



THE GROUNDHOG

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Volume 38, No. 11

"Neighborly News from the Heart of Lookout Mountain"

November 2019

All Roads Lead to Mentone...

**From Holland, through France, Spain,
Canada, and Arkansas—One woman's
journey to Mentone**

by Betsy Dillbeck

Perhaps many have wondered, what it is that brings such a diverse and wonderful gathering of residents to the town of Mentone and its surrounding area? You might wonder if there is a sign somewhere along the major highways that says "Turn here for the most delightful and nature-filled town you could ever dream of...friendly people, mountains and valleys, sunshine, small-town life at its finest."

Well, there is no such sign we know of, but somehow people looking for all that just seem to find their way to Mentone, and never leave. This is the story of just one resident, Catharina Collings, who, with her late husband, Taylor, had travelled the world and found that Mentone was the place they wanted to stay.

Catharina's journey to Mentone started in Holland, where she was born and raised. In her early 20s, she was working at a bank in The Hague, one of the busiest cities in Holland. There she met an American, Taylor Collings, and as she says, "We just hit it off. He was a bit older than I was, and quite

an entrepreneur. He was very charming and had this vision of things that could be, places yet to see. When I met him, he was renovating river barges, which he would buy and make into houseboats. He did quite well and had built himself an 80' one that he lived on."

They started going to lunch and then seriously dating. On one excursion to visit England, she said, "Well, I don't suppose you're ever going to marry me!" He replied, "Do you want to get married?" She answered, "Yes," and the next day he arranged everything for them to marry there in England. And so, the journey started.

"He loved to travel and explore," said Catharina. "He had grown up in the United States, in Washington state. He joined the Air Force and flew fighter jets in the Korean War. After the war, he was a pilot for Lilly Pharmaceuticals, flying all over the world. He did that for about four years and saved his money."

In the late 1960s and early 1970s, before he met Catharina, Taylor purchased property on the Great Blasket Island, an island off the west coast of Ireland and a place of unique literary and cultural significance in Ireland's history.

An internet article titled "An American Whose Contribution to the Blaskets Can Still Be Seen Today," posted after Taylor's death in 2010, cites his passion for unique projects. "After a day trip to the Blaskets," the article states, "Taylor liked the wild beauty of the place and decided to stay. As a project, he bought several of the ruined houses on the Great Blasket, which after years of decline and emigration had seen the island denuded of its people." Most of the surviving islanders were now living on the West Kerry mainland or in the USA. Taylor restored many



When Catharina first met Taylor, he was purchasing river barges and renovating them into houseboats, as many people travelled and lived along the canals of Holland and France. The one pictured above was their home, 80' x 20', barely passing through some of the canals. The couple travelled through Holland, the Netherlands, and France, before settling in Spain for a few years.

of the historic older homes, "where he welcomed a crew of volunteers from many parts of Ireland and some from the US to help with the project, where he ran a strict ship."

The ferry would bring tourists for weekend stays at these homes and to enjoy the unspoiled beauty of the island. Thwarted by bureaucratic entities in his effort to upgrade infrastructure, Taylor later sold his holdings to the State. The government has now protected many of the holdings from "indiscriminate development" and they are to be listed under the

(continued on page 7)



The fourth annual Creative Spirit Market will be held on Saturday, November 9, and Sunday, November 10, at DeSoto State Park; the hours are 10 a.m.–3 p.m. each day. This event is hosted by Little River Arts Council & DeSoto State Park.

Adding a new twist to a typical art fair, the Creative Spirit Market is designed as an open air showcase, with artist demonstrations, locally- and regionally-created fine and folk art, premium hand-crafted goods, live acoustic music, and a free interactive art area where market-goers can make their own art. Shoppers can browse and watch artists in their creative process and purchase goods from artists such as painters, potters, quilters, weavers and basket makers, fabric spinners, culinary artists and craftsmen. The Wake & Bake food truck will serve scones, cookies, blondies, coffee, iced coffee, hot teas, and hot cider.

The market is held near DeSoto State Park's picnic area

across from the Country Store on County Road 89. If the weather is chilly, market-goers can enjoy a blazing fire in the stone fireplace in the CCC pavilion. Dogs on a leash are allowed in the park. There is limited parking in the picnic area, the tennis court area, and in front of the Country Store. If parking anywhere in the picnic area, a \$2 per vehicle fee applies. There is no fee to attend the market. See littlriverartscouncil.org for more details.

Live Music Schedule

Saturday 11/9

10:00 Linda Arthur
11:15 The Vegetaters
12:30 Lisa Crow
+ James Roberts
1:45 Ken Watters
+ Josh Coutts

Sunday 11/10

10:00 Marc Womack
11:15 Matt Downer
12:30 Robby Jordan
1:45 Jerry & Pixie Bloom

THE GROUNDHOG



Published monthly by the Mentone Area Preservation Association (MAPA). First conceived on Groundhog Day, 1982, and then organized on April 5, 1982, The

Groundhog has been in publication for 37 years. MAPA is dedicated to preserving and protecting the heritage, natural environment and other unique qualities of life in the Mentone area.

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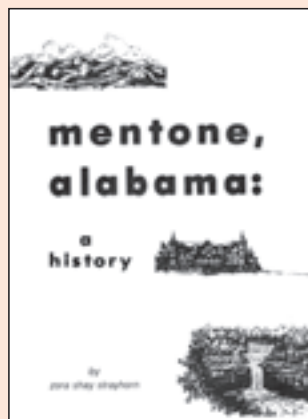
Do you have a story idea?

Perhaps a poem or recipe?

We welcome contributions!

Email 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.

Groundhog wood cut courtesy of Meg Justice.

Mentone Matters • by Mayor Rob Hammond



There is a lot of building activity going on in Mentone. If you are in the town limits, you are required to fill out a certificate of zoning compliance for new buildings or additions. These forms may be picked up at town hall.

Hershell Pruitt is the zoning administrator for the town and reviews all certificates. To view the zoning ordinance, go to mentonealabama.gov.

The CDBG project replacing the water line on Cutler Avenue is finally complete. At this time, I have no new information on the AL-117 Bridge. Engineering work is ongoing for the sidewalk project.

Much of the work is now complete on the visitor center and restaurant. The Little River Art Council used the center for their Tour of Homes ticket sales and for their silent auction.

The best way to get out of a drought must be to schedule Colorfest and the Tour of Homes. The turnouts were good despite the rain. Also in October, Mentone hosted the quarterly DeKalb County Mayor's Association meeting. The Alabama House Republican caucus met at the Canyon Center. John Dersham and Randy Grider of DeKalb Tourism gave them a tour of the Mentone area.



Letter from the Editor

As I wrap up this issue and write this note, a gentle rain is falling. It feels easy to be grateful for rain on this moody Halloween morning, as it's something we've sorely missed for many months. The photo above was taken a week ago, when we had another round of rain come through the area. Known as "Mares' Tails," these cirrus uncinus clouds are often a harbinger of rain. So this was a double reason to feel grateful...the beauty in the sky was immense!

Research has shown that having an attitude of gratitude can literally change the molecular structure of the brain and make us healthier and happier. Our central nervous system is affected and stress levels drop. Sometimes, especially during the holidays, our stress level can accelerate and it can become hard to recognize (or remember) what to be grateful for.

Author Joan Moran has a few suggestions: "Ask *who* in your life has given you inspiration, motivation, love, support, and guidance; Ask *what* skills, talents, personal characteristics, values, beliefs, and education opportunities you utilize every day and are you grateful for; Ask *where* you have been in your life that has deeply affected you emotionally, intellectually, physically, or spiritually; Ask *what* negative situation could actually be a positive in your life."

Meister Eckhart, a 13th century mystic, wrote, "If the only prayer you said in your whole life was 'thank

you,' that would suffice."

I know I'm grateful for the support received by *The Groundhog* each month. It was great fun to meet so many folks at the *Groundhog's* booth at Colorfest—folks who have stories to share, or story ideas to suggest. This paper has been in print for almost 38 years—that's certainly something to be grateful for! Print newspapers are becoming a rarity, something our young children and grandchildren may not be able to experience. I'm also thankful for our advertisers—they are one of the main reasons the paper can survive.

Archives are available on MAPA's website (mapamentone.com), so we can all go back in time and learn more about the people, history, and events that have taken place in Mentone over the years. Such a bounty.

On page 5 of this issue, you may enjoy seeing a recent gift to MAPA from Colonel Milford's great-grandson—a hand-tinted photograph that easily transports us back in time to a site most of us have never seen. It was a surprise to receive, and we are thankful.

Of course, during this month of thanksgiving we also celebrate a day when we remember the service given by members of the military. When you meet a veteran, remember to say...Thank You.

I hope this month is filled for you with reasons to feel blessed. —Kelly



Mentone Area Preservation Association

by Mark Hoffman

I hope everyone enjoyed this year's Colorfest as much as I did (in spite of the terrible weather that pushed in on Saturday afternoon!). Turnout was wonderful, and I really took pleasure in noting how many different places throughout the state, and beyond, that festival goers had travelled from so they could participate in all of the festivities. Word of the festival apparently continues to spread. Let's see if we can do the same for next spring's Rhododendron Festival.

Many thanks to our sponsors, volunteers, vendors, and all of the many others that it takes in order to make the festivals run smoothly and profitably. A special thanks is in order for Sharon Habin, who coordinates the festivals on behalf of MAPA and does such a fantastic job!

In October, MAPA's board of directors unanimously approved a grant request from the North Lookout Mountain Fire Protection District (Mentone's volunteer fire department) in order to help them raise some matching funds so that they can qualify for a significantly large grant to purchase a new fire truck. MAPA was able to provide \$5,000 in funding. It is gratifying to me that MAPA is able to assist them (and other vital organizations in the community) with their equipment and other needs. Let's all keep working together so that we will be able to continue doing so in the future. My best to all, with the hope that everyone has a safe and wonderful holiday season.

Mark Hoffman is president of the Mentone Area Preservation Association.

November in Mentone's history. . .

Compiled by Annette Peteck

1982

Discussed at the last MAPA meeting was the recommendation of a walkway between the Post Office and the Hitching Post, as well as the installation of a yellow blinking light at the top of the mountain, as a caution to motorists.

1983

Mentone's Post Office has been upgraded from a K rating to a J rating, which means an increase of pay to employees, due to the increase in volume and revenue. The first post office was located in a store near the present site of the Mentone Inn.

1984

The Mentone Inn is now officially incorporated into the Alabama registry of Landmarks and Heritage. It joins the Windward Inn, Howard's Chapel and the Mentone Springs Hotel, already on the list.

1987

The first weekend of November saw the start of two separate fires on the mountain. Due to dry conditions and winds, the fires at Comer Scout Reservation and near Camp Ponderosa spread from

the brow down the mountain side. Efforts from locals, Mentone, Henager and Ider Fire departments, along with the National Guard, were successful in putting the fires out with damage only to ground cover.

1993

The Alabama Horse Soldiers Inc., a historical and educational living history organization, will conduct an authentic Civil War Camp of Instruction at Wild River Ranch in Mentone. Demonstration will be conducted, and a wide variety of equipment used by the Confederate Army will be utilized.

1999

DeSoto Rescue Squad announces a new mutual aid program between the Squad and Tri-County Fire and Rescue. There will be a combined 911 dispatch through Chattooga County.

2001

The Groundhog ran a Public Service Notice reminding residents that the speed limit on County Rd. 89 from Mentone to Tutwiler Gap and DeSoto Falls is 25 m.p.h.

*Source:
Groundhog archives*

Become a MAPA Member Today!

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

*MAPA is dedicated to preserving
and protecting the heritage, natural
environment and other unique
qualities of life in the Mentone area.*

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

**Individuals \$20/year
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complimentary subscription
to *The Groundhog*.**

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*MAPA is chartered as a 501(c)(3)
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A New Fire Tanker Is in Town

by Ken Trowbridge

The North Lookout Mountain Fire Protection District (Mentone Fire Department) purchased a fire tanker from the Valley Head Fire Department. Before Valley Head got it, it had been previously used at military airports for fire protection. It was manufactured in 1987, but only has a little over 4,000 miles on it! Based on an International Paystar chassis, it is a rugged vehicle.

