



# THE GROUNDHOG

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**Volume 37, No. 11**

**"Neighborly News from the Heart of Lookout Mountain"**

**November 2018**

## Mentone's Volunteer Firemen Teach Fire Safety to Students

IMPORTANT INFORMATION WE CAN ALL HEED

by Kelly Leavitt

Fire Prevention Safety Week takes place across our nation in October of each year, and this year our local volunteer firemen from the North Lookout Mountain Fire Protection District presented a program for the students of Moon Lake School which emphasized safety and prevention of fires. They brought to the school a special trailer which was purchased by the Fort Payne Fire Department using grant funds given by the Department of Homeland Security. The DeKalb County Association of Fire Fighters (comprised of 26 fire departments in the county) contributed matching funds to the grant. This trailer allows the students to have an interactive experience. This was the first time Moon Lake students have had this opportunity.

After a discussion of safety tips, the children entered the trailer and then were able to experience what it's like to actually crawl out of a smoke-filled room. The old adage "Stop – Drop – Roll" has been amended to "Stop – Drop – Roll—Cover", meaning to cover your eyes and face. One of the most vital rules offered by the firemen was, "If you see fire in your home, get out and stay out."

The children, who showed polite, attentive interest, enthusiastically asked questions and shouted out the answers to questions asked by the firefighters.



*Fireman Gary Smith shows the children features of the fire truck with a stunning image of Irish water spirits on its side.*

There's something about the unjaded interest of children that can often show adults where we need to be paying attention. We may think with a certain level of dispassion that we are safe from fires. The children, though, want to be clear about the matter.

I recently spent a Monday evening at the fire house before the firefighters' weekly meeting and spoke with Fire Chief Joseph Lee and Wes Pullen, who is a

*(continued on page 4)*

## Mentone Water Board Sells • by Kelly Leavitt

The Mentone Water Works board met in special session on Friday, October 26, and voted to sell the town's water system to the Fort Payne Water Works Board. The vote to accept the offer was unanimous among board members Bobby Brown, Jim Hedgspeth, Ben Shurett and chairman Wesley Griffith.

"In September, the board authorized me to meet with FPWW board executive Paul Nail to negotiate the sale," Shurett said. "Their offer to purchase the Mentone system has been accepted and we consider this to be a win-win situation. Most importantly, this is going to be a much better situation for customers of the Mentone Water board. The monthly cost of water will be lower for everyone, regardless of how much water each customer uses, and every member of our board is pleased with that."

Mentone customers currently pay \$37.44 for the first 3,000 gallons of water, and an additional \$15 per thousand gallons of water used after that. The new

rate will be \$26.16 for the first 2,000 gallons, and \$6.70 per thousand gallons after that, plus applicable utility taxes.

"Additionally, FPWW is better equipped to service our customers and maintain our infrastructure," Shurett said. "The biggest challenge the Mentone system has faced has been not having enough customers to adequately sustain our aging pipes and pumps and still be able to provide water at a reasonable rate to our residential and commercial customers."

The Fort Payne system has three crews on call 24-hours a day to respond to service calls, and it is expected that Mentone customers will be provided service more quickly than is currently available.

"I am also pleased that the Fort Payne Water Board will appoint someone from the Mentone area to serve in an advisory position to its board and management," Shurett said. "That will ensure that Mentone residents will have an advocate for them expressing concerns

regarding water service we all receive."

Preliminary specifics include that Mentone Water Works will keep its unrestricted cash and equipment. Fort Payne Water Works will pay off MWW's debt of approximately \$635,000 and will directly pay MWW a sum of \$850,000. Fort Payne Water Works will annually lease the current MWW office space for \$9,000 and will offer employment to MWW employees, probably subject to a 90-day probationary period. Fort Payne Water Works intends to employ a currently unused water tower, which will likely lead to increased water pressure. The new FPWW office in Mentone will remain open with the current working hours, at a minimum. In addition, FPWW will assume responsibility for rehabilitating and maintaining the current system's pipes, meters, etc.

According to Mentone mayor Rob Hammond, once the sale is complete, the MWW board will no longer exist as an entity and its funds will be

*(continued on page 13)*

## THE GROUNDHOG



*The Groundhog* is published monthly by the Mentone Area Preservation Association (MAPA). First conceived on Groundhog Day, 1982, and then organized on April 5, 1982, *The Groundhog* has been in continuous publication for 36 years. MAPA is dedicated to preserving and protecting the heritage, natural environment and other unique qualities of life in the Mentone area. MAPA is chartered as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation.

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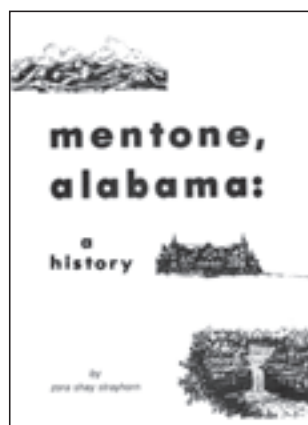
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**Do you have a story idea?  
Perhaps a poem or recipe?  
We welcome contributions!**

Email [groundhognews@yahoo.com](mailto:groundhognews@yahoo.com)

## Learn about the History of Mentone



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

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

## Mentone Matters • by Mayor Rob Hammond



surveyed and is beginning work on the plans.

As you will read elsewhere in this issue of *The Groundhog*, Mentone Water has reached an agreement to sell the system to Fort Payne Water. This seems like a win-win for all involved. We thank present water board members Wesley Griffith, Bobby Brown, Jim Hedgepath, Ben Shurett, and all other previous members, for their service. When they became water board members they took on a lot of headaches with no compensation—true community service.

Many have asked about progress on the new bridge. According to ALDOT North Region Engineer Curtis Vincent, crews from Wright Construction should be back on site in early November. Much of the bridge will be precast off-site and a large crane will be required to set the pieces. There is limited space to put the crane. Some of the utility lines will have to be moved eight feet up the concrete poles so as not to interfere with the boom.

Last week we had our first meeting with representatives from Ladd Environmental and ALDOT on the sidewalk project. Ladd has already

## Letter from the Editor

November is one of my favorite months. 'Tis the month of gratitude. It's cool enough for a fire. The stars shine a bit more brightly. It's the month my son was born. And this year, it's the month of my daughter's baby shower. My first grandchild will soon be here, and I can't wait.

I've been thinking a lot lately about children, especially babies. Frankly, I think young parents of today are brave. I know I sound like my own grandfather now, but it's sometimes hard for me to imagine raising a child in these times. We are now far removed from the mid-century days of the 20th century, when so much seemed simpler. But amidst the complexities of today, I truly have great faith in the young people. They seem more clear and engaged with what they want their world to be. I think the youth who are surrounded with love and patience, guidance and nurturing, and, most of all, the freedom to choose their own way through life, will find ways to succeed where previous generations have missed the mark.

I am grateful for this potential. I am grateful for our community. And I am grateful for the veterans who have fought for the freedom our children deserve...and want. *Happy November to all—Kelly*



# Thank You VETERANS

## VETERAN'S DAY Program

**Sunday, November 11**  
**2 in the afternoon**

**Mentone Town Hall & Mason Park**

**We will honor all the Veterans  
in our area. ALL Veterans are  
cordially invited to attend...**

**Refreshments will be served.**

# Mentone Area Preservation Association News

by Mark Hoffman



I hope everyone enjoyed Colorfest as much as I did. As I write this, the numbers aren't in, but from personal observation it appears that there was a very nice turnout. I only wish the "colors" on the trees had shown up as well!

Many thanks to Sharon Habin for her tireless efforts in coordinating all aspects of the festival, along with all of the people who volunteered their time and energy to help her out. Hopefully, the vendors and all of our local businesses had a tremendous weekend as a result of these efforts.

As we enjoy the cooler days and nights of fall, please be thinking about what you can do to help Mentone and our surrounding areas maintain (and grow upon) the vibrant and caring community that is ours. Now, I believe it's

not too early to start planning for next spring's Rhododendron Festival...

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



*Veterans Memorial Marker at Mason Park in Mentone, placed by MAPA in 2010.*

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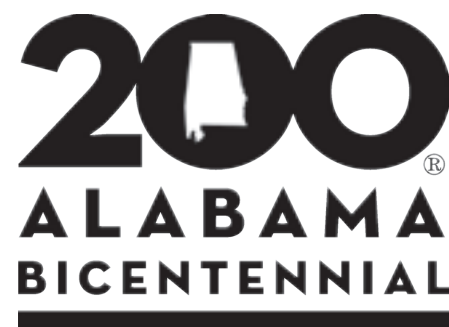
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## Mentone's Bicentennial Committee Wants to Know: Whatchya Got? by Holley Midgley

In 2019, the State of Alabama will celebrate its 200th birthday with a year-long bicentennial celebration. The Mentone Town Council has established a committee to look at ways the town can honor and remember our own rich history and heritage during next year. The committee is already at work producing a video documentary that will highlight Mentone's history from the Native Americans of the Woodland era through the Cherokees; the arrival of the first white settlers; the Civil War in the area; early development; the legacy of our summer camps; the Depression Era; prominent families; the contributions of people with second homes here as well as retirees to the area; our historic elementary school; our incredible natural wonders; civic leaders over the years; and much more.

The committee is seeking old photographs and movie film or videos, diaries, newspaper articles, interview subjects who know the area's history, etc. In February we will be set up on a Sunday afternoon at the Mentone Inn to copy your old photos and diary entries; it will take just a few minutes, and you do not have to leave them with us. If you think you have such resources, or know someone who does, we'd like to hear from you. Please contact me (the documentary's producer) via email at [duckman1@centurytel.net](mailto:duckman1@centurytel.net). The project is in the earliest stages of development, so put on your thinking cap and let us know if you think you have something of interest.

Look for more information in future issues of *The Groundhog*. The finished production will be premiered on a big screen at a party for the whole community, to be held around the 4th of July in 2019. Additionally, there are plans to mail a copy of the video, on DVD, to all households in the Mentone town limits.



things to be grateful for ... Family and Friends ♥ Health and Well Being ♥ Good news ♥ Food on the table ♥ CUPS of tea ♥ BUBBLE BATHS ♥ GOODNIGHT KISSES ♥ FRESH Water ♥ SUNRISSES and SUNSETS ♥ Your Favorite BOOK ♥ LAUGHTER ♥ CHILDREN ♥ IMAGINATION ♥ the KINDNESS OF STRANGERS ♥ OPEN-MINDED PEOPLE ♥ FRESH Sheets on the Bed ♥ HIKING in the WOODS ♥ the love of a Pet ♥ HUGS ♥ SURPRISES ♥ RAINBOWS ♥ SLEEP ♥ Old Friends ♥ long Drives ♥ Free STUFF ♥ FRESH SNOW ♥ INDOOR PLUMBING ♥ COOKBOOKS ♥ FORKS and SPOONS ♥ Fall Colors ♥ COMPLIMENTS ♥ Gardens ♥ CANDIES ♥ Farmers markets ♥ Peaceful music ♥ OXYGEN ♥ emotions ♥ Best Friends ♥ BONFIRES ♥ Freedom ♥ life ♥

Fire Safety (continued from page 1)

nationally certified fire investigator with 30 years’ experience as a fireman. They offered me more details that we all need to heed.

“You should have two ways out of every room in the house,” Pullen emphasized. Also, if your house has more than one floor, each upstairs room should have a

**We are Grateful to the Volunteer Firemen of the North Lookout Mountain Fire Protection District**

- Joseph Lee, Chief
- Will Blackburn
- Dustin Burt
- John Chambers
- Dan Greene
- Mitch Gregory
- Steve Hartline
- Thad Heinrich
- Philip Johnston
- Nathan Lawton
- Toby Manifold
- Gene McKee
- Chuck McMunn
- Wes Pullen
- James Rhodes
- Gary Smith
- Ken Trowbridge
- David Tucker
- Jimmy Worthly

ladder you can use to escape. “I just worked a fire in Guntersville where the family woke up and the stairwell was engulfed in flames, so they had to climb out onto the roof and jump down.” A ladder will help you avoid any unnecessary injuries that may come from such a high jump.

“A lot of people don’t realize the speed with which a fire develops,” said Pullen. On average, it can take as little as four minutes from first ignition of a flame on a couch or piece of furniture to total involvement. He showed me a video on YouTube produced by NIST—the National Institute of Standards and Technology— which showed a dry Christmas tree catching fire. “A dry Christmas tree is a bomb waiting to go off,” said Pullen. In the video, within 20 seconds the top half of the living room was covered with smoke, and within 40 seconds, visibility was down to zero.

Newer furniture is treated with inhibitors that slow the burn down,

which may lull us into thinking we’re safer than in days past. “Fifty years ago, it was mostly natural products that would burn,” Pullen explained. “The carbon dioxide would get you, but the smoke itself would not be immediately dangerous. With modern construction and all the plastics and synthetic material, toxic gases are in the smoke. These gases disorient you, debilitate you and will kill you without reaching lethal levels of carbon dioxide. So, if you go back in to get your pet or your wallet, just breathing the smoke can disorient you to the point that you can’t find your way out.”

When a fire starts, smoke is at least 300 degrees, so within a minute the temperature in the upper portion of the room will be over 1000 degrees. All that heat reflects down and heats up the carpet and furnishings. With the gases that come off the carpet, the fire eventually will reach a significant temperature where everything in the room ignites. This point is called the flashover point. One NIST video shows the difference between a “legacy” room and a “modern” room burning. The legacy room reached its flashover point in just under 30 minutes. The modern room reached that point in less than 4 minutes. To put these temperatures in further perspective, a pound of urethane foam puts off about 1600 BTUs. A pound of gasoline puts off about 1700 BTUs.



Students practice crawling out of a smoky room in the Fort Payne Fire Education Team’s trailer.



Fireman Wes Pullen answers students’ questions.

Our volunteer firemen face a number of challenges fighting fire in our area. As a group, they all expressed their frustration with often not being able to find a fire due to inadequate identification of house numbers. “Sometimes we have to hunt for a house,” said Chief Joseph Lee. “Once it took us two hours to find a house.”

The best way to be identifiable is to have clearly marked 4” contrasting reflective numbers at the entrance to your driveway. Pullen explained, “When it’s 4 o’clock in the morning and it’s dark and raining outside, the lights go out and you start smelling smoke and you call in, it’s not going to be easy to find your house unless we can clearly see your house numbers. If you can’t see them from 50 or 75 feet away using a flashlight or headlights, we can’t either. The rescue squad and ambulance have the same problem.”

The 4” reflective numbers can be placed on your mailbox post, or even a tree next to the driveway. “A lot of people up here whose primary homes are out of town might not have a mailbox,” said Chief Lee. “We strongly recommend that

(continued on page 5)



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# Mentone Log Cabin Village OPEN HOUSE

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Candy for the kids  
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Unique Gifts

**Fire Safety** (continued from page 4)

these folks put a simple post at their driveway to identify their house." An inexpensive post can be made with a piece of PVC pipe that's painted black with contrasting reflective numbers on it. 4" reflective numbers cost less than \$1 each.

"Another thing people don't think about is whether or not a fire truck can get to your house. If a milk truck can't get to your house, a fire truck can't either," said Chief Lee. A fire truck holds up to 20,000 pounds of water. Add in the weight of the truck, and you need to be sure your driveway can handle the weight. If your driveway has a light-weight bridge on it, be sure to let the fire department know.

