



THE GROUNDHOG

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Volume 40, No. 11

"Neighborly News from the Heart of Lookout Mountain"

November 2021

Baseball Dreams Come to Life

by Kelly Leavitt



For the last two years, Valley Head School's varsity baseball team has earned a place in the area playoffs, despite not having a baseball field where they can practice or host games.

Valley Head has long been in a unique position. Except for Plainview High School, which has its own ball field, every other high school in DeKalb County has access to a city park with baseball fields.

Thanks largely to the efforts of a group of dedicated and resourceful residents of Mentone, Hammondville, and Valley Head, the team will once again have their own field, most likely in time for next spring's baseball season.

Dave Vest, a native of Valley Head who now lives in Mentone, has been at the forefront of this massive

effort. Dave attended and graduated from Valley Head School, and his children followed in his steps. He has been the president of Valley Head Athletic Club for the past 11 years. His wife, Jamie Phillips Vest, is the school's girls' basketball coach; she has taught and coached there for 24 years. (Incidentally, Jamie is the daughter of Jimmy and Adele Phillips, who serve as Valley Head's police chief and council member/mayor pro tem, respectively.)

For decades, Valley Head's team played at the ball field at Hammondville's town park. Around 1980, the Town of Hammondville had received a land, water, and soil conservation grant from the Top of Alabama Regional Council of Governments

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Dick O'Ferrall Honored by Ole Miss

by Kelly Leavitt



L to R: Glenn Breazeale, Carter Breazeale, Dick O'Ferrall, Alice O'Ferrall (seated), Toy Harmon

Affectionately known as "Mr. O," Dick O'Ferrall is a man known and respected by the thousands of young men who have attended Alpine Camp for Boys over the past 62 years. On October 9, he was honored by the Ole Miss Alumni Association with its highest award—induction into its Hall of Fame.

Created in 1974, the Hall of Fame honors select alumni who have made an outstanding contribution to their country, state, or the University of Mississippi through good deeds, services or contributions that have perpetuated the good name of Ole Miss.

Born and raised in Jackson, MS, Dick was 11 years old when he began attending Lookout Mountain Camp for Boys in Mentone, where he eventually served as a counselor. These years were deeply formative to the man he would become.

His college years were spent at Ole Miss in Oxford, MS, where he served in the naval ROTC. He was a member of Phi Delta Theta Fraternity and served as rush chairman and president. In 1957, he graduated with a bachelor's degree in business

(continued on page 3)

Colorfest

A Great Success!

by Jessica Boman

The Mentone Area Preservation Association (MAPA) is excited to present Colorfest once again. Over the course of decades, the arts and crafts festival has traditionally been held on the third weekend of October—apart from 2020, when it was cancelled due to the pandemic.

Colorfest, held on October 16 and 17, brought thousands of people to this tiny town once again! It was a brisk, bustling, beautiful, and fun-filled weekend in the magical mountain

town of Mentone. We had an overwhelming turnout this year, despite these unprecedented times in which we live. It was satisfying to see people enjoying themselves in this spectacular place we hold so dearly. Music and children's

laughter filled the air as people strolled up and down North Cool Street. Whiffs of delightful food floated on the cool, crisp brow breeze. Mother Nature provided exquisitely pleasant weather for our outdoor festivities.

This fall festival tradition would not be possible without the help from community sponsors and volunteers. Thank you again to each of our generous sponsors! John Kincer and the Moon Lake Baptist Church Youth Group did a wonderful job lending a

(continued on page 6)

See pages 6 AND 7
for photos of Colorfest!



THE GROUNDHOG

Published monthly by the
Mentone Area Preservation Association

MAPA was first conceived on Groundhog Day, 1982, and then organized on April 5, 1982. *The Groundhog* has been in publication for 39 years.

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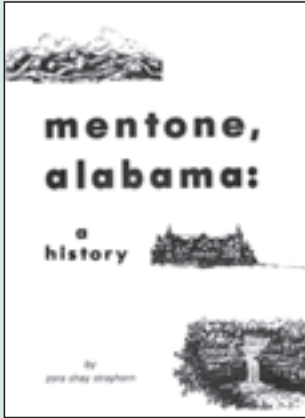
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The opinions, beliefs, and viewpoints expressed by the various authors in this publication do not necessarily reflect the opinions, beliefs, and viewpoints or policies of the Mentone Area Preservation Association.

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
and DeSoto State Park.
\$15; proceeds
benefit MAPA.

Mentone Matters • by Mayor Rob Hammond

The Town of Mentone zoning ordinance was adopted in 1992. The ordinance may be viewed at mentonealabama.gov. Bob House of House Consultants of Birmingham wrote the ordinance. Bob retired several years ago. Over the years the ordinance has been changed or amended. By law there are several steps the town must go through to amend the zoning ordinance. The Planning Commission holds business meetings to discuss possible needed changes. The Planning Commission is made up of citizens living within the town limits of Mentone who serve without compensation. The mayor and the police chief serve ex officio. Planning commission meetings are open to public. The public has been present at the last business meetings. Also present at the meetings is the town attorney. Mentone now consults on zoning matters with TARCOG (Top of Alabama Regional Council of Governments) and our consultant is on speakerphone during the meeting. Once the commission has reached a consensus on a proposed amendment, a public meeting will be announced. At the meeting, the public can make comments. The commission can then vote to recommend the changes to the council for adoption. The commission can also table the matter for further study and input. If the planning commission votes to recommend the council adopt the changes, then the council must give notice for another public hearing before voting on whether to adopt or reject the



commission's recommendation.
Why is the planning commission holding these meetings? Mentone is rapidly changing. Property in Mentone and on Lookout Mountain is in great demand and selling at historically high prices. Much of this investment comes from people from all over. The commission is looking at the ordinance to see if there are provisions which could be added to protect Little River. Certainly, one topic which has been discussed is can the Town, through zoning or in other ways, help strike a balance between rental properties and the need to attract families who want to be full-time residents. While it is important to welcome our visitors, it is Mentone's citizens who ultimately make us a community. These are the folks who volunteer at the fire department, rescue squad, food bank, senior lunch, the library, the festivals, and many other activities. All of the people who volunteer improve our quality of life and make this a great place to live.



From the Editor

I've really enjoyed working on this issue. We honor veterans, celebrate Colorfest, and learn about some new pickets on the Pathway to Community. The restoration of the ball field in Hammondville is truly inspiring. It's a heartwarming tale of how individuals can come

together and make a powerful difference.
I am grateful for all of this—and all of you. YOU are what makes *The Groundhog* such a delightful source of news and items of interest in this unpredictable world. I hope you each have a blessed time of Thanksgiving this month with family and friends. —*Kelly*



MAPA News by Mark Hoffman

Thanks to everyone who helped make Colorfest such a wonderful event this year! That includes a lot of people: first and foremost, our new festival coordinators, Jessica Boman and Mariah Emmett, whose tireless efforts made the festival run almost seamlessly; our generous sponsors; Kelly Leavitt; Chris Davenport; Domenic Fulginiti and the entire MAPA

Board; volunteers from the Fort Payne High School Key Club and other volunteers; the Town of Mentone; Gene McKee and his supporting officers; our vendors; and, of course, the thousands of visitors.

MAPA would also like to thank past Colorfest coordinator Sharon Habin for helping the new organizers in the transition; the Moon Lake Baptist Church youth group; contest judges Gay Godbois, Pat Martin, Dana Lockhart, Debbie

Happy Cohen, Sheila Horne, Kerry Breithaupt, Felix Garroni, and Liz Simpson; Lydia Randolph for creating the poster art; the musicians and sound man Robert Moehr; The Package Store; Lil Mole Run Golf Course for use of a golf cart; Round and Round Transportation; Friends of DeKalb County Adoption Center; and the nearby property owners.

I am unintentionally leaving many folks out, but you know who you are: Thank you.

We look forward to being able to continue organizing and putting on this wonderful and traditional event for many years to come. Please don't hesitate to get in touch and let us know how you think we can do it better in the future. Meanwhile, I hope everyone is enjoying this fabulous fall weather. Stay safe and well.

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

Dick O'Farrell (continued from page 1)

administration and was then commissioned as an ensign at the Naval Supply Corps School in Athens, GA. Upon graduation from NSCS, he was stationed in Norfolk, VA.

In 1959, Dick established Alpine Camp for Boys with a partner and two years later assumed full ownership. In 1972, he married Alice Gandy and the two have dedicated their lives to providing young men with a well-rounded, Christian-based summer camping experience.

"In addition to serving the boys and men of Alpine, Alice and Dick have unselfishly shared their love and knowledge of camping with their fellow camp directors in Mentone," said Rob Hammond, director

of Camp Laney in Mentone. "Their friendship and encouragement have fostered a spirit of sharing and collaboration among the Mentone camps."

Dick's ties to Ole Miss have remained strong through the years. The university is typically the most-represented college among camp staffers.

"I had no idea I had been nominated for this award," said Dick. "My Ole Miss relationships have been such an important part of my life, and I love the University. I was humbled, honored, and overwhelmed."

The O'Ferralls are the parents of two daughters, Toy Harmon and Carter Breazeale, both of whom remain actively involved in the camp. Carter and her husband Glenn, both Ole Miss alumni, currently serve as Alpine Camp's directors.

Congratulations, Mr. O!



Dick O'Ferrall in the dining hall at Alpine Camp for Boys

Mentone Mah Jongg by Lynn Vanderhoff

As the season and time changes, the Mentone Mah Jongg group will be adjusting our start time to 1 p.m. beginning November 7. We are meeting at the MERF House every Sunday from 1–4 p.m. for fun, friendship, and mental stimulation. Learners and experienced players are welcome! Contact Lynn Vanderhoff (Lynn.vanderhoff@gmail.com) for questions or more information.



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Valley Head Baseball Field

(continued from page 1)

(TARCOG) to build a recreation field at the park. Once completed, the mayor at the time agreed to let the high school baseball team use the field.

“Since 1980, though, regulations have changed,” Dave said. The field no longer met the Alabama High School Athletic Association’s regulations, so upgrades were necessary. The field and fence needed to be extended, and the lighting needed to be updated.

When Sand Mountain Electric Co-op inspected the poles, they deemed them to be a hazard and told the town to upgrade the poles or remove them. “At the time, the town didn’t have the money to upgrade the poles, so they cut them down,” said Dave. This left the Valley Head baseball team without a field at all. They began practicing on the school’s football field and playing their home games at Ider High School.

“That’s what got this effort put back on the front burner,” said Dave. “We had started working on this four years ago when I met with the BOE [DeKalb County Board of Education] and asked if they could help us upgrade the field. At the time, there was no lease agreement between the county and the Town

had come up with enough funds to get it started in the right direction.”

In the spring, Dave approached some area residents and business-people and asked them to be part of a team to bring the dream of a ballfield to fruition. “We’ve had to find the right people, and I think we have,” he said. “These folks have the same passion I’ve had for so many years.”

Since May, \$238,000 in donations and in-kind services have been given. “We’ve been pretty lucky on a lot of this,” said Dave. “A lot of in-kind services have been offered. Jimmy Hester, Michael Owen, Mitch Gregory, Kevin Worthey, Joseph Lee, and Mike Crane have donated equipment and labor to get the land fixed. The fencing company, Williams Fence, has made us a great deal. We’ve got people committed to painting the concession stand.”

“The lights have been the most expensive part of this whole thing,” Dave said. “Luckily, we found a lot of help in getting that done. Retail price for the lights approaches a quarter of a million dollars, but thanks to the hard work of Michael Owen we were able to obtain the lights directly from the manufacturer at a huge savings. We’ve got people who are volunteering electrician companies to come wire it for us.”

The BOE has contributed \$50,000, and generous donations have been received from Rep. Ledbetter and Senator Livingston. “Nathaniel Ledbetter has helped a ton on this,” Dave emphasized.

“This project impacts children and families in all three communities—Valley Head, Hammondville, and Mentone,” said Dave. “We’re hoping to find support from the towns and local residents. Hammondville is a town with few businesses and really no tax base. They’re willing to help us do whatever we need to do to get it done, even though they don’t have the money to invest.”

Dave is on the agenda to speak to the Valley Head Town Council at their meeting on November 1 and Joseph Lee plans to speak at Mentone’s council meeting on November 9 to ask for any assistance they can offer.

