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Volume 39, No. 11

"Neighborly News from the Heart of Lookout Mountain"

November 2020

Mentone Loves Its POST OFFICE

by Kelly Leavitt

Treats for your canine fur babies. A great selection of greeting cards. Free books to browse. Colorful seasonal blooms to admire year round. And best of all, friendly service that's second to none and neighbors to chat with out on the sidewalk. Where can you find all this in the 35984 ZIP code but at the Mentone Post Office on the corner of Alabama Highway 117 and Douglas Street?

As we reflect on gratitude this month, we want to give a shout out to the hardworking staff and their regulars whose day would not be complete

without a trip to their favorite government building.

Amy Brooks, Mentone's postmaster, became a postal clerk in Centre, AL, in 2014, and began working in Mentone in 2015. Three years later she became the postmaster. "I love my job," Amy said. "I've made so many good, long-lasting friendships with so many people, especially the elderly people. I have a real soft spot for them. It's a great community."

It helps too that she has a top notch staff. "By far, hands down, I have the best group of employees that any post office has probably got," Amy said. "They all work together well, they're always there, they're all very knowledgeable with what they're doing. I couldn't do it without them. They make my job easy."

Clerks Diana Payne and Stacy Talent take care of the retail side, selling postage and stamps and sorting mail into the almost 350 post office boxes which are currently rented. Carrier Jennifer Davis delivers the majority of Mentone's mail,

LEFT: Kristen Emory, Mentone Town Clerk, and Diane Murphy, of Fort Payne Water Works, walk together from the Town Hall building every day to get the mail. "We go in and visit with Amy and Diana whenever we can," said Kristen.



driving 90 miles each day to deliver to almost 700 residential mailboxes in the 35984 ZIP code. "Jennifer is such a good carrier," said Amy. "She really loves her job." Nicole Tidwell is an auxiliary carrier who has a smaller route in the Cherokee County area. Gina Scoggins is a substitute carrier. Terry Browder spends time three days each week cleaning the post office, which has been especially important since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. "She's very good at what she does," said Amy.

Amy and her co-workers are wonderful neighbors, explains Kat Johnson who lives just across the street. "The post office staff's compassion is amazing. Last winter I was very sick and couldn't get up and down. The girls would often come and check on me during their lunch break. The other day I made lunch and called the girls and invited them over to eat," said Kat. "We had spaghetti, with bread pudding for dessert."

(continued on page 1)

Fire Department Needs Volunteers

by Ken Trowbridge & Vicki Patrick

The North Lookout Mountain Fire Protection District can use the help of anyone over the age of 18 with a valid driver's license. We are looking to have sufficient volunteers to help cover the various calls the Department gets, as there are three stations in the Mentone area: Station 1 on Hwy 117, Station 2 on County Road 165, and Station 3 on Hwy. 89 towards the Georgia state line.

The most common calls are assisting in traffic control at motor vehicle accidents and clearing the road from fallen trees. Brush fires and structure

fires occur occasionally. No previous firefighting experience is needed, as we offer training. If you don't feel like being a firefighter, you can help in other ways! Other duties include light vehicle and equipment maintenance and station upkeep.

We meet most Monday nights at Mentone Station #1 across from the Mentone Market at 6 p.m. Occasionally, we may meet at Station #2 on CR 165. Feel free to drop by and introduce yourself on Monday night, or contact Chief Joe Lee at 256-899-4027.



Recently, this painted rock and others like it were anonymously left at the fire station on Highway 117 in Mentone.

*"Bless our firefighters one and all
Keep them safe on every call"*



THE GROUNDHOG

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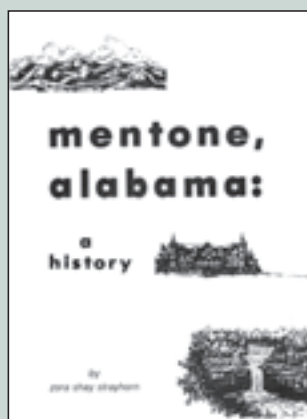
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The opinions, beliefs, and viewpoints expressed by the various authors in this publication do not necessarily reflect the opinions, beliefs, and viewpoints or policies of the Mentone Area Preservation Association.

Groundhog wood cut courtesy of Meg Justice

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



**Learn about the
History of Mentone**

**Zora Strayhorn's book,
*Mentone, Alabama: A
History*, is for sale at
Mentone Market.
\$15; proceeds benefit
MAPA.**

Mentone Matters • by Mayor Rob Hammond

Recently I walked across the new bridge. On either end, "2020" is engraved on the side. When the bridge opens, it will be one of the few bright spots of this year!

The MAPA golf scramble was a success. The weather was challenging—fog, wind, and rain. Our team had fun despite the weather! Hopefully this will become an annual event.

Recently the town had Peachtree St. and Dempsey Avenue paved. Some of the funding came from the Rebuild Alabama



Act (fuel taxes were increased). Municipalities will continue to receive a portion of this revenue.

State Representative Nathaniel Ledbetter will swear in the mayor and council on November 2.

Thanks to Wesley Griffith for his 20 years of service on the council. His wit, humor, and wisdom will be missed. David Allgood will fill his seat. David attended a League of Municipalities workshop in Montgomery for new council members and mayors. We look forward to working with David for the next four years.

Unfortunately, COVID numbers are climbing in DeKalb County and around the country. Pandemic fatigue is real and most of us are feeling it. However, to slow down the spread of COVID we should continue to wear masks in public, social distance, and wash our hands often. Until there is a vaccine, these public health policies remain our best defense.



Photo of DeSoto Falls by Tyler Allen, October 2020

Letter from the Editor

Ah, to count the many reasons I am grateful to live in the Mentone area... Every day, something (or someone) reminds me of one of these reasons.

It might be the view I enjoy while walking or driving, be it a grassy field of horses or cows, the dramatic silhouette of a tree against the sky, or the clear night sky littered with stars. It could be the friendly waves offered to me as I drive the back roads. (Such a simple act, in such a complicated world.) Most certainly, it's the people. The "native" families who have welcomed me; the church families who support their congregations

and the community; the first responders—all of them well-trained volunteers; the artists and the farmers, the readers and the builders, the hikers and the proprietors, the veterans and the volunteers. The list goes on...

Thanks to Sarah Wilcox for the idea of writing about the post-office-scene in Mentone. I really enjoyed spending some dedicated time there this month simply talking with people. Please reach out with any story ideas you may have that you'd like to see written about in *The Groundhog*, as we aim to truly reflect our community.

For all of you, I am grateful. —Kelly



MAPA News by Mark Hoffman

Many thanks to everyone who made our first (and hopefully not the last!) MAPA Charity Golf Tournament a success. This includes players, sponsors, and volunteers, and Darlene, Tommy, and Marc at Lil Mole Run, whose tremendous assistance and graciousness as our hosts made for a relatively “smooth” day, despite the misty clouds that hovered over the mountain all morning. Also, kudos to the DeSoto Rescue Squad, which provided lunch to

all of the participants and was able to raise some funds for their organization in the process.