The tanker provides a significant new capacity to the department, as it has an all-wheel-drive capability and large all-terrain tires. It can negotiate rough terrain while delivering 2,000 gallons of water to places other fire engines cannot go. It stands 9-1/2' tall, 30-1/2' long, and a full 8' wide, making it the biggest and heaviest truck in our inventory. It is currently housed at Station 2 on County Road 165.

This tanker can support smaller pick-up-based "brush trucks" by refilling their water tanks, and it has the capability to fight fires with its own hoses. It has a unique capability known as "pump and roll," which means it can spray water while in motion. Most other fire trucks cannot do this.

Minor repairs were needed after the acquisition to fix a leaky water tank, but a little ingenuity by a couple of Mentone firemen fixed this. Some new batteries, minor electrical repairs, and fuel filters have made the new tanker an effective vehicle. It has already proved its usefulness in the recent woods fires.

Ken Trowbridge is a volunteer firefighter with the North Lookout Mountain Fire Protection District.



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hour when you go
to bed on Saturday,
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A Special Gift Arrived in the Mail...

The Mentone Area Preservation Association is grateful for the receipt of a package from Mr. Stephen Howard of Columbus, GA. Mr.

Howard included a letter in which he introduced himself as the great-grandson of Colonel Milford Howard (1862–1937). Col. Howard was a man with many dreams, one of which was the development of River Park (near the current-day Camp Alpine for Boys). Also in the package were three 8" x 10" hand-tinted photographs of River Park: the Alpine Club; the Little River below the newly constructed dam; and the mill and waterwheel, shown at right. In the book, *The Vagabond Dreamer*, a biography of Col. Howard, Elizabeth Howard writes:

"They built a solid concrete and stone dam, reinforced throughout by a double row of steel rods, measuring 150 feet from one bank to the other. Colonel Howard was well pleased upon its completion, declaring that it would stand as long as there was a Lookout Mountain. In gratitude to its builder—and, as everything at River Park was given a name—he proclaimed it the Joe Biddle Dam.

"With the dam completed and backwater forming a lake along the cleared banks, Biddle began building a log mill house on top of a huge boulder just below the dam. Then he erected an old fashion overshot wheel, once common along southern mountain streams. A race was to be built later to carry water to the wheel to produce motive power for operating a mill and an electric plant."

The photographs will soon be framed and will be hung in Moon Lake Community Library for the public to enjoy.



Congratulations to Silvia Costantino, who became a United States citizen on October 30, 2019! Originally from Argentina, Silvia owns Hummingbird at Loom in downtown Mentone. She shares the shop with her partner, Jeff Rymer, who owns Southern Styles Furniture. Silvia first visited Mentone in 2009, when she drove herself north from Miami to attend an event. She moved to the area a few years later and since 2014 has had her shop, which features beautiful hand-woven clothing.



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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IF SIMPLICITY, SERENITY & SOLID CONSTRUCTION are what you are looking for in a cabin, we think this 2BR/2BA on 1.75 wooded acres might be worth considering. All wood interior; wood-burning Fplce w/stone hearth in vaulted living area; handy galley kitchen; dining area; laundry closet; 2 screened porches; welcoming front porch with swing; large deck with added supports (for future hot tub); mostly furnished. Property is wooded, borders a small creek, & has a great outdoor fire ring with benches for chilly autumn evenings around the fire. Located in Laurel Creek Lakes which offers common areas with lakes for canoeing & well-maintained walking paths. \$179,900 (1128017)



TURN THE TENSION METER DOWN and shift the clocks to slow speed, this custom home fronting a small lake is ready for you to relax. Originally designed and used as a full time residence with 4 real bedrooms and 3-1/2 baths, it was later turned into a top earner in the rental program. Sold furnished, it features custom cabinetry throughout, granite counter tops, stainless appliances, stone fireplace w/gas log, and a beautiful open floor plan with exposed beams and wide plank floors. Just listed at \$295,000 (1130640)

LOTS and LAND

2 WOODED ACRES with a tiny little rustic one-room camping cabin to use occasionally until you build (no plumbing, water or septic installed). Public water & power avail. Lightly restricted. \$30,000 (1088877)

COOL, GREEN & SHADY. 4.1 acres of unrestricted beauty is just about the perfect size for your dream, large or small. Located on a quiet chert road, perfect for taking afternoon walks, just 7 miles from downtown Mentone. Survey & topo map available. Wet-weather stream. \$41,000 (1120916)

10.8 ACRES ON THE NORTH BROW. There's just something about having the possibility of that wide-open vista of the valley below you, the mountain ridges in the distance beyond. When the whistle blows & the train winds its way through the valley, well, it's almost indescribable. Watching sunsets from the mountain's brow edge never gets old. Land is located just about 4.5 miles north of downtown Mentone off a paved county road. Build your brow-front dream now, or just clear a spot to set up your sunset gathering spot till you're ready to build. It's all good. \$137,500 (1128138)



A DIAMOND IN THE ROUGH ON NORTH COOL STREET. Single-level cottage is quite plain on the outside, simply delightful on the inside! Just a couple blocks from Mentone's Brow Park, dining & browsing Mentone's little shops. Built by local stone artisan Lee Crow & virtually unchanged since 1962. Beautiful, WB, mtn stone fireplace. Vaulted wood ceilings throughout. Yes, it needs some updating & TLC, but this is a sweet opportunity. \$189,900 (1119202)



MAKE NATURE YOUR NEW NEIGHBOR! This 3BR/2BA home is nestled into 3 acres of peace and quiet, yet only minutes from downtown Mentone. Large front porch plus large, screened backporch (complete with hammock). Gorgeous hardwood floors throughout, stone fireplace and tons of windows make the main living area a space you won't want to leave! Main level MA BR/MA BA. Additional bedrooms upstairs with a large bath. Bonus features like underground utilities, whole house generator, tankless water heater & custom outbuilding make this home a must see! Fully furnished and ready for you to move right in! \$229,900 (1129104)



TWO LOG CABINS, FULLY FURNISHED. Rugged, mountain-style, currently very active, income-producing properties. Imagine the possibilities! Live in one, rent the other? Use them both for your family compound? Or, just keep them as rentals? "Old Dad" is a 3BR/2.5BA, approx 1186 sq ft cabin, pine floors, log walls, vaulted T&G ceiling, main-level MABR. "Amy's Attic," approx 912 sq ft, MABR. Both cabins for \$259,900. (1128754)

BEAUTIFUL 3-ACRE LOT IN NORTHBEND, located right across from the brow, approx one mile from Mentone's beautiful Brow Park. Light restrictions. Underground utilities; public water. This mostly-wooded lot provides you with a place to build your getaway haven, yet so convenient to everything in Mentone. \$24,000 (960201).

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



SWEET! IRIS MEADOWS FARM Beautifully-updated, one-level cottage with 3BR/3BA, sitting on 8 acres of pasture & woods. w/ small pond, fruit trees, large w/o deck, views from front porch. In Mentone, this place offers space indoors & out. Cottage features fab kitchen w/lots of counter & cabinets; wide-plank pine floors; inviting dining nook w/built-in benches around hand-made plank table. \$244,500 (1109864)



SPACIOUS CABIN HOME ON 3.31 ACRES This 3BR/2.5BA, 2500 sq ft, one-owner home features a welcoming front porch and a deep, oversized back porch for easy entertaining outdoors. Open living/dining/kitchen features an efficient, wood-burning heater; hardwood floors. Main-level master bedroom suite. Outdoors, the property includes workshop/garage; a large pole barn w/ chicken coop. Additional land available. \$264,500 (1128526)



SUMMERS REST. What a treasure! Filled with eclectic treasures gathered by the family through the years (that stay in the cottage, too!) Built circa 1950 for the Summers family by mountain craftsman Lee Crow, this is the first time this cabin has been offered for sale, walking distance of downtown Mentone. A simple, cozy cottage, tucked into a tree-filled yard, just waiting for the next generation of owners to put their stamp on it. \$129,900 (1127722)



MOUNTAIN CABIN—DEFINED AND REFINED. All the elements come together in perfect harmony in this 2BR/2BA cabin. Located on a wooded acre, this cabin has a large deck w/ swing & built-in seating areas. Vaulted great room w/stone fplce; pine floors; rugged beams; intriguing "live-edge" pine trim. Detached 30x30 shop/garage w/floored loft area & lean-to addition. 1.69-acre \$259,900 (1121928)



All Roads... (continued from page 1)

National Monument Acts. The posting ends by saying, "Taylor Collings spent less than two years on the Great Blasket with his crew helping to provide minimal services for the often hundreds of day-trippers who would arrive by ferry over the summer weekends. He left behind a sufficiently sturdy infrastructure that is still viable today. That surely is his legacy."

This adventure must have foretold Catharina of Taylor's penchant for buying property, restoring and

revitalizing it, perhaps indicating that their life would be filled with one adventure or project after another.

"These projects and the buying of lands he liked, that is how we could afford to travel and see so much of the world," said Catharina.

In the 1970s, their "life-together" adventures started with the houseboat that Taylor had renovated for them. They departed from The Hague, travelled through France at a leisurely pace, and ended up in Spain in the Great Pyrenees mountains, where they purchased a 300-year-old former mill. "The stream ran right through the house," explained Catharina. "It was a beautiful building, with original roofs and an amazing structure that allowed for the operating of

the mill within the house. We lived there awhile and fixed it up and sold it."

Taylor had wanted to return to the States, so they booked passage on a freighter and headed to Canada, then sailed down the St. Lawrence River into the States. They headed for Arkansas, where Taylor's grandfather had grown up, and that led to ramblings through the southwest and east, eventually to Florida. They wanted warmer weather, but also hills, so

they headed north through Georgia and eventually through northeast Alabama to Mentone.

"We loved the nature of this area and found 40 acres to buy in an area called 'Cootsville' early in the 1980s," said Catharina.

"Everyone we met was so welcoming and friendly. We built a blueberry farm. We had over 500 bushes and as far as I know it is still a working

blueberry farm."

Eventually, the urge to travel came again and they drove west, touring all through Mexico, "from the Guatemalan border to the northernmost state," remembers Catharina. "Mexico was really wonderful for travel at that time. Very safe and friendly. Then



After their marriage, one of their first projects was to purchase this 300-year-old mill and home in the Great Pyrenees in Spain. After about three years, they sold it and travelled to the United States.



Taylor Collings won the heart of Catharina Roselina Van Velsen when she was working at a bank in The Hague, Holland. A life followed filled with Taylor's projects and adventures throughout North and South America, Spain and France.

we went on to Ecuador, and Peru. We bought a house there, in Ecuador, and met many artisans who made such beautiful art, of all kinds. But they were very poor, as they had nowhere to sell their goods."

The Collinses had an idea about how to help the artisans and also create a business for themselves in the US. They found a way to export this beautiful original artwork out of Ecuador to the United States, paying the artisans a fair price for their work.

Back in Mentone, they bought some property, where they built a home and a store where they sold the art they imported from Peru and Ecuador. Catharina still lives on that property, but has moved the store to downtown Mentone. Her shop is now called Artisans.

(continued on page 8)

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All Roads... (continued from page 7)

The couple still enjoyed occasional adventures and projects together. Taylor was once contacted by a mining company based in Atlanta. They had a gold mining operation in Brazil, far up the Amazon basin, and wanted Taylor to go there and reorganize and supervise the native workers and the camp. He accepted the job and he and Catharina were on another adventure. For four months, they built infrastructure for the camp, outlawed alcohol, and brought to the native worker and their families many new and modern ways of living.