Financial donations from community members can be made to Valley Head Athletic Club or Hammondville Town Hall. Donors can receive forms so the contribution will be tax-deductible.

Donations given to Hammondville will go to the town’s park and recreation fund. “Any overflow money will go towards upgrading other parts of the park, like the tennis courts, playground equipment, and walking trail,” Dave said. “But the ball field is the priority.”

The completion of the field will be a financial gain



Valley Head School Baseball Team celebrating their advancement to the area playoffs in spring 2021

for Valley Head School, as they’ll be able to collect ticket and concession sales when hosting ball games.

“We’ve just recently finalized the lighting,” Dave said. “It’s ordered. Within a month, we should see some lights go up. Once the lights go up, the fence can go up. From there, it’s really just tidying it up.” If donations continue to progress, it’s hoped that the ball field will be complete by the end of January 2022.



of Hammondville, so the BOE was reluctant to help with funds. For years, there was a lot of back-and-forth negotiation between the town, the BOE, the insurance company, and attorneys. Nothing could ever be settled.

“Valley Head has a new football field, basketball gym, and girls’ softball field,” Dave continued. “At one time, we had a vision of a new baseball field being built over by the high school. When the new bridge was being built in Valley Head, I got them to give us all that dirt to use it to start building the foundation for the new field, but the BOE decided that land should remain free in case of future expansion of the school buildings. We ended up having to remove all that dirt that had been donated. This meant Hammondville was the only spot we could find that was big enough to put a baseball field. We backed up and punted again and started talking with them again.”

In January 2021, a 30-year lease agreement was finally negotiated between the Town of Hammondville and DeKalb County. After Moon Lake School was ordered to be closed at the BOE’s February session, Dave met with DeKalb County Superintendent Jason Barnett and they reached another agreement. The BOE committed to pay for the installation of a new fence, which measures around 1,000 feet. Soon after, Dave met with the mayor of Hammondville, BOE representatives, and Alabama State Representative Nathaniel Ledbetter, all of whom agreed to give some money to the cause.

“At that point,” said Dave, “it became a reality. We

Planned upgrades, associated costs, and total goal:

Backstop	\$10,000
Site Prep	\$50,000
Dugout	\$36,500
Fencing	\$34,000
Bleachers	\$30,000
Concrete Pads for Bleachers	\$12,000
Concession Stand Remodel	\$30,000
Parking Lot Resurfacing	\$40,000
Lights	\$110,000
Light Poles	\$6,000
Scoreboard	\$3,000
Light Pole Setting	\$6,000
Backstop Net	\$3,000
Irrigation	\$20,000

Total Needed \$390,500

Donations and in-kind services to date \$238,000

Baseball Field Committee

- *Joseph Lee, Mentone, 256-899-4027
- *Barbie Hester, Hammondville, 256-393-4726
- Lee Buffington, Fort Payne, 256-996-2660
- *Kevin Worthey, Mentone, 256-516-3556
- *Michael Owen, Hammondville, 256-266-3085
- Gene Clecker, Hammondville, 256-516-4152
- *Ashley Manning, Mentone, 256-635-8798
- *Ralph Williams, Hammondville, 256-657-8069
- *Dave Vest, Mentone, 256-418-2386
- *AC Windom, Hammondville, 256-635-8488
- *Valley Head High School alumni

Checks to be made payable to:

Valley Head Athletic Club
or

Hammondville Town Hall

Please mail all checks to:

37646 US Hwy. 11, Valley Head, AL 35989

*Memo: Baseball Field



Photo: Emily Kirby



Photo: Megan Wills



Colorfest (continued from page 1)

“Helping Hand” wherever it was needed, from parking cars to post-festival cleanup. Thank you to the Fort Payne High School Key Club, who sent 33 volunteers to help with multiple tasks. These young adults were willing to do whatever was asked of them with smiles on their faces. We would like to extend a very heartfelt THANK YOU to three special people: Kelly Leavitt, Domenic Fulginiti, and Chris Davenport, who really shined in selflessly volunteering their time and resources to help make Colorfest a great success.

Multiple vendors took the time to share their gratitude for a successful weekend. The Friends of Dekalb County-AL Animal Adoption Agency received a healthy sum of donations and were able to find new forever homes for four of their rescue dogs. Thank you to all who participated in our Howl-o-Ween Pet Parade. Our Beaut-i-fall Bizzness and Scarecrow Holler contests were a huge success this year. The town looked lovely all decorated for the fall season. The creativity, talent, and thoughtfulness portrayed in each scarecrow was extraordinary. This year we hosted a Student Art Exhibit and Coloring Contest to give our local

young young artists the opportunity to promote and demonstrate their artistic abilities. Congratulations to all of our contest winners and thank you to all who participated!

Hosted by MAPA, Colorfest was coordinated by Mariah Emmett and me. Our journey was unexpected, to say the least. It all began with a Facebook post, “Help MAPA Save Colorfest,” shared with me by a friend with the concern of a decades-long tradition becoming null. Mariah and I felt compelled to do everything we possibly could to keep this beloved tradition alive. Although this was our first time coordinating an event of this capacity, we were able to navigate the challenges of the unknown with the help and support from others who shared our hopes of keeping Colorfest alive. The overwhelming amount of positive feedback we have received from multiple sources has warmed our hearts. We are grateful for this opportunity to learn and grow through this experience. We hope our vision and love of art, community, music, togetherness, and joy was portrayed to all who participated in and attended Colorfest 2021!

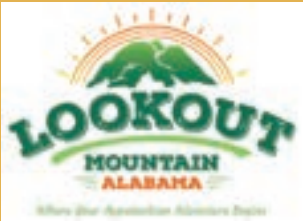


Photo: Megan Wills



Photo: Emily Kirby

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TIMES-JOURNAL
DEKALB COUNTY'S OLDEST NEWSPAPER



Photo: Megan Wills



Photo: Megan Wills

See you at
Colorfest
2022!
Oct. 15 & 16



Photo: Megan Wills

Congratulations, Contest Winners!

Scarecrow Holler

1st Place . . . Cinderella & Friends
by the Rhododendron Garden Club

2nd Place . . . Mary Poppins
by Amanda Allday

3rd Place . . . Miss Molly Muffet
by Carla Potter

Beau-ti-FALL Bizzness

1st Place . . . The Groovy Goat

2nd Place . . . Moon Lake Trading Co.

3rd Place . . . Wildflower Cafe





SAGE ADVICE: GARDEN IN NOVEMBER!

by Susan Seago

Yes, you can garden in November. You can clean and prepare the beds for winter and next spring. You can also plant, as long as the ground is not frozen. Fall is really the best time to plant most trees, shrubs, and perennials. Of course, annuals should wait until early spring, as most of them only grow during spring, summer, and early fall.

If you have not yet cleaned your beds, do it now. Remove all annuals and cut back those perennials that have died back. Do not trim those shrubs such as azaleas that put their blooms on during the winter. You may need to do a little research to know which shrubs can be cut back now. There are quite a few that can be done during late fall so you will not have to do everything in the spring. Mulch the beds well to protect those plants that are dormant or still growing and to prevent a lot of new weeds. Sprinkling a weed pre-emergent over the area will greatly help keep the weeds at bay.

Keep in mind that there are some

evergreen perennials and shrubs that bloom during the fall and winter months, so you can have a really colorful landscape during the dreary days of the season. As I tell everyone, my favorite perennial is the hellebore, which begins blooming in many colors in late fall through early spring. I even had some last year that bloomed through April and early May. Hellebore is also an evergreen so when it is not blooming it looks like a small shrub. Pansies are annuals but they like cold weather so fill your beds, pots, and window boxes with them for winter color. They bloom continuously through the late fall and winter, so feed them twice a month with a water-soluble fertilizer. It's easy to do and they will pay you back with great beauty. I also like to plant a few winter ornamental cabbage and kale among the pansies to add depth and texture.

Autumn fern, holly fern, Christmas fern, and tassel fern are evergreens. They add such elegant texture to the garden. Grow them with hellebore and

heuchera for a low-maintenance garden.

Some other evergreens for winter beauty are Hinoki cypress tree, arborvitae trees and shrubs, juniper shrubs, azaleas, nandina, camellia (which blooms in late fall or early spring), abelia, gardenia, holly, mountain laurel, pieris, rhododendron, cryptomeria tree, and mahonia bealei that blooms in January, just to name a few. Magnolias are evergreen but prefer to be planted in spring. Some viburnums are also evergreen.

Finally, bulbs should be planted

in October and November. They need nine to twelve weeks of really cold weather to bloom at their best. Daffodils, snowdrops, crocus, tulips, allium, hyacinths, peony, irises, daylilies, and gladiolus should all be planted in late fall for glorious spring and summer color.

Yes, you can garden in November. And this winter and next spring, your landscape will give you and your neighbors so much beauty and enjoyment.

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Mentone Community Church 256-364-0150



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After Little River Escape Tiny Home Community was named one of the top six communities to downsize in by *U.S. News & World Report*, our community has become fully occupied and folks have come from 12 different states to live within our community.

With a successful year, Little River Escape has decided to embark on a new journey by creating River Ridge Escape Tiny Home Dealership. At the dealership, tiny homes are available to tour and purchase. RRE is now delivering across the nation and also developing other communities to bring more folks to Lookout Mountain.

River Ridge Escapes now has five tiny home communities and one down County Road 641 in Mentone, AL. There are several Airbnb Tiny Homes in our various locations to come experience a tiny home, downsizing, the community, and explore the surrounding areas.

Come Experience Tiny Living on Lookout Mountain!

Tours of River Ridge Escape's Tiny Homes — Mon-Fri 10-5 ET or by appointment
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River Voice by Angie Shugart

River, river, little river!
Bright you sparkle on your way;
O'er the yellow pebbles dancing...
 —Caroline Ann Bowles, 'The River'

Recently I asked the question on social media, "What is one word that comes to your mind when you see a river?" I can't take credit for the idea to ask the question. It was the subject of a commentary by the Mahanadi River Waterkeeper in India as a way to gauge public perception about rivers. It prompted me to ask our followers the same question and to share my own narrative on the subject. For me, it is difficult to sum up a river in one word and getting someone's view of Little River was welcomed. There were words that describe the feelings and emotion a river gives: Peace, Joy, Tranquility, Gratefulness. Other words represented the many uses: kayaking, habitat, swimming, and others described the physical traits of a river: meandering, flowing, wild, and calm.

The connection between our personal well-being and the health of our rivers is evident. Rivers are one of those factors that play a seamless and vital role in our daily lives. We are able to turn on our faucets without hesitation and enjoy clean drinking water. We schedule trips to rivers, lakes, and beaches to enjoy the refreshing waters. So fortunate are we to live in a state with over 130,000 miles of lakes, rivers, and streams. It is unfortunate however, that the dams we built over 100 years ago destroyed much of our fragile river ecosystems that keep rivers alive and thriving.

Now the question is, "As we begin to better understand the effects of our actions that have made life more convenient, more productive, and more fun, how do we protect and maintain water quality not only to sustain ourselves but also the natural environment?" We believe that protection and restoration are the answer. Conservation is key to protecting the Little River corridor and ensuring riverbank protection.

We can all do small things to keep Little River clean and pristine. Little River Waterkeeper had a booth at Colorfest last month and there was one comment that we heard multiple times. It was, "Little River has no industry and therefore has no issues." That is true in a sense but then again, we are talking about perception. Little River is in better shape than most rivers because of its rural setting atop Lookout Mountain but does have issues and does face some pretty major threats. The very uniqueness of Little River makes it vulnerable to negative impacts of development. The origin of Little River, just north of Mentone in Georgia is discreet but in plain sight, as its wetlands and springs bubble up after heavy rains. The biggest threat on Little River is sediment runoff from land development when these activities disturb land near the river. Three forks drain approximately 25,000 acres from the headwaters of Georgia into Alabama. There is great potential for areas downstream to become altered by changes upstream.

Little River Waterkeeper is working to keep our river ecosystem intact and encourage landowners to leave enough riparian areas near streambanks and creeks

so that sediment has a chance to filter out before reaching the water and devastating the aquatic ecosystem that our water needs in order to stay healthy. Little River is the lifeblood of Mentone and Fort Payne. It is vital that we align our perceptions with smart growth ideas that will allow us to live in harmony with the natural world.