Now that fall is officially here, along with the cooler weather and changing colors that accompany it, please take some time to go outdoors and enjoy our beautiful community and surrounding areas. Soon enough we’ll all want to be snuggled in and stay warm by the stove or fireplace. Let’s get some exercise and fresh air while we can!

Please stay safe and follow CDC

protocols, as the COVID-19 pandemic spikes again in our area and across the state. It is the individual responsibility of each of us to help our family, friends and neighbors that we come into contact with in this regard. Thanks, and we hope to see you out on the trails and in the parks. I can always be reached via email: mhoffmanatty@yahoo.com.

Mark Hoffman is the president of the Mentone Area Preservation Association.

Join MAPA Today

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

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

One of MAPA’s key missions is supporting local organizations and projects which seek to improve the quality of life in Mentone. Financial grants are made possible through MAPA

memberships, donations, sponsorships, *Groundhog* advertising and subscriptions, and by hosting annual spring and fall festivals which feature handmade arts and crafts and live music.

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

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

Read The Groundhog online @ readthegroundhog.com

Rep. Ledbetter to Swear in New Mayors and Councils

Alabama State Representative Nathaniel Ledbetter will swear in the mayor and council members of Valley Head and Mentone on Monday, November 2. The Valley Head ceremony will begin at 6 p.m. at Valley Head Town Hall. The Mentone ceremony will begin at 7 p.m. at Mentone Town Hall. An organizational meeting will follow each ceremony.



DeSoto Rescue Squad Acquires Specialized Life Saving Equipment

by Michael Stone

DeSoto Rescue Squad is pleased to announce the purchase of two Defibtech Lifeline ARM CPR-assist devices. These devices were funded by the COVID Relief Grant for Health Care and Emergency Response Providers provided by the State of Alabama. We would like to thank Governor Kay Ivey, Senator Steve Livingston, Representative Nathaniel Ledbetter, and the entire Alabama Legislature for making these grants possible.

These devices have been placed on two of our three rescue vehicles. Each device provides mechanical chest compressions, acting as an extra set of hands in cardiac arrest situations. This allows our providers to

perform other vital tasks, including ventilation, use of the AED (automated external defibrillator), and performance of Advanced Life Support skills by our licensed paramedics.

These devices are an invaluable asset to the DeSoto Rescue Squad and the communities we serve.

As always, we would like to thank the members of our communities for their continued support of our rescue squad.

Michael Stone is the captain of the DeSoto Rescue Squad (desotorecue.com). He can be reached at captain@desotorecue.com.



Mentone Post Office (continued from page 1)

All the staff make it a point to know all their regulars. Jan Wilkinson and her large dog, Doc, visit frequently. Diana asked her once if she was known as "Grandmommy." "I said, 'Yes, I am.' She said, 'Oh, we have a letter for you!' One of my grandchildren had written me and used an incorrect box number. It was addressed to Grandmommy. Not Grandmommy Jan, not Grandmommy Wilkinson. Somehow they figured it was me. It's the magic of this post office. I have a Fort Payne address, but I keep a post office box here in Mentone so I can come to town for the socializing."

Jan's Doc is just one of the dogs who's welcomed by the postal workers. Six days a week, Sue Schwarz brings her schnauzer, Samson, to the post office. "Every day, he starts pestering me when he knows it's time to go to the post office," Sue told me.



Bill Berry with Kat Johnson

Sarah Wilcox often brings her Golden Retriever, George, along with her. "They love seeing George and tossing him treats. He pretends he can't catch them, so they keep trying with more!"

Postmaster Amy says, "The dogs are like our babies. They come every day and we

always have a treat for them. We really get attached to them." Diana concurs. "We love the dogs. We keep a box of treats that we keep filling up. It wouldn't be the same without them."

Another thing their customers appreciate about the post office: There's no need



to drive down the mountain to pick out a card to send to a friend. "I love this place," said Mary Ann Robbins. "I am a card fanatic. I would drive to Chattanooga to buy a card, if I had to. But I never have to. The card collection here is beautiful. And it's just a short walk away. That's a big treat for me."

Casi Brown and her friend, Gloria Sitz, whom many know as the musician, "Alabama Annie," have a long tradition of swapping greeting cards. Casi said, "Gloria's in California with her son, Chas, right now, so we snail mail back and forth. We do the same thing, though, when she's home in Reece City. We're on the computer all the time, anyway, but we send mail to each other just because we like to. We have the same birthday, so we mail cards back and forth to each other, sometimes the same cards. Our post office is really cool because everybody knows you. I come every morning to see people, and I always stop to enjoy the flowers and see what's been planted, if there's something new."

We can all be thankful for the Rhododendron Garden Club members who plant the lovely flower garden by the lobby's front doors. Member Dee Kelley takes the main responsibility for maintaining the garden. "Most of the Garden Club members are Master Gardeners," she said. "I claim to be a Master Weed Puller. I get my pleasure by trying to make things look better."

A Little Free Library, sponsored by the Moon Lake Community Library,

(continued on page 5)



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Mentone Post Office (continued from page 4)



Postmaster Amy Brooks poses with the picket Jan Wilkinson sketched out and which Amy painted for MERF's Pathway to Community fence. It's no surprise it features a dog!

faces the post office and offers books free for the taking. Several people help straighten up and add to the collection when needed. Next to the Little Free Library is a bulletin board which was placed by the Mentone Area Preservation Association (MAPA) for the community's general use. A concrete bench nearby features a mosaic mural created by artists Heather Nicely and Linda Munoz. Perhaps it was Heather who expressed the community's love of its post office most succinctly: "It's the hub of society!"

Rob Hammond, mayor of Mentone and owner of Camp Laney, claims he's no longer allowed to pick up mail for the camp at the post office because "I'd leave and come back and I'd have been gone for over an hour. I wasn't very efficient, due to all the socializing," he told me with a chuckle.

Donna Bares, assistant director of Riverview Camp for Girls, says, "This is a place I get to see people I know but don't get to see every day. I think of people who I miss, like Nancy Smith, or Mr. Golden, who I used to see every day—the people

who have passed away. I enjoy meeting the new people, too. I'm the kind of person who will introduce myself. I see people from the other camps and we get a chance to talk about camp, which has been really helpful this year."

With social lives disrupted by the pandemic, spotting friends at the local post office is especially sweet this year. "I come to the post office every morning to see folks and chit chat," said Mike Hoagland. "We haven't had church in such a long time, so it's a good way to see people. The world sure has changed."

