



THE GROUNDHOG

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Volume 39, No. 10

"Neighborly News from the Heart of Lookout Mountain"

October 2020

ARE YOU A GOLFER? Learn about MAPA's Charity Golf Tournament on October 10 on PAGE 2.

Amelia Kirk Lolli Moves West by Kelly Leavitt



Amelia Kirk Lolli in her home in Mentone, 9/20

Amelia Magnolia Kirk Lolli is a child of Mentone. Now 87, she has spent her life living in both Mentone and California. The time has come to say "goodbye" to her life in Mentone. In mid-September, she sold her home in the Alpine area and moved west to be with her children, who are located in Oregon, California, and Washington.

In 1933, Amelia was born in Mentone to Frank (1907–1989) and Lora "Mabel" Crow (1906–1998) Kirk. Mabel was born in Mentone to John Blevins (1873–1967) and Ella Magnolia "Maggie" (1883–1977) Crow; the couple had 11 children.

After marrying, Mabel and Frank moved to San Diego, CA, where he enlisted in the U.S. Navy. When Mabel learned she was pregnant with Amelia, Frank was at sea. Mabel returned to Mentone so she could be surrounded by family when their child was born. Because Frank remained at sea for several years, mother and daughter remained in Mentone until 1938, when it was time for young Amelia to attend school. They then relocated to San Diego, where Amelia attended school all the way through college.

Mabel was especially close to her large family, so she and Amelia often travelled to Mentone for the summer season by car or train, and eventually airplane. "We always had our vacations back here," Amelia told me when I recently visited

(continued on page 4)

merf's "BiG iDea" APPROACHES FRUITiON by Kelly Leavitt



Thanks to everyone who helped with the HUGE task of installing the picket fence on MERF's Pathway to Community on AL Hwy. 117! Last year, the Mentone Educational Resources Foundation (MERF) was granted \$20,000 by the Community Foundation of Northeast Alabama for their "Big Idea" competition.

During the summer months, when over 400 pickets were painted on sawhorses outside

the MERF House, friendships were made, and artistic talents were revealed.

Countless people have given many hours to every aspect of the fence project...and the results truly show the love and spirit of our community. The fence fits in perfectly with the beauty of the pathway—stop by and enjoy seeing the creative expression of hundreds of talented neighbors.

This "Big Idea" is truly one we can ALL be proud of! *(More on page 11)*

Colorfest 2020 Has Been Cancelled

Colorfest is a favorite tradition in Mentone, when arts, crafts, and food vendors line North Cool Street at and near Brow Park. The festival is presented by the Mentone Area Preservation Association (MAPA), whose board found it necessary to make the decision to cancel the event in July, when preparations typically begin.

We understand everyone's disappointment. Festival Organizer Sharon Habin needed to give vendors enough advance lead time so they could appropriately arrange their schedules. One of the main issues the board faced when making the decision was that because

parking is limited in the area around Brow Park, shuttle buses are required, and it would be impossible to maintain social distancing and keep the buses sanitized. The board feels responsible for the safety of all attendees and vendors, many of who come to Mentone from other communities.

We certainly hope to be able to host the Rhododendron Festival, our other annual festival focusing on handmade arts and crafts that is held annually on the third weekend in May. In 2021, that will be May 15 and 16. Mark your calendars!



THE GROUNDHOG

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Mentone Area Preservation Association

MAPA was first conceived on Groundhog Day, 1982, and then organized on April 5, 1982. *The Groundhog* has been in publication for 38 years.

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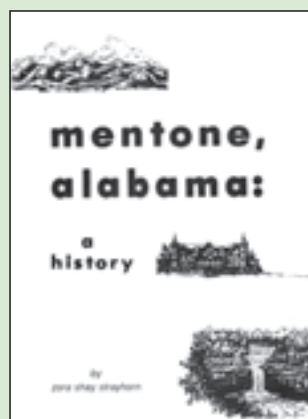
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The opinions, beliefs, and viewpoints expressed by the various authors in this publication do not necessarily reflect the opinions, beliefs, and viewpoints or policies of the Mentone Area Preservation Association.

Groundhog wood cut courtesy of Meg Justice

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



**Learn about the
History of Mentone**

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

Mentone Matters • by Mayor Rob Hammond

Recently I checked in with ALDOT on a completion date for the bridge. At this time they are projecting the end of October. An accident last week reminded us how unsafe the old bridge is and how much the new one is needed.

There have been a couple of personnel changes in the Mentone Police Department.

Officer Ross Greenwood has resigned. Mike Langston of Mentone has been hired (see article in this issue of *The Groundhog*).

Several weeks ago Mentone was last in DeKalb County in the percentage of citizens who have returned their census forms or filled out one online. It is crucial for Alabama and Mentone to have an accurate count of the number people living here. Municipalities rely



on accurate information from the census when applying for a grant. If Mentone is undercounted it could adversely affect a grant application and the amount of funding Mentone could receive. If Alabama is undercounted it could even cost Alabama a seat in Congress.