New Grant Update

Little River Waterkeeper has identified the need to restore areas within the watershed that have been impacted by power line cuts and eroded riverbanks. We are anxiously awaiting a grant award from the National Fish and Wildlife Federation 5 Star Stream Restoration Fund to begin the project. Partners for the Little River Restoration Project are Little River Waterkeeper, Sand Mountain Electric Co-op, DeKalb County Commission, DeKalb County Master Gardeners, and a local landscaping company. Together we will plant power line areas that have been recently cut with native plants, grasses, and shrubs. This will lessen the need to spray herbicide and cut these areas in the future. There will be some great opportunities in the upcoming spring and fall to volunteer, so make sure to stay up-to-date with the progress.

Keep Little River Wild and Scenic

Keeping the river and streambanks intact along Little River is important in maintaining good water quality. The roots of plants keep dirt in place and a good buffer zone filters pollutants.

We are making great progress on our Wild and Scenic Campaign! We are now working with our partners at Alabama Rivers Alliance to begin drafting the study legislation and will start getting back in touch with the congressional offices about sponsoring the important piece of legislation.

2022 Membership

You can help us stay afloat by becoming a member. Our mission is to foster and protect the pristine resource through awareness, education, and monitoring.

\$25 Individual / \$50 Business

Send by mail: 215 Grand Ave. SW Ste. A, Fort Payne, AL 35967

To make an online donation visit littleriverwaterkeeper.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. Learn more at littleriverwaterkeeper.org. Donations are tax-deductible. 215 Grand Ave. SW Fort Payne, AL 35967.



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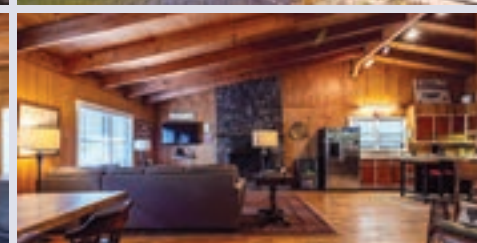
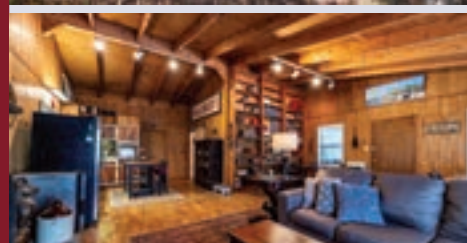
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LITTLE RIVER

ARTS COUNCIL

N•E•W•S

by Juli Jordan

craft artists will exhibit their work offering one-of-a-kind handcrafted items for art enthusiasts and holiday shoppers. Enjoy live acoustic music and, if weather allows, warm up beside a toasty fire in the CCC Pavilion. Wake and Bake will be serving coffees, teas, hot cider, and baked goods.

The Market is held near DeSoto State Park’s picnic area across from the Country Story on County Road 89. Dogs on a leash are allowed in the park. There is limited parking in the picnic area, the tennis court area, and in front of the Country Store. If parking anywhere in the picnic area, a \$2 per vehicle fee applies. There is no fee to attend the open-air market.



6th Annual Creative Spirit Market

November 13 & 14 • 10am–3pm • DeSoto State Park

One of the things that makes Creative Spirit Market unique is that we get to experience the creative process of expert craftspeople who demonstrate time-honored crafts such as chair caning, reed and pine needle basketry, mosaics, wood burning, woodcarving, spinning, and pottery. Add to that, guests of all ages are invited to participate and bring out their own creative spirit with free pottery, leaf pounding, and painting art stations. Over 40 fine, folk, and



Creative Spirit Music Schedule

Saturday, November 13

10am . . . The Vegetators

12:30pm . . . Lisa Crow & James Roberts

1:45pm . . . Mark Womack

Sunday, November 14

10am . . . Linda Arthur

11:15am . . . Lydia Randolph

12:30–2:30pm . . . The Locals

Paint ‘n Sip with Kori Lankster

Kori Lankster will lead a Paint ‘n Sip class for all skill levels on Wednesday, November 3, at 5 p.m. at Mentone Inn’s Linger Longer Pavilion. Participants will be guided through a nature-themed painting in a relaxed atmosphere. Bring your beverage of choice and invite your friends. The cost is \$10 for LRAC members; \$30 for non-members. Supplies are included. Limited to ages 21 and over.

A self-taught artist from Sand Mountain, AL, Kori finds inspiration in the details of nature and her work captures the otherworldly in the mundane. You can follow her at [instagram.com/klank_kreative](https://www.instagram.com/klank_kreative).

A Note from Ms. Paula

Hello My Dear Mentone Friends...It’s great to be teaching down the hill at Valley Head! I’m so proud of my Valley Head students who won in the Colorfest Coloring Contest sponsored by MAPA. I just had to share!



1st Place Winners

L to R: Ethan, Abraham, Skye, Mel, Baxter, & Paislee



2nd Place Winners

L to R: Peyton, Autumn, Zoey & Camren



3rd Place Winners

L to R: Mayra, Brynlee, Esmeralda, Brysen, Willow & Johnthan



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@bluejugoffortpayne or @buttersnobbaking

Valley Head Cemetery 5K & 10K Run by Sherryl Lewis

It was a perfect day to run at the 6th Annual Valley Head Cemetery 5K/10K Races on Saturday, September 25, 2021 in downtown Valley Head. Chip timing was provided by PinPoint Timing. We had a great turnout for both the 5K and the 10K, our largest ever. The overall winners for the 5K were Nathan Johnson and Tabatha Hilyer. The 10K overall winners were Brian Bearden and Beverly Keel.

The annual Memory Run is the main fundraiser that raises money for the upkeep of the cemetery grounds and maintenance of the facilities.

The Valley Head Cemetery is very thankful to all the sponsors, runners, walkers, memorials and volunteers who gave their time and donations to support the cemetery. The families that donated in memory of their loved ones; we ran for them.

Please be sure to shop local and support the sponsors that were kind and generous enough to donate and support our Memory Run this year. A big shout out to Robert Johnson Construction for offering the use of his office for our races and to Gary's Warehouse for donating a 9-cubic-foot chest freezer for our Grand Door Prize! When you see our sponsors tell them THANK YOU for making our event possible!



Mentone Farmers Market

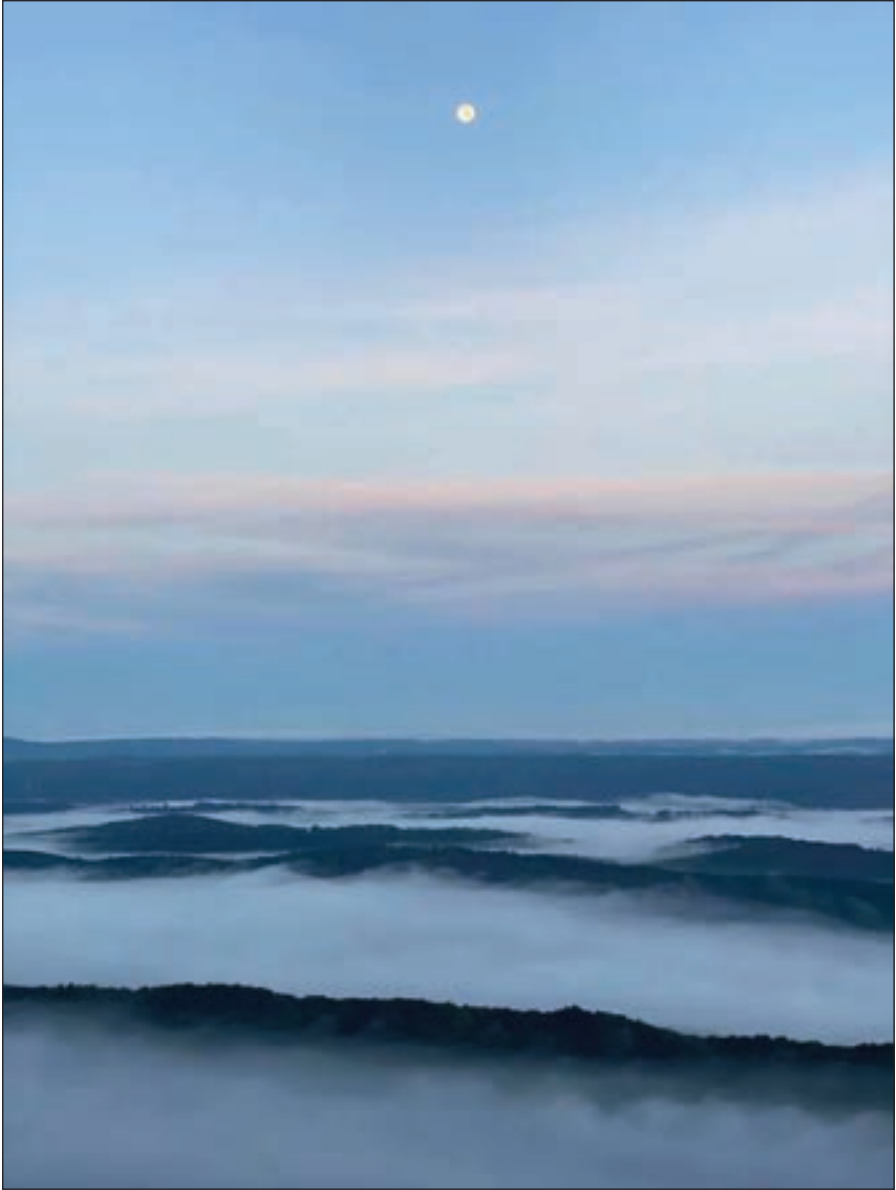
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on the square at the Mentone Inn*

www.facebook.com/MentoneFarmersMarket



John Carr captured this serene photo just before sunrise on October 22 from his brow home in Mentone.



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A small, single-story wooden building, possibly a shed or a small house, with a white door and a window. It is situated in a wooded area with trees in the background. The building has a gabled roof and a small set of steps leading to the door.



.....
LOTS and LAND

CHOICE OF 2 MENTONE BROW LOTS, offering a rare opportunity because there just aren't many left between Mentone & Desoto St Park. Beautiful mountaintop views & spectacular sunsets. 2 lots from which to choose, or buy them both to create a spectacular personal getaway! Each offers approx. 1.8 acres. \$225,000 per lot. (1770794)

GORGEOUS VIEWS & 2.2 ACRES. This Mentone East-brow-front property already has the major prep work done for you to begin building your dream get-away cabin or residence. Septic tank in place, driveway in place, building sites for a cabin & for a shop cleared & leveled. Now incredibly priced at only \$85,000. (1775068)

COME BUILD YOUR DREAM HOME IN A PEACEFUL VALLEY! Here are 19+ acres of beautiful vistas that would be perfect for horses, or whatever strikes your fancy. The property is part of a large family farm which has a major portion in a permanent farmland conservancy. The interstate is 5 minutes away, convenient to Chattanooga, Fort Payne and Mentone. \$164,050 (1790823)



52 ACRES, WITH LAND ON BOTH SIDES OF PAVED COUNTY ROAD. This old home place offers so many options & some of the best Sand Mtn sandy loam soil there is; Shankles Branch running through the property on one side of road, serving as property line on other side of road. Level land. Current use is approx. 22 ac in orchard grass & fescue hay, 30 ac in woods. Old home site w/remains of the farm house that is falling in. Well house is still intact & the ancient pear tree still bears fruit. Public water meter in place; 3 wells are known to exist on property. Beautiful land with deer & turkey often seen enjoying fields & woodland. Agent owned. \$350,000 (1790110)



**RIVERFRONT LOT ON W
FORK LITTLE RIVER;** 3.01 acres; approx 270' frontage on the river. Beautifully wooded w/ building site on the river side of the road. Imagine a cabin w/ river access, a screened porch to enjoy the sounds of the river & possibly even see the water. Very private, with that "away-from-it-all" feeling; less than 2 miles from downtown Mentone. Adjacent to historic Little River Baptist Church, just down the road from Lil Mole Run Golf Course. \$75,000 (1788717)



LOVELY BUNGALOW-STYLE HOME gives you room for many possibilities! A spacious home, a gathering place for families, retreats, possible B&B, multi-family home with 2nd floor, dining area and kitchen (possibly a bar) (possibly a bar). Entirely new exterior. New exterior paint, new windows & roof 2019. Interior needs some upgrading & TLC. Beautiful yard w/seasonal sunset views. Hi-speed internet available! Agent owned. \$300,000 (1780870)



*In this season
of Thanksgiving,
we are thankful
for our families,
friends, and
our customers.
Thank You!*



IT'S HARD TO IMAGINE ALL THE POSSIBILITIES FOR A BUILDING LIKE THIS! Good ceiling height combined with the wide open interior space makes for a great work environment. Conveniently located in a downtown area that is being revitalized, across the street from the Fort Payne post office, & pretty much move-in ready! Just listed for \$107,500 (1786006)

October Community Calendar

November 3—Paint 'n Sip with Kori

Lankster. Painting class for all skill levels. Participants will be guided through a nature-themed painting in a relaxed atmosphere. Bring your beverage of choice and invite your friends. \$10 for LRAC members; \$30 for non-members. Supplies are included. Limited to ages 21 and over. 5 p.m. Mentone Inn's Linger Longer Pavilion. littliverartscouncil.org

November 4—Author Talk: Robert Bailey.