"When we got there, it was like living in the old Wild West," she said. "When we left, it was quite a different place than when we found it. A company store well-stocked, a school, and no more alcohol and guns. It was quite peaceful, and we had

many, many exciting day-to-day experiences. Just living every day in this wilderness was an ongoing adventure and a lesson in survival. We enjoyed it at the time, but it was a lot of work."

You may be wondering, with all these different adventures and places, about the language barrier. Well, Catharina had been schooled in Holland in various languages and was fluent in several, including Spanish.

In all their time together, she was always ready for the next adventure and from the beginning, knew her life would never be dull or boring.

With the importing business doing well, they did finally settle down in Mentone, where she says they were quite comfortable and happy together. As their life



Catharina Collings stands among the beautiful artisan art created by natives of Peru and Ecuador in her shop called Artisans on Highway 117 in Mentone.



The Artisans shop moved from east of Mentone to the downtown area in 1999.

A life started halfway across the world, a life that then took Catharina to exploring half of the world, continues with a life that has found a home in, of all places, Mentone, Alabama. And knowing what we know about Mentone, we are sure there are many more stories like Catharina's, of folks that found that road that leads to this small community, and has held them here.



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Moon Lake Community Library News by Kelly Leavitt

Thanks to everyone who came to our Colorfest book sale and bought books—your support is what keeps the library going. You bought more than \$500 of books (and that's with our closing early on the rainy Saturday afternoon!).

It's been wonderful meeting so many interesting people who have moved to the area and come in to get their Moon Lake library card. Welcome!

We're really grateful to Doree and Terry Stallings, who worked with librarian Karen Kyzar in Daphne, Alabama, to curate a collection just for us! The Stallings filled their pickup truck with 11 boxes of books and drove them from south Alabama all the way up to Mentone. Such a generous donation! We were able to keep 80 books that are now part of our collection. Ninety books were placed in our sale section. A dozen books were used to replace books on the shelves. All of the books are in pristine condition. Come by the library and have a look at what's left after Colorfest.

We also want to thank Barry Sadowski for his ongoing donations of books from his late wife Sybil's extensive book collection. Many of the books you'll find on our non-fiction shelves are posthumous gifts from Sybil, who passed away in March of 2018. She



Sybil Sadowski

was a true book lover. Thank you, Sybil.

We have a new cotton tote bag available for sale that says "I cannot live without reading," which Thomas Jefferson once wrote to John Adams. So many of us agree. Tote bags are available at the library for \$8. They would make great gifts, filled with books, of course!

Please consider becoming a Friend of the Library by making a financial donation. Donors who offer \$100 or more will receive a free tote bag and two free books from our sale shelves. Donors who offer \$25 up to \$100 can purchase a tote bag for \$5 and receive one free book from our sale shelves. Your donations are important for the continued growth of your community library.

We've recently installed another DVD case, since our collection of movies continues to expand. There's truly something for everyone—children's movies, documentaries, television shows, and over a thousand movies of various genres. Library cards are issued free of charge to area residents.

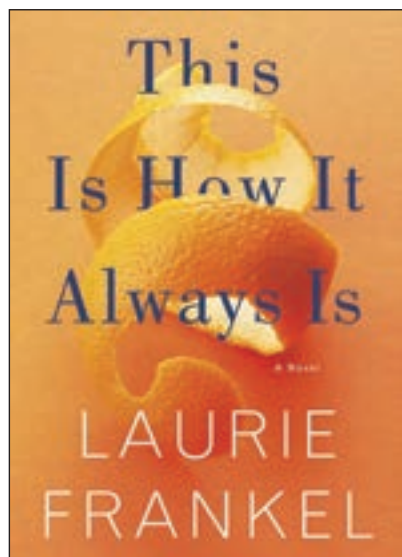
Moon Lake Community Library board member Anne McLeod resigned in October so she can devote her time to her family that lives nearby. She has also resigned from her position as Moon Lake School's librarian. Over the past year, Anne has had a tremendous impact on both the school and community libraries, and we are very grateful. We wish her and her family members well.

Please make note of our new winter hours, as we're now closing at 5 p.m. during the week. See you at the library!



The library has a new OPEN sign.

Moon Lake Book Club Saturday 11/16 @ 10:30 am



This *Is How It Always Is*, a beautifully written novel by Laurie Frankel, tells the story of a family that is, in some ways, typical—with the high energy of an all-boy household, parents' work that never seems to be done, and a loving devotion to one another.

Central to the story is the youngest child who, born into a family of four brothers, prefers to identify as a girl. The tale explores how these uncharted waters are handled by his immediate family and by the various communities the family lives in, from Wisconsin to

Seattle to Thailand.

Interspersed throughout the book is a fairy tale that the father tells his children as a bedtime story—a tale that expands and morphs throughout their childhoods, often paralleling their own real-life challenges.

This family's struggle is real. Their humor is real. Their fears are real. It is reported that more than 40% of transgender children attempt suicide. This story helps us understand their challenges.

Everyone is free to join in the discussion on Saturday, November 16.

Community Game Night Friday 11/8 @ 6 pm

Enjoy playing a variety of games with your neighbors and friends (old and new) at Moon Lake Community Library on Friday, November 8. Bring your favorite game or come learn how to play a new one. Bring a finger food to share in the pot luck. Coffee, tea and water will be provided. All ages are welcome. The games begin at 6 p.m.

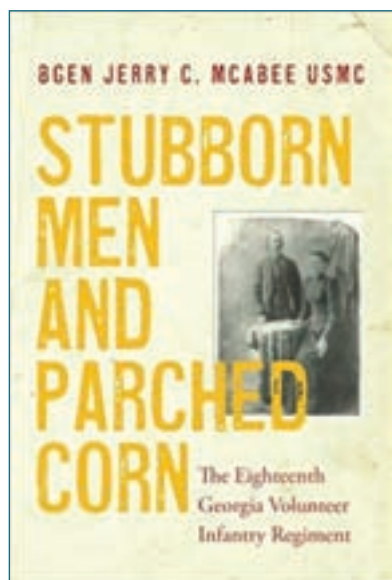
NEW WINTER HOURS
Tuesdays, Thursdays

3–5 pm

Saturdays
9 am–1 pm



Author Talk: Jerry C. McAbee Monday 11/18 @ 6:30 pm



Stubborn Men and Parched Corn (2018) is the story of the 18th Georgia Volunteer Infantry Regiment during the Civil War. No regiment, North or South, served with more distinction on so many battlefields. Brigadier General Jerry McAbee's great-grandfather, Private John Brown, served honorably in the regiment. This meticulously researched story covers the gruesome battles, starvation, sickness, and brutality endured by these brave, stubborn men. The story is told through firsthand accounts and personal letters of men fighting against impossible odds, fated to lose the war, but stubborn enough to keep fighting until the end. This is the story of

Confederate soldiers.

General McAbee was raised in Rainsville, AL, and is a graduate of Plainview High School and Jacksonville State University. He was commissioned a second lieutenant in the United States Marine Corps in 1970 and served more than 35 years on active duty as a field artillery officer, holding a variety of command, staff, and training positions at home and abroad, including combat deployments in support of Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm, Operation Iraqi Freedom, and Operation Enduring Freedom. After retiring in 2005, he consulted on national security issues in Africa and the Middle East.

Stubborn Men and Parched Corn is the result of General McAbee's lifelong interest in and study of the Civil War. He and his wife of 50 years, Margaret, live in Mentone.

Moon Lake Community Library will host author Brigadier General Jerry C. McAbee on Monday, November 18, at 6:30 p.m. Copies of his book will be available for sale, which he will be glad to autograph. Light refreshments, coffee, and tea will be served.

4607 AL-Hwy 117
Mentone, AL 35984
moonlakelibrary.org

November

Birthdays

- 1

Easton Bain
Marc Walsh
Austyn Young
Marilyn Blansit
David Simpson
- 2

Katherine Chambers
Ryan Cash Davis
Michael Potts
Ruth Rose Potts
Taylor Brown
Triston Goss
J.R. Hurst
Larry O'Tinger
Gequetta Darwin
Taylor Brown
Caleb Rogers
Kai Ballenger
Philip Williams
- 3

Aubrey Shields
Sandy Hulgan
Hudson Brownfield
Kay Sadia
- 4

Barrett Wilkinson
Rita Chapman
Pat Lewis
Daniel Hawkins
Scotty Vaughn
- 5

Gail Chambers
Luke Wright
Ginger Kearney
- 6

Tommy Harrison
Duane Blalock
Mike Smith
Jeffrey Manning
Alanis McKenzie
Grayson Gatlin
- 7

Melissa Bain
Brooklyn Johnson
Brian Smith
Isabel Carabello
Zora Williams
- 8

Michael Harrison
Judson McElhaney
Toby Crider
Mary Beasley
Gibson Roberts
Bob Tate
Ruth Rose Potts
Joy Pam Lewchuck
- 9

Kowen Worthey
Laura McKenzie
Bonnie Patterson
Emily Hodge
Melissa Simpson
- 10

Toby Manifold
Valinda Miracle
Jessica Easler
- 11

Gerry Bain
Amber Griffith
Allen McElhaney
Shelley Blalock
Garrett Duke
- 12

Kynlee Baggett
Megan McElhaney
Major Frost
McKinley Potts
Brantley Rain Easler
- 13

Addison Prestwood
Lendell Chappell
Kim Raley
Mindy Loudon
Bridget Arnold
- 14

Don Brock
Austin Harrison
William Hughes
Amanda Garcia
Greg Hughes
Kenzie Bailey
- 15

Laura Boehringer
Rory Quinn
Lee Carden
Ian Roberts
Chris Stallings
EJ Bickerstaff
Blexton Potts
- 16

Helena Dodd
Dink Tillman
Jeff Wigley
Johnny Mann
- 17

Jordan Hammond

Colton Ditmore
Judy Kean
Jeff Callahan
Layne Hawkins
Tom Shanklin, Sr.
Robbie Grisham
Carson King Dutton
- 18

George Boehringer
Kim Foshee
- 19

Caden Blalock
Margo Tate
Macrae Bailey
Andrew Spicer
- 20

Brandi Miller
Kevin McElhaney
Angel Carson
Jan O'Dell
- 21

Pam Wooten
- Keith Hadley
Deedra Battles
Nancy Brown
Rachell Givens
Yvonne Blalock
Ashley Manning
Brandy Clure
Judy Carter
Brettley Smothers
Candice Dunaway
- 22

Amber Carson
Cason Garner
Collin Coots
Gerald Bailey
- 24

Pam Baggett
Hayley Crider
Sarah Tucker
Staci Winn
Bradley Tyler Smith
Robert Totherow
- 25

Billy Tramel
Billy Shugart IV
Ginger Kearney
Ryleigh Blansit
- 26

Krissy Harris
Heath Kirby
Renee Pruitt
Brinley Ware
Madison Carson
- 27

Kim Johnson
Timbo Carden
Clay Stiles
Charlton Bell
Ross Smith
Lesley Blalock
Adam Haynes
- 28

Lily Harrison
Chance Hodges
Almeda Bickerstaff
Taylor Smothers
Jean Powell
- 29

Karen Powell
Brian Blalock
Kerry Bailey
Kyleigh Barkley
Steve Barkley
Aric Collins
Hollie Cross
- 30

Sandy McNutt
Alyss Kay Kilgore
Jaclyn Lawton Nasoni

Anniversaries

- 1

George & Kim Raley
Matt & Jana Sharp
- 3

Jordan & Jessica McGinnis
Josh & Courtney Gregory
- 8

Andrew & Penny Herbert
- 12

Gerry & Melissa Bain
- 14

Ronnie & Sandy Hulgan
- 16

Dewayne & Melanie Grisham
Dallas & Morgan Gregory
- 19

Thomas & Beth McKinney
- 21

Mark & Deedra Battles
John & Michele Kincer
- 23

Kenneth & Carol Busby
- 25

David & Barbara Rape
- 27

Loy & Beck Langston



Groundhog T-shirts

We now offer long-sleeved shirts, just in time for the chilly days of late fall and winter. We have short-sleeved shirts, as well. The 100% cotton shirts are natural color with black ink (kind of like a newspaper!). The shirts feature the block-print *Groundhog* logo printed on the front of the shirt. The logo was created exclusively for *The Groundhog* by artist Meg Justice. To place an order, email groundhognews@yahoo.com or call 256-289-2002. All profits benefit the Mentone Area Preservation Association.