Dianne Kuehl is another Mentonian whose regular morning routine includes a trip to the post office. "This is the only place I see certain people," she said. Bill Berry agrees. "It's a great community center here. It's a place where people come and catch up, and greet each other. Everyone feels very welcomed by the staff."

Mike Keracher told me, "It's a place to meet all your friends and come to get your mail, in that order. I love this post office. It's the best post office in the world!" That's one more reason why every person I spoke with had this to say: They are grateful to live in Mentone.



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IT'S ALL ABOUT THE WOW FACTOR! From the wrought-iron, fenced entry, to its panoramic views from over 350' of brow frontage, this 4.2-acre property has plenty of everything to WOW you. Spacious, cedar-sided cabin w/4BR/3BA; rich wood floors; great kitchen; generous back deck; walk-out basement w/views & great potential. Attached 2-car garage; detached 34x39 workshop (perhaps a future guest quarters or event building?) Half the property is fenced, & includes intriguing boulder-surrounded pond w/ waterfall; fruit trees; so much more, & every feature keeps leading your eyes back to that magnificent view! \$695,000. (1155122)



..... LOTS and LAND

NEW LISTING! 46 ACRES, BARN, PONDS & fencing. Lookout Mtn acreage, ready for whatever dream you have been considering. Privacy, peace & quiet await. Convenient to Little River Nat'l Preserve, Fort Payne, Desoto State Park, Mentone. \$220,000 (1155213)

NEW LISTING! 45 ACRES WITH POND. Turn this farm into a dream homestead! Currently an active cattle farm, this lovely property has the elevations to build with a view. It's a quiet piece of the countryside in the Desoto Park - Mentone - Fort Payne orbit that is waiting for someone to make it shine. \$160,000 (1155481)

MENTONE. PLENTY OF ROOM TO ROAM! Enjoy 18.2, unrestricted, wooded acres of your very own, just minutes from downtown Mentone. Substantial, paved, county road frontage. Priced very agreeably at only \$85,000! (1152988)

RARE LOT ON LITTLE RIVER AT FALLS. Located just upstream from the picturesque "red boat house" at DeSoto Falls, this beautifully-wooded lot offers approx 95' of river frontage in the prime part of West Fork, Little River; the truly navigable part where you can canoe, kayak or pontoon all the way to Mentone! Swim, boat, fish, hike to the falls. Hardwoods, rhododendron, mtn laurel on the property. \$149,900. (1149018)

BROWFRONT LOT. Enjoy your morning coffee and greet the sunrise. From this vantage point, you can watch the changing seasons across the valley & beyond to Lookout Mountain. 0.8-acre, beautifully-wooded lot w/over 160' East Brow frontage. Owner financing avail. \$75,000 (1151053)

SWEET! Level, partly-wooded, corner lot, approx 0.5 acres. Seller says this was the site of the original homeplace for this beautiful area once known as Pells Gap. Owner financing avail. \$15,000. (1151268)



THE POSSIBILITIES ARE ENDLESS! Pristine cabin & 22 acres on gorgeous Lookout Mtn. Half woods, half active hayfield, just south of Desoto St Park, minutes from the 15,000+ acre Little River Canyon Nat'l Preserve (an area great for hiking, biking, trail riding, canoeing & kayaking.) This is one of the best built, maintenance-free cabins you will find w/HW floors throughout & like-new appliances. Your very own mountain playground. \$250,000 (1154959)



13.34 ACRES, 3 PONDS, OLD FARM HOUSE, SHOP & VARIOUS OUTBUILDINGS. The old house needs a good bit of TLC. Best feature is the stone fireplace. Decent little front porch, too. Ponds are thought to offer good fishing in all of them. Three wells on the property, one of which is clear, freestone water. (Public water has been run to the house). Fruit trees. Older mobile homes on property (one has burnt) could be kept or moved away. There are so many possibilities for this place! We're not saying it's in A1A condition, so don't expect it. There's plenty of WORK to be done. That's why it's priced as it is. \$129,900 (1155211)



SPACIOUS CABIN HOME ON 13 ACRES 3BR/2.5BA, 2500 sq ft, one-owner home features a welcoming front porch & a deep, oversized back porch for easy entertaining outdoors. Main-level master suite. Upstairs are two large bedrooms & guest bath. Property includes a well-equipped workshop; large pole barn for firewood w/attached chicken coop. Also avail with less acreage. \$319,900 (1154082)



A PIECE OF MENTONE MTN HISTORY, written in stone & wood, tucked into the boulder-strewn hillside in historic East River Park, Camp Alpine area. Constructed entirely of stone, this unique, tiny, 1BR/1BA cottage truly captures the essence of the mountain. There's also a detached studio (or perhaps use it as a guest BR) & small storage building. Little River just across the road, & an access point at Alpine bridge is only a short walk away. \$125,000 (1155754)



PEACEFUL & QUIET 33.78 acres; fenced & cross-fenced; pond; pole barn; verdant pastures; lush woodland areas; 4BR/3BA ranch-style home, w/ finished, walkout basement. Satisfying views of pond & pasture from the front porch. House needs repairs, but this is one of those truly special places well worth considering. Best buy on the market in Mentone with this much acreage. Located on a paved, county road. \$299,000 (1145542)



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



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





N•E•W•S
by Anne McLeod

When I remember our first summer on the mountain in 2018, I think of Little River Arts Council's music series at the Linger Longer Pavilion behind the Mentone Inn—the wonderful music, the cool evening air with stars and moon overhead, an audience that was not too big and not too small. In short, a simple event that was somehow more than the sum of its parts.

We missed those concerts this summer, as the Arts Council focuses on virtual events during the pandemic. I joined Little River Arts Council's Board in 2019 so I've been part of difficult decisions as we come to terms with limitations.

But artists are familiar with limitations and use them to work more creatively. A quilter embarks on a challenge from her guild to create a quilt with particular "rules." A painter decides that this will be his palette because these are the paints he has on hand. Limitations force us to come up with new strategies and hone different skills.

Little River Arts Council itself has long used

the limitation of a limited budget to develop creative ways to bring art to the Mentone community. The sign on the Arts Council booth at those idyllic summer concerts read "Music for the People." What we do best and have done since 2006 is offer engaging, inexpensive art programming for the people on a shoestring budget. We'll keep doing that in new ways and look forward to returning to our traditional events when we can.



how to contact them. If you'd like to be listed or you're looking for artwork for yourself or for gifts, please go to our website.

Our funds come from memberships, small grants, and the occasional donation. We hope you'll support Little River Arts Council with a membership or donation and check out our programs at littlriverartscouncil.org.

Anne McLeod serves as secretary for the Little River Arts Council.



Virtual Programming to Begin in November

Little River Arts Council received a relief grant this summer from the Alabama State Council on the Arts to help sustain the organization during this time of pandemic. The board voted to use these funds, in part, to develop a series of virtual concerts, talks, and studio tours of local artists. The artists and musicians will be paid for their time, helping the Arts Council fulfill its mission of supporting artists.