Letter from the Editor

Change is in the air, in many ways. Fall will soon bring us the changing of the leaves, bringing an often astounding beauty to the landscape. The new bridge in Mentone will be complete this month—certainly a change, after watching its construction over the past several years. The new picket fence on MERF's Pathway to Community has also changed Mentone's landscape (even though it looks like it's always been there!). For the first time in over six months, *The Groundhog* can report on some activities we can engage in, albeit with safety precautions in place—fundraiser meals, yoga and hikes, the blessing of the animals, and the Creative Spirit Market.

One other change *The Groundhog* can report is the relocation of Amelia Kirk Lolli. Every month, Amelia took it on herself to distribute up to 200 copies of the paper, delivering them to nursing homes and businesses and mailing them (at her own expense) to friends near and far. We appreciate and will miss her ongoing support.

Certainly we'll all miss Colorfest this year, as well. I thought I'd share this photo of Fontana and Cynthia Stinson's prize-winning scarecrow from 2016's Colorfest.

Amidst all this change, the words of Mahatma Gandhi come to mind—"Be the change you wish to see."

Happy October, everyone! —Kelly



MAPA CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT

Saturday, October 10 Rain Date October 17

Lil Mole Run • Mentone, Alabama

Four-Man Scramble • Shotgun Start • Tee Off 8AM CDT
Free car for hole-in-one!
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All proceeds benefit the Mentone Area Preservation Association (MAPA), which in turn benefits our community.

mapamentone.com/golf
256.289.2002





MAPA News by Mark Hoffman

Hey everyone—I hope you and yours are all safe and well. There's not a lot of MAPA news to share this month, other than to let you know that planning and organizing for our upcoming charitable golf tournament (October 10) is going great. Thank you to all who have signed up to play, and to our local business sponsors! I look forward to seeing you there—I will be in the snack cart bringing refreshments out to the course.

Sorry, no adult beverages on board!

Please make every effort within your means to trade with our local businesses and support our fantastic community organizations. They provide such a wonderful service to the Mentone area and, especially under current circumstances, really need you. I think it's ok to pull the mask down momentarily to say, "Hi" and ask, "How are you?" and to smile.

Next time I write, we should be

blessed with gorgeous fall colors all around. I am really looking forward to that and to putting a match under the paper, sticks and logs in the fireplace. I can smell and feel it in my mind, and soul! Reach out to me at mhoffmanatty@yahoo.com if you feel like it.

Mark Hoffman is the president of Mentone Area Preservation Association.

Join MAPA Today

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

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

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

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

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

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

Annual Boy Scout Chicken & Dressing Dinner

Sunday, October 11
11 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Boy Scout Troop 106 will serve their annual fundraising chicken and dressing dinner on October 12 at the Boy Scout House on Dempsey Street (about a block behind Little River Hardware Store). This year, the dinner will be take-out only. A list of available foods will be brought to your car so you can mark everything you'd like. A plate will be fixed for you and carried out to your car. The dinner is offered by donation. You may pay whatever you'd like to give. Contact Lesa Smith with any questions at 256-605-5404.



Could You Find Your House on a Dark & Stormy Night?

Our local fire, rescue, and police teams have a big favor to ask of you. One that can make a difference between life and death.

In your mind's eye, picture it being 4 a.m. on a dark night...a stormy night...a foggy night. Would you be able to easily find your house or driveway from the road with a simple flashlight?

If not, the solution is simple—post 3" or 4" reflective house numbers at the entrance to your drive. These local teams say that this is the most important thing homeowners can do to support their task, which is, after all, to help others. It's frustrating—in moments when time can be critical—to head out on a call but not be able to find an address due to insufficient signage.

Little River Hardware is keeping a supply of numbers on hand, and the store's staff can help guide you to the easiest, most cost-effective way of displaying those numbers. For instance, one option is to attach the numbers to your mail box post. You could also put a short wood post in the ground with the numbers on it, or use a 2" PVC pipe with a cap on the top.

Our first responders want to help keep us safe. Let's help them do that.



Correction: "Voting 101"

by Anne McLeod

The article that appeared in last month's *Groundhog*, "Voting 101 in 2020," included this information regarding photo identification required for absentee ballot requests in Alabama: "If you're age 65 or older or disabled, you're exempt from the photo ID requirement [for absentee ballot applications]."

This should have read, "If you're age 65 or older or disabled, you're exempt from the photo ID requirement **if your polling place is NOT physically accessible to you.**" In other words, it is the lack of an accessible polling place rather than age or disability alone that invokes an exemption from providing photo identification.

I regret the confusion, particularly on a subject of such importance. Absentee voting in person is going on now at the DeKalb County Courthouse in Fort Payne through Thursday, October 29. Bring your identification if you plan to vote early at the courthouse! The general election itself is November 3.