In any case of any emergency, be sure to call 911 first and not call the fire chief or other firemen. "When we get those calls, we just turn around and call 911 ourselves, losing valuable time when we could be traveling to your emergency. 911 dispatches the call to all of our firemen, so it's much more expedient," said Chief Lee.

It's also highly recommended that if you have a person in your household with physical challenges, you let the DeKalb 911 system know which part of the house their bedroom is in. You can call their non-emergency number at 256-638-8798 and have your specific information added to their database, so they can inform emergency personnel when they dispatch the call.

Chief Lee also expressed the need for part-time residents who have fire alarms built into their security systems to be sure an immediate neighbor has a key to the house, so they can go in and turn off the alarm if it was triggered by something other than fire. The firemen spend a lot of time responding to false alarms. "We get out there and look in all the windows," he said. "If we can't see smoke and we can't access the house, it gets frustrating, especially because we can't see into second floor windows." All they can do is return the trucks to the station and hope for the best.

It's also important that firearms be kept in safes that are rated for fire. Loose ammunition is not a problem, but a packed gun will explode. Luckily, Pullen said, it's been their experience that most people who live in the area do use fireproof gun safes.

Most accidental fires are preventable. Good housekeeping helps a lot. Don't leave piles of newspapers or magazine, or any highly combustible material, in your home. Make sure your electrical circuits aren't overloaded. "A space heater takes 1500 watts of power. That's over 10 amps that it's drawing when it's on. These little extension cords people use are rated at 800 watts," said Pullen. Respect the burn ban (in place from May 1 through October 1) and don't burn outside, especially on a windy day. If you burn wood in a fireplace or wood stove, be certain the chimney or stove pipe is cleaned out at least once a year—more often if you burn a lot of wood. As little as an 1/8" collection of carbon soot can ignite and start a



Firemen Philip Johnston, Gary Smith, and Wes Pullen with Moon Lake School Kindergarten and Grade 1. The children received fire prevention educational activity books that were purchased with a grant from the Mentone Area Preservation Association.

fire you may not know about until it's too late. Make sure you replace the batteries in smoke alarms twice a year. One rule of thumb is to change them when the time changes, so this month is a good time to take care of this.

Several of the firefighters I spoke with emphasized that if your house is burning, get out and stay out. Never run into a house that's been closed up tight. There might be a slow burn happening in the house that will explode once the door is opened.

The firemen returned again and again to the topic of posting 4" reflective numbers. One reality of living rurally is there's usually a significant delay in fires being reported. Because we rely on a volunteer fire department and no one mans the station, once the firemen receive the dispatch, they have to leave their work or home and travel to the station to get the trucks and gear, and then travel to the fire. When they can't find a house due to poor identification, it can be incredibly frustrating for them.

These men are highly dedicated to the service of firefighting. While I was speaking with Pullen and Lee, I could hear conversations in the background, all of which centered around fire – discussions about grants, equipment, etc. There was no small talk. These men were here to do the work. Let's, each of us, do everything we can to make that work easier for them. It's evident the Moon Lake students were attentive and paying heed to the firemen's advice. As adults, we can do even more to protect our homes, our pets...and our children.

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# Creative Spirit Market Celebrates 3rd Year

November 10 & 11 • DeSoto State Park • by Rhea Pirch

The Little River Arts Council is pleased to announce that it has received a grant of \$1380 from the Alabama State Council on the Arts, the state arts agency. This grant will assist the arts council to once again team up with DeSoto State Park to present the Third Annual Creative Spirit Market. This open-air showcase of makers will be held at the Picnic Area at DeSoto State Park on November 10 and 11, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. each day. Local and regional fine and folk artists and craftsmen will demonstrate their creative process and display their premium hand-crafted goods for shoppers to browse and purchase. Items available this year will range from pottery, fairy sculptures, handmade dolls, mosaic glass, woven baskets, and many other individual works of art.

An interactive art area will be available for all to make their own piece of art to carry home with them. Food vendors will be on hand, and a line-up of local acoustic musicians will entertain visitors both days. There is a separate play area for kids, and paths down to the river for those who want to

further explore the beauty of the fall foliage in and around the picnic area.

"A River Runs Through It", the community art project that will transform the cement stairs at DeSoto Falls into a mosaic work of art, will be on display to give visitors an idea of what it will look like upon completion. This project, started in July, entails many hours of community participation in cutting and placing glass, under the leadership of Brittney Hughes, Naturalist at DeSoto State Park and board member of the Little River Arts Council, and glass artists Linda Munoz and Jane Nuckolls. It will be installed at DeSoto Falls in spring of 2019.

If you are an artist or musician who would like to participate in this year's Creative Spirit Market, visit the events page at [littleriverartscouncil.org](http://littleriverartscouncil.org) and click on the artist application link. Vendor fees are \$20 or free to members of the Little River Arts Council. We hope to see you all at this exceptional event!



The Little River Arts Council wishes to thank the homeowners, volunteers, those who donated items, and all those who attended our 11th Annual Home Tour & Silent Auction, making it a great success. Funds raised will help the arts council develop and execute programs in its mission: To encourage individual creativity and to broaden community participation, appreciation and support for the visual, performing and literary arts in the Mentone area.

## Moon Lake Community Library

NEW WINTER HOURS  
Tuesdays, Thursdays  
3–5 pm

Saturdays  
9 am–1 pm



## Community Paint Class Tuesday, November 27

Artist Jonnie Frost teaches an art class on the last Tuesday of every month. This is a free class for the entire community. All supplies are provided. The 2-hour class meets in the Moon Lake School Gym at 4 p.m.

## MERF Moms & Children

MERF moms with children age 4 and under meet for a play date at the MERF house on a weekly basis at 10 a.m. on the best day for everyone. If interested, contact Sarah Wilcox at 256-635-8193.

## Thanksgiving Dinner

Everyone is invited to the annual Thanksgiving dinner hosted by the Moon Lake Baptist Youth. Dinner will be served at Moon Lake Church in Mentone on Saturday, November 10, at 4 p.m.

“I am grateful for what I am and have.  
My thanksgiving is perpetual.”

—Henry David Thoreau

*“Continuous service by the same family since 1933”*

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# This Old House: MERF Community House

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

Hope you will enjoy hearing from some of MERF's volunteers for the next several issues to get another perspective of enriching life in Mentone. Our second guest writer is Paula Tally who has been a volunteer with senior lunches, offered an ACT prep class for students, and been a supporter of the Taste of the Mountain and Art Auction. Her service doesn't stop with MERF, as she also gives her time and gifts to Little River Arts Council.

## MERF Senior Lunches

### *No, not seniors in high school*

Even though high school seniors are a mighty fine bunch and a well-liked group around the MERF House, MERF lunches are served to adults who, because of their "advanced age," are also known as SENIORS. I know lots about this group because I'm proud and happy to be in it.

About a year ago, I became even jollier about being a senior when I learned about MERF Senior Lunches. At that time, I had helped with a garden club meeting at the MERF House and I had presented a program for high school seniors there; but Senior Lunch wasn't something I had experienced. Then, my active and attractive neighbor, Vicky, told me about how much she enjoyed serving absolutely free lunches to senior Mentonians at the MERF house. I learned that Mentone's restaurants, camps, churches, clubs, and organizations not only care about supporting MERF's fabulous work with Mentone youth, but also enjoy seeing older people have great experiences too! These Mentone businesses and organizations each donate a delicious lunch which they prepare for 30 to 50 seniors and then deliver it to the MERF House almost every Wednesday from September to April.

After explaining about MERF Senior Lunch, my friend Vicky suggested that I become a MERF Senior Lunch server. I was thinking about just eating one of those lunches she was telling me all about. Those servers were working almost every Wednesday during the school year. "Hmm," I thought, "maybe I should take this invitation to work, not eat, as a compliment from Vicky, who is young among senior servers. Sounds like a hard job, but why not?" Yep, I agreed to try my hand at serving Senior Lunch.

What fun I had during my first attempt! Here are some of the reasons why:

- An interesting, friendly and talkative group of Mentone people who think of themselves as senior citizens assembled. (There is no age requirement to be either a diner nor a server.)
- From great Italian pizzas to southern greens, beans and fried chicken, generous local business folks came, as scheduled, with lunch for all. (They provide delicious meals with dessert included.)
- After lunch, Moon Lake School students and The Black Hat Poet entertained with some great songs and poetry. (Sometimes seniors just sing as a pianist picks some well-known hymns or songs.)



Mike Ellis impressed the seniors with magic tricks at a MERF senior lunch in October.



MERF Elf Paula Tally, taking care of Markettia and Gene at last year's Christmas party.

- While all this good time was happening, servers were having lots of fun filling tea glasses and serving plates and chatting with fellow Mentonians. (Servers actually have fun taking care of both serving and cleaning up afterward. No work is required of senior lunch attendees.)
- I was hooked! (There is always enough lunch for us servers, too.)

At Christmas lunch during my first year as a server, Director Sarah Wilcox provided us servers with some holiday caps and thanked us, calling us "MERF Elves." The name stuck. Meet a MERF Elf and you'll meet a senior who really enjoys her service and her co-workers. Meet a lunch attendee and you'll hear about some good times and some delicious lunches. Meet Director Sarah and you'll then know a talented lady who really enjoys her work. Meet a MERF Board member, like my friend Vicky, and you'll find even more reasons to appreciate MERF's dedication to a good life in Mentone.

Most of us Mentone senior citizens have had several jobs and lots of experiences to share, but I believe we all agree on one topic: The Mentone Education Resources Foundation improves our lives! —Paula Tally #leavemeinmentone

### A few words from Sarah:

In this Thanksgiving season, MERF is grateful for the trust and the support of the Mentone community and friends as plans continue to make the mountain a wonderful place for growing up and for living fully. Thank you MAPA for another wonderful Colorfest. Thank you for those who stopped by MERF's booth and supported us with your purchases.

The last fall MERF lunch will be November 14, but we will have a wonderful Christmas party on Wednesday, December 5.

Applications for the Sue McLaurin Henry Scholarship are available by email, or from the counselors at JSU and NACC. Scholarships are available for spring semester 2019 to assist in paying for college or technical degrees. Due date is Saturday, December 1, 2018. Students must be full-time with at least a 2.8/4.0 average and live in Mentone or Valley Head.

MERF: Mentone Educational Resources Foundation is a local non-profit with the mission "To enrich the learning and living of the community by identifying needs and coordinating resources." If you would like to support our programs, tax-deductible donations can be mailed to POB107 Mentone, AL 35984 or contribute online at [www.merfhouse.org](http://www.merfhouse.org). Contact us at [merf.mentone@gmail.com](mailto:merf.mentone@gmail.com) or 256-635-8193.



The Alabama State Council on the Arts awarded MERF with two matching grants for Moon Lake Elementary School Students. One grant will help to send students to the Huntsville Orchestra Symphony in January 2019 and to Atlanta's Alliance Theatre in March. The second Arts in Education grant will help fund a book being written and illustrated by K-3rd grade this spring and a trip to the Polar Express in Summerville in December. MERF is thankful for the support from ASCA and cannot wait to see and to hear about the student's experiences.

**Mentone Water** (continued from page 1)

transferred to the Town of Mentone. The Mentone Water Works was created by the town but has been run by its own board with its own separate finances.

Since the deal is so new, Mayor Hammond is still uncertain about some of the legal details, but the issue will be discussed at the November meeting of the Mentone town council. Some of the funds created by the sale will almost certainly be applied to the grant that the town recently received that needs to be financially matched in order for the sidewalk project along AL Hwy. 117 to proceed.

"We'll also look at some infrastructure needs," Hammond said. "Another possibility is reserving funds, so we can better leverage potential future grants. We're just beginning to look into the possibilities."

Mentone resident Lisa Schad attended the special meeting and asked how the current issues of incorrect bills and meter readings will be handled. "Customers should continue to bring their issues to the MWW to resolve issues," she reports. "Some of these issues were based on inconsistent readings, so they anticipate that these issues will not continue. If there are issues of inaccurate meters, FPWW will update equipment."

"I am pleased we were able to negotiate this with the Fort Payne Water Works Board," Shurett said. "All the Mentone Water board members are confident this deal is best for our customers and for the town of Mentone."

Shurett added he hoped the deal could be completed by December 1. Final details will be presented to the council after attorneys for both water boards have completed all their work.

## Weekend of Wonder

Mike Ellis, magician, speaker, and pastor of Moon Lake Baptist Church, will present "Weekend of Wonder" at the church on Friday and Saturday nights, November 2 and 3, at 7 p.m. Each program is free of charge and open to the entire community.

On Friday evening, he will present a unique and "almost unbelievable" program highlighting the "Wonders of the Mind". Can he really read minds and forecast what may happen in the future? He will also speak on the topic: "Change your Thinking, Change Your Life". The excitement will be high on Saturday night as he presents "A Night of Wonder", a fun-filled evening for the entire family.

Mike Ellis is an active member of the International Brotherhood of Magicians, the Georgia Magic Club, and the Fellowship of Christian Magicians. He has shared his magic and message with churches, youth camps and community groups across the Southeast, as well as in New York, California, Hawaii and Bermuda.

There is no charge for these events. Seating is limited, so you are encouraged to arrive early. Moon Lake Baptist Church is located at 4671 Al Hwy. 117 in Mentone.

## Summerville Renaissance Festival



The Summerville Renaissance Festival offers chivalry, romance, and a rollicking good time. Centrally located, the festival will run from Dowdy Park to the Summerville Depot on November 3, this free festival will delight and amaze all ages.

Enjoy live entertainment, shopping, art, games, and a feast fit for a king. Festival hours are 11 a.m.–5 p.m., rain or shine.

Special acts are set all throughout the day on four different stages. A special Pub Sing with all performers will be held inside the depot from 4–5 p.m. An arrival of the Tennessee Valley Railroad Museum Passenger Train is scheduled for 1 p.m. and the North Georgia Cruisers will host a Cruise In on East Washington Street. For more information, email [slocklear@summervillega.org](mailto:slocklear@summervillega.org). **(NOTE: All times are Eastern Standard Time.)**

# The Mentone Inn Invites You to our Annual Traditional Thanksgiving Day Lunch

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# Rhododendron Garden Club • by Mellanie Tuttle



The Rhododendron Club convened on October 9 at the Boy Scout House. Several members, including the President, Hostess, Meditation Giver and Horticulture Chairman, were out of town or busy with other agendas, so attendance was sparse, but President-to-be Marsha Merrell conducted the meeting with aplomb.

The horticulture report was given in absentia. A handout listed pollinators plants by the season.

Spring plants included Virginia sweet spire, Red and Black chokeberry and Oakleaf hydrangea. Summer plants recommended were Lead plant, Buttonbush and Bottlebush, Snowberry and Coralberry. Late Fall/ Winter plants mentioned were Summersweet, Common witch hazel and Ozark witch hazel. Fall is the time to plant shrubs and trees. Fall rains help get the roots established and with cool air and warm soil, new root growth is encouraged without adding top growth. Leave the TV football and plant some natives! Native deciduous shrubs are the workhorse of the garden. They provide multi-season interest in the form of flowers, berries, bark and fall color. Pollinators prefer natives. Martha had also potted Bottlebrush buckeye seeds for members to plant in their yards with the warning that the tap root was extensive, so care was needed when transplanting.