Moon Lake Community Library. 6:30pm. Free. moonlakelibrary.org. See page 25 for details.

November 5 & 6—Fallin' for Him Concerts.

Family-friendly concert at Mentone Community Church Auditorium featuring Alabama Bluegrass Hall of Fame artist Jim Connor ("Grandma's Feather Bed") and Lenny LeBlanc, Dove Award Winner ("Above All"). 7pm both nights. Tickets \$15.

November 6—Hustle for Heroes 5K & Fun

Run. Join the VFW & Auxiliary in our 4th Hustle for Heroes 5K. As in our previous races, all proceeds benefit The Patriots Memorial Park in Fort Payne. The race begins and ends at the VFW Fairgrounds. It is an out-and-back course that goes around the Fairgrounds, along Williams Avenue, and the Alabama Walking Park. \$25 Race Day Registration: \$30 Registration will be available the day of the race from 7-7:30am. CASH PRIZES and a medal will be awarded to overall male and female winners. Medals will be given to 1st, 2nd and 3rd place male

and female winners in each age division: 12 & under, 13-19, 20-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, 60-69, 70+. This year we have added a Fun Run for children under 12. Register online at runsignup.com/Race/AL/FortPayne/HustleForHeroes.

November 6—Annual Canyon Fest: A Celebration of Arts and Nature.

Little River Canyon Field School and Interpretive Center invites you to come and enjoy live music, nature and arts activities, arts demonstrations and sales, live animal shows, great food, vendors, children's activities and more. Pets are welcome on leashes. Masks appreciated. 10am--4pm. For details: 256-845-3548 or canyoncenter.org.

November 7, 14, 21 & 28—Mentone Mah Jongg Group.

MERF House in Mentone. 1-4pm. Please note: We ask that you wear a mask and gloves. We have several players with underlying health concerns and just want to keep everyone safe. Also, please bring \$5/month contribution to the MERF House, so they can keep the lights on.

November 8—Monthly Songwriters Round.

Spotlights Grammy-Award winner Kathy Louvin. Prior to Kathy's feature performance, host and award-winning singer-songwriter Craig Hendricks will spotlight other two returning songwriters, Jon Kinsey and Cliff Abbott, in the opening round. 7pm. \$15 suggested donation. Mentone Arts Center, 4651 AL Hwy. 117, Mentone. For more info, email mentoneartscenter@gmail.com or call

256-674-3366.

November 9—City of Fort Payne Veterans Day Program.

The program is co-sponsored by the City of Fort Payne; N.E. Alabama Marine Corps League Detachment 1404, VFW Post 3128, & American Legion Post 89. Fort Payne JROTC will participate, in addition to guest singers and musicians. 6pm. Rotary Pavilion on the corner of Godfrey Ave and 5th Street N.

NOVEMBER 11 Veterans Day

November 13—"Falling Leaves" Children's Library Program. Program for 3-5-year-olds at 10am; children ages 6-8 at 11am. Moon Lake Community Library, Mentone. moonlakelibrary.org.

NOVEMBER 13 World Kindness Day

November 13 & 30—Ukulele Class. Free class for beginners. Bring a ukulele and a fun desire to learn! 1pm. Moon Lake Library, 4607 AL Hwy. 117, Mentone. For more info or to RSVP: Debra, 404-630-2918.

November 13-14—Creative Spirit Market. Hosted by Little River Arts Council & DeSoto State Park. Adding a new twist to a typical art fair, this event is designed as an open-air showcase, with artist demonstrations, locally & regionally created fine & folk art, premium hand-crafted goods, live acoustic music, as well as interactive kids' art area. Free. 10am-3pm each day. DeSoto State Park

Country Store/Picnic Area on County Road 89 Free & open to everyone. Rain or shine. Call 256-997-5025 for more details. alapark.com/creative-spirit-market.

NOVEMBER 17 Take a Hike Day

November 20—Yoga on the Brow. All levels welcome. 9am. Brow Park Pavilion, N. Cool St., Mentone. \$5 donation appreciated but not required. Contact Soul Shine Yoga & Wellness Studio on Facebook or Instagram or call 256-630-6998.

NOVEMBER 25 Happy Thanksgiving!

November 27—"Native American Lore" Children's Library Program. Program for 3-5-year-olds at 10am; children ages 6-8 at 11am. Moon Lake Community Library, Mentone.

Save the Dates!

The Valley Head Christmas Parade will be December 4 with line up @ 9:30 a.m. and parade starting at 10 a.m.

Lighting of the Christmas Tree at the Mentone Inn on Friday, December 10, 5-7pm.

Gratitude is not only the greatest of virtues,
but the parent of all others.
—Cicero



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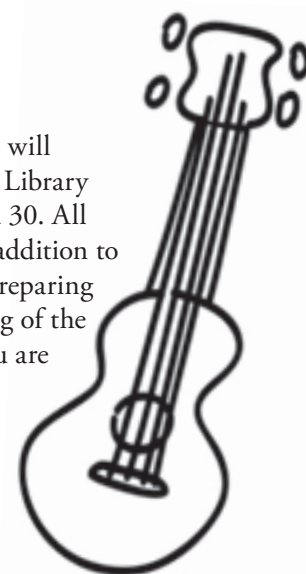
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valleyheaddrugs@farmerstel.com

114 Commerce Ave., Valley Head, AL 35989

Mentone Ukes by Debra Fey

The Mentone Ukes FREE ukulele sessions will continue at the Moon Lake Community Library at 1 p.m. on Saturday, November 13 and 30. All skill sets and all ages are welcome to attend. In addition to adding chords and learning new songs, we are preparing for our first-ever live performance at the Lighting of the Christmas Tree event at the Mentone Inn. If you are interested in participating in this event or have any questions, please contact Debra Fey (debrajfe@gmail.com). Follow the Mentone Ukes on Facebook.



JUST BETWEEN US
A Curious Q & A by Rebecca Henderson

On a crisp October morning, I had the privilege of seeing a fire engine up-close for the first time. Somehow I missed that earlier in life. And now I get why every child wants to jump up into the towering cab and look at all the gadgets: It was impressive. And then I experienced standing on the sidewalk with a man who received a honk and a wave from almost every car that passed by. Joseph Lee, fire chief for the

North Alabama Fire Protection District since 2008, is a man who is always getting things done. He is also owner of Lee Boys Construction, a company he founded in 1997. His son, Dylan, is the other Lee boy in the company. He and his wife, Crystal, have three children: Dylan, Kansas, and Dallas. Joseph recently took time out to chat with me at the fire station in Mentone.



Fire Chief Joseph Lee

- Q** *Where were you born?*

A Fort Payne, at the old hospital [DeKalb General Hospital]. I was a '76er, a Bicentennial baby.

Q *Do you have family in the area?*

A All my family from my mother and father's sides live around Fischer.

Q *How did you develop an interest in firefighting?*

A In the late 90s, I joined the Fischer Rescue Squad and was a member there for a few years. And later, around 2000, I was clearing some of our land and had a small fire break out. When the fire department came to put it out, I decided, "Yes. I want to do that. Help people. There's so much joy in helping people in situations like that."
- Q** *Was there a person in particular who inspired your interest in public service?*

A My dad worked for the power company [Sand Mountain Electric Co-Op] and whenever the weather got bad, I saw that somebody had to go fix stuff for people. I saw that growing up. His name was Wilber Robert Lee, Jr. Everybody called him "Colonel" — he was a strong person.

Q *What's the toughest part of your job with the fire district?*

A To me, wrecks are the toughest thing. Worrying on the way, wondering if someone is injured. And by the way, when bad things happen, we get together at the next meeting as a group and talk it through.
- Q** *How do you spend your free time?*

A For the most part, working on our [100-acre] farm with my kids. Twice a year, we work all of our cows — vaccinate them, worm them, etc. We do our own hay. The work is a family event.

Q *What is your favorite place to vacation?*

A Orange Beach, that area. Last year we went to try and get some normalcy back into our lives during Covid.

Q *Favorite meal?*

A Probably a rib-eye, cooked medium well.
- Q** *First historic event you were old enough to remember?*

A I think when President Ronald Reagan was shot. I believe I was home and saw it on the news with my mom and dad. That stuck with me.

Q *Would your first grade teacher say you were well-behaved?*

A Seventy-five percent of the time! I was pretty wild.

Q *What kind of dancer would your wife say you are?*

A Freewheeling. Any kind of music. I'm always singing and acting up with the kids.
- Q** *How did you learn to drive?*

A The first thing I learned to drive was an Allis Chalmers CA tractor, snaking logs [moving timber] for my dad. They said I was around 8.

Q *Favorite season in Mentone?*

A Winter ... when it snows.

Thank you, Joseph!

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256.634.0066



Charlie Ronald Swords
Menlo, GA
United States Army, Spc-4
1968-1971
Charlie served in Vietnam from 1970-71. He passed away on Veteran's Day, 2016.



Terry Hutcheson
Mentone, AL
U.S. Army
Terry served in Germany at Fulda Gap during the Vietnam War.



John Breithaupt
Valley Head, AL
U.S. Army, 1967-70
Army Commendation Medal



We are grateful for the service of our



Charles (Charley) Vest
Valley Head, AL
United States Navy 1975-83
USS America
Charley was deployed to the Mediterranean several times. He later served as a Navy recruiter in Cleveland, OH.
Good Conduct Award
Letter of Commendation
Certificate of Achievement (recruitment)



Donald Lee Willingham
Menlo, GA
U.S. Army 1954-74



Mike Key, Jr.
Valley Head, AL
U.S. Marine Corps 1969-73
Vice Commandant, N.E. Alabama
Marine Corps League
Vietnam Service Medal
Vietnam Gallantry Ribbon
Good Conduct Medal
National Defense Medal
Marksmanship Medal



Michael Edward Norris
Mentone, AL
Captain, U.S. Army 1992-1998
Chemical Corps/Armored/82nd Airborne
Senior Jumpmaster Wings
Meritorious Service Medal
Army Commendation Medal



Matthew Preston Spivey
U.S. Army 2012-2013
1st Lieutenant
Operation Desert Shield
Persian Gulf War
Afghanistan & Iraq
Son of Lynna Meadows Morton & Barry Morton



Michael Stone, Sr.
Mentone, AL
U.S. Army National Guard 1991-99
Medical Specialist 91-B
Rank Specialist E-4
Army Achievement Medal





Thankful for the local veterans!



Paul Hobson Kirby
Mentone, AL
U.S. Army 1966–68



Wayne "Kenny" Chamlee
Valley Head, AL



Jake McDaniel
Mentone, AL
U.S. Army 1990–92



Barry Byron Morton
Mentone, AL
U.S. Navy, Captain
Annapolis graduate, 1974
Served 24 years



Don Pirch
Mentone, AL
U.S. Army, 1967-68
Specialist E4
Don fought in the Tet Offensive in Vietnam.



Thomas J. "Jay" Skinner
Mentone & Birmingham, AL
Lt. Colonel, Alabama Army National Guard 2004–present
Command Judge Advocate of the 31st CBRN Brigade
Deployed in 2013 in support of Operation Enduring Freedom
Meritorious Service Medal with 3 Oak Leaf Clusters
Army Commendation Medal with 3 Oak Leaf Clusters
Army Achievement Medal with 2 Oak Leaf Clusters
GWOT Expeditionary Medal
GWOT Service Medal
Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal
Alabama Distinguished Service Medal



Jim Rodgers
Mentone, AL
U.S. Army 1968–70
Jim spent 17 months in Vietnam.