Amelia Kirk Lolli (continued from page 1)

her. "I became very close to my aunts Dorothy and Grace, my mother's youngest sisters. They weren't much older than I was. We would stay at my Aunt Beulah's house during these trips back to Mentone."

Recalling those early years, Amelia said, "Sometimes we'd drive back to Mentone in our 1941 Plymouth with ice bags strapped to the front of the car so it would stay cool as we were driving through the heat in the desert. They'd stay cold enough from gas station to gas station, where we'd resupply with new bags of ice." Many of these trips were well before the advent of the interstate highway system, so parts of the trip were on dirt roads.

Their dedication to family was such that on the event of Mabel's parents' 50th wedding anniversary, Amelia's parents couldn't get away from their work in time for the celebration, so they sent young 14-year-old Amelia across country on a Greyhound bus by herself so she could be part of the festivities. (They followed shortly thereafter.)

Amelia shared some of her earliest memories with me. "When my dad was young," she said, "he lived with E.T. York's family and would take the cattle down the mountain on the old dirt Wade Gap road. He'd stop at Granny Dollar's cabin nearby and visit with her. He didn't write down any of her stories, but I grew up hearing them."

"Granddad Crow used to grind his corn at the mill at Alpine on Little River," she recalled. "He had acres and acres of land. He planted watermelon and corn and every kind of vegetable. He'd load up his truck and drive to Chattanooga to sell it. When I was

very young, I remember a truck used to come by my grandmother's house. It seemed to have anything and everything you'd need. She'd save her eggs and trade them for whatever she needed off the truck. The truck stopped coming around when I was about 9, during the war."

Amelia's father, Frank, was a wood pattern maker for the U.S. Navy. "He built a replica of the Spirit of St. Louis, which was displayed at the Smithsonian

in the Alpine area, where many of Amelia's "Crow" relatives still live. The Kirks hosted family and friends when they celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in 1981 in their home.

Amelia also returned to Mentone. In 1976, she and her husband, Robert Brooks, purchased the DeSoto Lodge (formerly Hal's Hotel). She changed the name to the Mentone Inn and extensively renovated the building.

Part of the renovations included tearing down an old store that sat where the "town square" is at the corner of AL Highway 117 and Scenic Drive (the current location of the Mentone Farmers Market). The store had been built around the turn of the century by Ed Mason, the son of Mentone's founder, John Mason. Originally the site of Mentone's first post office, with Ed Mason serving as the town's first postmaster, it was eventually known as the Huron Store. By the 1970s, the structure had gone to ruin and rubble, so Amelia had the remnants of the store removed. Per Amelia's direction, the rock columns currently located around the square were constructed using the original stones that had been the foundation of the structure.

Amelia became an innkeeper, and her mother Mabel helped by greeting people at the front desk and registering them for their stay. Many of these people had decades-long traditions of staying at the inn.

Torn between her life in Mentone and her life in California, Amelia leased out the Inn from 1979

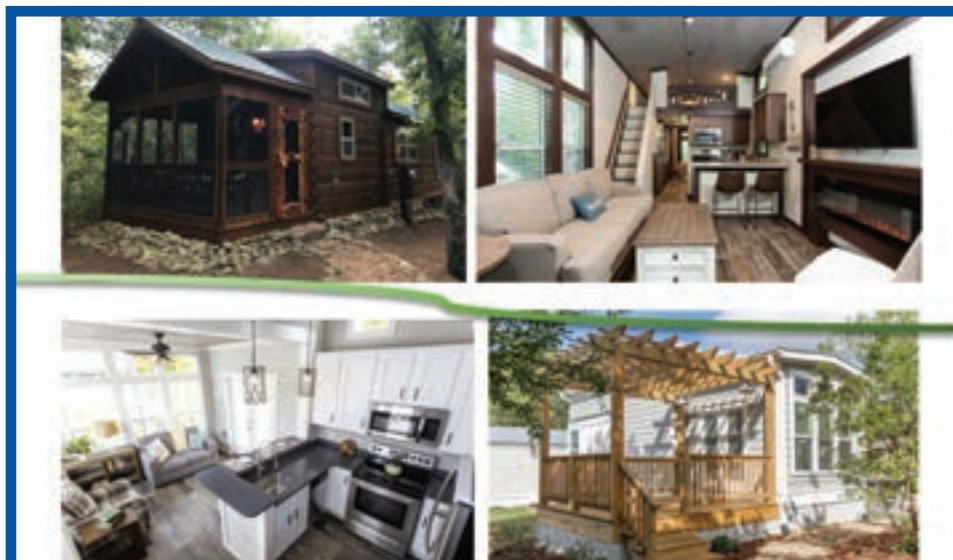
(continued on page 5)



Amelia's grandmother, aunts, and mother. L to R: Maggie Crow, Dorothy Crow, Grace Crow, Mary Lee Crow Camp, Beatrice Crow Kale, Amelia Magnolia Kirk, Mabel Crow Kirk—Mentone, 1960s

Museum in Washington, D.C.," Amelia said with great pride. "He was an amazing woodworker. He once made my mother a sewing cabinet out of 24 different kinds of inlaid wood. It was a replica of the one that Martha Washington had at Mt. Vernon."