In November, we will be filming a concert performed by Will Dooley and Tony Brook at the Fort Payne Opera House. Both musicians are excited about this, as they've never performed at the Opera House. Even though they will perform to an empty house, we hope their performance will be flavored by the long history of the 131-year-old venue. Tony and Will are both working musicians/songwriters. Will is a beloved fixture of our local music scene. He has performed with Norman Blake, Johnny Neel, Vassar Clements, Larry Keel, Billy Joe Shaver, Lazybirds, Doc Watson, James Bryan, and The Skeeters, just to name a few. He often shares the stage with Tony, who has performed with Lucinda Williams, Steve Young, Johnny Neal, Tanya Tucker, and Waylon Jennings' band, and has opened up for such acts as Willie Nelson, Ray Charles, Government Mule, Tensely Elis, and Sam Bush.

This month we will also feature videos of Sand Mountain blacksmith Taylor Blake as she gives us a tour of her studio and talks about her work, and of Mikel Yeakel, a Cloudland photographer who moved to our area from Atlanta earlier this year.

These videos will be posted in November on our website, social media, and YouTube. We hope you'll enjoy getting to know these artists.

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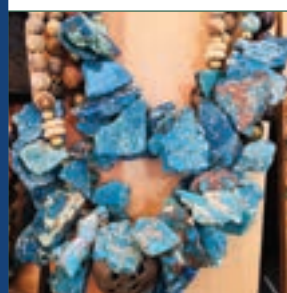
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Thomas Bone, #1706

MERF News

[Mentone Educational Resources Foundation]

by Sarah Wilcox



Hearts-a-Burstin' is one of the many plants in our area that I love being surprised by on a walk in the woods. Go find one soon if you do not know what I am talking about. MERF and my heart are a burstin' too with gratitude and warmth this season of thanksgiving. None of us saw the change that was coming in 2020, but we have received some great gifts along with disappointments. I am so grateful that the entire Moon Lake Elementary School student body and adults were able to attend "The Naked Mole Rat Gets Dressed" rock musical in March, right before the shutdown. I am still dancing and singing in my heart from a memorable and fun adventure with our local kids. I am also thankful for the many people who have reached out wondering how they could help with the needs of Mentone. The spring and shutdown also gave me time to enjoy phone calls with many of our lunch bunch crew (hope to be back to that joy soon). COVID-19 slowed down the Pathway to Community project, but it also gave a



The Haldeman and McMunn children enjoying the "buddy bench"

great opportunity to be in small groups and have time for each other. I am so appreciative of being able to spend many hours and days with people I knew and had the opportunity to get to know while painting fence pickets. Thankful that I have had to ask for more help from many willing volunteers. Grateful to be able to provide food for local children. Thankful for those with creative vision and those with willing hands. In awe and grateful for the woodworking genius of Don Highfield on the Pathway sign and abacus. Full heart too seeing the growing friendships of the MERF moms and toddlers. And oh, how my heart bursts when encountering strangers and friends enjoying the Pathway to Community. My smile cannot be contained. 2020 has not been easy but it has offered great moments with my neighbors. Thank you everyone for sharing your gifts of yourself, your creativity, your skills, and your sweat equity! #merfisgrateful

November is not only a month of Thanksgiving but also a time to fill out the application for MERF's Sue McLaurin Henry Memorial scholarship which will award funds to eligible college and technical school students for the 2021 Winter/Spring semester. Students must live in Mentone or Valley Head, have a financial need and be a full time student with a B average or above. Applications for the Scholarship are available by email, from the counselors at JSU and NACC or from merf.mentone@gmail.com. Due date is Tuesday, December 1, 2020.



Top: Don Highfield

Right: The new sign also serves as a lap counter.

And if you need a thank you gift or want to support MERF, purchase a "Leave Me in Mentone" t-shirt, baseball caps, and ¼ zip sweatshirts. See MERF artwork available for purchase at Mountain Framing, Mentone Arts Center, or 32auctions.com/mountainframing and 32auctions.com/macc. If you have not experienced the Pathway to Community musical instruments, relaxing chairs, and joyful fence, head over to the MERF house soon! Have a wonderful season of Thanksgiving!



Cuteness overload at the Pathway as these boys look for the answers in the Bable drum



Members of the Rhododendron Garden Club plant liriopie at the base of the mural.

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

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MAPA's Charity Golf Tournament

Thank you to the golfers who braved the elements to play in MAPA's Charity Golf Tournament on October 10 at Lil Mole Run Golf Course in Mentone.

Due to the track of Hurricane Delta over our area on the day of the tournament, the players experienced dense fog in the early hours of play. Eventually, gusty winds and light rain became challenges, as well. All the golfers were true sports and everyone had a great time!

Thank you to Lil Mole Run for being gracious and helpful hosts, to DeSoto Rescue Squad members for providing lunch, to Charla Hermann and Darlene Shore for donating lovely gift baskets for our raffle, and to MAPA's volunteers and board members for helping the event run smoothly. The funds that MAPA raised from the tournament will help fund financial grants to local non-profits.



MAPA volunteer Mary Ann Robbins and Tournament Chair Sharon Habin with the raffle prizes

They came through the mist and mounted their small transports. Over hill and dale into the mist they continued. The fog enveloped them, which made their journey and task a hunt. Finally the fog lifted, the small bridge could be seen from a distance. The light rain with a chilling breeze tested endurance. Finally all accomplished what they had started and the Tourney was complete. The brave souls left for the warmth of hearth and home. —Sharon Habin, Tournament Chair

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CABIN BY THE RIVER—2 Bedroom, 1 Bath cabin situated on 3.39 wooded acres bordered by the Chattooga River. Custom glass kitchen cabinet doors and Sylacauga marble backsplash in the kitchen. Kayak or float river to Weiss Lake or take it easy and fish for supper. \$89,900. MLS #1154660



IMMACULATE MENTONE HOME. 3BR, 2BA. Open kitchen & dining area w/ lots of cabinets and granite countertops. LR & Den. Central heat/air, central vacuum, tile & hardwood floors, fireplace. Large bath w/ tub & separate shower, double sink vanity. Nice patio & back porch, 3-car garage. 3 wooded acres. \$350,900. MLS #1153481



WARM & INVITING—3 BR 3.5 BA home w/ Master & guest BR on main level, 3rd BR, loft & sitting area on second level. 2 sunrooms, living room w/ wood burning fireplace, 320sq. ft. front porch. 3-car garage. Situated on 1.43 acres less than 1 mile from downtown Mentone. \$379,000. MLS #1154406



MENTONE LOG CABIN on hill w/ sunset views, 300yds. off Little River West Fork. 3BD/2BA, black walnut LR floor, slate rock kitchen floor. Covered porch on 3 sides. Illuminated patio w/ fire pit, koi pond w/ waterfall. Recent updates include tin roof, remodeled baths, pressure-treated porch floor. \$346,500. MLS #1153722



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

LOTS & LAND

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

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

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

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

#1076286—Beautiful Building Spot in Mentone! Perfectly located 1.75 acre building lot in West Fork Subdivision with over 400 feet of river frontage! \$39,900.