While researching fall bulbs, Dee Kelley expanded her knowledge and then shared that inspired learning with the group. When thinking of fall bulbs, the first thought is that those daffodils need to get into the ground now for their spring glory. However, the topic was actually bulbs that bloom in the fall! (Technically, some of the “bulbs” may be corms, but for this article the generic term “bulb” is being used.) Who knew there were autumn crocuses? Dee mentioned the most famous of the crocuses may be the saffron crocus (*Crocus sativus*), which is related to the popular spring-blooming varieties. The stigma of the flowers are harvested to yield the exotic and very pricy spice—saffron. One hundred fifty flowers yield one gram of saffron and take forty hours to harvest. The most showy of the fall bulbs is the Colchicum, which is in the Lily family. The flowers emerge in early fall without the foliage and have large white, pink or violet colored blooms. The ‘Waterlily’ cultivar has double petals so is doubly attractive! The Colchicum leaves actually emerge in the spring looking like daffodil foliage and then die back in the summer but be sure to leave the foliage alone because it is feeding the bulb for its showy emergence in the fall! Its scientific name, *Colchicum autumnale*, does not hint of one of its common names—the naked lady. If Latin used the common name it could have been the *Colchicum nudus*. The ‘naked lady’ is hardy to Zone 4 but she does like to be covered in colder areas with a layer of bark mulch. Plant in August in well-drained soil. Growing in full sun will help prevent the stem from flopping

over. Lycoris is another bulb with nitrogen-rich foliage that appears in late spring and then dies back quickly by July. The blooms appear quickly in the fall atop the sturdy stem, called a scape, which can reach one to two feet. Lycoris is not drought-resistant but has become naturalized in the South. One of its common names is the hurricane lily since its blooming time coincides with the peak of hurricane season. Other common names for the charming, fragrant plant include resurrection lily, surprise lily or the cluster amaryllis. The Lycoris are extensively cultivated in China and Japan and anyone who has watched the beautifully directed films from that area know that the hero and heroine lovers rarely live happily ever after. One legend tells of two elves: Manju, guardian of the flower and Saka, who guarded the leaves. Defying fate, the two managed to meet each other and fall in love. The wayward couple were separated, and a curse pronounced as punishment—the flowers of Manju shall never meet the leaves of Saka again. ‘Manjusaka’ is often used at funerals as befitting its sorrowful legend. Dee recommended The Pacific Plant Society as a great source for bulb information, offering a newsletter, directory of bulbs, sources list, and a bulb exchange for members. “We welcome all to come forward to join us in the celebration of bulbs and in mastering the challenge of gardening with bulbs. Our emphasis is on successfully growing bulbs in our yards and gardens and in sharing our successes, and our failures too, with our fellow members. Through that sharing, we will all learn to be better bulb gardeners.”

Those who participated in the Fall Flower Show did themselves proud. The Scarecrow entry received a Red ribbon and a check. Dianne Kuehl’s design entry earned a Blue ribbon as well as the Tricolor Award for being the best in the section using fresh plant material. The Education Booth which described our work with Moon Lake students received a Blue ribbon, as did the Jr. Educational Booth that explained how to make seed bombs. Marsha Merrell (Traditional Design), Mellanie Tuttle (Petite Spatial Thrust Design), and Martha Wood (Transparency) had Blue ribbons. Martha got a Yellow (Group Mass) and Mellanie two Reds (Cascade and Multi-rhythmic), and Rhea Pirch received an Honorable Mention for her Transparency design. Mellanie received the Sweepstakes ribbon in Horticulture and Design. Next year, the Chairman for the flower show will be Mellanie Tuttle, so expect the unexpected.

Our November meeting will be on the 13th at the Boy Scout House. Thanksgiving centerpieces will be theme. The meeting starts at 10 a.m.

*The Rhododendron Garden Club is a member of National Garden Clubs, Inc., Deep South Region, The Garden Club of Alabama - District II and the Northeast Federation of Garden Clubs.*

## Sue McLaurin Henry Scholarship

Scholarships are available for spring semester 2019 to assist in paying for college or technical degrees.

Due date is Saturday, December 1.

Students must be full-time with at least a 2.8/4.0 average and live in Mentone or Valley Head.

Applications are available by email, or from the counselors at JSU and NACC.

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# Mentone Arts & Cultural Center News

## Site Dedication, Statue Unveiling, New Leadership

by Randy Grider



The public is invited to a dedication ceremony at the future site of the Mentone Arts & Cultural Center on Saturday, November 3, from 10 a.m.–1 p.m.

The event includes a Blessing of the Land and unveiling of the model form of Sequoyah which will eventually be cast in bronze. The finished statue will be the featured centerpiece of the center's sculpture garden. The statue is the work of renowned artists Carl McCleskey and Betsy Scott.

Sequoyah (named in English George Gist or George Guess) was a Cherokee silversmith. In 1821, he completed his independent creation of a Cherokee syllabary, making reading and writing in Cherokee possible. During his work on the syllabary, he lived in near Willstown, the Cherokee village in DeKalb County.

One of the special guests of the dedication will be Charlie Rhodarmer, who has been director of the Sequoyah Birthplace Museum in Vonore, TN. Rhodarmer has been in charge of the museum for the past 19 years. A graduate of Western Carolina University with a degree in criminal justice, he served with the 82nd Airborne Division, Field Artillery, B 2nd 321. He also worked for the Scottish Tartans Society Museum in Highlands, North Carolina, Comrie, Scotland and Franklin, North Carolina, as well as the John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Museum at Fort Bragg.

The dedication will include food, music, and the raffling of a satin "Morningstar" quilt handcrafted by Norma Blacksmith, a Lakota elder on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota. Her award-winning quilts have been included in the Smithsonian Museum. The quilt is valued at \$1,200. Raffle tickets are \$5 each and can be purchased from MACC board members and at the MACC Education Center and Gallery (former Kamama Gallery), where the quilt is on display.

The MACC Board of Directors is under new leadership with the resignation of longtime Board President Ray Padgett. Retired newspaper publisher and Mentone resident Ben Shurett was elected by the board to replace Padgett.

"I am excited about the challenge of leading the efforts to make the Mentone Arts and Cultural Center a reality," Shurett said. "It's an honor to take the position from Ray Padgett, and I'd like to thank Ray and his wife, Sandra, for all they have done for the betterment of Mentone."

Padgett, a Mentone Town council member who has been board president since he and Mentone Mayor Rob Hammond founded MACC in 2014 and has previously been involved in other Mentone organizations, resigned at the regular quarterly meeting on Oct. 12. In his resignation letter, he said he wants to concentrate on his and Sandra's well-being.

"Kamama, MAPA, MACC and the town consumed most of my time over the last five years," Padgett wrote in the letter. "My guiding force was to help make Mentone a better place to live and visit for current and future generations."

"I am 77 and Sandra will also be 77 on October 23. Since moving to Mentone, we have ignored the physical and emotional constraints placed on aging bodies. Because of health issues, we must change our focus and spend more time working to make both of us healthier. This means that I must reduce my time on volunteer and business efforts. We are selling most of our property and businesses (Kamama and cabins)



This satin quilt, handcrafted by Lakota elder Borma Blacksmith, will be raffled off during MACC's dedication ceremony on Saturday, November 3.

and I must reduce the emotional and physical time I spend working for MACC."

Padgett, who has contributed thousands of manhours and regular personal financial contributions to the project, will still volunteer on a limited basis. The MACC board presented him an appreciation gift for his service.

Shurett shares Padgett's vision for making the regional facility a place for locals and visitors alike. "The MACC Center will become a reality and we've made great progress lately, in terms of raising money, reaching out to new potential and significant donors, and in forming partnerships with Northeast Alabama Community College and others," Shurett said. "Becoming a regional and tri-state center for arts and cultural events will greatly enhance our ability to get grants and funds from national foundations and levels of government."

"When completed, the MACC Center has the opportunity to benefit all of Mentone and the surrounding area. We look forward to the day when this beautiful facility can play host to functions for all other groups in Mentone and we can all work together to promote our special part of Alabama. When we do that, Mentone and the surrounding area will be an even more magical place to live."

For more information on the center and events, please visit [www.mentoneartscenter.org](http://www.mentoneartscenter.org).

Randy Grider is executive director of the Mentone Arts & Cultural Center. He can be reached at 256-674-3366 or by email at [mentoneartscenter@gmail.com](mailto:mentoneartscenter@gmail.com).

**MACC presents**  
**The Watters/Felts Trio**  
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# Why Does She Do Those Crazy Things?

by Paula Easter

It was one of those days in your life that you know you will never forget. You remember where you were, what you were doing and how you felt. I couldn't believe the conversation that I had just had with a coworker, I just knew she had to be talking about someone else, not my dear friend. As I went back into our office I told my boss that I was taking my lunch early and might be a little late getting back. She nodded because she knew where I was going, and understood. Traffic was, as usual, heavy getting out of Atlanta but I was determined. I reached my friend's home, saw all the cars parked everywhere and felt my first sense of pure dread—what I heard must be true! After finding a place to



Christian (K) & Miss Paula

My friend's son had thought he wanted to have some "fun" and a "good time" with some new friends. He was only twelve, in the early preteen years of his young life when he overdosed

on drugs that he had been given by

someone at school. It is still a mystery to me. He never wanted for anything in his young life. He had loving parents who taught him, as best that they knew, right from wrong. He had a warm home, the latest sneakers and jeans, and was always encouraged in whatever sport or activity he was into at the moment.

I'm sure many of you have heard similar stories or have read stories like mine. This one just happens to be very close to my heart, as that was my dear friend's only son and my godchild. This tragedy actually happened many years ago, before reading or hearing about a drug overdose was a daily occurrence. I have seen and read about so many more tragedies since that terrible day. One thing I have never let go of since that day was my desire to do what I could, if anything, to educate children about the dangers of drugs. I began my own education



Allyssa, Carley & Jake (gr. 5) with Miss Paula

by reading and learning all that I could.

When I began my career in education, I loved the fact that the school where I was working had some dedicated teachers who believed, like I did, in educating our young people about the hazards of drugs. I became involved with the elementary school's celebration of "Red Ribbon Week", whose aim is to encourage young people to enjoy their youth drug-free.

I loved showing my young students how life could be full of good times and lots of fun "Drug Free." (I remember very vividly sitting in a water dunk tank one Red Ribbon Week during the coldest October ever...but the kiddos had a good time..."Drug Free.")

So yes, I'm still celebrating "Red Ribbon Week" here at Moon Lake Elementary, and yes still doing all of those "fun" and crazy things and having a "good time" with my precious Moon Lake students because I want them to always know that life can be full of good things "DRUG FREE!"

Paula Easter is the fine arts, music and Spanish teacher at Moon Lake Elementary School in Mentone.



Jasmine & Abby (gr. 2) with David (gr. 1)

park I ran to the front door and stopped, afraid to go further, when all of a sudden the door opened and my precious friend fell into my arms. As we stood there with this avalanche of grief pouring out of my friend onto me I kept asking "Why?" Some time later, I had the misfortune to find out the answer to my question.



Baxter (K)

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# Sacred Garden Is Dedicated to the People of Mentone

by Rebecca Henderson



Pictured left to right holding the ribbon are Ron Merrell, The Rev. Bill Winters, Mike Keracher, Rob Hammond and Larry Ennis.

Town officials, project planners and more than 30 others braved the rain at St. Joseph's on-the-Mountain Saturday, October 27, for a ribbon cutting and blessing of the church's Sacred Garden. The space, which was featured in the Mentone Tour of Homes, has added many new elements over the past several months, including a beautiful gazebo and 1,000 feet of walking paths lined with donated benches that honor loved ones. Next in the plan is a prayer labyrinth and stations of the cross. The garden will continue to showcase plants native to our area. Folks are already enjoying the peaceful oasis, and residents and visitors alike are encouraged to use the garden for relaxation, reflection and remembrance.



Bill Schwarz, pictured here with his wife Sue, recently enjoyed a surprise party celebrating his upcoming 90th birthday. Bill's daughter, Janet, hosted the party, which was catered by Plowshares in the MACC gallery in Mentone. American Folk singer/songwriter John McCutcheon performed for the gathering of family and friends, and the crowd serenaded Bill with John's famous "Birthday Song." Happy 90th Birthday, Bill!

Remember to set  
your clocks back an  
hour when you go  
to bed on Saturday,  
November 3!




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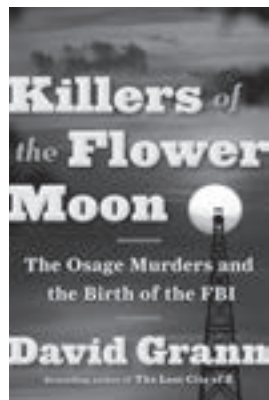
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# Moon Lake Library Book Review

## *Killers of the Flower Moon: The Osage Murders and the Birth of the FBI*

by David Grann (Doubleday, 2017)

by Anne McLeod



A shocking series of murders among the Osage Indian tribe in Oklahoma in the 1920s left families terror stricken. Shootings, suspected poisonings, unexplained accidents, and a violent bomb blast killed over 20 people, and everyone wondered who would be next. *Killers of the Flower*

*Moon* is the true story of people devastated by the violence and the lawmen who would seek justice for the victims and their loved ones.

The Osage at that time were the wealthiest people per capita in the world because they had retained mineral rights to their land in their treaties with the United States. The discovery of oil beneath that land meant that tribal members owned impressive homes and automobiles and employed servants. But their money made them targets for unscrupulous people who would see opportunities to make their own fortunes in what came to be known as “the Indian business,” systematic exploitation of the legal system to pocket the Osage wealth. Racism in the system afforded the tribe limited means to protest. Then the murders began.

*Killers of the Flower Moon* focuses on the story of Mollie Burkhart, whose sisters and mother died

between 1921 and 1923. A quiet, churchgoing mother, married to a white man, Mollie was stunned when, one by one, her family members died by violence. Their deaths, along with others in the tribe, resulted in the tribal elders calling for the federal government to investigate. Perhaps the Bureau of Investigation, recently reorganized by young J. Edgar Hoover, could succeed where local, state, and private investigators had failed.

The agent in charge was Tom White, a former Texas Ranger and second-generation law enforcement officer. Hoover authorized White to put together a team to find the murderers and resolve this troublesome case. The investigators followed a trail of misdirection, scapegoats, and lies as they untangled the conspiracy to its awful end. *Killers of the Flower Moon* is true crime at its best, narrative nonfiction based on thousands of hours of research.

Author David Grann, in an interview after the book was named a National Book Award finalist, explained that he was inspired to write it by a panoramic photo at the Osage Nation Museum in Oklahoma—a photograph on the wall which was taken in 1914 and showed a seemingly

innocent gathering of white settlers and members of the Osage Nation. But part of the picture had been cut out. When I asked the museum director why, she said that it contained the image of a figure so frightening that she had removed it. She then pointed to the missing panel and said, “The devil was standing right there.”