Frank and Mabel retired to Mentone in the mid-1970s. They built a large and comfortable home



Experience Tiny Living on Lookout Mountain!

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

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



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Amelia Kirk Lolli (continued from page 4)

Mabel Crow Kirk greeted guests at the Mentone Inn.

until 1982. She returned in 1982 and ran the Inn as a bed and breakfast. The town had few restaurants at the time, so Amelia served lunch and dinner to the public. In 1984, the Mentone Inn was placed on the Alabama Register of Landmarks and Heritage.

In this same year, Amelia and her mother Mabel were two of the instrumental citizens who began the Mentone Area Preservation Association (MAPA), which publishes *The Groundhog*.

One of the key founders of MAPA was Sandra Padgett, who, with her husband, Ray, had bought the Mentone Springs Hotel in 1980 and began a massive restoration project. Amelia and Sandra became fast friends. The inn and the hotel looked on to each other across AL Highway 117, and one of Amelia's most endearing memories of the time was waving to Sandra across the street. "We had so much fun together," said Amelia. "The town was really busy back in those days." Amelia finally sold the Inn in 1995 and moved back to California.

Her final return to Mentone from California was in 2006. Amelia had inherited her parents' home, which

she has lived in for the past 14 years. She is comforted in knowing that the new owners consider it their "forever home" and love it as much as she does.

When I was leaving her home after our visit, I met her friend Charlene Bence, who had stopped by for a farewell visit. Charlene moved to Mentone in 2018 and told me Amelia was her first friend. "She took me under her wing and shared Mentone's stories with me," Charlene said. "She made me feel comfortable and not like an outsider. I sure am going to miss her. Our friendship was short, but it feels like I'm losing part of my family."

Amelia's daughters, Cindy and Kathy, helped her pack up a lifetime's worth of memories. Amelia will primarily reside in Cindy's home in central Oregon, and will spend time visiting her son, Larry, in Washington and her daughter, Kathy, near Sacramento. "I'd like to bring her back to Mentone for a visit in a few years," Cindy said.

Amelia remains particularly close to her cousins, Bob and Cathy Crow, Gary and Kathy Crow, and Karen Crow Tate. "I used to know so many people here. Now they're all gone," said Amelia. "I'll miss being here but so many friends of mine have passed away and during this quarantine my friends and I aren't able to see each other. So, I visit with the people I know on the phone. It'll be nice to see a different part of the world."

Eventually, hopefully in the distant future, Amelia will be returned to Mentone after her death, when she will be laid to rest with almost all of her relatives in Little River Cemetery, which will also be the final resting place for her children.

Amelia Kirk Lolli will certainly be missed by her many friends and family members. She is a part of a rich, bygone era in Mentone's history.



Thanks to "Sponge Dave" Bailey for keeping Moon Lake Elementary School clean and sanitized everyday. His friendliness and dedication to the students and teachers is much appreciated!

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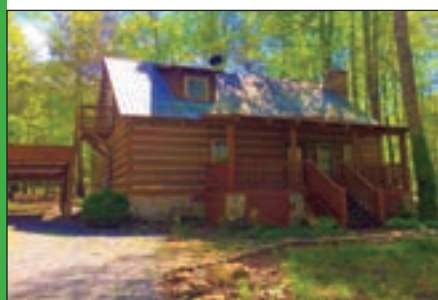
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DeSoto Bluffs - West Brow of Lookout Mtn. Panoramic View for miles on your back porch from this most unique 2.5 acres. \$100,000.

SAGE ADVICE: WELCOME FALL!

by Susan Seago

I don't know about you but I am so glad to have the fall season finally here. It seems like reward for us dealing with the pandemic, the uncertainty of the future, keeping bills paid and food on the table, summer heat, the bees and mosquitoes, and all that we have endured this year of 2020. Now let's focus on the magnificent changing leaf colors, much cooler temperatures, and enjoying the great outside and our yards.

The season of FALL stands for four ways to enhance your landscape to better enjoy your surroundings. The first step? Follow a plan. Maybe your yard just needs freshening up with a few new plants or a new hardscape item, such as a bench under a shade tree or a water feature to draw the wildlife. A plan will get your mind into focus and inspire you with a starting point. Get paper and pen and just brainstorm your thoughts and desires for your landscape. If you have a difficult time imagining what you want, enlist a landscape designer to listen to your wants and have him/her create a plan on paper for you. There will be a price for this, but I guarantee it will be worth it.

ADD new shrubs and perennials. Only plan for perennials for now—no annuals. In the spring, there will be spots for annuals to give more color to the area. There are two exceptions for annuals in fall and winter—pansies, of course, and the colorful kale and cabbage. Plant pansies around the kale in a tall planter to really make a nice display.