#1078140—16.3 acres, unrestricted, partially wooded! \$66,800

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

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

#1112787—40 acres in Mentone, AL with stream and untouched family owned property since 1923! REDUCED TO \$197,000

#1113936—Looking for a brow lot inside the city limits of Mentone? \$68,500

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

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

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#1118815—A GREAT PLACE TO BUILD YOUR GETAWAY NOW! Level wooded lots with underground utilities, inside gated community. Just minutes to historic downtown Mentone. Call today for more information. \$25,000

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

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

#1128694—40 acres with 3-acre lake stocked with bream and bass. \$189,900.

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

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

#1138874—WAKE UP TO WATERFRONT LIVING on this 6.22 acres with a long and winding stream and frontage on Brush Creek. This property is located in a cul-de-sac and has lots of rock outcroppings and boulders scattered all about. The property has beautiful frontage along the creek and is mostly wooded. \$49,900

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

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

#1150850—BEAUTIFUL BROW PROPERTY on County Road 103. You are within 5 minutes of Little River Canyon Falls! This is a great opportunity to purchase land and build that mountain cabin or dream home you desire! Seller will consider owner finance at full ask price with 20% down at 5.5% interest rate! \$52,900.

#1148791—Beautiful 2-acre parcel in the mountains of Mentone on County Road 106! Wooded, gently sloping. Make that dream come true of building that cabin in the mountains of Alabama. Power and water at the road. \$13,900



1 SPECTACULAR SPACE, 3 SEPARATE AREAS... "General's Lodge" w/ 3BR, 2BA, wood stove, spectacular views.... "Hideaway Lodge" on lower level of main lodge w/ 2BR, 1BA.... "Tree House" above detached garage w/ 1BR, 1BA. 2.74 acres w/ trees, outdoor spaces, over 300' of Brow Views AND an impressive rental history! \$549,000. MLS #1153165



GREAT LOCATION IN MENTONE—PRICED FOR LOT ONLY—Location in walking distance of downtown. Lot is 130' X 427'. House has too much repair to be marketed as livable. It has a small floored area underneath that was used for storage. SOLD "AS IS - WHERE IS". \$64,900. MLS #1151880

#1149803—GORGEOUS LOT IN MENTONE with .81+/- acres in Hunter's Ridge Subdivision. \$15,000

#1150871—WHAT AN ADDRESS FOR YOUR NEXT HOME! Enjoy peace and quiet and the sound of rushing waters on this 3-acre lot on West Fork of Little River in Mentone. Bring your plans and move to Mentone today! \$48,500

#1150900—ATTENTION LAND LOVERS...For those of you seeking peace and quiet surroundings on West Fork Little River here's your chance to build the home of your dreams. This 2-acre tract is too wonderful to pass you by. \$48,500

#1150911—PANAROMIC VIEWS FOR MILES & MILES! Along with views of Battelle below in the valley. Bring your home plans and enjoy nature on this 8.9 tract of land. \$230,000

#1150912—WOW! What Amazing VIEWS you have for miles and miles! Beautiful views of Battelle below. Great place to build your forever home on this 8.8 acres of prime brow property. \$225,000



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Moon Lake Community Library News

by Kelly Leavitt



Books, books, books! We have books to borrow (thousands of them) and books to buy (hundreds of them). You can reserve books (and DVDs) to borrow on our web site at moonlakelibrary.org, where you can also browse our "virtual book sale" to see our fiction books that are available. The sale shelves also have an abundance of children's books, as well as non-fiction, so if you'd like to browse the shelves in person, please make an appointment for private browsing on our web site. We hope to have a "pop-up" book sale under our tent in the library parking lot before winter sets in. Keep an eye on our website and Facebook page for any last-minute announcements.

The library board of directors would like to thank Jerome Stephens for serving as its chairman for many years. He has decided to step down from his position, which has now been filled by Holley Midgley. With the recent relocation of member Pam Ferguson, we have two available board seats. If you are interested in filling a seat, or if you would like to nominate someone for the position, please let us know by emailing moonlakecommunitylibrary@yahoo.com. It's a great way to serve our community without a great deal of time or effort. Our library is truly a *community* library, as it is funded and administered by community volunteers. The library is registered as a non-profit 501(c)(3) in the state of Alabama.

Kelly Leavitt is the librarian at Moon Lake Community Library.

Virtual Escape Room Adventure November 12 @ 7 pm via Zoom

Many of our readers enjoy reading thrillers. In November, instead of *reading* about art thieves and escape artists, we're offering the chance to *be* an art thief and escape artist!

On November 12 at 7 p.m., the library will host a virtual "escape room." Participants will connect online via Zoom and combine their communication and thinking skills to successfully "escape" in a fictional scenario called the "Museum Heist."

As former art thieves, you and your friends are hired to find a rare collection of stolen artwork on the eve of a prestigious gallery opening. Breaking your way into the thief's home, you must follow clues, find the stolen goods, and escape before the clock runs out. This immersive adventure is good for all ages. —from breakoutgames.com/Chattanooga



When escape rooms began to spring up across the country a few years ago, many thought they would be a passing fad. But their continued popularity has enabled these real-life adventures to withstand even the pressures of the current pandemic with the advent of "virtual" escape rooms.

Our group will pretend to be "locked in" an escape room that's actually in Chattanooga. We will direct our Game Host, who will physically be in the room, to crack codes, solve riddles, piece together puzzles, and find clues to work together and solve the mystery, escaping in less than 60 minutes. If the group has difficulty, the Game Host or moderator will suggest clues to follow.

This is a wonderful way to hone communication skills (both speaking and listening), critical thinking and problem-solving skills, and the ability to work together as a team!

The cost is \$12.50 per person (payable to the library). This event is limited to 8 people. You may team up with a friend on the same Zoom connection, but each person must be a paid registrant.

To register, visit moonlakelibrary.org. Email moonlakecommunitylibrary@yahoo.com with any questions. To learn more about escape rooms, visit breakoutgames.com/Chattanooga.

Author Talk: Chervis Isom November 23 @ 6:30 pm via Zoom



Chervis Isom is the author of his 2013 memoir, *The Newspaper Boy: Coming of Age in Birmingham, Alabama, During the Civil Rights Era*, in which he writes about delivering newspapers in his Norwood neighborhood. But

more importantly, he tells of his journey out of the Jim Crow racism of his youth through a series of stories meant to explain to his grandchildren the times in which he grew up.