The photo and the missing piece do appear in book. In fact, the inclusion of many historical photos is another of the book’s strengths, as readers unfamiliar with the Western setting in the early 20th century can better grasp the context for this grim and compelling read.

The final section of the book which features Grann’s interviews with descendants of Mollie Burkhart and other principals in the case is a chilling reminder of how violent acts echo through succeeding generations, leaving their mark even on those whose knowledge is secondhand. As Grann demonstrates, for too many of the victims and their families, justice was not just delayed but ultimately denied.

Fans of Erik Larson’s *Devil in the White City* will not want to miss this one. *Killers of the Flower Moon* is available for check out at the Moon Lake Community Library.



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# 10th Annual Canyon Fest—"A Celebration of Art & Nature"

## Saturday, November 3 at Little River Canyon Center

Jacksonville State University's Little River Canyon Center will host its 10th annual Canyon Fest on Saturday, November 3. Designed to encourage an appreciation for the environment, its resources, and local culture, the JSU Canyon Center has organized a day filled with local music, cuisine, art, and vendors. The festivities for the day also include live bird of prey programs, juggling and clown acts by the famous entertainer Ron Anglin, a demonstration of Native American tools and weapons, art sales and demonstrations, activities, food, and exhibits.

"Canyon Fest has become one of the most anticipated events of the season," said Anna Lindsey of the Little River Canyon Center. "It's a great place to find unique holiday gift items and at the same time support local artisans and environmental education."

Special features include Old Time Fiddle & Banjo featuring Matt Downer in the morning. Deep South Experimental Folk Music with The Clay States in the afternoon. Live Bird of Prey Program with Wings to Soar, Juggling & Clown Acts by the famous Ron Anglin!

"We anticipate a big turnout at Canyon Fest this year," says Pete Conroy, Canyon Center Director. "I believe this year's event is going to coincide with the peak season of fall foliage in Little River Canyon. Come and enjoy a terrific day filled with educational programs, entertainment and activities for the entire family."

10 a.m.–1 p.m. Matt Downer: Old Time Fiddle & Banjo

11 a.m. Bird of Prey Program with Wings to Soar

1 p.m. Bird of Prey Program with Wings to Soar

1–4 p.m. The Clay States: Deep South Experimental Folk Music

4 p.m. Festival close

Little River Canyon Center is located at 4322 Little River Canyon Pkwy, Fort Payne, AL 35967. For additional information, call 256-845-3548 or visit [canyoncenter.org](http://canyoncenter.org).

# DeKalb County Genealogical Society's Book Sale

## by Wydean Walker

The DeKalb County Genealogical Society is conducting a pre-sale on a 2-volume set of books of Obituaries and Death Announcements from 1890-1939 written by genealogist Mr. Tommy Guice. There are 1,000 pages, including the index, of announcements compiled from all of the newspapers from the Fort Payne area: The Fort Payne Journal, DeKalb Times, Fort Payne Tribune, The DeKalb Republican, Collinsville Courier, and DeKalb Herald.

Fifteen-plus years have gone into these books. The two-volume set will be \$70 if you pick it up or \$76 if we mail it to you. We will send it to be published after we

get 100 orders. Pre-order forms can be picked up at the DeKalb County Library or by coming by the Records Room on the corner of 2nd Street and Grand Ave. South in Fort Payne on Tuesdays between 9 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.

You're invited to the November meeting of the DeKalb County Genealogical Society on Saturday, November 10, at 10 a.m. sharp at the DeKalb County Public Library in Fort Payne. Mrs. Amy Martin of the Mountain Valley News will be presenting our program on the "Preservation of Photos".

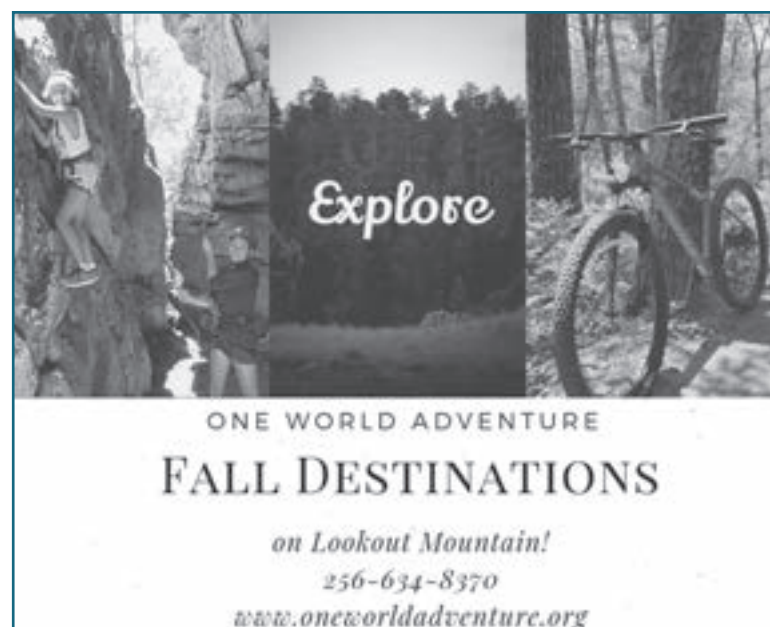


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Member FDIC



# Colorfest

## Wrapping Up the Loose Ends

by Sharon Habin

We had a fantastic Colorfest event, despite Saturday's chilly rain! There was a great turnout for Ryan Keef's concert on Friday night concert at the Mentone Inn and everyone had a great time. Using a grant from MAPA, Little River Arts Council coordinated it and made it happen.

Rain on Saturday morning may have discouraged some visitors, but vendors were surprised at the amount of hardy souls that came through. More came out as the weather cleared. Attendance was good, not huge like last year. (It is usually affected by such things as Saturday afternoon football games.)

There were close to 60 cars parked each day at the farthest parking area at the future MACC site. This kept that many cars out of town, which created a much safer traffic situation. The small shuttle buses made it through traffic much more easily than the school buses we used during the Rhododendron Festival. Additional signage and parking cones were very useful. Parking and traffic policies will continue

being refined to make it as pleasant as possible. At least one visitor said they enjoyed getting a tour around town. Thank you to the bus drivers for delivering everyone safely.

Many tasks which continue to be taken care of after the festival—putting up and taking down banners and over 70 signs around a 10-mile area, erecting and dismantling the stage tent top, washing trash barrels, mailing invoices, creating income statements, and writing the Festival Report—can make the festival seem endless. Volunteers make it all possible.

There are so many volunteers who helped, I cannot begin to name them all. I do, however, owe eternal thanks to Chris Davenport, who has been learning the Vendor Coordinator duties. It is a multifaceted job and, with so many additional vendors applying and additional computer tech learning curves for both of us, at times it was daunting. Thank you, Chris. Thanks, too, to the folks who drove me

so many times for shopping and taking me to get donations, to friends who would send me texts of encouragement, to one friend who let us have parking space for the 'gators' and water to hose them down after, to the sign teams (so many, many signs), and to those who parked cars, carried trash, and volunteered at the MAPA booths, as well as to the set-up and clean-up crews.

For the fifth year, Lisa Schad of Tohi Massage coordinated the business decorating contest and Scarecrow Hollow. She and Debra Fey of the Graceful Giraffe also continued the business scavenger hunt for festival goers. Thank you to the judge of these events, too.

Thank you to all the volunteers, vendors, Desoto Rescue Squad, to those who coordinated activities associated with the festival, and to all who attended. Thank you to Kelly Leavitt, who worked with us with computer tech and publishing paper and social media. Grateful hugs to you all.



Colorfest photos courtesy of Blue Sky Photography

*We appreciate  
the support of*

**First State Bank of DeKalb County  
William Mudd  
Protective Life  
Wilson Funeral Home**

*as Colorfest Sponsors*

## Congratulations to our Scarecrow Hollow Winners!



Scarecrow-in-a-Box  
by Don Pirch



Sugar Magnolia  
by Sarah Morgan

## BeautiFALL Bizznesses in Mentone... by Anne McLeod



Left to right: Misty Watters at Moon Lake Trading Company won 1st place; the Log Cabin Village shop owners worked on a collective display that won 2nd place; Artisans won 3rd place.

Merchants in Mentone showed their fall and Halloween colors for Colorfest weekend. The "BeautiFALL Bizzness" contest was extremely close. Selecting three winners from among a strong field was difficult. Each of the three businesses who placed made the most of their shops' settings, selecting fall decorating motifs that celebrated the season while playing off the architectural style and location of their building.

Moon Lake Trading Company was the first-place winner, with decorations that accented the shop's contemporary and playful atmosphere. Owner Misty Watters decked out her Easter Island-style garden sculptures in their Halloween best. One sported a clown nose and orange fright wig, while the other was transformed into a mummy. A black silhouette

of three frolicking witches behind them continued the Halloween fun theme. A giant spider laid siege to the VW van out front. The unlikely combination of mums, mummies, bicycles, propane tanks turned into jack-o-lanterns, and garden gnomes in witches' hats was creative and welcoming.

The Log Cabin Village shop owners placed second with a collective effort, "Log Cabin Village Boot Hill." The spooky cemetery ran down the alley between two of the buildings and featured skulls with flashing eyes, scary fog, stray body parts, ghosts, and the ever-popular fake rat. Overall it was a display that appealed to the kids in the crowd, and the Log Cabin Village owners clearly had a lot of fun putting it together.

Artisans took third place, with a lovely traditional

display that played off the shop's cottage architecture. A horse drawn buggy carried pumpkins, cotton stalks, cornhusks, and two scarecrows who guided the horse with a garland of red and gold fall leaves.

Anne McLeod served as the judge for this year's contest. She and her husband Don Highfield moved to Mentone this summer from Athens, Georgia, to be closer to family in Trion and Ringgold, Georgia. She is a retired school librarian who has always enjoyed handcrafts, particularly knitting and quilting. You can find Anne on Saturdays at the Mentone Farmers' Market where Don has a booth for his woodcarvings. Anne and Don are thoroughly enjoying life in Mentone and appreciate the warm welcome from the community.



Congratulations to Jane Holcomb of Scottsboro, AL, and Sarah Perkins of Valley Head, AL, for being the winners of the annual Scavenger Hunt which featured Mentone area businesses.

Congratulations to Steve & Rena from Harvest, AL, who won Lola Mae Blalock's beautiful quilt in our fundraising raffle, which raised \$430 for MAPA.



*Thanks to*  
**Fort Payne Times-Journal  
Coca-Cola Bottling Co.**

**Builders Supply  
DeKalb Tourism  
Mentone Farmers Market  
Skelton Orthodontics**

*for supporting*  
**Colorfest**



## Sculptures in the Sky

Get ready for some high-flying family fun on November 3, when the skies at Chattanooga's 33-acre Sculpture Fields will be filled with colossal and colorful kites, stunt kites and Rokkaku battle kites at the free "Sculptures in the Sky" event. This event will take place from 12–6 p.m. at 1800 Polk St., which turns off of Main Street on the Southside. In addition to kites, visitors will also enjoy performances, local food trucks and a beer tent.

Chattanooga police officers and firefighters, with volunteers from the public, will compete against each other with Rokkaku fighting kites. Some kites will be massive, spanning 20 feet, which are so large they must be anchored to the ground. Kids will be able to race parachute-like kites (bols) in what fliers call Running with the Bols. Visitors also will be able to make their own kites for free.

Sculpture Fields includes nearly 50 monumental-scale sculptures, 1.5 miles of dog-friendly walking paths and a hundred trees in its Commemorative Forest. Visit [sculpturefields.org](http://sculpturefields.org) or call 423-266-7288.



Thursday, November 15 • 6–8pm  
Moon Lake Community Library, Mentone

Join the Little River Waterkeeper for an evening of Southern Exposure Film Fellowship films. These short documentaries were created in the summer of 2018 throughout Alabama and raise awareness and appreciation for Alabama's incredible natural resources and critical environmental issues.

- ASHES TO ASHES by Kaitlin McMurry
- IF THEY BUILD IT, WHAT WILL COME? by David Diaz
- THE ACCIDENTAL ENVIRONMENTALIST by Ellen Esling
- WHO'S YOUR FARMER? by Jess Lingle
- WATER: PLAN FOR IT by Amelia Tyson

Produced and directed throughout Alabama by emerging filmmakers from across the country, these short documentary films tell authentic, engaging stories about Alabama's environment and the people who cherish it, from the mountains to the coast.

For more information about the Southern Exposure Film Fellowship or to view the films from previous years, visit [southernexposurefilms.org](http://southernexposurefilms.org).

\$10 admission, benefits your Little River Waterkeeper \*\*\*Moon Lake Students get in FREE!\*\*\*

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- Approx. 2,700sf 3BR, 2-1/2BA
- Andersen double-hung windows & doors
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- Approx. 1,700sf basement
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- Wood stove, attic, huge creative space & MORE!

**\$359,000**

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## Mentone Wedding Chapel



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Nestled in the woods atop Lookout Mountain, near Mentone, Alabama, this quaint little chapel is surrounded by ferns, forest and flowers. The chapel is a scaled version of

traditional Appalachian churches of days gone by. Stained glass windows filtering soft forest sunrays and soft organ music accent an ambience fitting the wedding ceremony. Inside, wooden pews will seat approximately 60 guests.

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

*To arrange your wedding or renewing of your wedding vows, call*

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## Welcome To Mentone



Stop in and see us at our log cabin office in the heart of Mentone. Porch sitters welcome!