There are perennials that will bloom through fall and winter. Toad lilies (trycirtus) have tiny orchid-like purple, pink, or blue blooms along the leaf spine, blooming for about a month. Lenten Rose (hellebore) blooms from October through the new year in many beautiful colors, and the leaves are evergreen, creating the look of a small shrub in spring and summer. (This year, some of our hellebores bloomed into early summer!) Mums are good until frost, but if you leave them in the ground through winter, they will bloom again in spring. After



blooming, cut the plant to six inches tall, and it will bloom again in the fall. They are considered perennials. Hint: before blooms open, pinch off every two out of three. The remaining bloom will be much larger. There are hundreds of blooms on each plant, so don't worry. There will be plenty for a bountiful basket of mums.

Add goldenrod and a few grasses in the flower beds for height and that willow effect when the wind blows. The seeds of the grasses are good food for birds in winter. Purple asters are a great companion for the goldenrod. Lamb's ear, especially the larger leaf series, have leaves through some of the winter for that soft look. The browned leaves in late winter need to be removed to allow for new growth.

Consider adding some fall blooming azaleas (the Encore series) and a few beautyberry shrubs. There are light purple, dark purple, and white berried shrubs. They also provide food for the birds. Other great shrubs are the fall-blooming (sasanqua species) and the winter-blooming (japonica species) camellias. Plant one or more of each for continuous flowering until early spring. They do not like the northwestern winds so plant them in a sunny morning east or southeast spot. Morning sun and afternoon shade are best for camellias. Colors range from white to pink to red or yellow, and some are bi-color. These shrubs are very dependable and will live for years. They are also evergreens, so there are fewer leaves to rake in the fall. Witch hazel is another good late winter yellow blooming shrub.

LAY new ground cloth around the shrubs in beds and spread fresh mulch around all shrubs and flowers. I cannot say how many hours of weeding it saves, and the beds are so neat-looking all season long. Mulch also helps with moisture retention and insulation, especially in hot summer and winter.

Finally, LOVE and enjoy your gardens and landscaping. It has been proven that playing in the dirt is physically good for you, and enjoying nature brings joy and peace to you and your family.

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SENIOR HEALTH

Medicare Open Enrollment

by Lynn Hixon

Medicare Open Enrollment is upon us again. Every year from October 15 through December 7, Medicare beneficiaries have the opportunity to make changes to their Medicare Part D Prescription Drug plan or Medicare Advantage Plan. During this time, beneficiaries can go to SHIP (State Health Insurance Program) to see if the plan they have in 2020 will still be the best plan from them in 2021. By letting SHIP do a free comparison, you have the possibility of substantial savings in premium and drug costs. To have your Part D plan evaluated, call the DeKalb County Council on Aging at 256-845-8590 and ask for Lynn Hixon, the SHIP Counselor.

As the Medicare Open Enrollment approaches, you will notice an increase in mail from insurance companies offering a variety of plans. Beware of possible scams. It is important to remember the following facts:

1. No one should knock on your door to sell you a policy. They should only come to your home if you have made an appointment.
2. Never sign paperwork unless you are 100% sure that is the plan you want.
3. Never give out your Medicare number unless it is a Medicare provider. Protect your Medicare number as you protect your VISA, Master, Debit, and/or Social Security cards.
4. Medicare will NEVER call you on the phone. They will always send a letter requesting that you call them.

Lynn Hixon is the SHIP Counselor at the DeKalb County Council on Aging.

Hiking + Yoga at the State Park

by Brittney Hughes

When you can you say "I Hiked Them All," you can 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.

This Trail Trekker Hike Series is designed for those who prefer to have 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. The hikes are free and open to ages 8 and older.

Trail Trekker Hike Series

Blue & Orange Trails

10/18 • 12-2 pm

Approximately 3 miles round trip, moderate along mountainous terrain.

Neverland Loop & Vizzneyland Loop

10/16 • 12-3 pm

Approximately 4-1/2 miles round trip, moderate along mountainous terrain.

DeSoto Scout Trail Section

10/4 • 12-5 pm

DeSoto Scout Trail Section (from Lodge to DST exit 2, come back CCC road). This hike is approximately 5 miles round trip, moderate to strenuous along rocky mountainous terrain.

Experience yoga while enjoying the beauty that is DeSoto State Park. Join instructor Destin Padgett and park naturalist Brittney Hughes for a great outdoor experience of strengthening, alignment-based yoga poses AND hiking along beautiful trails. Combining hiking and yoga practice in the great outdoors confers benefits unmatched in any other setting. You get the light cardio and strength-building that hiking offers, the toning, flexibility, and relaxation that yoga offers, and the powerful connection to Mother Nature that being outdoors offers. Open to ages 8 and up.

Yoga on the Mountain

Neverland Trail Yoga Hike

10/9 • 4 pm • \$10

Approximately 3-1/2 miles round trip, moderate. Trail weaves through hardwood forest with sandstone outcroppings, streams, wetlands, and an old homeplace along the trail.