Lieutenant Tara Allgood
Mentone, AL
U.S. Navy 2001–09
Tours in Sri Lanka (2005) and Pakistan (2006)
Navy & Marine Corps Commendation Medal
Navy and Marine Achievement Medals



John Wesley Wells,
Hammondville, AL
U.S. Navy 1956–1976
John served as a CPO in Vietnam. He passed away on September 10, 2021.



Walt Pullen
Mentone, AL
U.S. Navy 1967–71
Machinist Mate 3
National Defense Medal
Vietnamese Service Medal



Lt. Col. David Allgood
Mentone, AL
U.S. Air Force 1993–2016
Tours in Bosnia-Herzegovina (2000), South Korea (1997, 2006), Okinawa (2004–06), Iraq & Afghanistan AOR (2002, 2003, 2005, 2010)
Defense Meritorious Service Medal
Meritorious Service Medals
Joint Service Commendation Medals
Air Force Commendation Medals

Rhododendron Garden Club

by Rhea Pirch



The Rhododendron Garden Club met for their monthly meeting on Tuesday, October 13, at the MERF House. There were nine of us in attendance, and one guest. We started the meeting by cleaning up and planting rhododendron and hydrangea on the side of the building and daffodils and hellebore in the front. It's going to look so pretty come next spring! When the outdoor work was complete, we continued the meeting inside.

After the Pledge of Allegiance, Dee Kelley read the meditation, the lyrics to the song "Sing a New World into Being," an updated version of Beethoven's "Ode to Joy," written by hymnwriter Mary Louise Bringle.

In her Horticulture Report, Martha Wood reminded us that the first frost is coming, so it's time to take cuttings from those plants we want to propagate and save seeds from the fading flowers. Marsha Merrell advised us in the Conservation Report that there is still a 30% decline in the bee population and urged us once again to plant pollinators. A good selection to plant in the fall would include wallflowers, hellebores, grape hyacinth, anemone, and crocus.

We reviewed business matters, including the cancelled flower show at the VFW County Fair in September. (Due to the high number of Covid-19 cases in DeKalb County in September, all exhibitions at the VFW County Fair were cancelled.) Marsha suggested we hold a less formal mini flower show here



in Mentone, perhaps in February? Keep watching for news on this event. We still plan to provide the food for the November 10th senior lunch at the MERF House and will create the flower arrangements for the tables at our next meeting.

Congratulations go to our members for their first-place win in the Colorfest Scarecrow Holler contest. Cinderella received the honor, dressed in her splendid aqua gown and all-natural tiara, surrounded by haystacks, gourd-made mice, and an abstract version of a decorated pumpkin. Prince Charming, another one of our scarecrow creations, didn't fare as well with the awards, but looked dapper in his red pants, black boots, dazzling white military coat, and crown of wood coins. Our thanks go to Mellanie Tuttle, who encouraged us all to participate in this community event!

The meeting adjourned after Marsha passed around a sheet for us to suggest and volunteer to present programs in the new year.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, November 9, at 10 a.m. at the MERF House. As always, it is open to guests. Follow us on Facebook or send any questions to our email, rhododendrongardenclub@gmail.com.



Rhea Pirch is the secretary for the Rhododendron Garden Club.

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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 Heath Croft, 334-315-3459. Van Ministry for Children pick-up/take home, ages K-12, for all surrounding areas 8:15am. Wednesday small group study 6:30pm. 90 Summerville Rd. 256-634-4210.

Mentone United Methodist Church invites you to come and worship with us. Each Sunday our worship service is held at 11am and is led by Rev. Robert (Bob) Reynolds. 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".

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

St. Joseph's on-the-Mountain Episcopal Church and Sacred Garden is open daily for prayer and thanksgiving. Everyone is welcome to join us, in person or online, for Holy Eucharist each Sunday at 10:30am, and for online only services each Tuesday at 12 noon for Noonday Prayers and each Thursday at 8pm for Compline. Please visit our website at stjom.dioala.org for more information. We continue to support our community with outreach, so please call our church office at 256-634-4476 if you need assistance. 21145 Scenic Hwy, PO Box 161, Mentone, AL 35984.

Summit Church of God in Mentone invites you to Sunday School 10am, Sunday Worship 11am. Pastor Brian Hughes. 1792 AL Hwy. 117. 256-706-5705.

Hammondville, Alabama

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

Greater Vision Ministries Church of God invites you to Sunday School 10 am, Sunday Worship *10:45 am, (*Nursery & Kid's

Church). MidWEEK re-charge Wednesday 6:30pm. Pastor Tim Coppock. 38623 US Hwy 11. 256-601-0679.

Valley Head, Alabama

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

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

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

Where there is love
there is life.

—Mahatma Gandhi

Wildwood Seventh Day Adventist Church, Mentone Chapter, holds services in Moon Lake Baptist Church's dining 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.

First United Methodist Church offers a Contemporary Worship service at 8:30am and a traditional service at 11am on Sundays. 206 Grand Avenue North. 256-845-1141. fpfumc.org

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.

Highland Baptist Church welcomes you to join us for Sunday Morning Worship Service and Youth Sunday School from 10am–11am. We are located at 2004 Clark Ave. Follow us on Facebook @highlandbaptistfp for updates and events!

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. Our worship services are at 11am and also on Sunday evenings in the Chapel 6pm. You can

also worship with us on-line @ facebook.com/neworegonumc. We have Wonderful Wednesdays during the school year with Bible studies for all ages meeting at 6pm in the Family Life Center. 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 1pm. Sunday School is at Noon. 1519 Smith Gap Road NW. Father Rodney Jackson, 205-405-0055; Deacon Jack Gilbreath, 256-845-2605.

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

Cloudland, Georgia

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

Menlo, Georgia

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

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

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

Summerville, Georgia

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

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

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

Birthdays

1

Easton Bain
Marc Walsh
Austyn Young
Marilyn Blansit
David Simpson
River Lewchuk

2

Katherine Chambers
Ryan Cash Davis
Nick Floyd
Michael Potts
Taylor Brown
Triston Goss
J.R. Hurst
Larry O'Tinger
Gequetta Darwin
Taylor Brown
Caleb Rogers
Kai Ballenger
Philip Williams

3

Aubrey Shields
Sandy Hulgan
Hudson Brownfield
Kay Sadia

4

Barrett Wilkinson
Rita Chapman
Pat Lewis
Daniel Hawkins
Scotty Vaughn

5

Gail Chambers
Luke Wright
Ginger Kearney

6

Tommy Harrison
Duane Blalock
Mike Smith
Jeffrey Manning
Alanis McKenzie
Grayson Gatlin
Nedy Cruz

7

Melissa Bain
Brooklyn Johnson
Brian Smith
Isabel Carabello
Zora Williams

8

Michael Harrison
Judson McElhaney
Toby Crider
Mary Beasley
Gibson Roberts
Bob Tate
Ruth Rose Potts
Joy Pam Lewchuck

9

Kowen Worthey
Laura McKenzie
Bonnie Easler Patterson
Emily Hodge
Melissa Simpson
Morgan Miller

10

Toby Manifold
Valinda Miracle
Jessica Easler

11

Gerry Bain
Amber Griffith
Allen McElhaney
Shelley Blalock
Garrett Duke

12

Kynlee Baggett
Megan McElhaney
Major Frost
McKinley Potts
Brantley Rain Easler
Misty Bearden

13

Addison Prestwood
Lendell Chappell
Kim Raley
Mindy Loudon
Bridget Arnold

14

Don Brock
Austin Harrison
William Hughes
Asher Amanda Garcia
Greg Hughes
Kenzie Bailey

15

Laura Boehringer
Rory Quinn
Lee Carden
Ian Roberts

16

Chris Stallings
EJ Bickerstaff
Blexton Potts

17

Helena Dodd
Dink Tillman
Jeff Wigley
Johnny Mann
Larry Smith
Rita Wynn
Brantley Cowart

18

George Boehringer
Kim Foshee

19

Caden Blalock
Margo Tate
Macrae Bailey
Andrew Spicer

20

Brandi Miller
Kevin McElhaney
Angel Carson
Jan O'Dell
Copeland Reed
Eric Chambers

21

Pam Wooten
Deedra Battles
Nancy Brown
Rachell Givens
Yvonne Blalock
Ashley Manning
Brandy Clure
Judy Carter
Brettley Smothers
Candice Dunaway
Noah Hulgan

22

Amber Hart
Cason Garner
Collin Coots
Gerald Bailey
Tim Hulgan
Angie Shankles
Julie Smith

23

Sam Shankles

24

Pam Baggett
Hayley Crider
Sarah Tucker
Staci Winn
Bradley Tyler Smith
Robert Totherow
Kenna Chambers
Evan Whittle
Kimberly Williams

25

Billy Tramel
Billy Shugart IV
Ginger Kearney
Ryleigh Blansit

26

Krissy Harris
Heath Kirby
Renee Pruitt
Brinley Ware
Madison Carson

27

Kim Johnson
Timbo Carden
Clay Stiles
Charlton Bell
Ross Smith
Lesley Blalock
Adam Haynes

28

Lily Harrison
Chance Hodges
Almeda Bickerstaff
Taylor Smothers
Jean Powell
John Shannon
Liam Floyd
Ian DePaul
William Wright Floyd

29

Karen Powell
Brian Blalock
Kerry Bailey
Kyleigh Barkley
Steve Barkley
Aric Collins
Hollie Cross

30

Sandy McNutt
Alyss Kay Kilgore
Jaclyn Lawton Nasoni

Anniversaries

1

George & Kim Raley
Matt & Jana Sharp

2

Adam & Morgan Miller

3

Jordan & Jessica McGinnis
Josh & Courtney Gregory

8

Andrew & Penny Herbert
Hugh & Gigi Stump

10

Paul & Bethany Whittle

11

Gerry & Melissa Bain

14

Ronnie & Sandy Hulgan
Marris & LuJean Pierce

14

Sheila & Bill Horne

16

Dallas & Morgan Gregory
Allen & Jill Crow

19

Thomas & Beth McKinney

21

Mark & Deedra Battles
John & Michele Kincer

23

Kenneth & Carol Busby

24

Tim & Lee Anne Hulgan

25

David & Barbara Rape

27

Loy & Beck Langston

Ongoing Community Calendar

Mentone Town Council

meets the 2nd Tuesday every month at 5pm at 5607 AL Hwy 117, across from Town Hall..

Valley Head Town Council

meets monthly on the 1st Monday at 6pm at Valley Head Town Hall.

Hammondville Town Council

meets monthly on the 1st Tuesday at 6pm at Hammondville Town Hall.

DeSoto Rescue Squad

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

The North Lookout Mountain Fire Protection District Board

meets the 3rd Monday of every month at 7pm.

Mentone Farmers Market

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

FREE FOOD for eligible persons and families.

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

The Lookout Mountain Knitters

meet each Tuesday at 3pm at the MERF House. All are welcome.

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 4–6pm. Mentone Community Church, 90 Summerville Rd. 256-634-4210.

Moon Lake Community Library

is open on Saturdays from 10am–1pm, and Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4–7pm. Visit moonlakelibrary.org.

The Rhododendron Garden Club

meets each month on the 2nd Tuesday at 10am. ‘Green thumbs’ and ‘brown thumbs’ are welcome! 256-634-4403.

Ukulele Sessions Continue.

Bring your uke to the Moon Lake Community Library at 1 pm on November 13 and 30. Follow us on Facebook (Mentone Ukes) or contact Debra Fey (debrajfe@gmail.com) for more info. Beginners of all ages are invited to join in. Strum and be happy!

The Mentone Mah Jongg Group

meets at the MERF House in Mentone on Sundays 1–4pm. Please note: We ask that you wear a mask and gloves. We have several players with underlying health concerns and just want to keep everyone safe. Also, please bring \$5/month contribution to the MERF House, so they can keep the lights on.

The Mentone Wicketeers

play croquet on Saturdays at 2pm at Mason Park in Mentone. Everyone is welcome.

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

Ruby O'Rear's Days Come to Life

NOVEMBER, 1936

November 1, 1936, Sunday

Cloudy.