.....  
**LOTS and LAND**

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

**SOUTH COOL STREET** brow-front property w/beautiful old stone chimney, part of the foundation, plus a small garage. New survey. An original Mentone summer home once stood here; owned by the same family since early 1920s. Approx 0.45 acre lot in an area where properties are seldom available. Build your own memories! \$125,000 (1070474)

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

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

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

*Giving thanks  
for God's  
blessings.*



**LIKE NO OTHER.** Classic brow-front home, located along scenic DeSoto Pkwy. Wood & Stone exterior; lovely flower gardens, fruit trees & detached garage w/full workshop. 5000+ sq ft of living area. Fabulous great room w/soaring ceiling; wall of windows; french doors to screen porch & deck; masterfully-built, double-sided stone fireplace (other side is in dining). Spacious kitchen w/b'fast area. Main-level master suite w/separate hot tub room w/brow view. 2nd floor w/2BR + bonus room. Elevator down to basement level w/LR, DR, KIT, BR & office, 2-car garage. Restoration needed. Home sits on 1.7 acres, plus there is a bonus 1.15-acre, brow-front lot offered at this price. \$475,000 (1102136)



**SOMETIMES IT'S THE SMALL THINGS THAT MAKE LIFE GOOD.** Personal retreat or rental on an acre of woodland; private, yet easy to access, located between Mentone & DeSoto St Park. One-level cabin; rustic & civilized elements: HW floor & mtn stone, wood-burning Fplce in LR; spacious BR; galley kitchen; dining area; shower bath; CH/A; lg laundry; new roof; updated ext paint; HUGE screen porch with hot tub; timber-frame pavilion. \$129,000 (1104545)



**ANTEBELLUM FARMHOUSE**, built by the McGown family in the 1850s. Large front porch facing Lookout Mtn. Some of the rooms have been restored to original style and grace. High ceilings, original pine floors, fireplaces, architectural details aplenty inside & out. Picturesque outbuilding believed to have been the cook house before a kitchen was put inside house. Current B&B. There's still work to be done, but the price is right at \$89,000. (1101135)



**SIMPLY STUNNING.** Cedar-sided cabin, perfectly-situated on 1.43 acres; level, shady yard & small woodland. The perfect mix of simplicity & beauty. Beautifully finished w/ beautiful hardwood floors. 4BR, 2.5BA, sun room, hot tub; library; Pella windows; hickory floors; wood-burning fireplace. Only a mile or so from downtown Mentone. \$269,500 (1101468)



**DEFINITELY NOT A TINY HOME!** 3875 sq ft, bungalow-style home, w/1900+ sq ft basement gives you space seldom found in Mentone. Ideal for family gatherings, retreats, possible B&B, multi-family home...well, whatever your inspiration can come up with! Pine floors throughout; wood ceilings accented by solid beams in spacious, open dining/kitchen. Cabinets galore! 6BR/2 baths. Enormous front porch. \$260,000 (1104553)



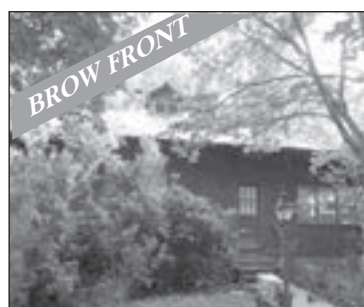
**CUTE LOG CABIN**, on a little over an acre. Small in size, big on what you'll want in a retreat or in a place to live life more simply. Wood exterior; new kitchen w/ tile floor; stone fireplace; open porch; metal roof; lovely backyard; lovely front yard w/fruit trees & garden areas; flower beds; quaint "out-house-look" well house. Public water available. Great rental possibilities, too! \$79,900 (1053288)



**JUST WHAT YOU'VE BEEN SEEKING!** Barn w/2 stalls & large tack room; small, spring-fed pond (well-stocked w/fish); 4.56 acres, fenced & cross-fenced; approx 3 acres of woods; "dutch" style farm house has small pine floors, country kitchen, attic storage; large front porch. Properties like this in Mentone are seldom for sale. \$165,000 (1100725)



**"THE BURREN."** Snuggled into intriguing rock formations, huge boulders & woods on 1.9 acres you'll find this 3BR/2.5BA mtn retreat, just off the DeSoto Pkwy. Metal roof; screened porch; wood-burning mtn stone Fplce; private back deck w/new hot tub; 2nd floor balconies. Large screened porch offers expanded living area outdoors. Active vacation rental with great rental history! \$185,000 (1087665)



**OH MY! THE POSSIBILITIES!** What could one do with this marvelous old Mentone heritage property, with approx 210' of brow frontage and spacious gardens & walkways?! 3BR/2BA, with formal dining room, sitting room, den & sun porches. Unfinished "grandma's attic" area with intriguing angles and nooks. Wood floors, walls & ceilings. 2.66 acres (+/-) Now \$229,900 (1074930)



**THIS IS WHAT WE CALL A VIEW!** And this place has so much more! Lovely frame & stone cottage on the brow at Mentone. Over 3000 sq ft; 3BR/4BA; lg bonus room for 4th BR, office, exercise or play room. Main-level Master Suite with wall of windows to enjoy the view. Huge kitchen is a dream for those who love to cook & entertain: granite counters, commercial gas cooktop, double wall ovens, wine cooler, disposal, compactor, gas fireplace, enormous pantry. Large dining room opens onto brow-side screen porch & decks. New wood floors & ceiling; new paint; new windows in MA BR & Living. Detached 3-car garage w/efficiency apartment & shop. Wrought-iron gated entry; circular, paved drive. \$397,000 (1084334)



Birthdays

Anniversaries

November

|   |                                                                                                                                                                                                               |    |                                                                                                   |    |                                                                                                                                                    |    |                                                                                                                                                                                          |    |                                                                                                   |    |                                                |
|---|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | Easton Bain<br>Austyn Young                                                                                                                                                                                   | 7  | Melissa Bain<br>Brooklyn Johnson<br>Brian Smith<br>Isabel Carabello                               | 14 | Don Brock<br>Austin Harrison<br>William Hughes<br>Amanda Garcia<br>Greg Hughes<br>Kenzie Bailey                                                    | 21 | Pam Wooten<br>Keith Hadley<br>Deedra Battles<br>Nancy Brown<br>Rachell Givens<br>Yvonne Blalock<br>Ashley Manning<br>Brandy Clure<br>Judy Carter<br>Brettley Smothers<br>Candice Dunaway | 27 | Kim Johnson<br>Timbo Carden<br>Clay Stiles<br>Charlton Bell<br>Ross Smith<br>Lesley Blalock       | 1  | George & Kim Raley<br>Matt & Jana Sharp        |
| 2 | Katherine Chambers<br>Michael Potts<br>Ruth Rose Potts<br>Taylor Brown<br>Triston Goss<br>J.R. Hurst<br>Larry O'Tinger<br>Gequetta Darwin<br>Taylor Brown<br>Caleb Rogers<br>Kai Ballenger<br>Philip Williams | 8  | Michael Harrison<br>Toby Crider<br>Mary Beasley<br>Gibson Roberts<br>Bob Tate<br>Joy Pam Lewchuck | 15 | Laura Boehringer<br>Rory Quinn<br>Lee Carden<br>Ian Roberts<br>Chris Stallings<br>EJ Bickerstaff<br>Blexton Potts                                  | 22 | Amber Carson<br>Cason Garner<br>Collin Coots<br>Gerald Bailey                                                                                                                            | 28 | Lily Harrison<br>Chance Hodges<br>Almeda Bickerstaff<br>Taylor Smothers<br>Jean Powell            | 8  | Andrew & Penny Herbert                         |
| 3 | Aubrey Shields<br>Sandy Hulgan<br>Hudson Brownfield<br>Kay Sadia                                                                                                                                              | 9  | Kowen Worthey<br>Laura McKenzie<br>Bonnie Patterson<br>Emily Hodge<br>Melissa Simpson             | 16 | Dink Tillman<br>Jeff Wigley<br>Johnny Mann<br>Jordan Hammond<br>Colton Ditmore<br>Judy Kean<br>Jeff Callahan<br>Layne Hawkins<br>Tom Shanklin, Sr. | 24 | Pam Baggett<br>Hayley Crider<br>Sarah Tucker<br>Staci Winn<br>Bradley Tyler Smith                                                                                                        | 29 | Karen Powell<br>Brian Blalock<br>Kerry Bailey<br>Kyleigh Barkley<br>Steve Barkley<br>Aric Collins | 14 | Ronnie & Sandy Hulgan                          |
| 4 | Barrett Wilkinson<br>Rita Chapman<br>Pat Lewis<br>Daniel Hawkins<br>Scotty Vaughn                                                                                                                             | 10 | Toby Manifold<br>Valinda Miracle<br>Jessica Easler                                                | 18 | George Boehringer<br>Kim Foshee                                                                                                                    | 25 | Billy Tramel<br>Billy Shugart IV<br>Ginger Kearney                                                                                                                                       | 30 | Sandy McNutt<br>Alyss Kay Kilgore<br>Jaclyn Lawton Nasoni                                         | 16 | Dewayne & Melanie Grisham                      |
| 5 | Gail Chambers<br>Luke Wright<br>Ginger Kearney                                                                                                                                                                | 11 | Gerry Bain<br>Amber Griffith<br>Allen McElhane                                                    | 19 | Caden Blalock<br>Margo Tate<br>Macrae Bailey                                                                                                       | 26 | Krissy Harris<br>Heath Kirby<br>Renee Pruitt<br>Brinley Ware<br>Madison Carson                                                                                                           |    |                                                                                                   | 21 | Mark & Deedra Battles<br>John & Michele Kincer |
| 6 | Tommy Harrison<br>Duane Blalock<br>Mike Smith<br>Jeffrey Manning<br>Alanis McKenzie<br>Grayson Gatlin                                                                                                         | 12 | Kynlee Baggett<br>Megan McElhane<br>Major Frost                                                   | 20 | Brandi Miller<br>Kevin McElhane<br>Angel Carson                                                                                                    |    |                                                                                                                                                                                          |    |                                                                                                   | 23 | Kenneth & Carol Busby                          |
|   |                                                                                                                                                                                                               | 13 | Addison Prestwood<br>Lendell Chappell<br>Kim Raley<br>Mindy Loudon                                |    |                                                                                                                                                    |    |                                                                                                                                                                                          |    |                                                                                                   | 25 | David & Barbara Rape                           |
|   |                                                                                                                                                                                                               |    |                                                                                                   |    |                                                                                                                                                    |    |                                                                                                                                                                                          |    |                                                                                                   | 27 | Loy & Beck Langston                            |

Happy Day!

Ongoing Calendar

**Mentone Town Council** meets the 2nd Tuesday every month at 6pm at Mentone Town Hall. Everyone is welcome.

**Mentone Water Board** meets monthly on the 2nd Thursday at 4pm.

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

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

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

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

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

**Moon Lake Community Library** is open on Saturdays from 9am–1pm, and Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3–5pm. Enjoy complimentary coffee, wi-fi, and use of 2 computers. Visit [moonlakecommunitylibrary.org](http://moonlakecommunitylibrary.org).

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

**The Lookout Mountain Wholistic Center** meets monthly on the 1st & 3rd Wednesdays at Rock Ridge Retreat Center in Valley Head at 6:30pm. Everyone is welcome!

**Writing anyone?** Point of the Pen is a small, supportive writing group that welcomes anyone to join us for a casual sharing time with other writers interested in life stories, poetry, and fiction. Come to Moon Lake Community Library on the 1st Thursday of each month at 3:15pm. Call 256-635-8775 for details. (NOTE: There will be no meeting in August.)

**The Lookout Mountain Knitters** meet each Tuesday at 3pm at Moon Lake Community Library.

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

**Lookout Mountain Strummers** mountain dulcimer group meets on alternate Thursdays at 1pm at St. Joseph's Episcopal Church. For

a schedule and directions, send an email to [normbaker194@gmail.com](mailto:normbaker194@gmail.com). Beginners are welcome.

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

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

**The Little River group of Alcoholics Anonymous** meets every Saturday & every Tuesday night at 6pm at St. Joseph's-on-the-Mountain Episcopal Church in Mentone. Both meetings are Open AA Discussion Meetings. Anyone who thinks they might have a problem with alcohol is welcome. Questions? Call 256-634-3060.

**AL-ANON family and friends support group** meets every Tuesday at 6pm at St. Joseph's-on-the-Mountain Church in Mentone. Same time and location as the AA Meeting.

**Hope AA/NA**, a Christian-based support group, meets each Friday at 6pm at Church of God of Prophecy on Hwy. 117 in Mentone.

**Exercise Room** is open at the DeKalb County Council on Aging each week, Monday through Friday (except for certain holidays), from 8am to Noon. 256-845-8590.

**Ballroom dancing lessons** are offered at DeKalb County Council on Aging on Mondays from 6–8pm. 256-845-8590.

**Line dancing lessons** are offered at DeKalb County Council on Aging on Tuesdays from 1:30–2:30pm (beginners) and 2:30–3:30pm (experienced). 256-845-8590.

**Free Square Dance Lessons** are offered Thursdays, 5:30–8:30pm, at Tom Beville Center in Rainsville by Duos and Solos Dance Club. Everyone is invited to watch, and if you can round dance or square dance, you are welcome. Call 256-244-5320 to register.

*Calendar entries are subject to change.*



# River Voice by Bill Shugart



Some people that I talk with about Little River Waterkeeper are interested to know how Waterkeepers work to safeguard the bodies of water we protect. The model our organization uses is one that was developed by Robert F. (Bobby) Kennedy, Jr., who formed the Waterkeeper Alliance in 1999. It leveraged a clause in

the Clean Water Act that allows citizens to bring lawsuits against polluters. Bobby wanted to build on the success that the Hudson Riverkeeper group had battling pollution in New York. Bobby took that model and applied it to waterways around the world. As a result, Waterkeeper Alliance became one of the fastest growing environmental organizations in the world. There are now more than 360 Waterkeeper groups spanning six continents. Mark Yaggi, executive director of Waterkeeper Alliance said, "We're often outnumbered by industry lobbyists and their bought-and-paid-for elected officials. We're almost always outspent. But with the Clean Water Act and supporters like you, we keep winning victories for clean water."

Bobby Kennedy has a fiery way to serve up the truth. It is the spirit that permeates the work of the Waterkeeper Alliance. "We have really good environmental laws in our country that are seldom enforced because the agencies that are supposed to protect the public end up being captured by the industry that they're supposed to regulate. We often have to sue the agency that is supposed to be protecting the environment and force them to do their job," said Kennedy. "There's no difference

between somebody who pollutes and a bank robber. In fact, it's worse. If you rob a bank, the insurance company pays, and society gets over it. If you put mercury or PCBs into the Alabama River and somebody catches a fish and feeds it to a pregnant woman and that little girl... We know that mercury and PCBs are neurotoxins, that they lower IQ... So, if that little girl gets to fourth or fifth grade and she can't solve a math problem as easily as her classmates, or she can't read like she's supposed to... If God gave her the brain to read that book but some company took it away from her, that's child abuse and it's assault and battery. You can get any state's attorney or district attorney in the country to put a kid in jail for stealing a car," Kennedy continued. "It's really hard to get somebody to arrest a polluter. They're usually the most powerful people in the state, and they're the guys who give the politicians the contributions, they go to the cocktail parties, they go to the same clubs the political leaders do."

Between 2005 and 2014, Waterkeeper Alliance and local Waterkeepers have been responsible for nearly 25 percent of all citizen enforcement actions under the Clean Water Act. We are protecting your right to clean water more than anyone else.

In Alabama we have eight Waterkeeper Alliance Members. They are the Little River Waterkeeper, Coosa Riverkeeper, Mobile Baykeeper, Tennessee Riverkeeper, Black Warrior Riverkeeper, Choctawhatchee Riverkeeper, Hurricane Creekkeeper, and the Cahaba Riverkeeper. As "Waterkeepers Alabama," we work together on statewide issues.

Here on Lookout Mountain we are fortunate that our river is protected by its designation as an Outstanding National Resource Water. Little River has the nation's highest degree of protection. Our job is keeping it clean. The job we do is diverse. We test water chemistry to determine sources of pollution, then go about cleaning up the problem. We are

fortunate that most people who live around here love the river as much as we do and want to keep it clean. So, for the most part, folks want to do the right thing and help stop the problem. When that isn't the case we take other measures to correct the issue and get it cleaned up.

Some of the most problematic issues have been: trash from roadside litter that ends up in the water; erosion from poorly maintained roads of failed subdivisions, powerline access roads, and logging cuts where Best Management Practices (BMPs) were not up to standard; and failing septic systems and runoff from farms that have inadequate manure composting facilities or farms that apply manure for fertilizer too close to tributaries, resulting in unsafe bacteria levels and harmful algal blooms. Another issue is herbicide that is sprayed to maintain power line right-of-ways too close to the water.

If you notice a problem with the river, please contact your Little River Waterkeeper. We patrol the river often but can't always see everything. We depend on you to help keep us informed, so I want to encourage you to get to know us. We depend on your donations to help keep the river clean. If you are interested in volunteering we'd love to hear from you. Drop me a line at [wysugart@littleriverwaterkeeper.org](mailto:wysugart@littleriverwaterkeeper.org).