Yoga Hike Along Little River

10/12 • 4 pm • \$10

Approximately 1-1/2 miles round trip, moderate. Trail weaves through hardwood/pine mixed forest with sandstone outcroppings and glades, rhododendron and mountain laurel, a 1930s-era CCC trailside shelter, Indian Falls, and the West Fork of Little River.



Pre-registration is required for all sessions. For more information or to pre-register, email Brittney.Hughes@dcnr.alabama.gov

Halloween Festival & Golf Glow Tournament

9 Hole Par 3 / \$30 per person

Includes 2 glow-in-the-dark golf balls, glow necklace, flashlight, chili, hot dog, chips & drink

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LOOKING TO RELAX AT A LAKESIDE CABIN? We believe this to be THE best little waterfront gem in Mentone. Certainly, it's the only one on the market right now. It's a perfect spot for a quiet getaway. Still, it's a tiny, rustic guest cabin included! Each has a perfect porch with lake views. The property has a park-like feel with easy access to the lake. 1.38 acres. \$264,500 (1148466)



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



SPACIOUS CABIN HOME ON 3.31 ACRES 3BR/2.5BA, 2500 sq ft, one-owner home features a welcoming front porch & a deep, oversized back porch for easy entertaining outdoors. Main-level master suite. Upstairs are two large bedrooms & guest bath. Property includes a well-equipped workshop; large pole barn for firewood w/attached chicken coop. Add'l land avail (up to 13 acres total). \$262,000 (1128526)



EASY-LIVING PATIO HOME. Isn't it time to unburden yourself from lawn & home maintenance? Come see this comfortable, all-brick gem in one of the most convenient locations in the county. One minute to Foodland, five minutes to Walmart, hospital, & restaurants in the south Fort Payne commercial hub. 2BR/2BA main level; large bonus/BR upstairs; stainless appliances in kitchen. \$235,000 (1151669)

..... LOTS and LAND

BROWFRONT. ENJOY YOUR MORNING COFFEE & GREET THE SUNRISE. From this vantage point, you can watch the changing seasons across the valley & beyond to Lookout Mountain. 0.8-acre lot in beautiful, woodsy, Pells Gap Subdivision, high atop Sand Mountain. Minutes away from I-59, Fort Payne, but worlds away from traffic & noise. Over 160' East Brow frontage. Owner financing avail. \$75,000 (1151053)

SWEET! Level, partly-wooded, corner lot, approx 0.5 acres. Seller says this was the site of the original homeplace for this beautiful area once known as Pells Gap. The subdivision, named for this historic gap, is only a short drive to I-59, Fort Payne. Less than 15 minutes to Rainsville. This would be a great spot to build and has such easy access. Owner financing avail. \$15,000. (1151268)



BROW-FRONT GETAWAY CABIN. A straightforward solid little, one-level cabin located along the DeSoto Pkwy. All-wood interior features a huge, stone fireplace w/raised hearth. The brow view has been left uncut in order to provide shade in the summer. Select cut to create the view you want. 2-car garage could be converted into guest quarters. Great rental potential! \$299,900 (1148480)



THE YELLOW DELI, LOG CABIN DELI, MOONLIGHT BISTRO, GREEN LEAF GRILL... There have been some great memories made in this cool, old storybook log cabin. The time has come for the next chapter to be written in this iconic property's story. Come & sit on the front porch, nestle up to the wood-burning fireplace inside, take in the hand-hewn beams & other rustic elements of this unique property. Dare to dream. \$159,500 (1145)

BEWARE OF THE "I WANT TO BUY YOUR HOUSE..." LETTER

A lot of folks have received letters over the past few months asking them if they'd like to sell their property. There is usually a phone number to call and, if you chance to call it, you will most likely get a recording. Beware!

Why are folks getting these letters? One answer is that the real estate market is crazy right now, prices are up, and there simply aren't enough properties for sale to meet the demand. And investors want property to re-sell for a profit.

So, is this letter you've received a legitimate inquiry? More than likely, it is not.

Occasionally, there will be someone interested enough in a property that they will take the time to do the research, find out who owns it, and write a letter of inquiry. Sometimes these real estate prospectors will be lucky enough to get a phone number and call the owner directly. There are legitimate buyers out there doing this. It may have a happy ending for both the buyer and seller.

But, these letters that are blanketing the country right now are most certainly not legitimate attempts to pay property owners a fair market value for their houses. In many cases, there has been a seminar or online class with names like "Investing in Real Estate 101." This could be more aptly titled, "How to Build Your Wealth by Stealing Real Estate from Unsuspecting Folks."

There is nothing wrong with someone trying to purchase your property. There is nothing wrong with trying to get a bargain. But, when unsuspecting owners get the fast-talking, high-pressure investors painting a picture of quick-money, quick-closings and no involvement with those pesky real estate agents, let the seller beware!