Mother didn't rest so well & I felt bad. Five boys came by to see Clara. Paul washed the car. A.J. took me to church at Mentone. Charles preached. Aubrey brot Mildred & a friend to see Clara. Gracie came over. They went to Louis & spent P.M. Sonny White better. Paul came over for little while. Mary & her husband down.

November 3, 1936, Tuesday

Election Day.

Pleasant Day.

A.J. went to Summerville with Paul to vote. Jessie got home early. Mother took syrup of Pepsin but only up twice while Clara & I were here by ourselves. Sonny White getting along O.K. but Mason quite sick.

November 4, 1936, Wednesday

Cloudy & cold.

Roosevelt by a big majority. Had to keep a good fire all day. School ran on short schedule again & Jessie home early. Bathed Mother off a little & put on clean shirt & her nightgown. She has quite a hearty appetite now. W. Paul came over & they went to ride but got in early.

November 5, 1936, Thursday

Clear – Cold but didn't get quite to freezing.

James Beverly's Birthday & he was sick & stayed at home. A.J. taught for Jessie until dinner. Paul brot her home. Mother ate some sausage & egg. First she's meat eaten since she's been sick. Ate some turnips & drank lots of water. I went for mail.

November 6, 1936, Friday

Cloudy.

James Beverly coughing so he stayed at home again to-day. Paul came over this P.M. & he & A.J. rambled. Mother still eating hearty. Eula & Jodie on way to store. They killed 3 squirrels near mill.

November 7, 1936, Saturday

Rainy.

Paul took me to Summerville. I got the rent from Mr. Foster & paid the taxes all except on Summerville lot. Going to let it sell for its taxes & get a deed to it. Then we came back & went to Valley Head & I paid off some debts. Then back home. Mr. Thompson & Mr. Deering over for few min.

November 8, 1936, Sunday

Rainy.

Stayed at home all day. Gracie came over & she & Clara went to store. I killed hen & Clara picked it & Jessie fixed it to bake. Billy E. & Billy S. & Scudder came over. Last Thur. was J.B.'s birthday & next Thur. Scudder's,



so they ate birthday dinner together. Both had a cake with candles. J.B. 12, Scudder 7. Clara went over to Gracie's. W.P. came over & they went riding.

November 10, 1936, Tuesday

Clear. Colder.

Gracie & Mrs. Cash washed. I had curtains in our room washed. Built pig pen this P.M. Got bedroom slippers for Mother & comforter cover to-day. A.J. went to V.H. with mail man.

November 11, 1936, Wednesday Armistice Day

No holiday at school tho. Rainy. Folks

came in from school extra late. Then they went on to Ethel Greens. I don't seem to be able to get anything much done.

November 12, 1936, Thursday

Pleasant.

Paul went to Fort Payne & got car tag. Frank & Lonnie hauled wood to-day. Had Frank get me 2 poles to set up & make cow shed. P.T.A. meeting to-nite. Jack & Paul both feeling bad & didn't go. A Mr. Lee Jones came & said Mr. Humphrey had moved & he wanted to rent house.

November 13, 1936, Friday

Pleasant.

Mother wanted me to go to Menlo & see if Humphrey was really gone. Frank, Lonnie & Milt split wood all day. Paul came home early & took me to Menlo. Mr. H. really gone. Jessie came home early. Lucile Jones came with them to spend the nite.

November 14, 1936, Saturday

Frost. Pleasant.

Jessie cleaned up. Lucille spent day. Clara finished a dress she had started. Paul took me to Fort Payne to pay the taxes. We took some corn to mill. Saw R.B. & Junior Owens at Mentone. Got

Editor's Note:

In our July 2021 issue, we introduced the diary entries of Miss Ruby O'Rear, granddaughter of John Mason, (the founder of Mentone) and daughter of Alice Mason (who named the town). You can read more about Ruby O'Rear at mapamentone.com/groundhog-archives (July 2021).

In 2015, the University of Alabama acquired her diaries from the years 1936 and 1937 from a bookseller in Brooklyn, NY. They are part of the University Libraries Special Collections (MSS4133). Many thanks to Chris Carmichael for sharing his copy of the diaries with *The Groundhog*.

We hope you will enjoy reading these selected entries of her daily diary for the month of November, 1936. —Kelly

cow feed, beet pulp & C.S. Meal. Got 1.29 oxfords & black sweater.

November 15, 1936, Sunday

Clear. Cold. West wind.

Paul went to S'ville. Mrs. Emma Smith came over to see Mother. Mrs. Meda about the same. Not doing much good. W. Paul came for A.J. She wore her new knitted suit. Ted Vaughn came out to see about renting house. Gracie & Clara went somewhere. Hope & Ethel came out. Brot pig.

November 16, 1936, Monday

Now Temp 23 – first killing frost. Clear.

Mother walked to last window several times this morn & looked at wood. First time she has walked to that window in months. Warmed up some during day. Worked some on cow shed I've started. Mrs. Pearl & Robbine came for stuff for orphanage. I gave 7 qts canned stuff & Mother gave a guinea. Went to field & got turnips.

November 17, 1936, Tuesday

Temp 22. Clear & warmed up.

Trying to get room cleaned this week. Clara & I beat Mother's mattress. Washed my green scarf in gasoline. Worked some on cow shed. Put leaves in pig pen.

November 18, 1936, Wednesday

Cloudy in morn but cleared off later – Very Pleasant.

Gracie washed. I sewed some & worked a little on cow shed. Washed Mother off a little & put her on clean clothes. She soaked feet a few min in new foot tub. Mrs. Meda worse last nite. Mother still eating hearty.

November 19, 1936, Thursday

Cooler last nite. Clear.

Sewed a great deal. Nearly made Mother a gown & did some other sewing. Didn't work outdoors any tho.

Head hurt a little. Clara's nose bled a great deal. Has been bleeding for several days off & on. Mrs. Meda no better.

November 20, 1936, Friday

Frost. Clear.

Mopped Mother's room to-day. Sewed some. Didn't get to work any outdoors tho. Mother feeling about as usual. Still eating hearty. Clara & A.J. fixed our boxes for box supper.

November 21, 1936, Saturday

Clear. Warm.

Billy E. came over. Paul took Jack to F.P. to teacher's meeting. I put up the curtains and new cretonne on chairs and valances. Killed chicken for box supper. A.J. & Jack & Clara fixed out boxes. Billy, J.B., Clara & I went over with bus. Forrest came & he walked home with Clara. Had about 50 boxes. Made \$51.51.

November 22, 1936, Sunday

Frost.

Didn't get much sleep last nite. Jessie & I cleaned up Mother's room. Clara & J.B. went to Dans. Paul to Mentone, later to Cloudland. A.J. fixed broken telephone line. Had to make 2 trips to find break. Mr. Beck Wyatt, Mr. Chichester, & Mr. Thompson all came over to have a home communion service. Ethel came out from V.H. Clara & Forrest came down from Davis. They'd been to Sand Mountain. Sow has 6 little pigs.

November 23, 1936, Monday

Pleasant

Mother sat up over 2 hrs. Longest she's been up since she got sick. I crocheted some. Worked some on cow shed. Finished first side & covering it with just boards. Mrs. Meda not doing so well. Heard that Elmer Crow & children & Lily Mae & her husband had had a wreck Sat. Geo brot bed springs from Summerville.

November 24, 1936, Tuesday

Cloudy. Warm. Rained a little last nite.

Gracie washed to-day so it cleared off in P.M. but clothes didn't get all dry. We are having to carry water from the branch now. Clara wants to go home to-morrow for Thanksgiving if Gracie can stay here.

November 25, 1936, Wednesday

Clear. Cold.

Clara & J.B. tried to meet the bus at Eller place but missed it & had to come back & go with Paul & Jack. Clara went to V.H. & going home on bus. Mrs. Davenport died at 7:00 this morn. Gracie came & W. Paul took A.J. to Valley Head. Mrs. Meda just alive. Mother still eating hearty. Wants lots

(continued on page 25)

Every Picket Tells a Story!

Our February issue featured the beginning of a series by Jay Robbins which tell the stories of individual pickets on MERF's Pathway to Community. Below are some more selections our

readers have expressed curiosity about. The Pathway to Community is located on AL Highway 117, just to the east of Moon Lake Library. The project was funded by a generous grant from the

Community Foundation of Northeast Alabama. If you are curious about a specific picket's story, please email Jay at jrobbins727@gmail.com and we will feature it in a future issue.

1 Dowe Foreman

Our cat, Midnight, had recently passed away and I wanted to do something that would make me smile whenever I walked past. He was a quirky guy and I thought painting his whiskers with various colors would be perfect. I've always loved whimsical art and while I'm not a painter, I did enjoy working on this picket! (Dowe Forman)

2 Rob Hammond

I think Jan Wilkinson did the drawing on the picket I painted. I chose the "Snoopy" picket. My boys enjoyed Peanuts growing up. I thought the MERF project was great and involved many in the community. The Laney staff who participated had a good time.

3 Rita Shirley

All of the mountain's gifts. The magnificent sunsets, the pristine river, the waterfalls, the forest trails, and the bliss one feels being surrounded by such beauty.

4 Jay Robbins

This is a line from Jack Kerouac. That sentiment propelled me through a decade of odd jobs and travels. I'm retired now, and once again my future is a vast glowing empty page.

5 Ruth Hathorn

My picket represented one of the great loves of my life. I have been camping for over 40 years with friends and family. It is one of the most pleasant and healing activities that I find I can do to rest, relax and renew. When I smell the scent of pine trees, see a campfire glowing, watch kids roasting marshmallows, walking or hiking along winding rivers, climbing over boulders and up mountain paths in the deep forests and taking in a breath of crisp cool air, these are some of the most wonderful things I like about camping. But my most favorite one of all, is camping underneath the stars with lights so brilliant it brightens up the deep night sky, making you feel a sense of peace and tranquility amid the great outdoors.

6 Don Highfield

When I was in the service living in the barracks, I got a sticker in a box of Cracker Jacks that said, "The wizard is in. Spells cast, fortunes told. Knock before entering." I put it up, and people started knocking on my door, asking if I really cast spells. Much later the kids called me Mr. Wizard because I had weird hair. When I was asked to do a picket, that sticker was the first thing that popped into my head. It had apparently been knocking around in my buffer memory for forty years and came out as an idea for the picket.



What's your picket's story?!

If you painted a picket for the Pathway to Community and would like to share the story of your picket in a future issue of *The Groundhog*, please contact Jay Robbins at jrobbins727@gmail.com.

7,8,9 Michelle, Baylece, and Irelynn Walsh

Mentone is full of natural beauty, with breathtaking views, and places to visit. Our family participated in the picket painting, contributing three pickets. We were inspired to capture a piece of Mentone's beauty by painting a picket that represented a night view from Brow Park and DeSoto Falls, as well as one of the organizations that hosted the picket painting, MERF. We enjoyed the community collaboration and seeing the pickets brighten the Pathway to Community.



9



10



11

10 Trish Michaels

I created YogaCat in 2020 as a way to spread joy and goodwill. I designed 30 different memes, then started a Facebook page and website in November intending to sell merchandise. I didn't have enough time to devote to it. So, it's just a playful expression to spread joy.

11 Diana Payne

My picket doesn't have a big story behind it really, but I had just become a part of the community and I wanted to participate by representing the post office during the onset of Covid. It was very fun. I am not the drawer—it was more like a paint-by-number! Jan Wilkinson did the drawing, and I picked the colors to paint. Jan is the talented one, but I enjoyed doing this and having the privilege of being included in this town with its sweet, friendly people. I really had fun!

The community and all veterans are invited to a Veterans Day Ceremony on Tuesday, November 9 at 6 p.m. at the Rotary Pavilion on the corner of Godfrey Ave and 5th Street N. The program is co-sponsored by the City of Fort Payne, N.E. Alabama Marine Corps League Detachment 1404, VFW Post 3128, and American Legion Post 89. Fort Payne JROTC will participate, in addition to guest singers and musicians.