\$15 short-sleeve • \$18 long-sleeve
S - M - L - XL - XXL

Summerville Mini Renaissance Festival

Royalty, fairies, pirates, and more will be found in Dowdy Park and on the streets of Summerville, GA, during the 5th annual Summerville Mini Renaissance Festival on Saturday, November 2, from 11 a.m. until 5 p.m. Eastern (rain or shine).

Festivities will kick off with an official welcome from “King Henry The VIII.” Event goers and spectators are encouraged to wear costumes to add more fun and excitement to the experience. The Renaissance period was from 1300 to 1600.

All ages will be delighted and amazed throughout the day, while enjoying live entertainment, shopping, art, games, and a feast fit for a king. The pageantry, artisans, and music of the traditional State Renaissance Festival will not be lacking at this event. Renaissance Performers from Georgia, Tennessee, Alabama, and North Carolina will be on hand to delight festival goers with a magical experience on four different stage areas.

The event will conclude with a traditional “Pub Sing” that includes all performers inside the Summerville Depot. As always, admission and parking for this event is free. Dowdy Park is located at 10096 Commerce St., Summerville, GA 30747.



River Voice

Polishing the Crown Jewel of Alabama

by Bill Shugart

"Autumn carries more gold in its pockets than all the other seasons."—Jim Bishop

As I write this article, the leaves have not yet changed to their glorious colors of red and gold. It was a strange late summer season, without much rain. To say it was dry is an understatement. According to the Alabama Climate Report, DeKalb County (and much of the state) is in an "abnormally dry to moderate" drought. Some parts of the state are in a severe to extreme drought, specifically the city of Birmingham and areas that we share major river systems with (Georgia and Florida).

Can we as citizens, prevent drought? In small ways yes, our actions, no matter how small, make a difference. We conserve water during dry seasons. We let our lawns go dormant, take shorter showers and don't wash our cars. But what about the bigger picture? How do states maintain safe streamflow conditions?

Our rivers provide us with drinking water and a means to swim, hunt, fish, and enjoy nature. Our waterways are recognized around the world by the scientific community for their unique ecological significance. Alabama's water resources are also essential for our farming, manufacturing, and navigation industries. A water management plan will make sure these waters are managed and protected so there is enough clean water for everyone. Did you know the state of Alabama has been in a "Water War" for nearly three decades with our neighbors in Georgia and Florida? The state seemed to be making headway on statewide comprehensive water policy during the Bentley administration, mainly due to our friends at the Alabama Rivers Alliance advocating to protect the integrity of our natural resources. Finally, a working group made up of several state conservation and natural resource agencies was formed. After several months of public input, data assessments, and focus panel discussions, the working group drafted a plan and it was on the Governor's desk.

Fast forward three years and with a new administration, we are back at square zero. The work of several years of intense study and conversation was deemed unnecessary by Governor Ivey, and the working group was dismantled. So, in short, Alabama has no law in place that limits what industry or bordering states withdraw from our river systems, making it next to impossible to regulate. We need a system in place that accounts for and allocates the state's water resources. We suggest that it will take citizens like you to write to Governor Kay Ivey and your state representatives saying that Alabama needs to develop a sustainable water plan that will meet our long-term needs. You can read the Alabama Water Agenda on the Alabama Rivers Alliance website (alabamarivers.org) and find out how to take action on this important issue.

Designating Little River as a National Wild & Scenic River

The unique Little River flows down the middle of Lookout Mountain here in northeast Alabama. It is the only river in North America flowing on top of a mountain, carving out one of the southeast's deepest canyons. It winds from its headwaters in Georgia to the Coosa River and eventually to the Gulf of Mexico. Community members and tourists from all over the world fish, paddle, camp, and enjoy the Little River. As many as 500,000 people visit the area every year, contributing around \$12,000,000 to the local economy. Little River Waterkeeper is working with our partners at the Alabama Rivers in the campaign to designate Little River as a Wild and Scenic River and, with your support, this designation will become a success! We are currently engaging in the petition process and have received a tremendous response from everyone we speak to. Over 300 individuals and businesses have signed the petition to support this important designation.

Why designate?

- There are around 230 "Wild & Scenic" rivers in the country. There's only one in Alabama.
- Designation increases property values near the river.
- Designation gives local businesses a competitive advantage to appeal to tourists.
- Designation leads to recreation and use of the river. This creates jobs and income revenue.
- Designation increases tourist spending, as calculated by the National Park Service.

If you are a citizen who cares about the natural beauty of the state, a small business that would benefit, or an organization advocating for better water conditions, you can show us your support by going online at keeplittleriverwild.org to sign our petition. Also, we want stories! Send us your best stories about Little River and help us create a compelling campaign. Email your stories to angie@littleriverwaterkeeper.org or mail to 215 Grand Ave. SW, Ste. A, Fort Payne, AL 35967.

Little River Waterkeeper is asking for your support on this campaign. If you love Little River and think it should be on the list of National Wild & Scenic Rivers, go to littleriverwaterkeeper.org and sign your name, business, or organization to the petition. You can also go beyond signing and click on our PayPal link to make a donation towards the Wild & Scenic Little River Campaign.

Southern Exposure Film

Something About Little River is an informative short film that was beautifully directed and produced by emerging filmmaker and fellow Alabamian, Jeb Brackner. Jeb grew up in Montgomery and would visit Mentone with his parents for the Audubon Society's annual workshop at Camp Alpine. Choosing Little River as a film topic for the Wild & Scenic Campaign was a natural fit for Jeb. Little River Waterkeeper took Jeb and his crew to explore parts of Little River that only locals get to see. He was able to get a great sense of why this river system is special to so many people, near and far. The film tells the story about why Little River should be included in the National Wild & Scenic Rivers System. You can watch *Something About Little River*, along with the rest of the 2019 Southern Exposure Films, at southernexposurefilms.org. Please take action on the films that inspire you. Film is advocacy in action, and we need people who care to help us advocate for Alabama and its amazing biodiversity.

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

Artists to Host Rising Fawn Studio Tour

Lookout Mountain artists will host the Rising Fawn Studio Tour atop the mountain on December 7 and 8, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Eastern each day, rain or shine. Rising Fawn is a scenic area of Lookout Mountain for artists and visitors alike to see beautiful art work and a variety of creative workspaces.

These Lookout Mountain artists in the Plum Nelly/Rising Fawn area are following a tradition from decades ago. The old art show tradition was started in 1947 by Fannie Mennen who organized the Plum Nelly Clothesline Art Show. During that same time period other artists were also active in that Plum Nelly/Rising Fawn/New Salem neighborhood — Charles Counts, Frank Baisden, and Virginia Dudley.

The artists participating on this

tour are Mark Issenberg (potter), Bonnie Cayce (textile artist), Anna Cayce Smit (jeweler and ornament maker), Claire Vassort (silk painter), Nikki Oliver (wood carver), Julie Clark (metal worker and photographer), Vista Mahan (scarf dyer and handmade card maker) and Mary Jo Jablonski (watercolor artist).

On the weekend of the tour, each studio will have maps to give to tour visitors. The studio tour may be started on either end—3005 Plum Nelly Road or 436 South Moore Road, Rising Fawn, GA 30738. To ask about other details, call Claire Vassort at 423-243-7699 or Bonnie Cayce at 423-227-0423. For more information and the tour map, see Rising Fawn Studio Tour on Facebook.



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 MENTONE BROW HOME! 2 BR, 2 BA hardwood floors, rustic wood walls, gas log fireplace, CH/A, decks, detached storage building. \$288,000. MLS #1130058	 2 BR, 2 BA, also get a 1-room Cottage House. Indoor pool and its own attached screened porch. Large storage shed. Bathroom also serves as storm shelter. Furnished! \$186,000. MLS #1127846	 COUNTY ROAD 89, across from brow. Cozy Cabin with batten walls, hardwood flooring, master suite, laundry room with washer and dryer, new stainless appliances. \$169,900. MLS #1129826	 BROW TOP RETREAT! Vaulted ceilings, rock fireplace, kitchen comes with stainless appliances. 2 BR/ 2.5 BA, screened porches to enjoy the gorgeous brow view! \$389,900. MLS #1130005	 2500 SQ FEET of One Level Living with Stone and Vinyl exterior, 2 bedrooms, 2 baths, with 15 x 23 Master Suite, Master Bath with soaking tub and separate shower. Home is situated on 2 acres. \$269,900. MLS #1122165	 NEW HOME ON THE BROW! 2 Bedrooms, 2 Bathrooms with loft area. Nestled in the woods with seasonal views, covered back porch, wood burning fireplace, open floor plan, vaulted ceilings, and LAKE ACCESS! \$224,000. MLS #1125898
 LOOKING FOR THAT GET-A-WAY that you will NOT want to leave? Take a look at this one of a kind property in Mentone. 1.2 acres with 100-year-old farmhouse and barn. \$199,500. MLS# 1119979	 PRIVATE HIDEAWAY—3.60 +/- wood-ed acres surround this 3 or 4 bedroom, 2-1/2 bath BRICK home in Oakwood Sub-division in Mentone. Ready to be enjoyed by a NEW owner! Call for more details. \$194,500. MLS #1120888	 OWNER FINANCING CONSIDERED! This tastefully designed cabin comes furnished and decorated! Main living area has open floor plan. Main level master has one of-a-kind style with reclaimed furniture. Loft bedroom, utility room, screened porch and wood burning fireplace! \$150,000. MLS #1110505.	 PEACE AND PRIVACY ARE YOURS! Three bed/1 bath home within walking distance to downtown Mentone. \$79,000. (Mentone) MLS #1123288	 CRYSTAL LAKE LODGE in Mentone... Fifteen breathtaking acres surround you in this one-of-a-kind property. Call today for your private tour! \$570,000. MLS #1070805	 ONE LEVEL RANCH located near Georgia Line of Alabama, offers 2 bedrooms, 1.5 baths, open floor plan, and screened porch allowing outdoor living you can enjoy! Attached garage plus detached carport situated on 3.5 acre parcel! \$299,900. MLS #1125366
 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, full stainless steel appliance package, crown molding, security system. \$365,000. MLS #1099363	 4/ 5 BEDROOMS, 2 bathrooms, hardwood and tile floors. 2 campers on the property, double deck dock, boat ramp, seawall, storage building, pole barn or pavilion, with over 300 feet of water frontage. Call today for an appointment. \$299,900 (Cedar Bluff) MLS #1119919	 PEACEFUL CABIN featuring an open floor plan with new cabinets & appliances, fireplace to enjoy cold evenings, exposed beams and vaulted ceilings, covered front porch & screened back deck. Community access to 3 lakes, walking trails, and common areas. \$225,000. MLS #1125601	 NEW CONSTRUCTION! 3 BEDROOM AND 2 BATH CABIN IN MENTONE! Tongue and groove walls and ceilings, act quickly and you can finish customization. Sitting on over 2 acres lightly restricted. Call today for more details. \$149,900. MLS #1125546	 KNOWN AS HIGHPOINT AND ONE OF THE MOST CELESTIAL AREAS FOR STAR GAZING... This 7 BR, 6 BA manor boast onyx porcelain & tile baths, walk-in showers, granite & marble counter tops/vanities. Attached private living quarters with full amenities PLUS detached guest cabin. \$729,000. MLS #1119192.	