*Bill Shugart is the Little River Waterkeeper.*



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# November 2018 Community Calendar

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

**November 1, 6—Zip Line Adventure.** All our zip lines are set up just before the adventure to ford a gorge or cross from one high point to another. Pre-registration required at True Adventure Sports by 6pm the day before the adventure. 10am. 256-997-9577.

**November 1, 6—Sky Swing Adventure.** This is an adventure of a lifetime. Enjoy the thrill of the swing. Pre-registration required at True Adventure Sports by 6pm the day before the adventure. 12–2pm. 256-997-9577.

**November 1—Art in the Alley.** Downtown Fort Payne. Bring your friends and let's have some fun! Join us after work for Art in the Alley, and enjoy local food, music, and art in Fort Payne's Entertainment District - and Boom Town Makers Market. 5–8pm.

**November 2—Cold Weather Survival Class.** Learn tips to prevent hypothermia and death. This class covers the basics for emergency cold weather conditions and also covers a few tips on how to stay warm and comfortable for everyday cold conditions. 9am–12pm. 256-997-9577.

**November 3—Watercolor Christmas Card Workshop with caroline Nuckolls.** Learn how to watercolor Christmas motifs. Caroline Nuckolls has painted and taught at Giverny, France, since 2001. Two sessions will be offered—a morning session from 9 a.m. until 12 p.m. and an afternoon session from 1 until 4 p.m. Or, you can stay for the whole day! Presented by the Little River Arts Council. Each session is limited to 10 adults, so pre-registration is required. Email [barbaraumland7@gmail.com](mailto:barbaraumland7@gmail.com) or visit [littliverartsCouncil.org/watercolor-christmas-cards](http://littliverartsCouncil.org/watercolor-christmas-cards) to register. MERF Community House in Mentone. One session: \$8/LRAC members, \$12 non-members. Full day: \$15/LRAC members, \$20/non-members.

**November 3—Moon Lake Library Book Club.** Discussion of the book, *Loving Frank*. 10:30am. Moon Lake Community Library, Mentone.

**November 3, 10, 17, 23, 24—Blow an Ornament.** Come design and blow your own ornament with the help of one of our glass artists. No reservations are needed; it is on a first-come, first-served basis. 9am–4pm. Orbix Hot Glass. Cost is \$38 per ornament blown. 256-523-3188.

**November 3—Blessing of the Land/ Sequoyah Statue Reveal.** Join us for a Blessing of the Land and unveiling of the Sequoyah statue that will grace the grounds of the MACC sculpture garden. The event will

feature a tour of the site, demonstrations, music and food. There will be drawing for the winner of a Morning Star quilt crafted by Norma Blacksmith, a Lakota elder of the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. The MACC site is just east of the Moon Lake Community Library along Alabama Hwy 117. 10am–1pm. For more information, call 256-674-3366.

**November 3—Summerville Renaissance Festival.** Chivalry, romance, and a rollicking good time. Centrally located, the festival will run from Dowdy Park to the Summerville Depot. This free festival will delight and amaze all ages. Enjoy live entertainment, shopping, art, games, and a feast fit for a king. 11am–5pm EASTERN, rain or shine. Special acts are set all throughout the day on four different stages. A special Pub Sing with all performers will be held inside the depot from 4–5pm EST. An arrival of the Tennessee Valley Railroad Museum Passenger Train is scheduled for 1pm EST and the North Georgia Cruisers will host a Cruise In on East Washington Street. For more information, email [slocklear@summervilllega.org](mailto:slocklear@summervilllega.org).

**November 3—"Sculptures in the Sky".** Chattanooga's 33-acre Sculpture Fields will be filled with colossal and colorful kites, stunt kites and Rokkaku battle kites at this free event. 12–6pm at 1800 Polk St., which turns off of Main Street on the Southside. In addition to kites, visitors will also enjoy performances, local food trucks and a beer tent. Visit [sculpturefields.org](http://sculpturefields.org) or call 423-266-7288.

**November 3, 7, 10, 23, 24—Rock Climbing / Rappelling Adventure Combo.** Come experience first-hand what rock climbing and rappelling is all about with guides who are fun, safe and energetic. This trip includes all the gear plus basic instruction. No prior climbing experience is needed. 10am–2pm. 256-997-9577.

**November 3—10th Annual Canyon Fest.** Join us for this 10th annual celebration! This is the Canyon Center's biggest event of the year. Don't miss the live music, nature and art activities, demonstrations, great food, vendors, and fun at this signature festival designed to celebrate our canyon and the natural world. Date: Saturday, November 3, 2018 Where: JSU's Little River Canyon Center (within 10 miles of DeSoto State Park) Time: 10am–3pm. Free. Call Anna Lindsey at 256-845-3548 for more details.

**November 3, 5, 9, 10, 13, 17, 19, 20, 23, 24, 26, 27—Zip Line Adventure.** All our zip lines are set up just before the adventure to

ford a gorge or cross from one high point to another. Pre-registration required at True Adventure Sports by 6 pm the day before the adventure. 2:30 pm. 256-997-9577.

**November 4November 5, 16, 20—Rappelling Adventure.** Come experience the thrill of rappelling down the sheer sandstone gems of NE AL. Each trip includes all the gear plus basic instruction. 10am–2pm. 256-997-9577.

**November 8, 16, 23, 24, 28—Night Zip Line Adventure.** All our zip lines are set up just before the adventure to ford a gorge or cross from one high point to another. Pre-registration required at True Adventure Sports by 6pm the day before the adventure. 6–8pm. 256-997-9577.

**November 9—Menlo Veterans Day Program.** A program honoring local Veterans will be held at the Menlo Elementary School Gymnasium. 9:30a.m., Eastern Standard Time. Menlo School students will take part in the program. There will be a special recognition of all veterans attending the event.

**November 9—The Winter Excursion.** The Winter Excursion is a mystery trip that includes hiking, bouldering, sightseeing, navigation, survival, teambuilding, waterfalls, and just plain fun. You will need to bring a small backpack, compass, flash light, change of socks, warm clothes, camera, trail mix, water, small first aid kit, emergency blanket and emergency poncho. 10am–1pm. 256-997-9577.

**November 9—Bouldering Adventure.** Atop Lookout Mountain Come experience first-hand what bouldering is all about with guides who are fun, safe and energetic. No prior climbing or bouldering experience is needed. Meet at True Adventure Sports. 2–6pm. 256-997-9577.

**November 9—Watters/Felt Trio.** Come enjoy at an evening of jazz at the MACC Education Center (5951 Hwy 117 Mentone, Alabama). Featuring trumpeter/flugelhorn Ken Watters, vocalist Ingrid Marie Felts and pianist Keith Taylor as the perform jazz standards. 7 pm to 9 pm Admission is \$15. For reservations or more information, call 256-674-3366 or email [mentoneartscenter@gmail.com](mailto:mentoneartscenter@gmail.com).

**November 10—DeKalb County Genealogical Society meeting.** Mrs. Amy Martin of the Mountain Valley News will present a program on the "Preservation of Photos". DeKalb County Public Library, Fort Payne. 10am.

**November 10—Plant Discovery Walk.** Join Robert Wilson for a short nature hike

around the boardwalk area identifying some common plants. This is a short basic plant identification class with some basic info about medicinal, edible, and utilitarian uses. It is suggested to bring a camera and note book. Meet in DeSoto State Park Country Store & Information Center 9am–12pm. Free & open to everyone. 256-997-5025.

**November 10-11—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 kid's art area. Shoppers can browse and watch artists in their creative process, listen to music, plus purchase goods from fine and folk artists such as painters, potters, quilters, weavers & basket makers, fabric spinners, culinary artists and craftsmen. Some unique and one-of-a-kind gifts will be available for purchase. Stop by and get some early gift-shopping in! 10am–3pm each day. DeSoto State Park. Country Store/Picnic Area on County Road 89. Event is free & open to everyone. Rain or shine. Call 256-997-5025 for details. [alapark.com/creative-spirit-market](http://alapark.com/creative-spirit-market).

**November 10-12—Guided Backpacking Trip: Overnight Survival in DeSoto State Park.** Learn the basic survival skills needed to survival in the wilderness (don't worry, this trip you will have your backpacking gear to fall back on!) Discover important skills related to survival to include shelter building, water pasteurization, core temperature control, rescue, medicinal and edible plants, and other skills you need to know to help you survive in the woods. Skills everyone should have, sign up for this fun trip soon! Hiking is moderate, about a mile one-way to a backpacking campsite in DeSoto State Park. Two-night class. Check in 8am on the 10th; Check out the morning of the 12th. Meet at DeSoto's Nature Center, next to the Country Store on County Road 89. \$100 per person (2 night class). Includes all equipment. You will need to provide your food. If you want to register as a family call for special prices. Discounts if you have your own backpacking equipment. Pre-registration is required, as class size is limited. Have questions? Call 209-559-0040 or email Robert Wilson (Seven Pines Survival) for more details: [sps@sevenpinessurvival.com](mailto:sps@sevenpinessurvival.com). About Seven Pine Survival: [sevenpinessurvival.com/desoto-state-park](http://sevenpinessurvival.com/desoto-state-park).

**Happy Veterans Day**  
**November 11—Veterans Day Mentone.**

# November 2018 Community Calendar

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

ALL Veterans are cordially invited to attend. Refreshments will be served. 2 pm. Mentone Town Hall and Mason Park.

## November 11—Landmarks Annual Membership Meeting & Reception.

Honoring veterans. Videos of local veterans by Robert Moehr. WWI "Art of the Great War" Poster Exhibit. Free. 2pm. Hunt Hall, 516 N. Gault Ave., Fort Payne.

**November 12—Afternoon Rock Climb.** Come experience first-hand what rock climbing is all about in the afternoon with guides who are fun, safe and energetic. This trip includes all the gear plus basic instruction. No prior climbing experience is needed. True Adventure Sports. 2–6 pm. 256-997-9577.

**November 12—Extreme Night Hike.** This end-of-day adventure does not slow down just because it's dark. Intended for a large group team-building exercise, this hike has a bit of bouldering, and a whole lot of required working together. True Adventure Sports. 6–8:30pm. 256-997-9577.

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

**November 13—"Courtyard Concerts: 90s Night".** "Holy jeans, flannel shirts, and Mr. Belding. Back to Bayside High and back to our regular programming, we're featuring a decade's worth of tunes. From grunge to Garth Brooks, our local troop has a variety to suit all your musical needs. Be there!

**November 14—GPS Basic Training and Navigation Class Part 1.** Learn how to use a map, compass, and a handheld GPS. Learn basic navigation and how to pinpoint a location for quick return, or quick rescue. Also learn how to search by waypoints or coordinates. True Adventure Sports 10 am to 4 pm 256-997-9577.

**November 14—Zip Line Adventure.** All our zip lines are set up just before the adventure to ford a gorge or cross from one high point to another. Pre-registration required at True Adventure Sports by 6 pm the day before the adventure. 4:30 pm 256-997-9577.

**November 15—Suthern Exposure Film Series.** Little River Waterkeeper presents a series of short documentaries to raise awareness and appreciation for Alabama's incredible natural resources and critical environmental issues. \$10 admission, FREE to Moon Lake students. Moon Lake Community Library, Mentone. 6–8pm.

**November 15—Zip Line & Sky Swing Adventure.** All our zip lines and sky swings are set up just before the adventure to ford a gorge or cross from one high point to another. Pre-registration required at True Adventure Sports by 6 pm the day before adventure. 10 am to 2 pm 256-997-9577.

**November 17—Rock Climbing Adventure.** Come experience first-hand what rock climbing is all about with guides who are fun, safe and energetic. This trip includes all the gear plus basic instruction. No prior climbing experience is needed. 10 am to 2 pm 256-997-9577.

**November 17—Dana Owens at Roadside Que'. Guess who's back? Back again? Dana Owens and his Ukulele! Roadside 'Que with food and drinks and tunes! 6 pm to 9 pm**

**November 19—GPS Basics Training and Navigation Class Part 2.** You will learn to find a beacon placed in the woods as a SAR attempt while knowing your position, and the position of your teammates. True Adventure Sports 5 pm to 9 pm 256-997-9577.

**November 21—Wild Cave Tour.** This 2.5 hour adventure is for those of you ready to explore on your knees, on your belly, in the mud and through tight tunnels. Adventure

includes helmet, cave lamps plus a fun informative guide. True Adventure Sports. 5 pm to 7:30 pm 256-997-9577.



## November 22—Thanksgiving Day

**November 23—Mentone Log Cabin Village Open House.** SHOP LOCAL! Unique gifts. Candy for the kids. 10am–4pm.

**November 23—2018 Hike Series: 3rd Annual Day after Thanksgiving Hike.** Join us for this gathering the day after Thanksgiving. Spend the morning hiking in the beautiful Little River Canyon area with our staff. Things to bring: Plenty of water and/or sports drink, snacks/lunch, hiking poles/staff (optional), sturdy shoes (open toe shoes are not recommended). Please be sure to dress appropriately according to seasonal temperatures/weather. WEATHER: As with all outdoor events, if it's raining/stormy or very poor trail conditions, we may have to cancel. If the weather is questionable, please check with the park before leaving home. Please make every effort to arrive early or on time so that you do not hold up the group. JSU's Little River Canyon Center. 10am. Free. Call 256-845-3548 for more details.

**November 24—Plant Discovery Walk.** Join Robert Wilson for a short nature hike around the boardwalk area identifying some common plants. This is a short basic plant identification class with some basic info about medicinal, edible, and utilitarian uses. It is suggested to bring a camera and note book. Meet in DeSoto State Park Country

Store & Information Center 9 am to 12 pm Free, & open to everyone. 256-997-5025.

**November 26—Celestial Navigation.** This two-hour class is a basic introduction to navigation by the stars. Learn how to navigate without the use of a compass or GPS with the same rules used for almost six thousand years. Meet at True Adventure Sports. 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm 256-997-9577.

**November 28—Treasure Hunt Adventure.** Do you enjoy trying to solve riddles and clues? This 5-hour adventure will take you deep into the heart of a cave. You will have to solve and follow each clue in order to find the next one, and ultimately the Treasure! TAS 3 pm to 8 pm 256-997-9577.

**November 29—Night Zip Line & Sky Swing Adventure.** All our zip lines and sky swings are set up just before the adventure to ford a gorge or cross from one high point to another. Pre-registration required at True Adventure Sports by 6 pm the day before adventure. 6 pm to 10 pm 256-997-9577.

**November 30—Rock Climbing / Rappelling Adventure Combo.** Come experience first-hand what rock climbing and rappelling is all about with guides who are fun, safe and energetic. This trip includes all the gear plus basic instruction. No prior climbing experience is needed. 2 pm to 6 pm 256-997-9577.

**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**Sunday, December 16**  
**3–5pm**  
**Moon Lake Library**  
**Holiday Open House**

## Save the Date!

### Dixie Mountaintop Market

baked goods • soap • art • handmade ornaments • woodcarving & more

Presented by Little River Arts Council and Moon Lake Baptist Church

Proceeds from vendor booth fees will benefit Moon Lake School.