Over a period of 10 years, those stories grew into a book that documents the evolution of his life as it intersected with those historical and social events that occurred during his youth, such as the Korean War; the increasingly hostile Cold War; the wave of McCarthyism; Jim Crow and the burgeoning Civil Rights Movement in transportation and, following *Brown v. Board of Education*, in education; the Cuban Crisis; anti-Catholicism and the election of John Kennedy; the Civil Rights demonstrations in Birmingham culminating with the 16th Street Church bombing; and the assassination of President John Kennedy.



As a working writer, Chervis spent countless hours visiting and recalling the Norwood community of his childhood and youth on the north side of Birmingham, and now serves on the board of directors of the Norwood Resource Center. During the course of writing his recollections, he happily rekindled old friendships, moved with his wife, Martha, from the suburbs to downtown Birmingham, and became active in community affairs.

To learn how to connect to this free Zoom presentation, go to moonlakelibrary.org.

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I am and have.
My thanksgiving
is perpetual."

—Henry David Thoreau

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SENIOR HEALTH

Medicare Open Enrollment

by Emily McCamy

Open Enrollment for Medicare Part D is taking place through December 7. The DeKalb Council on Aging is currently scheduling appointments for over-the-phone enrollment sessions. (Due to concerns with COVID-19, TARCOG will not allow us to do in-person sessions for Open Enrollment at this time.)

Call 256-845-8590 to make an appointment. We will then mail you a letter with your appointment time and a form for you to complete in advance that gives us your Medicare info and the medicines that you are taking. You will complete the form and mail it back to us in a pre-paid envelope so that our office staff can type all of that in before your appointment. This will give you more time on the phone with Lynn Hixson, our SHIP Counselor during your appointment.

Let us know if you would like us to mail you a printout about the plan you choose or the plans you want to review. After you've received the print-out in the mail, feel free to call us to review the plans or ask any questions.

Emily McCamy is the director of the DeKalb County Council on Aging.



Wesley Griffith Receives Key to the Town of Mentone

Wesley Griffith was presented a key to the Town of Mentone at his last meeting as a council member on October 13, 2020. Wesley served the town as a council member for 20 years. His public service extended to a non-paying position as the chairman of the Mentone Water Board from 2000 until 2018, when the agency was sold to Fort Payne Water Works.

Wesley traditionally gave an invocation at the start of every council meeting and he says he will continue to keep the town in his prayers.

Sue McLaurin Henry Memorial Scholarship

- Scholarships are available for spring semester 2020 to assist in paying for college or technical degrees.
- Due date is Tuesday, December 1.
- Students must be full-time with at least a B average and live in Mentone or Valley Head.
- Applications are available by email, or from the counselors at JSU and NACC.
- Email merf.mentone@gmail.com for more information.

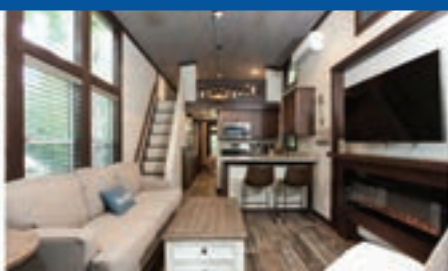
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Experience Tiny Living on Lookout Mountain!

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

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



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River Voice by Angie Shugart

Natural resource conservation and public land preservation to protect our headwaters, rivers, and watersheds in Alabama dates back to the early 1900s. From the 1911 Weeks Act that established Alabama's

National Forest System to President Roosevelt's success in creating the Civilian Conservation Corps and Alabama State Parks and with the creation of Forever Wild and Alabama's first national park in 1992 (Little River Canyon National Preserve), over 1.5 million acres of land have been preserved for public use. DeSoto State Park and Little River Canyon National Preserve account for 18,790 acres of public lands. Utilized for camping, hiking, mountain biking, canoeing, whitewater kayaking, hunting, fishing, bird watching, and rock climbing, public lands help generate millions of dollars in tourism revenue each year for DeKalb County. These positive impacts save citizens' hard-earned money through tax cuts and preserve the land perpetually, so future generations can inherit a healthy environment.

Even though Alabama has over a million acres in public lands, they make up only 4% of the total 33 million acres in the state, which has less protected land than any other southeastern state. With Alabama ranking #2 in biodiversity, it is vital that we seek ways to ensure that wild areas stay intact. Private landowners have options to conserve their property to help protect special lands.

One way is a conservation easement. In this agreement, property owners conserve their land while retaining ownership. Property may be any size tract and landowners get the opportunity to leave a legacy, such as a special home place or family farmland, or to protect a critical habitat with a rare or endangered species. Conservation easements also give landowners great federal tax incentives and if you ever sell, the conservation easement stays with the property. Another option is donating land for a tax deduction. Sometimes funding is available to purchase property for conservation purposes. Small land trust conservation organizations sometimes get the opportunity to pass along funding from national non-profit organizations such as The Nature Conservancy or The Access Fund.

Alabama needs more wild places in conservation, especially around Little River. Over 10,000 private acres surround Little River and are in need of protection in order to support clean water systems and healthy wildlife corridors. Little River Waterkeeper encourages landowners to consider the following: (1) Place your land in a conservation easement or consider a land donation; (2) Support legislation that protects, enhances and increases public lands in Alabama; (3) Be a part of the conversation. Stay informed.

I believe everyone wants to support a healthy, sustainable economy, an environment that we all love and appreciate. We call Alabama the Beautiful home for a reason. Let's do our part to keep it that way, through positive efforts that create a ripple effect throughout our community and onto our neighbors downstream.

TAKE ACTION . . .

LAND CONSERVATION AGENCIES

The Lookout Mountain Conservancy
lookoutmountainconservancy.org

Georgia Alabama Land Trust
galandtrust.org

Land Trust of North Alabama
landtrustnal.org

The Nature Conservancy
nature.org/en-us/about-us/where-we-work/united-states/alabama

CONSERVATION LEGISLATION IN ALABAMA

Conservation Alabama
conservationalabama.org

JOIN THE CONSERVATION CONVERSATION IN ALABAMA

Alabama River Alliance
alabamarivers.org

Angie Shugart is the executive director of Little River Waterkeeper, a 501(c)(3) water advocacy program and a member of the Waterkeeper Alliance, a global clean water movement. Donations are tax deductible. 215 Grand Ave. SW Fort Payne, AL 35967.