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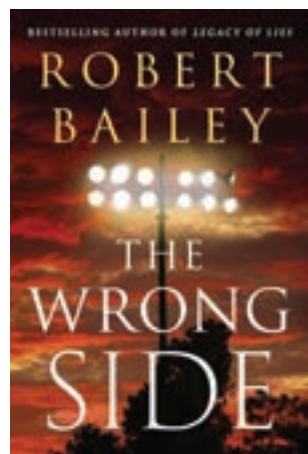


Moon Lake Community Library News

by Anna Mae Horn

Colorfest was wonderful, and we loved seeing our regular patrons and annual visitors. Over \$700 was raised for the library that weekend. We continue to progress to pre-pandemic normalcy.

Both an author talk and the resumption of our book club will feature Robert Bailey. He will be at the library November 4 at 6:30 p.m. to discuss his seventh novel: *The Wrong Side*. This book received a *Publishers Weekly* starred review: "Bailey expertly ratchets up the suspense as the plot builds to a surprise punch ending." The book club will be reading and pondering Mr. Bailey's novel *The Professor* this month.



Mr. Bailey is the best-selling and award-winning author of two legal thriller series: McMurtrie-Drake and Bocephus Haynes. His first two novels, *The Professor* (2015) and *Between Black and White* (2016) were Beverly Hills Book Awards Legal Thriller of the Year winners. *Between Black and White* was also a finalist for the 2016 Foreword INDIES Book of the Year. The Bocephus Haynes series debuted in 2020 with *Legacy of Lies*, the second book in the series and Mr. Bailey's seventh novel, *The Wrong Side*, was published in August 2021. He is also the author of *The Golfer's Carol*, an inspirational novel which is an interpretation of two Christmas stories—"It's A Wonderful Life" and "A Christmas Carol"—and takes place against the 1986 Masters Golf Tournament. An experienced civil defense trial lawyer and avid golfer, who was a member of his high school and university golf teams, Mr. Bailey lives in Huntsville, AL, his hometown, with his wife and three children.

Ukulele classes and children's programs will be happening on alternate Saturdays every month. Look for more details elsewhere in *The Groundhog*.

As mentioned in this space last month, the library is grateful to have received a

grant from the Alabama Humanities Alliance Recovery program. The grant was funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities through the federal American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. The Alabama Humanities Alliance made the funding available through a competitive grant process, inviting Alabama-based nonprofits with a demonstrated commitment to public humanities programming to apply. Grant winners included museums, libraries and archives, historic sites, literacy groups, civic engagement organizations and more. This grant has made it possible for us to hire a new librarian, as well as supporting the library's programs. And speaking of new librarians...



In October the library board hired Anne McLeod, Ph.D., as our librarian.

Anne received her doctorate from the University of Georgia, and worked for many years as a library media specialist and English Language Arts teacher. A Mentone resident, she is thoroughly familiar with our library and has already hit the ground running. We believe we are extremely fortunate to have her on our team. Drop by and meet Anne when you get a chance.

New Library Books Available to Check Out

The Wrong Side by Robert Bailey. The author will be our November speaker.

Fortune and Glory by Janet Evanovich

The Only Plane in the Sky by Garrett Graff. This book was reviewed in the September *Groundhog*.

Sooley by John Grisham

Skin Tight by Carl Hiaasen

Pretty as a Picture by Elizabeth Little. This book was CrimeReads "Best Book of 2020."

Murder at Crossways by Alyssa Maxwell

The Madness of Crowds by Louise Penny

The Cellist by Daniel Silva

The Fault In Our Stars, a Young Adult novel by John Green



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Check It Out!

by Lynn Vanderhoff

Want to learn more about the world around you? Little Library Learners programs at the Moon Lake Community Library is a great place to start! Presented on the second and fourth Saturday of the month for two age groups (3–5 years, and 6–8 years), it's a great way to learn and make friends. Join us in November for some fall fun!

Falling Leaves

Saturday, November 13

Why do leaves change color and fall down? Why do some trees keep theirs and stay green? We will take a close look at nature's autumn decorations and make some of your own to take home!



Native American Lore

Saturday, November 27

From basket weaving, hut building and musical instruments, to stories handed down, we'll explore traditions of the original people who lived here. Programs for 3–5-year-olds begin at 10 a.m. Children

ages 6–8-years old, please come at 11 a.m. Please plan to attend at the appropriate time for your child's age, as activities will be tailored to their abilities. Accompanying adults are welcome to learn too, or they can just hang out in the Adult section!

Please note: We will observe pandemic guidelines and some activities may be conducted outside.

For more information, contact moonlakecommunitylibrary@yahoo.com. All activities are at the Moon Lake Community Library at 4607 AL Hwy. 117 in Mentone.

Ruby O'Rear's Diary (continued from page 21)

of grease. Mother had Gracie & I play organ & guitar & sing.

November 26, 1936, Thursday Thanksgiving Day

Temp 16 degrees. Cold. Cloudy. A few snow flakes fell.

W. Paul took A.J. to Valley Head. Hope & Faye came by to see pigs. I killed rooster for dinner. Had peas, baked sweet potatoes, creamed Irish potatoes, smothered chicken & gravy, cranberry sauce, peach preserves & biscuits. A Mrs. Hange at V.H. died this morn & Dolph Hollimom dropped dead at ball game at F.P. Taking cold.

November 27, 1936, Friday

Temp 22 degrees. A light skiff of snow fell in nite. Temp got to 25 degrees at 9:00 & it had cleared off.

Took some medicine last nite & cold better. Jessie & Gracie cleaned up kitchen & bedroom. Put up Ethel's cabinet & bed. Paul & A.J. went for bed springs. Hit a tree with springs & hurt A.J.'s hands. Paul cut his finger. He fixed cow stall & put cow up. She

pushed buttons off & I put her up again. Mrs. Meda just alive. Tempo went a little above freezing. Paul & A.J. brot Ethel out. First snow. Mrs. Davenport buried.

November 28, 1936, Saturday

Clear. Temp went to 13 in nite then up to 17.

Mrs. Meda died this morn little after 7:00. I went over & told Nettie. Came back by store. Clara came back this morn. Ethel went to S'ville with mail man. Jewell came over. Billy E. spent day with J.B. Paul talked with Mother a little to-nite. Clara & Gracie rode to Lewis with A.J. & Paul. Forrest & Oscar came a little after they left.

November 30, 1936, Monday

Windy but warmer.

Mother left room for first time in 4 months. Walked to door to kitchen & looked in. Ate hearty. I put up glass cloth on north end of porch. Worked a little on cow shed. Went to field to get turnips. All pulled up. Mother took dose of casera. A little later when she got up her back hurt her terribly.

The more grateful I am,
the more beauty I see.

—Mary Davis

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MERF News

[Mentone Educational Resources Foundation]

by Sarah Wilcox



Wow oh wow! What a festival MAPA put on this year! I have never seen so many people at Colorfest, especially on Saturday. How much fun was it to share the work of MERF, meet new friends, and find a new wardrobe. And there was a bit of excitement on Friday and Saturday, with the crazy wind moving our tent! Thanks to everyone with MAPA who made Colorfest possible this

year. And a big thank you to all who stopped by the MERF booth to say hello and to consider a purchase. It was a beautiful weekend in so many ways.

Before the festival, the MERF board had our monthly meeting and voted to help with the funding of the educational and experiential field trip for 5th and 6th graders at Valley Head to go to the Pathfinder's program at Space Camp this spring. While there, the students will build a model rocket, train like an astronaut, and work in mission control or launch as part of the crew on a simulated space mission. MERF is contributing to the group expenses and the students will be holding fundraisers to pay for their part of the trip. What a fantastic opportunity for these students to experience STEM-related activities and to discover Alabama's role in the space industry.

Mentone had special visitors from the Community Foundation of Northeast Alabama in October. The CEO, Jennifer Maddox, brought four friends of the foundation to see how the Open Spaces Sacred Places grants have been used in Mentone at the Mentone Arts Center and St. Joseph's Episcopal Church's Sacred Garden. I had the privilege of showing them the Sacred Garden at St. Joseph's, along with



the Pathway to Community at the MERF house that was also funded by CFNEA through the Big Idea grant. I enjoyed sharing with them how so many in the community contributed to the creative fence with design and installation. We walked along and talked about a variety of pickets and what they represented about Mentone and the people who live here. I shared how Covid



really gave us a gift of time and getting to know our neighbors. We walked the path and enjoyed the magnificent outdoor instruments. They were in awe of Lydia's mural of native flowers and the enchantment of the secret garden. It was fun describing how so many come and use the space in a variety of ways: for exercising, for knitting together, for family time, and for walking dogs. I loved telling how our community contributes to making this space welcoming and festive.

November brings another opportunity for MERF to support the needs of the community, as

Sue McLaurin Henry Memorial Scholarship

Applications for the Sue McLaurin Henry Memorial fund for spring semester are available from merf.mentone@gmail.com or your college counselor. Applicants must be full-time students with a minimum of 2.8 GPA with a financial need and reside in Mentone or Valley Head.

applications for the Sue McLaurin Henry Memorial scholarships will be available. Sue was a founding member of MERF who had a deep affection for this community and commitment to providing educational opportunities for students in a variety of ways. This scholarship fund was established in 2010 after her passing, as so many remembered her with financial gifts to MERF. The fund continues with half of the original funds and the addition of memorial gifts received by MERF in honor of those who believed in MERF's mission and have now passed on. The application will be available by email merf.mentone@gmail.com or from college counselors. Local full-time students enrolled in college or technical school are eligible to apply. Students must have a 2.8 GPA and have a financial need. Non-traditional students may apply, too. Applications will be due by Friday, December 3, 2021.

Senior lunches will continue until Wednesday, November 17, in the Moon Lake Baptist Fellowship Hall unless it is warm enough to be out on the MERF lawn. Thanks to MERF's friends who have been behind all the great meals this fall: Mentone Market, Alpine Camp for Boys, Camp Laney, Mentone Community Church, Camp DeSoto, the Rhododendron Garden Club, St. Joseph's Episcopal Church, and Camp Skyline!

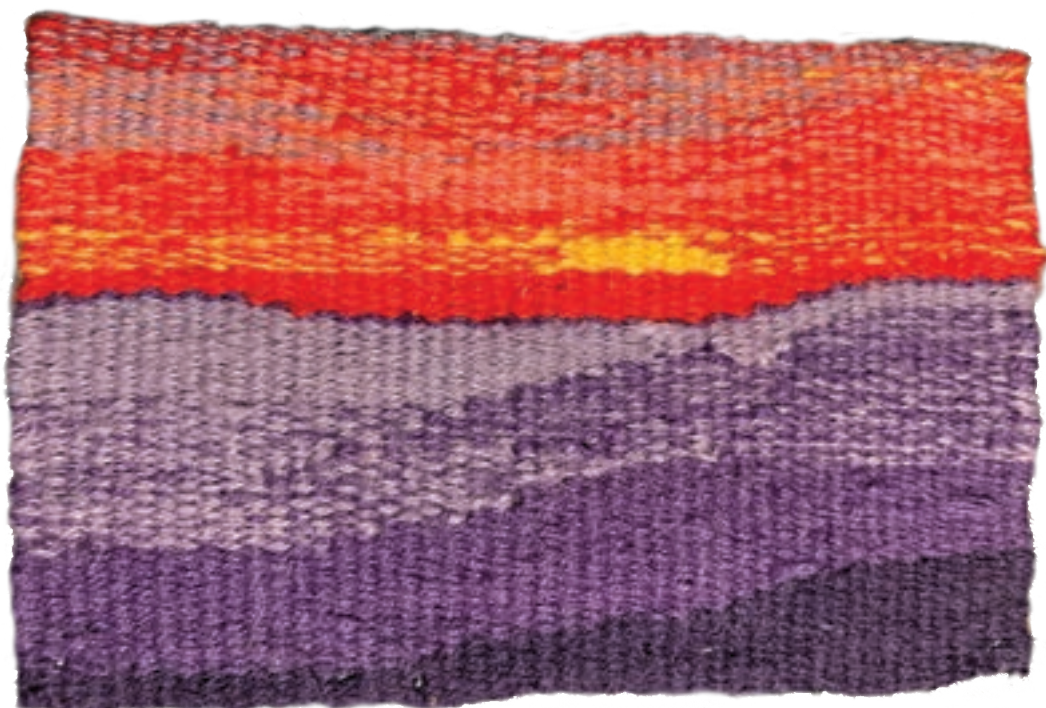
Sarah Wilcox is the executive director of MERF, the Mentone Educational Resources Foundation, a non-profit organization whose mission is "To enrich the learning and living of the community by identifying needs and coordinating resources." If you would like to support MERF's programs, tax-deductible donations can be mailed to P.O. Box 107, Mentone, AL 35984 or contribute online at merfhouse.org. Contact Sarah at merf.mentone@gmail.com or 256-635-8193.