LOTS & LAND #1011734... Located on a private road just minutes from downtown Mentone. \$21,900 #1034997—Approx. 6 acres on Middle Fork of Little River. \$48,900. #1039769—6.32+/- waterfront building lot in Mountain River Estates! REDUCED TO \$44,950. #1065542—90 acres on Co. Rd. 89 in Mentone. REDUCED TO \$299,000. #1070628—3.01 acres. 152' on West Fork of Little River. \$49,700. #1070629—3.01 acres. 152' on West Fork of Little River. \$59,500. #1073864—Brow Lot! .78 acres. REDUCED TO \$89,500. #1076239—Cleared & wooded 3.6 acres on Scenic Hwy. REDUCED TO \$74,500. #1076286—1.75 acre building lot in West Fork Subdivision. REDUCED TO \$39,900. #1078140—18.3 acres, unrestricted, partially wooded! \$66,800. #1080922—.54 acres, Mentone Bluffs. \$69,999. #1092235—Building lot in Laurel Creek Lakes. \$19,900.	#1098785—Beautiful wooded BROW lot in Mentone with winter views! \$77,640. #1099911—LAST CHANCE to buy open land before entering into Georgia!!! \$179,000. #1107397—Build here! \$99,900. #1107398—Build here! \$99,900. #1107408—Build here! \$99,900. #1107411—Build here! \$99,900. #1107412—Build here! \$99,900. #1108339—Better Than a Bargain...this is a STEAL! \$99,000. #1111628—AMAZING VIEWS! YES, VIEWS!!! REDUCED TO \$81,900. #1112787—40 acres in Mentone, AL with stream and untouched family owned property since 1923! REDUCED TO \$198,000. #1113936—Looking for a brow lot inside the city limits of Mentone? \$78,500. #1117656—Just Right! You'll find this 12.10 acre tract mostly wooded with plenty of privacy. Call TODAY for more information. \$41,900. #1118808—A GREAT PLACE TO BUILD YOUR GETAWAY NOW! Level wooded lots with underground utilities, inside gated community.	Just minutes to Historic downtown Mentone. Call today for more information. \$35,000 #1118810—A GREAT PLACE TO BUILD YOUR GETAWAY NOW! Level wooded lots with underground utilities, inside gated community. Just minutes to Historic downtown Mentone. Call today for more information. \$35,000. #1118812—A GREAT PLACE TO BUILD YOUR GETAWAY NOW! Level wooded lots with underground utilities, inside gated community. Just minutes to Historic downtown Mentone. Call today for more information. \$35,000. #1118813—A GREAT PLACE TO BUILD YOUR GETAWAY NOW! Level wooded lots with underground utilities, inside gated community. Just minutes to Historic downtown Mentone. Call today for more information. \$35,000. #1118815—A GREAT PLACE TO BUILD YOUR GETAWAY NOW! Level wooded lots with underground utilities, inside gated community. Just minutes to Historic downtown Mentone. Call today for more information. \$35,000. #1118229—A great little investment property or place for your weekend get-a-way. \$49,900. #1118898—BEAUTIFUL LAKEFRONT PROPERTY ON TOP OF WORLD FAMOUS LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN! sloping wooded lot inside gated	community. Call Now for more information. \$30,000. #1120910—Five-acre wooded property with stream, across from Lake Lahusage. \$62,000. #1121175—Beautiful Treed Lot in Mentone with underground utilities! \$25,000. #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"... Call TODAY for more information on this one of a kind property! \$669,200. #1127776—Take advantage of this 9.5 acre property just steps away from downtown Mentone. There are SO many options for this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. Build your wooded homesite, develop a tiny home community, or invest in the rental business. (Mentone) \$190,000. #1128694—40 acres with 3-acre lake stocked with bream and bass. \$229,000. #1129833—1.5-acre brow lot in Mentone. \$124,900.
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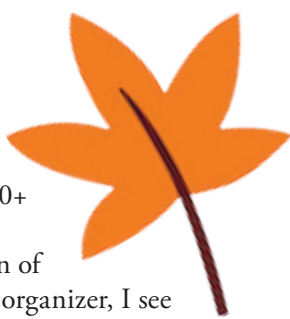
Colorfest 2019

A Little Background & a Lot of Gratitude by Sharon Habin

Colorfest 2019, which was held on October 19 and 20, was brought to you by the Mentone Area Preservation Association. MAPA is very grateful for the efforts of 30+ volunteers, 20+ youth group volunteers, the Little River Arts Council, businesses, six landowners, Brow Park, and the Town of Mentone—all of whom made the festival possible. As festival organizer, I see firsthand how much a successful festival depends on the gift of time offered by so many volunteers, and it humbles me.

Why are the Colorfest and Rhododendron festivals held? These annual festivals are the main fundraisers for MAPA, a non-profit 501(c)(3). Both festivals are Art & Craft festivals featuring items that are handmade by the artist or craft maker. Over the past 35+ years, the festivals have grown and evolved, bringing more vendors from not just Alabama but also other states. Mentone has a unique venue of a small mountain town with a terrific view. The sound of live music and the leisurely pace of Brow Park, where the festival is held, tend to make visitors and vendors fall in love with the festival and town. The town joins in with additional music and events.

Our focus on handmade art and craft vendors, and some festival food vendors, has created a “niche” that is not often seen in small rural towns. Unlike street fairs, which are also fun, our vendors apply and are then chosen based on category.



Offering a variety, with not too many of any one category, is important so that visitors have choices. Within each category, vendors are sorted again in terms of uniqueness, as well as price range. In the past, there weren't enough vendors applying, so retail business booths were allowed. Now, though, there is a waiting list for each festival. Weather can be disastrous for some vendors and, although there is a rule to not close up early, it is only reasonable to do so with some weather circumstances.

The festivals provide opportunities for the local non-profits to have booths for no charge. Mentone youth groups earn money parking and helping out by emptying garbage cans, etc. Lodging, service stations, and some restaurants and shops see a significant increase in sales. The county sees an increase in tourism. Those who are discovering Mentone for the first time often return another time to explore the shops and surrounding area.

Lack of parking during festivals remains an issue, and has been for many years. Colorfest 2015 saw a huge turnout of visitors. In 2016, the turnout was less, so in 2017 we thought we were prepared for traffic but found we were not. The turnout for Colorfest 2017 was so large that MAPA was told by the Mentone Police and Town Council that traffic and parking were too dangerous. Visitors parked along County Road 89 on both sides, as well as other streets. Vehicles couldn't get through. MAPA needed to figure out a plan for traffic, or there would be no more festivals. The MAPA board decided the best solution was to rent buses, hire drivers, and find local parking areas. Allowing people to park at the small lot in the woods by the park only made traffic jams. There is handicapped parking close to the vendors.

The change in parking and adding shuttles started with the 2018 Rhododendron Festival. Each festival has gotten better, with visitors using the festival parking areas and shuttles more and more. MAPA is also trying to help alleviate the frustrations of property owners who live in town. MAPA pays for the extra police presence needed for the festivals, and they have limits as to what they can do regarding traffic. The shuttles have taken a huge bite out of profits, however safety is the priority.

MAPA is very grateful for the property owners who allow us to have parking for our festivals, including handicapped parking that is adjacent to the festival. We are also grateful that the town council and police department allow the festivals to continue.

Each festival is reviewed as to what can be improved on. Based on our experience with Colorfest, parking and shuttle signage will be improved for the Rhododendron Festival (held annually on the third weekend of May). If you have suggestions for further improvement, we are always open to hearing it. You may email mentonecolorfest@gmail.com.

Finally, we are grateful to our hardy visitors who come with umbrellas and prepare for the weather that is sometimes less than pleasant.

Thanks to
Coca-Cola Bottling Company United
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Skelton Orthodontics
Times-Journal
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May 16 and 17, 2020



Color

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Beau-ti-fall Bizn

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Raffle Winners

Cynthia Stinson won a sherpa
donated by the Gourdy Shop

Margaret Duke won an
original mixed media piece
of art created and donated by
Lydia Adele Randolph



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Scavenger Hunt Winner

Kirby Lane Crawford, Birmingham

Business Winners

Top Pottery
at Loom
Café



“Mentone Festivals” Facebook page to stay up-to-date on Colorfest and Rhododendron Festivals!



Thanks to Robert Hunter, Margaret Duke, Sandy Pruitt, Augusta Spearman, and Kelly Leavitt for capturing the festival fun with photographs!

#1 "George, the Cotton Pickin' Scarecrow" by Christy Ledford • #2 "Falling for Mentone" by Lisa Schad • #3 "Sally Wheat" by the Walsh family
#4 Honorable Mention "The Hunter," by CG Lee

Little River Hardware Has New Owners by Kelly Leavitt



Front row, L to R: Karen Britt, Frances Lindsey
Back row, L to R: Bootsie McGee, Cooper Lindsey, Phil Gamble

Cooper and Frances Lindsey are the new owners of Little River Hardware Store, one of Mentone's most beloved establishments. "This opportunity is the fulfillment of a long-time dream for us," said Cooper.

"Our kids are excited, too," Frances said, "because Mentone is so comfortable to them, since they've all worked here or gone to camp here. They like watching us live our dream."

As children, their now-grown daughters Sarah Grace and Libby attended Camp Skyline and their son, Cooper, Jr., attended Camp Laney. "For the last couple of years, he's worked at Skyline," said Cooper. "It's funny, because part of his job was to maintain the pool, so the Little River Hardware staff all knew our son before they knew us." "It's a good thing he's such a nice kid, or he could have messed some things up for us," Frances said with a laugh.

Frances has been coming to Mentone for most of her life, having spent nine years of her childhood attending summer camp at Camp Skyline, where she has now served as "Camp Mom" for the past seven summers. "I kind of oversee some of the homesick campers," she explained. "Some just need a mama. The counselors are so well-trained, but during every session, there's a camper who just needs a mama hug. Sometimes I'll get a call from a mama who's gotten a homesick letter from their child, so I'll go check on the child and spend time with them canoeing or doing arts and crafts. And then at 5, I'll get a cup of coffee and call

the mom back and let her know how her child's doing. Knock on wood, no one has come to pick up their child in seven years."

"When I was a teenager in Gadsden," said Cooper, "this was my playground. My buddies and I would run

up here and fish or camp out. Eventually, my parents had a little cabin up here and we would bring our kids for spring breaks and holidays."

The couple met while attending Birmingham-Southern College. "Since those early years, we've tried to figure out so many different times how to relocate to Mentone," said Cooper. "We love hiking the trails at the state park and the national preserve up here. We've camped up here for years with our kids. I like to fly fish and we love to paddle."

Cooper worked as a commercial banker for many years, and spent the past few years running his family's business. "I know from my experience in the banking world and dealing with a lot of good businesses," he said, "that the owner needs to be present and be part of the business. Of course, the staff here are very experienced and they do a great job. They love this store. Thankfully, there were glad to see us come on board."

"This community has rolled out the red carpet for us," said Cooper. "People have come by to say hello, introduce themselves, and ask what they can do to help. We're excited. To us, this is more than just a hardware store. It serves the community in so many ways—residents, contractors, builders, camps, businesses. Karen, Bootsie, and Phil will often give folks directions, or tell them where they can go to eat. It's a real gathering spot."

The full-service hardware store has a notary public on staff, offers fax and copying services, and acts as a UPS drop-off point. "We're even selling home-made ice cream made by someone local," said Cooper. "We'll continue to highlight and expand a selection of work by local artists. Harvest Roots will remain in their production area until the spring, when they'll move their kitchen to Birmingham."

"The core business will remain the same," Cooper said. "We take a long-term approach to things. This is just the next chapter of the store."

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Mentone Arts & Cultural Center News by Randy Grider



The Mentone Arts & Cultural Center's (MACC) Board of Directors voted on October 18 to let bids on initial construction of the main facility. This part of the project is contingent on approval of bid packages being put together by architect Clay Birchfield of Birchfield, Penuel and Associates.

This initial phase will focus on the center's large multi-purpose room for limited utilization as the board continues fundraising for the completion of the overall facility, which include classrooms, a culinary kitchen, gardens, museum/safe room, and an outdoor amphitheater.