Friday & Saturday, December 7 & 8  
10am–4pm

Moon Lake Baptist Church  
George & Arlene Fowler Center



# Mentone Area Church Directory

## Mentone, Alabama

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Hammondville, Alabama

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

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

## Valley Head, Alabama

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

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

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

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

*The fruit of the  
spirit is love, joy  
and peace. . .  
-Galatians 5:22*

## Fort Payne, Alabama

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

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

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

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

**New Oregon United Methodist Church** is located just off DeSoto Parkway, 1/4 mile south of Fischer Crossroads. We invite you to worship with us on Sundays. Sunday School for all

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

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

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

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

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

## Cloudland, Georgia

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

## Menlo, Georgia

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

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

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

## Summerville, Georgia

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

Send any changes to *The Groundhog*  
at [groundhognews@yahoo.com](mailto:groundhognews@yahoo.com)  
or P.O. Box 387, Mentone, AL 35984.

# Cloudland/Menlo News

by Pat Johnson

## Menlo Raffle for a Georgia Bulldog quilt

The Resident Association of the Menlo Housing Authority is selling raffle tickets for a Georgia Bulldogs quilt donated by friends and supporters of the Association. The quilt is made from a red, black and white fabric featuring the Bulldog logos. It measures 78"x94". Raffle tickets cost \$2 each, 6 for \$5, and 12 for \$10.

Tickets are available at the Menlo Housing Authority Office, Menlo City Hall, Menlo Restaurant, Chattooga County Commissioner's Office in Summerville, or call (706) 862-2240.

The drawing will be held on November 24, which is the last game of the Bulldogs' regular season; the game is between University of Georgia and Georgia Tech. The winner will be notified by phone.

Buy tickets! Money raised helps the Resident Association sponsor the Veterans Marker Project, Reading Buddies for Menlo School, and other projects and programs.

## Menlo Veterans Day Program

A program honoring local Veterans will be held at the Menlo Elementary School Gymnasium on Friday, November 9, at 9:30 a.m., Eastern Standard Time. Menlo School students will take part in the program. There will be a special recognition of all veterans attending the event. This year, the Menlo Quilters will award a "Quilt of Valor" to a local veteran. These ladies made this quilt as a tribute to the time, sacrifice and service given by all men and women of the military. On this day, all over America,

volunteers of the "Quilt of Valor" Foundation will be presenting quilts in various celebrations. The Quilters are honored to be able to do a small part to say, "Thank you for your service." Also, the Menlo Housing Authority's Resident Association will present a slide presentation of the Veteran Marker Project in memory of local deceased veterans. The Resident Association and Menlo Elementary School are the sponsors of this yearly program. The public is invited to attend this special event. For more information, contact the Housing Authority office at 706-862-2240.

## Cloudland Community Park

Cloudland Community Park is busy renovating the kitchen in the pavilion. This renovation, along with our recent renovation of the bathroom, was undertaken with the funds earned at our two annual events: the 5K Fun Run on the 4th of July weekend and the Burning Leaf Festival on the last weekend in October. Both take place at the park. The park has tennis courts, a covered barbeque grill, lots of picnic tables, a ¼ mile walking track, playground equipment, lots of parking, and a large covered pavilion with a new kitchen and bathroom. The Park is available to rent for community gatherings or individual events. To learn more about the park, contact Maggie Johnson at 706-862 3040 or email CloudlandCommunityPark@yahoo.com. You can find the park on Facebook (Cloudland Community Park) or visit their web site at cloudlandcommunity.wix.com/park.

## SENIOR HEALTH

# Fall Medicare Enrollment

by Lynn Hixson

Medicare's Annual Enrollment Period (AEP) has begun and will run through December 7. During this time, you will be able to switch your Part D or Medicare Advantage plan from one company to another. Many people have questions or need guidance during this time. If you are happy with your present plan, you do NOT need to switch to a new plan. If your present plan will no longer be covering your medications, or you are not happy with your current coverage, this is the time to make changes. If you have original Medicare and a Part D plan, you may decide at this time to get a Medigap (Medicare Supplement). The DeKalb County Council on Aging can provide you with a Shopper's Guide for these policies.

State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) counseling will be available from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. on weekdays at the Dekalb County Council on Aging in Fort Payne. If you have any questions, or if you need assistance with changing a plan, please contact Lynn Hixson at 256-845-8590 to schedule an appointment. We want to help you make this transition as smooth as possible.

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Owner and AL/GA Broker  
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Mentone, AL 35984  
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|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>NEW!</b><br><br><b>3/4-ACRE</b> located on Fire Tower Rd. just off Co. Rd. 89. Level to sloping with rock formations. Private road access. County water available. \$15,000. (1105646) | <br><b>HIDDEN BROW.</b> 5.1 acres of level, wooded East brow views of Shinbone Valley. Located in Cloudland, GA. Lightly restricted. \$125,000. (1102406)          | <br><b>LAKE WINDMILL ESTATE.</b> 103 ft. on 13-acre lake on the brow. Wooded, sloped. Build your home here. Restricted. \$42,900. (1044127)                                                                                         | <b>REDUCED!</b><br><br><b>CANYON CABIN.</b> 2 bdrm/1bth. Open living, kitchen, large covered porch. 5.1 acres of lush foliage and fauna. 2 creeks come together and make 2 cascading waterfalls. A great getaway! \$160,000. (1092904) | <br><b>3.89 ACRES</b> at Mtn River Estates. Hwy 117 frontage. Wooded, Rock formations, level along the river. Over 200 ft on Middle Fork of Little River. \$38,000. (1060565)              | <br><b>3.77 ACRES</b> located at Canyon View Forest Subdivision. Wooded and joining the bluff of Little River National Preserve. \$60,000. (1013604) |
| <b>REDUCED</b><br><br><b>Oakwood Subdivision</b> - 6.1 acres. Wooded, level, lightly restricted. \$31,000 <b>REDUCED</b> (1057247)                                                        | <br><b>LEVEL WOODED LOTS</b> in Crestline Park Subdivision in Mentone. Lot 25. 1.31 acres. Great area to build that getaway cabin in the woods. \$25,000 (1032494) | <b>REDUCED</b><br><br><b>5 ACRES</b> on the East Fork Little River. Driveway in place. Home-site cleared. Septic, power, well installed. 245ft on the water. Privacy a plus, lightly restricted. \$110,000 <b>REDUCED</b> (1080261) | <br><b>1.8 ACRES</b> on East Fork of Little River. Easy access to river from common trail that runs along the banks of the river. Bluff views. County water available. Gated community. \$65,000 (1063624)                             | <b>REDUCED</b><br><br><b>LEVEL BUILDING LOT</b> in downtown Menlo, GA. Great site for Residential or Commercial use. Non-restricted. Many possibilities! \$11,500 <b>REDUCED</b> (1062897) |                                                                                                                                                      |

In Memoriam

Nancy Elaine Goodwin Smith  
December 14, 1940 – October 21, 2018



Ms. Nancy Elaine Goodwin Smith, 77, of Mentone, Alabama, passed away on Sunday, October 21, 2018 at UAB Hospital. She was born on December 14, 1940 in Birmingham, Alabama, to Mr. Garland Goodwin Sr. & Bernice Bellsynder Goodwin. Nancy is survived by her grandsons Josh Smith (Emerald) and Justin Smith (Lashaye), great-grandchildren Trent Ethan Blake Smith and Aimee Grace Elaine Smith, brother Eddie Goodwin (Claudia), sister Lynn G. Robinson, step-daughter Edna Smith Morgan (Don), and step-grandchild Donna Lacey. She was preceded in death by her husband Dewey Smith, son Larry Lee Smith, step-daughter Barbara Lacey, sisters Barbara G. Mumpower & Joyce Bradley. Nancy, known as a true horsewoman, was loved and respected by many in the Mentone community.

Marie McKinley  
January 7, 2018

The Groundhog received a note from Barbara Lieu, who asked that we mention the passing of Marie McKinley, who died unexpectedly at age 77 on January 7, 2018. “Marie loved Mentone and enjoyed staying with her friend Gayle Becker at the cabin on Lake Lahusage that Gayle owned for over 30 years,” said Barbara. “She was a long-time member of the Angel Squad, providing aid and comfort to those with breast cancer. Many in Mentone will remember Marie as a person who never met a stranger, and as one who was always thinking of how we could help each other. Gayle now lives in Brewton, AL, at Westgate Village (100 Pineview St., Brewton, AL 36426), to be closer to her nieces who are seeing to her needs.”

Charles Mason White  
May 11, 2018

Charles Mason White, of Mentone, Alabama, died on May 11, 2018. He was 82 years old. He was a native of Mentone, Alabama and a graduate of the University of Alabama. Mr. White was a US Marine Corps Veteran. A former longtime resident of Annapolis, he lived in Annapolis from 1968 to 2002, and then settled in Arlington, Virginia. During his years in Annapolis, Mr. White worked for the Baltimore Sun and Anne Arundel County government. He was a longtime member of The Annapolitan Club and the Alabama State Society of Washington, DC. He loved history, Russian literature and

opera, but was also a die-hard Baltimore Oriole’s and Ravens fan. In recent years Mr. White enjoyed playing bridge. He had a true heart and a romantic soul. He is survived by his wife, Geraldine B. White and two stepsons, Tyler Beardsley and Lewis Beardsley and wife Erica, of Arlington, Virginia, and a stepdaughter, Eleanor Beardsley of Paris, France. He is also survived by three step-grandchildren and his niece and nephew, Kathleen White of Portland, Oregon and David White of Seattle, Washington. Charles Mason White is buried at St. Margaret’s Episcopal Church, Annapolis.



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**NEW**



**BREATHTAKING BROW VIEWS!** Entertain and watch the amazing sunset from your large private deck. This tri-level brow home has so much to offer including, three bedrooms, two bathrooms, wood floors throughout, vaulted ceilings, rock fireplace, and sun room. Call TODAY for your private tour! \$295,000. MLS#1104411.

**NEW**



**ONE LEVEL HOME w/ PRIVACY!** 3 BR, 2 BA located in cul-de-sac with use of common 14 acre lake. Living room offers hardwood floors, fireplace & tray ceiling, open kitchen and breakfast area, formal dining room, screened porch, back deck, garage. Property adjoins Little River Canyon Preserve. \$215,000. MLS#1105235.



**BROW HOME with ADDITIONAL BUILDING LOT!** 3 bedroom, 2 bath with possible 4th bedroom! Large sunroom with vaulted wood ceilings. \$315,000. MLS#1089656.



**From BIRMINGHAM, ONLY AN HOUR & 15!** Convenient to MENTONE & CHATTANOOGA, Secluded home sited on the rim of LITTLE RIVER CANYON. Over 8 acres extending down to Little River. Property features a stream w/2 waterfalls & a trail alongside... The hard-board/stacked rock house features 3 BR/2.5 BA, Wood Floors, High ceilings, Views from every window, \$349,000. MLS#1072851.



**A unique business opportunity in the heart of Mentone!** Largest retail property in this tourist-oriented resort community w/ 4,931sq.ft. Fully furnished property with equipment, furniture and fixtures. The building currently accommodates a coffee bar, restaurant, office space, art gallery, live music and approved for an alcohol license. Only 330,000! MLS#1102896.



**THE HISTORIC CRAGSMERE MANOR**, on 5+ acres serves as rental lodging and/or event hosting. Perfect setting for large or small groups, 6BR/4BA, Large kitchen, dining, and living area, covered pavilion. \$699,000. MLS#1066488



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



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



**A MUST SEE!** Downtown Mentone 1BR/1BA fully furnished, redecorated log cabin! Walk to every event, festival, restaurant, then mosey to the front porch of your retreat and enjoy the music! \$159,000. MLS#1087805.



**UNBELIEVABLE** brow home on 1.95 acres. 4BR/3BA, open living/kitchen area, formal DR, numerous decks and screened porch. Many gorgeous rock formations, a detached 2-car garage/workshop and more. \$318,900. MLS#1048899.



**Mentone Cottage!** Fully remodeled spacious two bedroom with bath in each room and additional half bath. This home comes completely furnished and just in time for the beautiful Fall season. Property has been used as resort rental and can easily transition to your primary residence. Only \$189,900! MLS#1102065.



**MENTONE BROW HOME!** 2BR/2BA brow home with tons of character! Enjoy all the extras like hardwood floors, rustic wood walls, gas log fireplace & more. Being sold furnished. Call today! \$329,000. MLS #1076700



**PRIVATE MENTONE COTTAGE!** You'll love this gorgeous Mentone cottage that feels like a private retreat. Hardwood & tile floors, woodburning FP, covered porches, & more! \$148,500. MLS#1072513.



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



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



**LIVE & PLAY ON THE WATER!** Enjoy 200 feet of frontage on the East Fork of Little River in this waterfront home. \$197,500. MLS#1090616.



**EREMOS—A COMPLETELY FURNISHED EUROPEAN-STYLE CHALET.** 2 bedroom, 1 full bath. Open beams. Private balcony with additional sleeping quarters. Two lots offering 200' along the brow. \$279,900. MLS#1098060.



**GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY!** Let the tenants pay your mortgage. 5 apartments, large retail space and storage building located on Hwy 117 just minutes from downtown Mentone. Sitting on 1.5 acres, totally fenced. Appointment only! \$187,500. MLS #1013991



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



**MENTONE BROW HOME!** Just around the corner from Desoto State Park and Desoto Falls. Home features split bedroom design offering 3 bedrooms and 2 baths, open living and dining combo with vault ceiling, wood burning fireplace, spacious kitchen with breakfast bar, sunroom/den area, large deck for entertaining and an enclosed garage. \$350,000. MLS#1099721.



**CHARMING CABIN IN MENTONE** - Tongue and groove vaulted ceilings, wood floors and exposed beams gives this custom log cabin that rustic feel. Peacefully situated among the large rock formations on the north brow with 110 feet of frontage overlooking the valley below. Selling furnished with all appliances, plus washer & dryer. \$265,500. MLS#1094088.



**WORKING POULTRY FARM** with approx. 16 acres! Two 42x500 operating Pullet houses built in 2006. Houses operate on well water with city water back-up. Contract currently with Pilgrim's Pride. Property has pond and fencing. 25x50 3-bay shed. 3BR, 2BA house with carport built in 1970 also on the property. \$279,000. MLS#1096127.



**GORGEOUS COUNTRY SETTING** with a Modern 1-level, 4BR/3 Full BR home. Built in 2014! Open floor plan with a split bedroom design. Many upscale touches include a wood-burning fireplace that heats the home through the central unit duct work, full stainless steel appliance package, crown molding, tile flooring, security system. \$375,000. MLS#1099363.



**GREAT BEGINNINGS & OPTIONS** are endless in Mentone with an unfinished home! Approximately 4,800 sq ft on 7.5 acres. Great investment opportunity to create a neighborhood of cabins leading to the Owner's Estate or Common Gathering Area. Great Investment Opportunity, especially with the growth of the Mentone Resort area! \$165,000. MLS#1099079.

## LOTS & LAND

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

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

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

#1038089—6 1/2 acres with approx. 250' of road frontage and 1-1/2 acres of level land for a secluded home site. \$138,000.

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

#1056358—3.2 acre lot on the brow in Mentone near DeSoto State Park. \$269,500.