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1 Easton Bain Marc Walsh Austyn Young Marilyn Blansit David Simpson River Lewchuk	Jeffrey Manning Alanis McKenzie Grayson Gatlin	Brantley Rain Easler Misty Bearden	Kim Foshee	25 Billy Tramel Billy Shugart IV Ginger Kearney Ryleigh Blansit
2 Katherine Chambers Ryan Cash Davis Michael Potts Ruth Rose Potts Taylor Brown Triston Goss J.R. Hurst Larry O'Tinger Gequetta Darwin Taylor Brown Caleb Rogers Kai Ballenger Philip Williams	7 Melissa Bain Brooklyn Johnson Brian Smith Isabel Carabello Zora Williams	13 Addison Prestwood Lendell Chappell Kim Raley Mindy Loudon Bridget Arnold	19 Caden Blalock Margo Tate Macrae Bailey Andrew Spicer	26 Krissy Harris Heath Kirby Renee Pruitt Brinley Ware Madison Carson
3 Aubrey Shields Sandy Hulgan Hudson Brownfield Kay Sadia	8 Michael Harrison Judson McElhaney Toby Crider Mary Beasley Gibson Roberts Bob Tate Ruth Rose Potts Joy Pam Lewchuck	14 Don Brock Austin Harrison William Hughes Asher Amanda Garcia Greg Hughes Kenzie Bailey	20 Brandi Miller Kevin McElhaney Angel Carson Jan O'Dell Copeland Reed	27 Kim Johnson Timbo Carden Clay Stiles Charlton Bell Ross Smith Lesley Blalock Adam Haynes
4 Barrett Wilkinson Rita Chapman Pat Lewis Daniel Hawkins Scotty Vaughn	9 Kowen Worthey Laura McKenzie Bonnie Easler Patterson Emily Hodge Melissa Simpson Morgan Miller	15 Laura Boehringer Rory Quinn Lee Carden Ian Roberts Chris Stallings EJ Bickerstaff Blexton Potts	21 Pam Wooten Keith Hadley Deedra Battles Nancy Brown Rachell Givens Yvonne Blalock Ashley Manning Brandy Clure Judy Carter Brettley Smothers Candice Dunaway Noah Hulgan	28 Lily Harrison Chance Hodges Almeda Bickerstaff Taylor Smothers Jean Powell John Shannon Liam Floyd Ian DePaul
5 Gail Chambers Luke Wright Ginger Kearney	10 Toby Manifold Valinda Miracle Jessica Easler	16 Helena Dodd Dink Tillman Jeff Wigley Johnny Mann	22 Amber Hart Cason Garner Collin Coots Gerald Bailey Tim Hulgan Angie Shankles	29 Karen Powell Brian Blalock Kerry Bailey Kyleigh Barkley Steve Barkley Aric Collins Hollie Cross
6 Tommy Harrison Duane Blalock Mike Smith	11 Gerry Bain Amber Griffith Allen McElhaney Shelley Blalock Garrett Duke	17 Jordan Hammond Colton Ditmore Judy Kean Jeff Callahan Layne Hawkins Tom Shanklin, Sr. Robbie Grisham Carson King Dutton Cade Holder	23 Sam Shankles 24 Pam Baggett Hayley Crider Sarah Tucker Staci Winn Bradley Tyler Smith Robert Totherow	30 Sandy McNutt Alyss Kay Kilgore Jaclyn Lawton Nasoni
	12 Kynlee Baggett Megan McElhaney Major Frost McKinley Potts	18 George Boehringer		

Anniversaries

1 George & Kim Raley Matt & Jana Sharp	11 Gerry & Melissa Bain	21 Mark & Deedra Battles John & Michele Kincer
2 Adam & Morgan Miller	14 Ronnie & Sandy Hulgan	23 Kenneth & Carol Busby
3 Jordan & Jessica McGinnis Josh & Courtney Gregory	16 Dewayne & Melanie Grisham Dallas & Morgan Gregory Allen & Jill Crow	24 Tim & Lee Anne Hulgan
8 Andrew & Penny Herbert	19 Thomas & Beth McKinney	25 David & Barbara Rape
10 Paul & Bethany Whittle		27 Loy & Beck Langston

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In Memoriam



SAMMY DOUGLAS BALLARD March 26, 1948 – September 27, 2020

Sammy Douglas Ballard, age 72, of Menlo, GA, died Sunday, September 27, 2020, at his residence.

Mr. Ballard was born March 26, 1948, in Trion, GA, son of the late Paul Eugene "Gene" Ballard and Darnelle Tucker Ballard. He was a 1966 graduate of Chattooga High School and received his Mechanical Engineering Degree from Georgia Tech in 1971. He co-owned and operated Ballard Builders with his brother, Tommy. Mr. Ballard was a charter member of Faith Baptist Church – Menlo where he also served as Deacon and Song Leader. He was a current member of the Chattooga County Board of Education, the Friends of Sloppy Floyd Lake Park, and served on the United Community Bank Board of Directors.

Survivors include his wife, Becky Hall Ballard; son, Scott (Nikki) Ballard; daughter, Kathy (Tony "Hoopie") Cooper; brothers, Don (Betty) Ballard, Tommy (Siggie) Ballard; a sister, Ann Ballard Willis; grandchildren, Braxton Ballard, Anaston Ballard, Isabella Cooper, Samuel Cooper, Daniel Cooper, and John Luke Cooper; special friends, Paul (Jeanette) Clayton; and several nieces and nephews.

JOYCE LAVONNE OVERTON CHILDERS October 18, 1938 – September 28, 2020

Joyce Lavonne Childers, age 81, of Menlo, GA, died Monday, September 28, 2020, at Pruitt Health – Shepherd Hills.

Mrs. Childers was born October 18, 1938, daughter of the late L. C. Overton and Lula Mae Sanders Overton. Prior to her retirement, she was employed with Best Manufacturing where she was a member of the Best Silver Club. In addition to her parents, Mrs. Childers was preceded in death by her husband, J. R. Childers.

Mrs. Childers is survived by her special daughters, Debbie Huskey, Angie Mann, and Shelia Glenn; a brother, Jimmy Overton; and several nieces and nephews.

XONNIE SUE HALE September 4, 1941 – October 2, 2020

Xonnie Sue Hale, 79, of Valley Head, passed away Friday, October 2, 2020 at her home. She was born September 4, 1941 in Carbon Hill, AL to the late James and Henrietta Files. She was retired from the Fort Payne City Board of Education.

Mrs. Hale is survived by her husband, Eugene Hale; sisters-in-law, Wanda Buttram and Mary Jane Gray; and several nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her brother, Jerry Don Files, and sister, Jimmie Lou Copeland.

ISSIAC SHERMAN GOSS January 18, 1944 – October 6, 2020

Issiacc Sherman Goss, age 76, died Tuesday, October 6, 2020. He is survived by his wife, Charlotte Elouise Goss; brothers, Clifford Goss (Pauline) and Benny Goss (Brenda); sisters, Rindy Flannigan and Regina Wisner (Jimmy); and several nieces and nephews.