"Thanks to the efforts of many people over several years," said MACC board president Ben Shurett, "we are able to take this important step. Thanks to the generosity of a number of generous donors and hard work by dedicated volunteers, we are ready to take the next step in making the Arts & Cultural Center a reality. I'm especially pleased that this facility can be a place that can play host to a wide range of arts-related activities. Life in all of northeast Alabama and in neighboring states will be enhanced by this facility and the programs it will provide." More details will be provided after the board receives and reviews bids.

The regional arts center will be located in the eastern part of Mentone at 4415 Alabama Highway 117 on 3.5 acres of property that was donated to build the facility.

MACC also is working on a federal hazard mitigation grant administered through the DeKalb County Emergency Management Agency. The planned community safe room that will be housed in the future museum is one of a handful of projects

being considered.

As we are in the traditional end-of-the-year charitable period, we remind everyone that donations can be made "in honor" or "in memory" of a loved one or distinguished citizen.

Naming opportunities for larger donations are still available, though they are limited. These include the multi-purpose room, one classroom and the lobby.

Also of note concerning a separate, but related project, there is a single sponsorship opportunity for the bronze casting of the Sequoyah sculpture that will be in the Stephen Brewer Sculpture Garden adjacent to the center. The garden was recently designated as an Open Spaces Sacred Places site.

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

Valley Head Cemetery Memory 5K and 10K Run 2019 by Sherryl Lewis

It was a wet, rainy and windy Saturday morning for the 4th annual Valley Head Cemetery Memory Run on October 26. The races started in downtown Valley Head on the town square and followed the valley out Violet Hill Road and back to the town square. This year, we had both a 5K and a 10K and despite the weather, we had a great turnout for both races.

A big shout out to Robert Johnson Roofing and Construction for volunteering the use of his construction office/warehouse for our races. We were able to stay warm and dry before and after the races! Thank you.

Paden Sharpe of PinPoint Timing was there to time our race and post the results at pinpointtiming.com/2019-results. He did a great job!

A big thanks to everyone who helped make our races a success. The sponsors who supported our Memory Run this year...be sure to shop local and support them. The families who donated in memory of their loved ones...our runners ran in their memory. The runners and the volunteers who showed up on a rainy Saturday morning...it takes a lot of dedicated runners and volunteers to put on a successful race. Awesome job everybody! We couldn't have done it without you! Thank you to everyone.

5K Winners

Overall male Tie between Trevor Lewis and Caleb White / **Overall female** Robin Cochran

12 & under male

1st Dawson Crane

12 & under female

1st Sydney Crane

20-29 male

1st Daniel Felipe / 2nd Chris Hiu

20-29 female

1st Sarah White / 2nd tie between Kelsey Draper & Kelsey Lewis

30-39 male

1st David Conrad

30-39 female

1st Cinthia Rico / 2nd Emily Boydston

40-49 male

1st Todd Greeson

50-59 female

1st Tara Wilson / 2nd Carol Edmonds

60-69 male

1st Gene Fleming

60-69 female

1st Rita Boydston / 2nd Pam Burge

70-79 male

1st David Cochran

10K Winners:

Overall male Dewey Richards / **Overall female** Melissa Witt

30-39 male

1st Dale Witt

30-39 female

1st Saranda West / 2nd Kelly Meadows

40-49 male

1st Scott Lloyd

40-49 female

1st Connie Goolesby

50-59 male

1st Roy Stalvey

70-79 male

1st Jim Upton

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Sue McLaurin Henry Scholarship

Scholarships are available for spring semester 2020 to assist in paying for college or technical degrees.

Due date is Saturday, December 4.

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

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

Email merf.mentone@gmail.com for more information.

November 2019 Community Calendar

November 1, 2 & 3—Little River Quilt of Color Paddle. DeSoto State Park staff offers this relaxing guided flatwater paddle on scenic Little River, all while surrounded by changing colors of fall foliage. Enjoy the peace and quiet of nature as we paddle upstream on the waters of the West Fork of Little River. The leaves will be turning, and this particular autumn weekend should be spectacular with color. This trip is approximately 4 miles round-trip on flatwater, spans a 3- to 3-1/2-hour period, and includes kayak, paddle, & personal flotation device. Groups are small and intimate and range from 2 to 10 participants. Weight limits: 300 pounds for singles & 450 for tandems. Headlamp or flashlight, weather appropriate clothing, camera, snacks, drinking water etc. 2–5:30 pm. Meet at DeSoto Falls Picnic Area-Miller's Bend Paddle Shack. \$25 for single kayak rental (tandem kayaks are available on a limited basis). Pre-registration closes October 30. Call 256-997-5025 (leave a voicemail) or email Brittney.Hughes@dcnr.alabama.gov to pre-register.

November 1—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. 2–5pm. True Adventure Sports. 256-997-9577.

November 2—5th annual Summerville Mini Renaissance Festival. All ages will be delighted and amazed throughout the day, while enjoying live entertainment, shopping, art, games, and a feast fit for a king. The event will conclude with a traditional "Pub Sing" that includes all performers inside the Summerville Depot. 11 a.m. until 5 p.m. Eastern (rain or shine). As always, admission and parking for this event is free. Dowdy Park is located at 10096 Commerce St., Summerville, GA 30747.

November 2, 6, 9, 22, & 23—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 2, 9, 16, 23, 29, & 30—Blow an Ornament. Come design and blow your own ornament with the help of one of our glass artists. No reservations are needed, it is on a first-come, first-served basis. 9am–2pm. Orbix Hot Glass. Cost is \$38 per ornament blown. 256-523-3188.

November 2—Trail Trekker Hike Series: Blue & Orange Trails. Can you say, "I Hiked Them All"? DeSoto State Park challenges you to become a DeSoto State Park Trail Trekker! Hike the designated 22 miles of trails in DeSoto (whether on your own or in a group, no time limit) and collect your prize, a Trail Trekkers Patch. Just log your hikes in the Trail Trekker log and record the date for each trail listed. Sign completed form and turn in to DeSoto State Park Country Store or Lodge to receive your patch! This hike series is designed for those that prefer some company out on the trails with experienced park staff or volunteers. Each month there will be a different hike so you can start marking them off towards your patch! Blue & Orange Trails—Hike is approximately 3 miles round trip, moderate along mountainous terrain. 10am–12pm. Meet at DeSoto's Country Store & Information Center. Free and open to everyone; no pre-registration required.

November 2—11th Annual Canyon Fest. Join us for this 11th 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. JSU's Little River Canyon Center. 10am–4pm. Free. Call 256-845-

3548 for more details (Anna Lindsey).

November 2—Henagar Jr. High Harvest Festival. This is a family fun event with games, prizes and food. Admission is free! Game tickets may be purchased at the door. 5–8pm.

November 2—The Farm at Windy Hill Fall Farm-to-Table Dinner. We are excited to invite you to join us for our Fall Farm-to-Table dinner on November 2! The evening will begin with appetizers and a tour of our farm and be followed by a five-course meal featuring the abundance from our fall harvest. 5:30pm. Reserve at thefarmatwindyhill.com.

November 2—Dogtown Fire Department Harvest Festival. Bingo, games, prizes, pizza and more. Fun for the whole family. 127 Co Rd 89, Fort Payne. 5–9pm.

November 2—CIMA Halloween 2019. Get your costumes ready! You know we always do Halloween big, and 2019 will be no different! Can't wait for the most fun night of the year! Hope to see y'all out! 8pm–Midnight. DeKalb Theatre, Fort Payne. \$100 cash prize for the best costume. The crowd will choose! DJ Snake will be in the house. Performance lineup: 8:30–9pm Payton Sianna Sells; 9–9:30pm Dizzy-Dex; 9:30–10pm TMO; 10pm CIMA LIVE; 10:45pm Costume Contest.

November 2 & 3—Myrtle Jane's Holiday Market. Come and enjoy a day of antiques, unique furniture, and gifts. Holiday music, delicious treats, and door prizes will be a part of the day. Saturday 9am–5pm & Sunday 12–5pm. 256-845-4830.

November 2 & 3—The Wishing Well Holiday Open House. Join us for seasonal music, holiday food tasting, and unique gifts for everyone on your list! We offer gift certificates, FREE gift wrap, and more. Saturday 9am–5pm & Sunday 12–5pm. 256-845-7355.

November 2 & 3—Cotton & Pine Christmas Open House. Come enjoy great

sales, refreshments & door prizes. Saturday, 9am–5pm. and Sunday 12–5pm. 256-844-6544.

November 2 & 3—Christmas Extravaganza at Tiger Lily Florist, Catering & Gifts. Come celebrate the holidays with refreshments and storewide discounts for your shopping list! We can also decorate your home or office for the holidays, cater your holiday party, or prepare gift baskets for those on your list. Saturday 9am–5pm & Sunday 11am–5pm. 256-845-5152.

November 2 & 3—Tigers for Tomorrow "Big Cat Pumpkin Toss." Visitors who want to help support the preserve can donate medium and large pumpkins for the animal of their choice. Pumpkins will need to be donated at the admissions window by 1:30pm. Keepers will present the animals with their pumpkins around 2pm both Saturday and Sunday. 256-524-4150.

November 4—Ryleigh's Closet Coat Night. Free coats for those in need. 4–7pm. Mentone Community Church, 90 Summerville Rd. 256-634-4210.

November 4, 15, 19 & 30—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. True Adventure Sports. 256-997-9577.

November 5—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. True Adventure Sports. 12–2pm. 256-997-9577.

November 7—Art in the Alley. 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 downtown Ft Payne. Boom Town Makers Market. 5–8pm.

November 7, 15, 22, 23, & 27—Night Zip Line Adventure. All our zip lines are set up just before the adventure to ford a gorge or cross from one high point to another. Pre-

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The DeKalb County Genealogical Society will meet on November 9 from 10am until 12pm in the Hunt room of the DeKalb County Library. Our guest speaker, Mrs. Susan Scott Hayes, will present our program on "Wills and Estates." Please enter the library through the north employee entrance. The doors will be opened a few minutes before 10 and will be locked at 10:10 because the library is closed on Saturdays. Everyone is welcome. There is no charge to attend.

November 2019 Community Calendar

registration required. True Adventure Sports. 6–8pm. 256–997–9577.

November 11—Community Game Night. Enjoy playing games with your community neighbors! Moon Lake Community Library, 4607 AL Hwy. 117, Mentone. Free. 6pm.

November 8—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, flashlight, change of socks, warm clothes, camera, trail mix, water, small first aid kit, emergency blanket, and emergency poncho. 10am–1pm. True Adventure Sports. 256–997–9577.

November 8–10 & 15–17—NACC Theatre presents “The Old Man and the Old Moon.” Friday & Saturday evening performances at 7pm. Sunday matinees at 2pm. All seats are reserved; tickets are \$8 each. This show is best enjoyed by audiences of all ages. 256–638–4418, ext 2218.

November 9—Daybreak Yoga Class. Daybreak class hosted by DeSoto State Park. Interested in starting your day in a positive way? Enjoy a yoga class in a beautiful place! These yoga classes are alignment-based, which makes the class perfect for those beginning their yoga practice or for those wanting to try something new. Classes are open to local residents and park visitors alike. No pre-registration required! 8–9am. Meet at DeSoto Falls Picnic area, 7 miles from the main park area. Class will be moved to DeSoto’s Nature Center next to Country Store in case of inclement weather. Fee: \$5 per participant per class. Bring mat/towel & water. Some mats and props available. If weather is questionable, check with DSP Lodge before coming: 256–845–5380.

November 9 & 10—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. 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 or see alapark.com/creative-spirit-market for more details.

NOVEMBER 11 Veterans Day

November 11—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. 2–6pm. 256–997–9577.