Generally, these letters have a name or business location that sounds legitimate, but is actually a front and your number is distributed to their investors/clients. You start getting phone calls from all over the place. They have no idea where you are, have never really heard of your town. They are looking for desperate people who need money and can easily be swindled.

The bottom line: your property is worth more than you might think. These folks who are sending out these letters got your information from tax records or other online, public sources. They are looking for bargains. They will NOT pay you anywhere close to fair market value. If you aren't sure what your property is worth, talk to someone who is a legitimate real estate professional. You are NOT obligated to list your property with anyone just because they give you a market analysis. That's what we do.

If we can be of help, please stop by the Mentone Realty log cabin office and speak with one of our agents. Or give us a call. It's a sellers' market right now and we can help you get more for your property than you might think. Let us help you be a SELLER, not a victim of unscrupulous investors.



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



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

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

NEED A BIT OF EARTH? Well, here it is! Less than 5 minutes from downtown Mentone. Water & power. 1.5 acres, unrestricted. Hard to find until now. Nicely wooded. Survey markers in place. Now \$17,500. (1109345)

AND HERE IT IS! Just the right amount of land for a home in the country. Not too far away from wherever you want to be, either along I-59/ Fort Payne, Hwy 35 to Rainsville/Ft Payne. It's all good. Corner lot with just enough slope for good drainage. A little bit of woods, too. Located in Pells Gap Subdivision, Nicely priced at only \$15,000 (1151274)

*It's a Seller's market!
Call or text us today!*





N•E•W•S by Rhea Pirch

Pivot: to respond differently due to a new circumstance

With the pivot handed us, namely COVID-19, the Little River Arts Council board of directors has worked to find ways to adjust to what has been handed us in order to carry out our mission to the artists and the community. Our outdoor summer music concerts turned into a socially distanced chalk art contest at the community walkway at the MERF House. Sharing is now done through social media and our website. We take necessary precautions to protect people and prevent the spread of the virus.

Using virtual programming as our main tool, we will continue to be able to give artists and musicians a platform and a voice and keep our community strong through sharing their work and talents. We, in essence, will bring art and artists to you in your home. In the months ahead, we will prepare video vignettes of area artists, their process and their work, which you will be able to purchase directly from them. We will present video concerts of musicians filmed at some of our area's favorite spots, such as Fort Payne's Opera House. We will offer video tutorials given by local artists who also love to teach, and monthly contests for the public, so you can show your creative expression. All this will be available on our website

and on our social media sites—Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube. If you are an artist interested in this opportunity, please contact us through our website at littleriverartscouncil.org.

Another device we offer to connect artists with opportunity is our Artist Registry. The registry offers artists more awareness through an expanded web presence via our website and social media platforms,



in addition to a connection with LRAC members and art patrons.

As a member of the LRAC Artist Registry, you will

receive exclusive notifications of grant opportunities, events, competitions, and other items that might interest you as an artist. The first 20 artists to join the registry will be specially featured in our launch campaign.

We recently received notification from the Alabama State Council on the Arts that we were



awarded a grant in the amount of \$1,420 for our fifth annual Creative Spirit Market, so after much discussion and deliberation, the board decided to hold the Market on November 13 and 14. Held at DeSoto State Park's picnic grounds, Creative Spirit Market is collaboratively

hosted by the Arts Council and DeSoto State Park.

Strong COVID-19 safety measures will be implemented for this event. Artist booths will be spread over the expanse of the picnic ground area. Artists will be required to wear masks. We also ask that visitors wear masks and keep the social distancing edict of staying six feet away from each other. We will have musicians playing each hour at the small pavilion over the two-day event, and we will offer an alternative to the Make Art table. With these



Plein Air artists Eugenia Johnston and Victoria Pearmain in Mentone

precautions in place, we have no doubt we can have a successful event for all to enjoy.

Thanks to all the artists who participated in the Global Plein Air Paintout in September. On our website, you can see their completed works from their outdoors vantage points in Fort Payne, Mountain Cove, and Mentone. Some of the artwork is for sale.

Please keep in mind that the Little River Arts Council is a public membership organization. You do not have to be an artist to join. All you need is an interest in making art possible for those who live in and visit Mentone and neighboring communities!

Rhea Pirch serves as treasurer and grant writer for the Little River Arts Council.



A picture doesn't do it justice! This quilt was designed and painted by all the Moon Lake students in the spring of 2019 and purchased at MERF's 2019 auction. "Thanks to Paula Easter and Cheryl Wilborn (school nurse and quilter) for enabling the students to produce this beautiful piece," said MERF's executive director, Sarah Wilcox.