Sharing a Mentone Sunset

Mentone fiber artist Sue Schwarz recently created this beautiful postcard-sized sunset tapestry as part of a "postcard" exchange through American Tapestry Alliance, a group she belongs to that promotes the art of tapestry weaving.

The Alliance sponsored a postcard exchange titled HeARTscapes, and Sue was given the name of a tapestry artist who lives outside of Seattle, WA as a postcard partner.

Sue said, "I decided that since I love the western sunsets, that I would share my rendition of my favorite...a southern Appalachian sunset."



The Musings of a Wannabe Farm Girl

by Martha Ooten

Hello neighbors and survivors of Colorfest 2021. Colorfest was awesome this year, but it took me two days to get over it and get back to full-time farming. I'm not a young chickie anymore.

Fall is my favorite time of the year. I'm not originally from the south and the heat still is very hard on me. I love colder weather, so I'm totally in my groove right now and loving it. Fall brings some new challenges here on the farm, such as high winds and fencing coming down and waking up to a yard full of escapees. So, now I am learning how to fix fencing in the middle of the night with almost no light. Of course, I had a plan, but it didn't work, so I had to come up with Plan B off the cuff. Thank goodness that did work.

Another very real challenge is that I have Pygora goats. These goats originated from Russia and are here in the states but they're not as common as the angora goat. We get mohair from our American angora goat. The Pygora needs to be sheared at least three times a year, which means I have to shear in cold weather. The challenge then is keeping them warm until their coat grows back and that is where coats and sweaters come in. My Pygora are little pigs and love to get dirty. I'll be changing out coats and sweaters, washing them, and dressing these goats sometimes multiple times a day for up to a week or two after shearing.

During this time, I have to remind myself how fabulous their fiber is. After separating the hair from the wool, I wash it and card it. I then take the hair, which is more coarse, and make rugs out of it. The wool is as soft as cashmere, so I make luxurious shawls. This process is very time-consuming, as I must spin it very thin on my spinning wheel, based on whether I plan to knit, crochet, or weave. Is it worth all the work and hassle? Absolutely. Nothing of value is easy. I am planning to shear with scissors for a farm update video on my farm's Facebook page if you care to see it. I promise you I don't look like anything you've seen on TV or YouTube. It's not pretty or elegant. It's me versus a goat. Little hint, I always win.

I also have not ordered my new worms for my quail, but that is next on my list. I was hoping to get that done by now but too much has been going on in the last

three weeks and I just didn't have time to start another worm farm for winter. I plan to supplement at least half of my feed with worms that I grow in my basement and pea sprouts that will also be grown in the basement. So, when I'm working down in my studio, which is also down in the basement, I will have multiple projects going on—worming, sprouting, and fiberling. Fiberling is a word. You may not find it in the dictionary, but if you remember, I'm a retired homeschool mom. We had dictionary words and we had a list of homeschool mom words and fiberling is one of mine. Yes, homeschool moms have their own language and our kids get it.

Oh, I forgot to add. One of the perks of having goats on your farm is you don't have to rake leaves. Goats prefer dried brown leaves over green leaves. In the fall, my goats fill up on dried leaves and that also helps to cut food costs. This month, I'll be breeding my goats and hopefully be getting April babies and milking will start again.

So, if you see me in town and I smell really bad it's because it's breeding time. Yay for spring babies! If you've ever smelled a male goat, you know what I'm talking about. If you're not sure, ask me on Facebook and I'll let you come over and take a sniff. It will change your life. It's worse than a skunk.

Well, time to get busy. My coffee break is over and once again sharing my thoughts with you has been a great joy. I hope your fall has been as enjoyable and productive as mine. May your leaves fall freely and your males not be too stinky.

From my farm to yours,

Martha Ooten, a.k.a. fiberest, worm specialist, winner of stinkiest goat competition



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Mentone Arts & Cultural Center Update

Kathy Louvin Featured in November Songwriters' Round

by Randy Grider



We are excited to have Grammy-Award winner Kathy Louvin as the feature in our monthly Songwriter's Round on Monday, November 8, at 7 p.m. (Central).

The round will take place on the gallery stage inside the Chuck Sennett Center for the Arts located at 5951 Alabama Highway 117 in Mentone.

Kathy co-wrote Rick Van Shelton's No. 1 hit, "Keep It Between the Lines," and Confederate Railroad's "Queen of Memphis." She has also penned songs for Randy Travis, Martina McBride, Dwight Yokam, and more.

Kathy is a member of BMI's prestigious "Millionaire's Club." She won two 2004 Grammy Awards for her work as co-executive producer and performer on "Livin', Lovin', Losin': Songs of the Louvin Brothers" on

Universal South Records. The award-winning album was a glowing tribute to her legendary country and gospel roots.

Kathy is the daughter of Ira Louvin and niece of Charlie Louvin from the Country Music Hall of Fame duo, the Louvin Brothers, who hailed from Henagar on Sand Mountain. The Louvin Brothers were popular members of the Grand Ole Opry during the 1950s and early 60s after recording several hit singles. Ira died in a traffic accident in 1965. They were inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame in 2001. Charlie died of cancer in 2011. The Louvin Brothers influenced later musical acts including the Everly Brothers, Gram Parsons, and Emmylou Harris.

In 2015, Kathy, along with sister Denise and cousin Charlie Louvin,



Kathy Louvin

Jr., accepted a Lifetime Achievement Grammy on behalf of the Louvin Brothers.

Rolling Stone ranked the Louvin Brothers No. 4 on its list of the 20 Greatest Duos of All Time.

Our songwriters' round is part educational and part entertainment. Prior to Kathy's feature performance, host and award-winning singer-songwriter Craig Hendricks will spotlight other two returning songwriters, Jon Kinsey and Cliff Abbott, in the opening round.

While the songwriters' event is free to the public, we appreciate a suggested \$15 donation that helps the volunteer songwriters with travel expenses.

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



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

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

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

Email us at groundhognews@yahoo.com or give us a call at 256-465-1107 to let us know how you would like to be a part of this great paper.



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Medigap Policies by Lynn Hixon

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Remember, Medigaps only work with Original Medicare. If you have a Medicare Advantage Plan, you cannot buy a Medigap.

Insurance companies may offer up to ten (10) different Medigap policies to choose from: A, B, C,

D, F, G, K, L, M, and N. Each lettered policy is standardized. This means that all policies labeled with the same letter have the same benefits, no matter which company provides them, though prices vary. Companies are not required to offer all ten (10) standardized Medigap policies, meaning some may be unavailable in your state.

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

Lynn Hixon is the SHIP coordinator for the DeKalb County Council on Aging.

Tax Volunteers Needed by Emily McCamy

RSVVP (Retired & Senior Volunteer Program) of Etowah and Cherokee County has offered free income tax preparation and filing for over 30 years. This service is now expanding into DeKalb County. RSVP needs new tax volunteers, so if you're interested in helping, this is the perfect time for you to give it a try.

A training class will be offered in January and operations will run from January 24 through April 15, 2022 at 10 convenient locations. The DeKalb County location will be in Fort Payne. Other locations will be in Etowah and Cherokee counties.

Volunteers must attend the training and pass a certification test before preparing taxes, but it is an open book test. We ask that volunteers work at least one day per week during tax season. One of the perks of this volunteer opportunity is that while it may be demanding for a few weeks, it is only for a few weeks and then it's over until next year! If you're not quite sure about actually preparing taxes, we can also use greeters at most locations. Greeters also need to attend training and pass a Standards of Conduct test, but they are not required to know tax law. This is a good way to "stick your toes in the water" and get a better idea if this is the right volunteer opportunity for you.

RSVP provides this service specifically to low-income residents and senior citizens, but there is no age or income limit. The main benchmark for our service is the difficulty of your return. Volunteers cannot prepare a Schedule C with loss or depreciation, complicated Schedule Ds, etc.

We will have an introductory meeting in November. If you are interested, contact Emily McCamy at 256-845-8590 or emilym@DeKalbCountyAL.us or visit us at the Council on Aging at 600 Tyler Ave., SE, Fort Payne.

This service is provided by the Etowah County Commission and with grants through the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS). RSVP is a federal program charged with leading efforts to expand the use of service and volunteering as key solutions that respond to our nation's most pressing challenges. Its mission is to improve lives, strengthen communities and foster civic engagement, through service and volunteering.

Emily McCamy is the Director of Transportation and DeKalb County Council on Aging.



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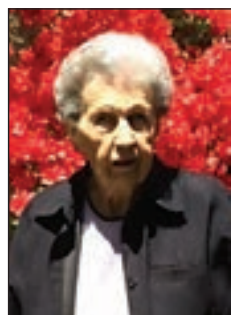
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In Memoriam



PAULINE HOLLEMAN

January 25, 1928 – September 29, 2021

Pauline Holleman, age 93, of Mentone, passed away peacefully at her home on Wednesday, September 29, 2021.

Mrs. Holleman is survived by her sister, Virginia Coker; numerous nieces and nephews; and special friend, Margie Foster. She was preceded in death by her husband, George Holleman; parents, Rose and Lee Brown;

siblings, Harry "Mitt" Brown, Judy Gorman, Taylor "Charlie" Brown, Johnny Brown, Joe Clifton "Dude" Brown, Don Brown, Troy Brown, Kathleen "Sally" McPherson, and Michael Brown; and special friend, Dickie Smith.



EDNA KAY WAGNER

October 15, 1950 – October 4, 2021

Edna Kay Wagner, age 70, of Valley Head, passed away on Monday, October 4, 2021 at Grandview Medical Center. She was a member of Lea's Chapel Baptist Church and was retired from Farmers Telecommunications as a service supervisor.

Mrs. Wagner is survived by her husband, Jasper Pat Wagner Jr.; children, Becky Allen (Mick) and Jasper Pat "Jay" Wagner III (Shannon); grandchildren, Cody Matthew Wagner, Andrew Cole Allen, Benet Cade Allen, Lily Gabrielle Wagner, and Ella Kate Wagner; sisters, Linda

Burns and Ann Bonner (Steve); brothers, Walter Pullen (Gelane) and Bob Pullen (Jan); and several nieces, nephews, great-nieces, and great-nephews. She was preceded in death by her granddaughter, Laney Grace Wagner.

JERRY LEE EDWARDS

November 4, 1974 - September 30, 2021

Jerry Lee Edwards, 46, of Valley Head, passed away Thursday, September 30, 2021.

Mr. Edwards is survived by his wife, Lesia Edwards; son, Dakota Lee Edwards (Mikaila); grand-daughter Lacey Elizabeth Edwards and son Jerry Colton Edwards; father, James Edwards; brother, Anthony Edwards; sisters, Jennifer McElrath (William), Lisa Love (Mike), and Emily Veal (Joe); nieces, Crystal Seay, Tanya Love, Deniesha Pam, and Jariesha Pam; nephews, Shannon Seay, Justin Edwards, and Devon Pam; and several great-nieces and great-nephews. He was preceded in death by his mother, Freda Edwards.



CHRISTIAN JOANNE "HOPE" BOYD

July 1, 1992 ~ October 5, 2021

Christian JoAnne "Hope" Boyd, age 29, of Menlo, GA, passed away Tuesday, October 5, 2021, at Redmond Regional Medical Center.

Ms. Boyd was born July 1, 1992, in Rome, GA, daughter of Rickey Ladon Boyd and Tina JoAnne Burrage. She was a homemaker and was of the Baptist faith.

Ms. Boyd was preceded in death by her grandparents, Carol Ann and James Edward Boyd, Sr., Christine Lewis, and Donnie Burrage.

Survivors include her father, Rickey Ladon (Amy Lynn) Boyd; mother, Tina JoAnne Burrage (Mikey Hughes); companion, David Allen Huskey; son, Kayden Cole Wade; daughters, Kaydis Bristol Wade, Kaylee Gracelynn Huskey, Myla Shae Huskey; brother, Cody Ladon Boyd (Kassie Pierce); and sister, Kaitlyn Faith Jamison Boyd.

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