November 13—GPS Basic Training and Navigation Class Part 1. Learn how to use a map, compass, and a handheld GPS. Learn basic navigation and how to pinpoint a location for quick return, or quick rescue. Also learn how to search by waypoints or coordinates. True Adventure Sports. 10am–4pm. 256–997–9577.

November 14 & 28—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. True Adventure Sports. 10am–2pm. 256–997–9577.

November 12—Moon Lake Book Club. Discussion of the book “This Is How It Always Is” by Laurie Frankel. Open to all. Moon Lake Community Library, 4607 AL Hwy. 117, Mentone. Free. 10:30am.

NOVEMBER 13 World Kindness Day

November 16 & 29—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. True Adventure Sports. 10am–2pm. 256–997–9577.

November 16—Collinsville Historic Turkey Trot. Join us for food, fun and games. An antique car and tractor show, turkey shoot, cake walk, and historic “turkey toss” from the roof of a building make this an event fun for all ages. Sponsored in part by the Collinsville Historic Association. 10am–3pm. 256–524–2788.

November 16—Fused Glass Jewelry Class. This class will meet at 10am and then on Sunday, you can return at 2pm to attach the finishings and take your items home. If you are unable to return on Sunday, Linda will attach the finishings for you and you can pick up your items at a later date from the Canyon Center. Each participant will make 3–4 pendants by the end of the workshop. All materials will be furnished. Class is for ages 14 and up. JSU’s Little River Canyon Center, Fort Payne. 10am. \$50. Pre-registration required. Call Niki at 256–845–3548 (Monday–Friday 8am–2pm). Class number is limited to 10. For details, email 256–845–3548 or email jwayner@jsu.edu.

November 16 & 17—Guided Backpacking Trip for Beginners in DeSoto State Park. A fall backpacking class, and a great class for beginners/intermediate. Meet at DeSoto’s Nature Center, next to the Country Store on County Road 89. \$100 per person (2–night trip), includes all equipment. You will need to provide your food. 205–559–0040 or email Robert Wilson sps@sevenpinessurvival.com.

NOVEMBER 17 Take a Hike Day

November 21—Author Talk: BGen Jerry McAbee. The author of “Stubborn Men and Parched Corn” will speak at Moon Lake Community Library, 4607 AL Hwy. 117, Mentone. Free. 6:30pm.

November 18—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. 5–9pm. 256–997–9577.

November 20—Paradise Garden Painting Workshop. Open to all ages and skill levels (under 18 must be accompanied by an adult). BYOB. Snacks, paints and stand up easels will be available to use, or bring your own, and there will a table for those of you who prefer to sit while you paint. \$30 / \$25 for Chattooga county residents and Paradise Garden members. 5pm–7pm EDT. Paradise Garden, Summerville, GA. Space is limited, so advance registration is recommended. Call 706-808-0800 with any questions or to enroll.

November 25—Celestial Navigation. This 2-hour class is a basic introduction to navigation by the stars. Learn how to navigate without the use of a compass or GPS with the same rules used for almost six thousand years. Meet at True Adventure Sports. 7:30–9:30pm. 256–997–9577.

NOVEMBER 28 Happy Thanksgiving!

November 28—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. True Adventure Sports. 6–10pm. 256–997–9577.

November 29–December 1—Dave’s Antiques Holiday Open House. Thursday–Saturday, 9am–5pm and Sunday 11am–4pm. Hammondville.

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“We appreciate your business”

Rhododendron Garden Club by Mellanie Tuttle



The Rhododendron Garden Club met at the MERF House on October 8 at 10 a.m. Fourteen members were present. Sharon Harris hosted the group with lovely fall flower arrangements, warm cinnamon buns, and cider which was tasty and timely with coolish weather finally arriving. Mellanie Tuttle shared The Gardener's Prayer by that favorite poet, Anon. The flag was pledged and a lengthy business meeting followed. Next month's treasury report will be lengthy as well. Fair money earned from Blue, Red, or Yellow ribbons is donated by members to the club. RGC was well represented with 13 members participating (and winning) in design and/or horticulture, as well as volunteering time. We did so well the coffer is overflowing! Well it's a very small coffer but it's definitely fuller! Congratulations to Marsha Merrell, who won not only a blue ribbon for her petite design, but also the Petite Award! Martha Wood's variegated Ivy won a blue and an Award of Merit. The Dr. Seuss-inspired theme was appreciated for its whimsy; 21 clerks even added pink highlights to their hair!

The Roll Call topic was "How do you prepare your garden for winter?" Answers included: mulching with leaves or pine straw; taking in tender plants to a greenhouse or warmer garage; covering tenders in a deep layer of mulch; deadheading flowers; leaving seed heads on for the birds to eat; spreading Epsom salt on trees and shrubs; adding aged alpaca manure to beds;

pulling up weeds; "whatever the yard man does," and planting bulbs for spring glory! The Junior Garden Club at Moon Lake School is still going strong. Raised beds were weeded and planted with cool weather veggies and the younger group's education booth at the Flower Show won a blue ribbon plus a top award. Conservation Chair Jan Wilkinson read the poem Make the Earth Your Companion by J. Patrick Lewis. The poem focuses on learning from the sky, sea, river, lake, mountain, woodland, rainforest, wetland, grassland, icecaps, desert and town... "Make the Earth your companion. Walk lightly on it, as other creatures do." Horticulture Chair Martha Wood reported on the Buttonbush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*), which is a multi-stemmed shrub in the coffee family that grows 6–12 feet and likes moist areas in full to partial shade. The white flower which attracts butterflies is a one-inch globe that looks a pin cushion and then dries into rounded masses of nutlets which can feed over 24 species of birds. Martha shared seeds, so hopefully more Buttonbushes will be seen on the mountain.

President Marsha Merrell lectured on the history of Ikebana, demonstrated a triangular form of Ikebana called Moribana, and finally offered suggestions and guidance for designs created by the rest of the group. The designs provided table decorations for the MERF senior luncheon the following day and lucky folks took designs home.

Ikebana is the ancient Japanese art of flower arrangement. Originally, Buddhist priests presented floral offerings in the temple. The Rokkakudo Temple in Kyoto was established in the 7th century. Priests lived behind the temple near a pond (Ike) in a small hut called a "bo," so local people called them Ikenobo). The practice of floral offerings continued and in the 15th–16th centuries, Senno Ikenobo taught that "Not only beautiful flowers but also buds and withered flowers have life, and each has its own beauty." The development of Ikebana began. By the 1890s Ikebana was no longer men (priests only), but women also practiced. Over the years, varying techniques and

philosophies have evolved and different schools have emerged to promote those ideas. Not enough time, space, or personal understanding for me to do Ikebana justice. That said, the beauty, simplicity and economy is easily appreciated.

Marsha follows a "three stems and I'm out of here" philosophy. She demonstrated the Moribana, which is perfect for beginners because of its simplicity. Moribana means "piling up flowers." The vases are usually wide-mouthed and flat with a Kenzan (a needlepoint holder, spiky frog) placed off-center to insert the plant material. The line material "should be placed in a triangular pattern. The main or strongest line is called 'Shin.' Shin is one and a half the vase width and height. The next branch is called the 'Soe' and it is two-thirds to three-fourths as long or as tall as the Shin. 'Tai' is the third branch and is half the length of Shin. The flowers in this arrangement will accent the three lines. Use the large blossoms to follow the basic lines, then use smaller ones to fill in and accent. Marsha demonstrated a slanting line of Moribana along with Nageire, which means the materials are arranged much more freely. She used Beautyberry as her line material, mums as the flowers following those three lines, and Acuba as the filler to complete the arrangement. The arrangement could be viewed from all sides and was lovely. Then it was the members' turn to create a Moribana design. Hopefully, none of the priests are turning over in their graves by our efforts, but all were created with enthusiasm and sincerity. Once again, Pinterest viewing will pique interest and give inspiration.

Next month, Martha Wood will present a program on Salvia. Join us at the MERF House at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, November 12. We may still be basking in the glow of the Flower Show, so wear sunglasses!

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.



3 BD / 2 BA
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5 BD / 3.5 BA
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4 BD / 4 BA
529 S. Brow Dr., Cloudland

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MERF News

by Sarah Wilcox



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

Oh what a weekend! MAPA's Colorfest 2019 was wet, windy and wonderful! Thank you MAPA for organizing another great Mentone festival.

Thank you to all of MERF's friends and supporters who stopped by our booth to say hello, to ask how they could help, and to purchase "Leave Me in Mentone" items. The new zip fleece pullover was a big hit and a big help to combat Mother Nature. If you were scared of melting in the rain and want a chance to purchase the new stickers or zips, come see MERF at Little River Arts Council's Merrityme Artisan Market on Friday and Saturday, December 13 and 14, in Moon Lake Baptist Church's youth center. MERF items make great Christmas gifts and we plan to have more Christmas cards designed by the Moon Lake students.

November is not only a month of Thanksgiving but also a time to fill out the application for MERF's Sue McLaurin Henry Memorial scholarship which will award funds to eligible college and technical school students for the 2020 Winter/Spring semester. Students must live in Mentone or Valley Head, have a financial need, and be a full time student with a B average or above. Applications for the scholarship are available by email, from the counselors at JSU and NACC, or at the Mentone Market. The due date is Wednesday, December 4, 2019. One of the ways that MERF funds the scholarship account is through donations received in memory of someone. The precious lunch bunch crew gathered and donated enough money to cover a scholarship in memory of my dad, John W. Wilcox, who passed away on September 16, 2019. I am ever grateful for this expression of love!

Speaking of lunches, the regular weekly lunches will end on November 20, followed by the Christmas



party on Wednesday, December 4.

Thank you to the following for providing meals this fall: Mentone Market; Mentone Community Church; Alpine Camp for Boys; Green Leaf Grill; Camp Skyline; Rhododendron Garden Club; MERF's Kitchen Elves; Camp Laney; Mentone Inn; St. Joseph's Episcopal Church; and Moon at Wildflower Café. Thank you to Angela Hadley for organizing the flu shot clinic on October 23, provided by Northeast Alabama Health Services, Inc. CEO Deborah Culpepper and her staff are providing great medical services in Fort Payne in their facilities at 3840 Gault Avenue. They will meet your needs where you are financially when needing good health care. They have procured funding for a Medical Mobile unit that they hope to have in service next year and coming to the Mentone area, as needed.

Congratulations to Moon Lake Elementary School for working hard and succeeding at receiving another "A" on their county school report card! For the second year in a row, Moon Lake Elementary School has scored



Abby enjoying marble art with Ms. Paula Easter at Colorfest

the only "A" in the county. #moonlakerocks! Everyone is proud of our small but mighty Moon Lake Tigers! Thanks to the MERF tutors who dedicate their time weekly to help these students stay on top of their studies. Thank you teachers and staff for all you do for the future of Mentone. If you are looking for a way to support the school, MERF is looking for volunteers to be weekly teacher helpers. The activities involved are an hour or so per week helping with office type skills such as copying and sorting for the teachers. Contact Sarah if interested.

MERF moms continue to meet on Thursday mornings at 10 a.m. in the MERF house. The first Thursday of each month, Paula Easter will provide a music or art activity for the little ones. The new floor FAO Schwarz piano has been a big hit with the toddlers. (Think Tom Hanks in the movie, BIG)! Even some seniors have tickled the keys with style! Have a wonderful season of Thanksgiving! #merfisgrateful

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



Who can resist dancing and making merry on a piano at your feet? This piano has been a big hit at MERF moms, senior lunch and Colorfest!



Local celebrity Bill Berry styling in MERF's new fleece zip pullover

Happy 60th Anniversary Marris & LuJean Pierce

On November 14, 2019, Marris Ray Pierce and LuJean Mason Pierce are marking 60 years of marriage. Marris was raised close to Mentone and attended Moon Lake and Valley Head Schools. LuJean was raised in Birmingham and attended school there. They met at Alverton Draughn Business School in Birmingham. They were married in the pastor's office at Central Park

Baptist Church with her parents, Marris's mother and his sister in attendance. They continued to live in Brmingham and around Central Lake Baptist until 1994, when they moved to the Mentone area to build a home in the woods. They have two daughters, one son, six grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren who live scattered across our beautiful country from Virginia to California.