CAROLYN BROOKSHIRE DAVIDSON September 2, 1943 – October 16, 2020

Carolyn Brookshire Davidson, age 77, of Valley Head, passed away on Friday, October 16, 2020 at her residence.

Mrs. Davidson is survived by her sons, Stephen J. Schafer, Jason W. Schafer, and Jodi L. Schafer (Charlene); a brother, Henry H. Brookshire Jr. (Barbara); grandchildren, Jessica Schafer, Joni Schafer, Sean Schafer, Stephen Schafer, Chris Schafer, and Matthew Schafer; and several great-grandchildren, nieces, and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Warren E. Schafer; parents, Henry H. Brookshire Sr. and Tressie E. Brookshire; and siblings, Barbara Jean, Betty, Wallace, Marie, Jerry, and Glenda.



THELMA COFFEY MEADOWS January 30, 1932 – October 7, 2020

Thelma Coffey Meadows, age 88, of Valley Head, passed away on Wednesday, October 7, 2020.

Mrs. Meadows is survived by her children, Sheila McCamy (Rodney), Rita Carroll, and David Meadows (Cindy); brothers, Ray Coffey, Donald Coffey, and Junior Coffey; sisters, Jean Clark, Linda Faulkner, and Barbara

Procter; 10 grandchildren, 16 great-grandchildren, and several nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her husband, Junior Howard Meadows; parents: Reuben R. Coffey and Effie Findley Coffey; brother, Elmer Coffey; and sister, Audrey Clark.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to the American Heart Association, 7272 Greenville Ave. Dallas, TX 75231 or heart.org.

RONALD N. GODBOIS October 12, 1945 – October 10, 2020

Ron Godbois, age 74, of Mentone, passed away on Saturday, October 10, 2020. He is survived by his wife, Grace "Gay" Godbois; his children, Ivy Jones (David Jones), Josh Godbois (Kate Spires), and Zac Godbois; and his grandchildren, Isabelle Godbois, Speed Godbois, Iris Godbois, Archer Jones, and Drake Jones. There was no service at Ron and Gay's request.

KATHY LYNN MCSADDEN April 30, 1963 – September 29, 2020

Kathy Lynn McSpadden, 57, of Mentone, passed away Tuesday, September 29, 2020. She was born April 30, 1963 in Georgia to the late Larry and Frances McDonald.

She is survived by her husband, Loyd McSpadden; children, Dennis and Amanda McDonald, Johnny and Victoria Ferguson, and Sara and Chad Evans; brother, Alan Young; and grandchildren, Emma Kate McDonald, Abigail, Isabelle, Annabelle, Easton, and Weston Ferguson, Emilyann Williams, Kaitlyn Johnson, Ryan and Nickales Evans.

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Mentone Arts & Cultural Center Opens Gallery and Visitor Center/ Gift Shop by Randy Grider

The Mentone Arts Center held its soft opening weekend on Thursday, October 22, through Sunday, October 25. It was a huge success with many visitors supporting the center by purchasing artwork and goods from dozens of local and regional artists and artisans whose work is on display. We also had several visitors who stopped by and got brochures about the area in our visitor center/gift shop.

The center uses its commission for sales to offset the cost of operations of the facility and arts-education classes.

Our regular hours will be Thursday through Monday from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m., with the exception of Monday, November 2, when we will be closed to set up the gallery area for the general election.

We are still working on several aspects of the center, such as developing a history section and signage that honors several donors, including naming the building in honor of the late Chuck Sennett as well as naming the visitor center area for the late Gladys Blalock Crane.

We encourage everyone to come by and visit the center. To try to keep everyone safe, masks are required. Also follow us on Facebook and Instagram.

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



Visitors shop the gallery during the soft opening weekend.



Our new barn quilt by Don Pirch is a beautiful addition to the building. Local sign painter Chris Hale added the Instagram-ready message.



Virginia Urani goes over color wheel in her Get Your Feet Wet in Watercolor class.



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Zooming in with Friends

by Anne McLeod

In January few of us had likely heard of Zoom. Now it's hard to find anyone who hasn't heard of the video conferencing platform that businesses and other organizations, including our own Moon Lake Community Library and St. Joseph's on-the-Mountain Episcopal Church, use to keep communication going when face-to-face meetings are difficult. And while people in the workforce may complain of "Zoom fatigue," for others, Zoom is a welcome way to meet up with friends or family or to even make new friends.

Zoom's popularity is due to the fact that you don't need a technical advisor to set up a meeting. The process is simple enough for people to figure out themselves. Once you do, the world opens up on your desktop or phone.

A local woman had the opportunity to connect with a friend in Scotland who was participating in a Zoom call. Technology put her face-to-face with her friend—and several of her friend's friends in Scotland. "I did enjoy it, mostly because I have not seen my friend in many many years!"

Her first-time user experience had a few hiccups. "My device was my phone and I couldn't see but four of nine guests at a time, so that was difficult. I have a hearing deficiency and the accent was a barrier for me. Plus it was hard to read lips on a face the size of a nickel! My girlfriend typed parts of conversations that I could not hear [into Zoom's chat feature]. Personal closed captioning! I was the only one who



Women from around the world join on Zoom each week to enjoy time together while knitting. Anne McLeod is pictured top center.

'needed help' that way! It might not dawn on people that this could be done."

While it wasn't the same as being there, when asked if she'd do it again, she replied, "Yes, but only because there isn't much else chance of seeing/hearing my dear friend another way. Three thousand miles between here and there!"

It is also possible to meet up with people you don't know. Many Zoom events are listed on the ticketing site EventBrite.com, and some are free to the public.

I've missed the Lookout Mountain Knitters' Tuesday afternoons at the Moon Lake Community Library, so I searched "knitting" and found a free Zoom event sponsored by a library. I started to sign

up—then realized that Westminster Library is in London! I double-checked the time and was relieved to find that it was an afternoon group for them, so mid-morning for me.

That was a month ago, and I've attended four sessions since then. The organizer, Suthinee, is very welcoming to everyone. Although it's based in a large city, the numbers are comparable to those of the Lookout Mountain Knitters—a small group, so conversations are easy.

With knitters from London, Cheshire, Birmingham (the original Birmingham), Montreal, Malta, and Mentone, Alabama, we talk about our knitting, pets, TV and films, families, and of course Covid. These conversations are a reminder that this is in fact a global pandemic with devastating effects well beyond our borders. But they're also a reminder that our knitting is a creative and meditative practice that, along with new friends and old, will sustain us.

Each week I go to EventBrite.com, search for my knitting group, and register for a ticket. An email returns the link to the Zoom meeting. From the EventBrite homepage you can search or browse many categories, such as music, food and drink, charity and causes, and much more. Some events are one-time, while others, like the knitting group, are recurring.

With such a wide variety of events, you may well find one that compels you to spread your wings and Zoom around the world.

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