their early years. Her passion for education and music was evident in everything she did, and it is gratifying that she was memorialized by the cantata she chose.



Detail of a quilt crafted by Karen Worley Bouton



Community Singers: Director—DeVann Jackson; Sopranos—Brittany Carrol, Lynn Castleberry, Dianne Kuehl, Rachel Rich, Bonnie Tucker Ware; Altos—Gail Crow Chambers, Wilma Fletcher, Marcia Glover, Nina Haney, Jean Jones, Megan Sanchez, Tricia Shankles, Jan Wilkinson; Tenors—Freddy Glover, LuJean Pierce, Hoyle Smith; Bases—Bob Crow, John Jones, Bill Mitchell, Walt Pullen

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the flowers
to paint the
laughing soil."
—HEBER*

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DeSoto State Park Offers Fun & Learning



Saturday Hikes

Over the course of the day, you will be able to choose from 3 separate hikes during the day, each hike with different leaders. Explore many of DeSoto's trails, which can vary from fairly flat terrain to slightly steep inclines and rocky ground. Each hike is marked for its difficulty level. Be sure to wear appropriate footwear & bring along water and snacks along on the hikes.

The Azalea Cascade Hike

9 a.m. / 1 p.m. / 3 p.m.

Easy to Moderate

Meet on the deck behind DeSoto's Country Store.

The Rhododendron Trail Hike

9 a.m. / 1 p.m. / 3 p.m.

Moderate to mildly strenuous

The Little River Hike

9 a.m. / 1 p.m. / 3 p.m.

Moderate to mildly strenuous

Meet on the grassy area outside DeSoto's Country Store

Wildflower Saturday at DeSoto State Park offers, for the 27th year, a day of celebrating wildflowers. Traditionally held the first Saturday of May, this year's event is on May 4. Learn about the many species of blooming plants found on Lookout Mountain. All Wildflower Saturday events are free and open to everyone. To learn more, visit alapark.com/dsp-wildflower-saturday or call 256-997-5025.

Guest Speakers

Native Medicinal Plants and their Uses

Friday, May 3 @ 6 p.m.

DeSoto State Park Lodge

Presenter: Phyllis D. Light, MA, RH

Growing or foraging native plants for food and medicine is an age-old practice that has sustained humans since the dawn of time. Using plants our native plants provides more than just benefits for the body, it also connects us to the land – the soil, the air, and the water of our local environment. Join Phyllis as she discusses the medicinal uses of common plants that can either be grown or foraged such as black walnut, goldenseal, blue vervain, sumac, skullcap, passionflower, chickweed, black cohosh, American ginseng, cayenne, echinacea, and pine.

Wildflower Jeopardy

Saturday, May 4 @ 7:15 p.m.

DeSoto State Park Lodge

Presenter: Mike Ezell

From the northern mountains to the southern coastal plains, Alabama's landscape is blanketed with a diverse array of wildflowers and native plants. Join guest speaker Mike Ezell, Park Naturalist of Lake Guntersville State Park for a program about the many wildflowers found in the North Alabama region; discover

more about Alabama's natives with "Wildflower Jeopardy"! Test your knowledge and amaze your friends with your knowledge, googling ability, or just pure luck (or just swing by for the laughs).

Categories include Spring Ephemerals, Wildflowers, Shrubs, Trees, and Vines.

Kayak Rentals

Miller's Bend Paddle Shack in DeSoto Falls Picnic Area will open for the season on May 4. Enjoy a peaceful flatwater paddle up the West Fork of Little River on sit-on-top single or tandem kayaks. For details, visit alapark.com/kayak-little-river or call 256-845-5380.

Zip Line Opens



DeSoto State Park has partnered with Screaming Eagle Ziplines and Aerial Adventures to offer a sky trail in the trees. Traverse, high in the air, over unique and fantastically shaped boulders and flowering flora characteristic only to DeSoto State Park. For details, see desotozipline.com or call 256-886-3761.



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