Ongoing Community Calendar

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

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

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

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

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

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

Ryleigh's Closet is a clothing closet that provides men's, women's, and children's clothing to those in need on 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month from 4-7pm (closed 11/11). Mentone Community Church, 90 Summerville Rd. 256-634-4210.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Line dancing lessons are offered at the Fort Payne Senior Center on Tuesdays from 1:30-2:30pm (beginners) and 2:30-3:30pm (experienced). 256-845-8590. (No session on 9/10.)

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

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

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

Round Dancing is held the Fort Payne Senior Center on Tuesdays 5-8:30pm. 600 Tyler Ave. SE, Fort Payne. Call 256-244-5320 to register.



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

Mentone Area Church Directory

Mentone, Alabama

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

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

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

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

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

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

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.

Joy is really
the simplest form
of gratitude.

Karl Barth

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 Jeremy Stroop welcomes each and everyone to worship service Sunday mornings at 11am GA time; Sunday School 10am GA time; and Wednesday night Bible Study at 7pm GA time. 1104 Hwy. 337, Menlo GA. 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. Annual Homecoming and Gospel Meeting on July 14-17, 2019: Sunday Services 10am & 11am & 5pm EDT; Homecoming Covered Dish Meal Spread at the Lawrence Center at noon on the 14th; Weeknight Services Mon-Wed 7pm EDT. Visiting Evangelist: Bro. Gary McCurdy of Piedmont, AL.

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

Summerville, Georgia

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

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

... In Memoriam ...

Elizabeth Anne Gremmels

February 10, 1957 – September 25, 2019



Elizabeth Anne Gremmels, age 62, of Mentone and Livingston, Alabama, passed away unexpectedly at her home in Mentone on Wednesday, September 25, 2019.

Elizabeth was born in Upper Darby, PA, on February 10, 1957, to Robert Shepard Inglis, Jr. and Virginia Siegfried Inglis. She grew up in Tuscaloosa, AL, and graduated from the University of West Alabama (formerly Livingston University), where she was recognized as a distinguished alumnus by the College of Liberal Arts in 2018. Elizabeth Gremmels recently retired after a career as a high school history teacher and guidance counselor. She was enjoying retirement at her home on Lookout Mountain, in Mentone, at the time of her death.

While most family members knew her as Betsy, friends knew her as Elizabeth, Bets, Liz, Betsy, or another variation of her name, depending on when she came into their lives. However, her favorite names were "Mom" and "Granny," since she cherished her children and adored her granddaughter.

Elizabeth Gremmels was preceded in death by her mother, Virginia Elizabeth Inglis. She is survived by her husband, Luther Gremmels of Livingston, AL; son, Robert Rey of Tuscaloosa, AL; daughter, Virginia Duffour (TéAndré) of Livingston; granddaughter, Emmaline Rey of Tuscaloosa; father, Robert Inglis, Jr. (Lucy) of Plymouth, VA; sisters Ivy Walker (Glen) of Bayfield, CO, and Amy Peirsol (Stevens) of Savannah, GA; half-sister, Mary Chatfield (Chris) of Plymouth; half-brother, James Inglis (Sarassa) of Bulverde, TX; aunts Ivy Jost (Don) of West Chester, PA, and Jeanne MacCorkle of Macungie, PA; sisters-in-law Karen Cross of Roseville, CA, and Molly Bruner (John) of Grand Junction, CO; numerous cousins, nieces, and nephews; and her dogs, Titan and Zooey. A memorial service was held on October 17, 2019, at the Burt Funeral Home Chapel in Valley Head, AL. Donations in her memory may be made to Neuse River Golden Retriever Rescue, P.O. Box 37156, Raleigh, NC 27627.



Watercolor Christmas Card Workshop with Artist Caroline Nuckolls

On Saturday, November 9, Caroline Nuckolls will teach how to watercolor Christmas motifs. Caroline lives in Marietta, GA, and 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. The class will be held at St. Joseph's on-the-Mountain Episcopal Church, 21145 Scenic Highway, Mentone AL 35984.

This class is presented by the Little River Arts Council. Each session is limited to 10 adults. Pre-registration is required by emailing barbaraumland7@gmail.com.

The cost is \$12 for LRAC members, and \$15 for non-members. Both sessions may be attended for a cost of \$20. All supplies will be provided.

Menlo News by Pat Johnson



Menlo Veterans Day Program

A program honoring local veterans will be held at the Menlo Elementary School Gymnasium on Monday, November 11, at 9:30 a.m. Eastern. The Menlo students will take part in the program. Patriotic quilts will be presented to some local veterans. This program will recognize all veterans in attendance. The Menlo Resident Association will present a slide presentation of the Veteran Marker Project in memory of local deceased Veterans. The

Resident Association of the Menlo Housing Authority and the 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.

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Veterans
DAY**

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Mentone artist Mickey Luck met with the Lookout Mountain Plein Air group at the home of Doc and Honey Ennis in October. Above, Mickey paints the Ennis' lovely koi pond.

Holiday Papercrafting

Join Mentone paper crafter Katie Ferguson and learn how to make Christmas gift tags. Participants will make two each of four different designs in a woody winter theme.

The class will meet on Saturday, November 23, at Moon Lake Community Library from 1 until 3 p.m. All supplies will be provided and no prior experience is required. The cost is \$10.

Space is limited. To insure that sufficient supplies can be ordered, *reservations must be made by Friday, November 8*. For more information or to reserve a spot, email Katie Ferguson at cottagepaper@bellsouth.net. You can see Katie's blog at cottagepaper.com.



Dot. Dot. Dot.

Kerry Breithaupt's dot mandala rock painting classes have been very popular, and this month she's offering a twist—painting on glass ornaments.

Participants often comment on how relaxed they feel when dot painting. You will complete one ornament to take home. A \$15 fee includes instruction, an ornament, and all supplies.

The two-hour class will meet on Saturday, November 16, at 1 p.m. at Moon Lake Community Library in Mentone. Pre-registration is required. Email kerryblmt@gmail.com.

Wool Needle Felting Class

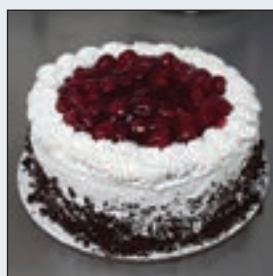
Mentone fiber artist Pamela Moniz will teach a beginner's needle felting class on December 7 from 1 until 4 p.m. at Moon Lake Community Library in Mentone. This class will introduce you to the art of needle felting with wool. You will start with a pre-made base and learn how to build a unique character face with expressive features. For those interested in learning to create larger character dolls, this is a great beginner class.

The \$35 class fee includes all supplies needed, including needles and a foam base that can be reused for future needle felting projects, as well as sufficient wool to complete your project. This fun class fosters imagination and humor as these little creatures come to life. The class is limited to 10 participants, so pre-registration is required by contacting Pamela at 240-426-8317 or pamelamoniz@gmail.com. Bring a friend and receive a \$5.00 discount.

The Lookout Restaurant

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- Specialty Cakes & Pies
- Sunday Brunch Buffet
- Parties
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Valley Head Helper Day

By Kelly Leavitt



Valley Head 1st-graders are greeted by Debra Rhodes and Adele Phillips

The town of Valley Head opened its doors to more than 60 Valley Head School kindergarten and 1st-grade students on Friday, October 19, continuing a long-standing tradition called "Valley Head Helper Day," also known as "Social Studies Day."

The students' first stop on their walking tour was Valley Head Town Hall, where they were greeted by Town Clerk Debra Rhodes, who acted as coordinator and hostess for the day. They were then given behind-the-scenes tours at Merit Bank, Valley Head Drugs, Valley Head Post Office, Beasley Signs, Valley Head Police Department, Valley Head Fire Department, and Valley Head Water.

Not only was it a day of learning, but also a day of treats. The children received goody bags from Town Hall and Merit Bank, cupcakes from Valley Head Drug Store, pizza from Beasley Signs, beverages from the Masonic Lodge, Icees from Froggy Freeze, and red fire helmets and fire safety activity kits from the Valley Head Fire Department. Police Chief Jimmy Phillips spoke with the



Valley Head Police Chief Jimmy Phillips talks with the students about citizen safety



Cynthia and Holly Wooten greet the children at Valley Head Drugs

children about citizen safety and gave each child a badge that made them "Junior Police Officers" for the day. In the town field, they took rides on ponies, spoke with DeSoto Rescue Squad's 2nd Lieutenant JD Trammell about basic first aid, and toured the smoke trailer belonging to the DeKalb County Fire Association.

It's days like this that become life-long memories (I remember the first time I stepped into a bank vault while on a school field trip!), while instilling community pride and broadening an understanding of what makes a community's town tick.



Valley Head kindergarteners visit the post office



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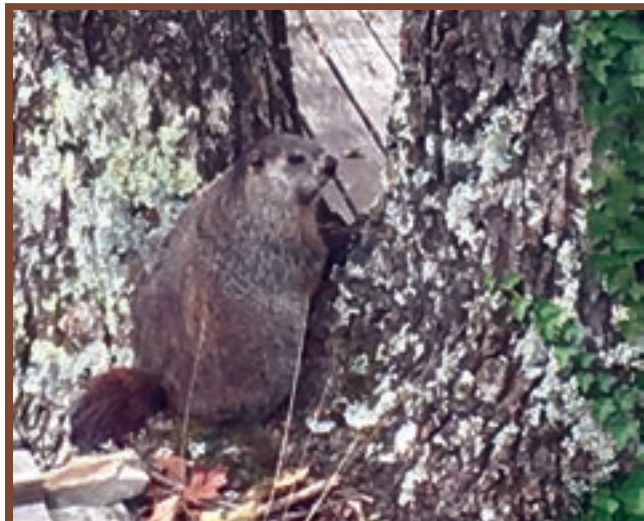
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HEY, MR. GROUNDHOG

by Donna and John Farrington



“**H**urry! The cat got out! Leo is out in the yard!” As the couple scrambled to get out the door and save their cat, Leo came meowing casually by, as he brushed the man’s legs.

“Stand down! Leo is here beside me.”

“Then who is that out in the yard?”

As they peered out the window, the couple saw a surprising sight...

“Have we just solved the mystery of all those strange tracks and diggings in the side yard?”

“I believe we have!”

A tubby figure was meandering about the yard, following a strict regimen: sniff, root about, munch a bunch of the dish of the moment, stand upright on hind legs for Safety Check, repeat.

Shaped like an oversized longer-than-foot-long hot dog, brown like a hot dog bun, and waddling about like an old man, he seemed to be enjoying himself immensely.

The man announced, “And here in the corner of the side yard, at 14 inches tall, 2 feet long, and weighing in at about – say – 40 pounds?... a light brown fuzz-wuzzy-bug... Mr. Fuzzy the Groundhog!”

“Uh-oh.....”

“What?”

“I fear our hours of designing, planning, and planting the garden of our dreams are beginning their end.”

“Oh, no, Please, Mr. Groundhog—please don’t have dinner here!!!”

“It will be the end of our plants and flowers!” they moaned...

Unaware they were watching the show, Mr. Fuzzy Groundhog continued his dining experience, thrilling at his great fortune for stumbling upon the vast field.

The animal moved to and fro, meandering about in a leisurely fashion, exploring the café menu’s varied selection of delicious soft grasses, moist dirt, and tasty flowers.

What a lovely restaurant!

After eating ‘til satisfied, he relaxed, soaking in the ambiance that included a breathtaking Brow View Sunset.

A brouhaha among the trees startling him, Mr. Groundhog scurry-waddled across the yard, down the stone steps of the restaurant’s garden, and disappeared into the forest below.

Still gazing through the window, the couple became aware they were holding hands and smiling.

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