#1057429—4 acres in Valley View Forest. \$79,900.

#1065542—90 acres on Co. Rd. 89 in Mentone.

**REDUCED TO \$299,000.**

#1065504—One acre on Co. Rd. 89 in Mentone. **REDUCED TO \$125,000.**

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

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

#1073864—Brow Lot! .78 acres. **REDUCED TO \$94,900.**

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

#1076286—1.75 acre building lot in West Fork Subdivision. \$42,000.

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

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

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

#1080922—.54 acres, Mentone Bluffs. \$59,999.

#1081506—7 wooded acres within walking distance to DeSoto State Park. \$70,000.

#1083789—2.11 acres with 300' of waterfront in beautiful West Fork Subdivision. \$40,000.

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

#1092172—Spend your summertime on the LAKE... or spend forevermore! 1.70 acres with over 200' of waterfront at beautiful Lake on the Brow. \$49,000.

#1094616—ON LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN. Lakefront lot in Gated Community. \$32,500.

#1098750—Beautiful, wooded BROW lot with Winter Views! \$77,640.

#1099911—LAST CHANCE to buy open land before entering into Georgia!!! This 26 acres has lots of road frontage. Old farmhouse on property. Lots of potential with this property. \$189,000

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

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## Valley Head Masons Lodge Presents Scholarship

by Mike Howell



Left to right: Barry Blalock, Doug Kiker, Mike Howell, JR Bledsoe, Hunter Blalock, Jimmy Youngblood, Richard Tatum

Prior to our regular meeting on October 8, the Worshipful Master, Bro. Barry Blalock, presented Bro. Hunter Blalock with a \$1,000 scholarship. Hunter is presently attending North East Community College and is also a member of Valley Head Lodge, where he is presently serving as Junior Deacon.

This scholarship was made available through the Grand Lodge of F & A Masons located in Millbrook, AL. The Grand Lodge has a matching fund for scholarships up to \$500, which any lodge in the state of Alabama may take advantage of. The Grand Lodge recently matched a \$500 donation made by the Valley Head Lodge to make Hunter's scholarship possible. Masons, their children, and grandchildren are eligible for this scholarship.

Bro. Barry, who made the presentation, is serving the lodge as Worshipful Master this year and is also the father of Bro. Hunter, which made this presentation special. Hunter is new to masonry and is quickly learning his duty as he works his way through the chairs and eventually to the East where he will serve his year as Worshipful Master, which normally takes five to seven years. We are proud of our young men who have joined the Masons and are helping the fraternity to remain the largest in the world as we strive to take good men and make them better persons for the community.

Valley Head Officers for this year are: Worshipful Master Barry Blalock; Senior Warden Donnie Wagner; Junior Warden John Jones; Secretary Mike Howell; Treasurer Jimmie Youngblood.

Meetings are held the second and fourth Mondays of each month at the Valley Head Lodge (above the beauty salon). If you are interested in knowing more about the F & A Masons organization, email Mike Howell at mhowell7@centurytel.net.

## Valley Head Memory Run Announces Winners

by Sherryl Lewis



Left to right: Brook Smith, Jay Skinner, Gene Fleming, Pam Burge, Adele Phillips, Lennan Phillips, Eli Day, Kim Dalton, Lyndall Elkins, Kelsey Wade, Trevor Lewis

The Valley Head Cemetery held their 3rd annual Memory Run on September 29. It was a beautiful morning for a run and we had a good crowd show up to take advantage of it.

It takes the support of a lot of people to make our event a success each year. From the business sponsors and the memorials. From the towns of Valley Head and Hammondville. From the runners, the volunteers, DeSoto Rescue Squad, the police and the fire departments from Valley Head, Mentone, and Hammondville that give up their Saturday morning. We thank them for their donations and support. Our Memory Run was a great success because of their generous donations of time and money. We could not have done it without them.

Since its inception in 2016, the proceeds from the Memory Run have helped provide the funds necessary for the much-needed repairs on the Cemetery Pavilion and have made it possible for the cemetery grounds to be mowed on a more regular schedule.

Overall winners were Francisco Domingo and Kelsey Draper. First, second and third place medals were given in the following age categories:

- 12 & under Male—Eli Day
- 12 & under Female—Irelynn Walsh, Baylee Walsh
- 20-29 Male—Trevor Lewis, Caleb White;
- 20-29 Female—Kelsey Wade, Amber Griffith, Taylor Barrentine
- 30-39 Female—April Blanks, Michelle Walsh
- 40-49 Male—Lyndall Elkins, Mark Walsh
- 40-49 Female—Connie Goolesby, Brook Smith, Christy Frost
- 50-59 Male—Wesley Grimstad, Scott Kirk, Jay Skinner
- 50-59 Female—Renee Patterson, Kim Dalton, Randy Sorrells
- 60-69 Male—Gene Fleming
- 60-69 Female—Tie between Adele Phillips and Pam Burge

We have a great group of runners and walkers that show their support every year. Thank you for your dedication. Come run or walk with us next year and help us grow!

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## Vegetable Casserole

*This veggie casserole is from the Alabama Heritage Cookbook. I have been serving this dish for some thirty years. My family and friends always request this dish for celebration meals. I use salted butter instead of margarine and I usually triple or quadruple the recipe! —Kerry Breithaupt*

Yield: 10 to 12 servings

1 can French green beans, drained  
1 can Shoe Peg corn, drained  
1/2 cup chopped onion  
1/2 cup sour cream  
1/2 cup pimiento  
1/2 cup grated sharp cheese  
1 can cream of celery soup, undiluted

Mix beans and corn and pour into greased casserole dish. Mix other ingredients and pour over beans and corn.

Topping:

1 stick margarine, melted  
1 stack Ritz crackers, crumbled  
1/2 cup slivered almonds

Sprinkle Ritz crackers and slivered almonds on above mixture. Melt margarine and drizzle over top of casserole. Bake at 375° for 30 minutes. Reduce heat to 350° and bake for 30 minutes longer.

# Fall Recipes

## Beef Carbonnade

*This recipe is perfect when it gets cool outside. It comes from the 1979 cookbook 1979, The Silver Palate. —Sarah Lockhart*

1/4 lb. bacon  
2 very large onions (1.5 to 2 lbs total), thinly sliced  
1 tbsp sugar  
1 cup flour  
1 tbsp dried thyme  
1 tsp salt  
1/2 tsp pepper  
3 lbs beef stew meat cubes  
oil (as needed)  
2 cups imported dark beer

- 1) Dice bacon and saute until crispy in a large heavy pan or Dutch oven/roaster. Remove bacon bits and set aside.
- 2) Cook onions in the rendered bacon fat until tender, add sugar, and then continue to cook and stir until they are browned and caramelized. Remove onions and set aside.
- 3) Combine flour, thyme, salt, and pepper in a bowl, and toss the beef cubes in the mixture.
- 4) Brown the floured beef cubes in the remaining bacon fat in small batches, adding oil if necessary.
- 5) Preheat oven to 325, turn the heat up on the pan, and pour the dark beer into the hot pan, deglazing the pan, while stirring all the browned bits on the bottom. Return the beef, bacon, and onions to the pan, lowering to a simmer.
- 6) Cover pan and cook in the oven for about 1.5 hours, stirring occasionally, until thickened and tender.
- 7) Serve with egg noodles tossed in butter and poppy seeds.

## Chocolate Cake

*Delicious served warm with a scoop of ice cream. This cake is even better when served and enjoyed with any of our wonderful Mentone friends! —Carleen and Ralph Ozley*

1 yellow cake mix  
1 small box of instant chocolate pudding  
3/4 cup of sugar  
Combine all ingredients with a whisk.

Add:

3/4 cup of oil  
3/4 cup of water  
4 eggs  
8 oz. of sour cream  
Mix well with beater.

Stir in 1 cup of mini or regular size semi-sweet chocolate pieces.

Pour into a greased, floured Bundt pan. Cook at 350 for 1 hour.

*Laughter is  
brightest where  
food is best.*

—Irish proverb

## Sweet Potato Quiche *from Megan Halderman, The Farm at Windy Hill*

2 medium sweet potatoes  
1 teaspoon canola oil  
1/2 cup milk  
1/2 teaspoon kosher salt  
1/4 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper  
4 large egg  
2 large egg whites  
15 ounces feta cheese, crumbled

Preheat the oven to 350°. Peel and slice sweet potatoes. I slice mine using a mandoline, but a knife works great as well. The mandoline speeds up the process significantly and gives you even slices. Coat a pie dish with cooking spray, then fill the bottom of the dish with a layer of sweet potato slices. Cut the sweet potato rounds in half and fill around the edges of the pie dish, round side facing up. Once the entire dish is filled, coat one more time with cooking spray. Bake for 20 minutes. Turn heat up to 375°.

For the filling, heat a nonstick skillet over medium heat. Add spinach; saute 3 minutes. Remove from heat; cool. Combine milk and next 5 ingredients in a bowl; stir with a whisk. Arrange spinach mixture in crust; pour egg mixture over spinach. Sprinkle with feta. Bake at 375° for 35 minutes. Let stand 5 minutes; cut into 4 wedges.



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# Rediscovering the Sweetness of Sorghum

by Anne McLeod

Sorghum syrup is well known to most of us Southerners of a certain age. While my family usually favored either the flavorful honey produced by my grandfather's bees down in Trion, Georgia, or commercial syrups like Mrs. Butterworth's for our waffles and pancakes, once in a while a bottle or can of sorghum would mysteriously appear at the table, to my delight. If sorghum was available, it was always my sweetener of choice. Not quite as dark as sweet molasses or as bitter as blackstrap, its complex flavor hinted of caramel, a favorite of mine.

I never understood why we did not have sorghum syrup more often when I was growing up. Now I suspect that its taste was one my grandparents and parents associated with the Great Depression, when struggling families in the South relied on it to add flavor and nutrition to meager meals. In Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird*, little Walter Cunningham is invited by Jem to eat lunch with the family because he hasn't brought a lunch to school, unlike most of the students who have brought their lunches in "molasses buckets." At that particular time and place in Alabama these pails had likely been used for sorghum molasses or syrup, not sugar cane molasses. At the Finches' table, after he's served his plate, Walter shyly requests molasses, and proceeds to cover his lunch with it. Scout is horrified and says so. Calpurnia requests Scout's presence in the kitchen where she lectures her about proper conduct when hosting a guest. This scene leads up to Atticus's talk with Scout that evening: "[I]f you learn a simple trick, Scout, you'll get along a lot better with all kinds of folks. You never really understand a person until you consider things from his point of view ... until you climb into his skin and walk around in it."

In the book, Walter's use of molasses, or what we know as sorghum syrup, draws some kind of social class distinction between him and the middle class Finches, but most contemporary readers don't have the background knowledge to understand exactly why that is. Study guides online suggest Walter was trying to enjoy something sweet when he had the opportunity to have it, even though that interpretation contradicts Scout's characterization of the Cunninghams as people who refused to be beholden to anyone. Instead of asking for favors, they went without unless they could repay the giver.

It is much more likely that Walter had eaten few meals that didn't include molasses. It made the plainest meal of root vegetables or plain cornbread palatable, and unlike sugar and honey, sorghum syrup offered up a bit of iron, magnesium, zinc, and protein. During the Depression years sorghum was cheap and common enough that it became part of what poor Southerners termed "Three M meals": meat, usually salt pork; meal, cornmeal in the form of cornbread; and molasses. For Walter, it wasn't a meal if it didn't include syrup. He requested it not because it was a special treat but because it was normal for him and his family.

It may be that for my family too, this history of sorghum made its taste more complicated than complex, literally and figuratively bittersweet, and it became something to be enjoyed in small nostalgic doses. As for myself, I'm just grateful it's still found on grocery store shelves in the South, still produced close to home.

Sorghum is often grown for feeding livestock or for ethanol production. Producing syrup from the cane is a multi-step process that is most often undertaken by small farms. But not too small. One blogger reported that he grew some sorghum in hopes of turning out a little syrup and that's exactly what he got. After hours of intense labor interspersed with boring parts where he had to watch the syrup cook on the stovetop for hours, he reported that his 250 canes produced two quarts of syrup. The fact is, sorghum producers don't have fancy ad campaigns or put out press releases. It's easy to pass by those plain jars on the grocery shelf and to reach for the familiar mass produced syrups instead. That's what I did for a long time.

Then a few years ago sorghum was rediscovered by chefs like Hugh Acheson, owner of several restaurants in Georgia. He included recipes for Apple Brown Betty with Sorghum Zabaglione, Sorghum Sweet Potatoes, and Sorghum Ice Cream in his cookbook, *A New Turn in the South: Southern Flavors Reinvented for Your Kitchen*. His advocacy for sorghum reminded me of how much I enjoyed it. Although I was a little chagrined that a celebrity chef had to remind me about something I knew already, I decided that it was time to seek it out and adopt it as a staple in my kitchen.

My current jar of sorghum syrup was purchased at Fort Payne Feed and Garden Supply, distributed by Cold Creek Honey Company in Hokes Bluff, and produced by a farm in Philadelphia, Mississippi. I've served it to my family over pancakes, heated with a tablespoon or so of butter in the microwave, to rave reviews and requests for more. I'm beginning to experiment with substituting sorghum for molasses or other sweeteners in recipes.

One of those is Molasses Crinkles. It's a classic,



and besides producing mass quantities of delicious cookies, it will make your house smell so good, you'll have no need for fancy scented candles that day.

## Sorghum (FORMERLY MOLASSES) Crinkles

### Ingredients

3/4-cup butter  
1 cup brown sugar (packed)  
1 egg  
1/4-cup sorghum  
2-1/4 cups flour  
2 teaspoons soda  
1/4 teaspoon salt  
1 teaspoon ginger  
1 teaspoon cinnamon  
1/2 teaspoon cloves  
1/3 cup granulated (white) sugar for topping

### Steps

- Mix shortening, sugar, eggs, and sorghum.
- Sift together flour, salt, soda, and spices.
- Stir into sorghum mix just until flour is fully blended. Dough will be stiff.
- Chill dough for at least two hours or overnight.
- Preheat oven to 375°.
- Roll into balls about the size of a walnut. Dip tops in granulated sugar.
- Bake for 8–10 minutes, or until just set. Cool on rack for 10–15 minutes. This will be almost impossible.

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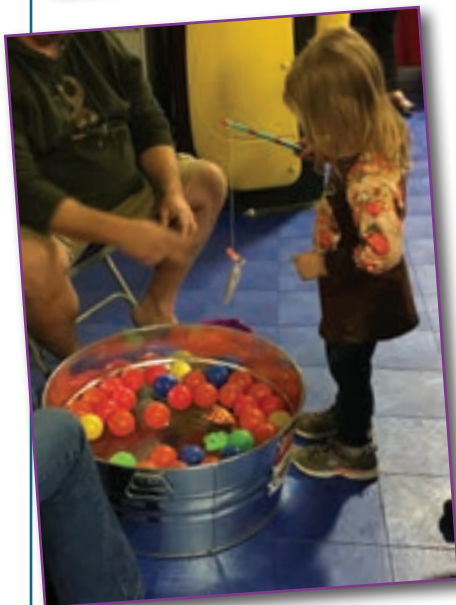
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