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NEW



BROW VIEW & WATER-FRONT! Immaculate custom-built home w/ open floor plan. Exposed beams, stacked rock fireplace. 3 BR, 2.5 BA. Finished basement w/ patio. Screen porch overlooking lake. Generator. Beautiful landscaping with rock formations. \$269,500. MLS #1152742

NEW



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



COUNTRY ROADS TAKE ME HOME.....to the place I belong! Mentone 3 BR, 1.5 BA home with guest cottage privately situated on 20 acres. Wood burning fireplace, hardwood flooring, main level master, spacious covered front porch and screened porch. \$289,000 MLS# #1150432



CHARMING MENTONE HOME WITH VIEWS off Scenic Highway 89.. 1,200SF main house w/ stone exterior/interior walls, covered porches, rock FP, vaulted ceilings, PLUS studio w/ kitchen, bath, screened porch, 2-car garage & workshop! Updated kitchen, baths, wiring & plumbing. New Roofing! \$389,900. MLS # 1150220.



PEACE AND PRIVACY are yours at this ideally located Mentone home. 3 bedrooms and 1 bath all on one level. Living/dining combo and a front screened porch to enjoy the breezy Mentone mornings...ALL THIS within walking distance to downtown Mentone. \$89,000. MLS #1150302



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

LOTS & LAND

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

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

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

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

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

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

#1108339—Better Than a Bargain...this is a STEAL! \$89,000.

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

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

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

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

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

#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. \$25,000

#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. \$25,000

#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. \$25,000

#1118229—A great little investment property or place for your weekend getaway. \$49,900

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

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

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

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

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

NEW



MOUNTAIN LAUREL INN is nestled in the woods above Little River. Main residence w/ BR/BA, living, kitchen, utility & sunroom. Guest house w/ 4BR, each w/private entrance & bath, & 2-room studio w/kitchenette. Gathering house w/ LR and kitchenette. Approx. 7-acre property borders DeSoto State Park. \$379,000. MLS #1153859

NEW



MENTONE LOG CABIN on hill w/ sunset views, 300yds. off Little River West Fork. 3BD/2BA, black walnut LR floor, slate rock kitchen floor. Covered porch on 3 sides. Illuminated patio w/ fire pit, koi pond w/ waterfall. Recent updates include tin roof, remodeled baths, pressure-treated porch floor. \$392,700. MLS #1153722

NEW



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

#1139471—READY FOR THAT BROW VIEW IN MENTONE? 2.3 acres of untouched land! Make this your new home away from home and build the cabin of your dreams! REDUCED TO \$100,000

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

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

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

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

#1149803—GORGEOUS LOT IN MENTONE with .81+/- acres in Hunter's

Ridge Subdivision. \$15,000

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

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

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

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



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MERF News

by Sarah Wilcox

Wow, oh wow! How much fun and what a beautiful piece of community work and artistry! Thank you to every single person that participated in painting pickets, putting up the fence, touching up the fence, clear coating, installing musical instruments, enhancing the landscaping, and willing to use your gifts for the good of the community! There are too many to list but please know that there is tremendous gratitude for each one of you and for your time and talents.

If you haven't spent time at the Pathway to Community (MERF walking trail), fall is the perfect time to enjoy a stroll, to play a musical instrument, to sit on a colorful bench to enjoy the outdoors and landscaping, and to be awed by the artistry of our community! Thank you everyone for your encouragement, your gifts, and your sweat equity. This pathway has only been possible due to our community and funding by the Community Foundation of Northeast Alabama!

October 2020 will be different without MAPA's wonderful Colorfest and seeing MERF friends at our booth. I wish I played golf so I could participate in MAPA's golf tournament on Saturday, October 10, at Lil' Mole Run. It sounds like a great event. The weather will be perfect for a "Leave Me in Mentone" t-shirt, cap, or sweatshirt! Little River Hardware is now carrying the 1/4 zip sweatshirt and the colorful Mentone, Mentone, Mentone t-shirt, along with the embroidered shirts and caps. Pick up one while you enjoy their homemade ice cream! DeSoto State Park has the embroidered shirts and hats in the Country Store by the zipline. All proceeds benefit the programs of MERF.



Teamwork got the job done.



MERF board president proudly wears his "Leave Me in Mentone" 1/4 zip sweatshirt.



Volunteer Cynthia Luck and others prepare the pickets to be attached to the posts.



Sue McLaurin Henry Scholarship Applications

Heads up! Sue McLaurin Henry Scholarship applications will be coming in November for one of the MERF programs that is not often heard about.

Students living in Mentone or Valley Head must complete an online application which will be available starting November 1, 2020, showing financial need, a full schedule of spring semester courses, and a 2.8/4 GPA. Non-traditional and traditional students are welcome to apply.

Since 2013, MERF has awarded 43 scholarships totaling \$17,250 to deserving students with the initial funds, as well as memorial donations of loved ones that MERF receives. Recipients have been students fresh out of high school as well as adults needing to earn a degree later in their lives as a new source of providing for their livelihood. MERF is grateful to be able to continue helping the community with this scholarship through the memorial gifts.



Jan Wilkinson and Courtney Nelson enjoy the new, colorful Buddy Bench.

On Thursday, October 8, MERF will be doing a one-time distribution of a week of food for the local children due to funds received for this purpose. The Moon Lake students will be given their food at school and it will include all children in the family. Curbside pick-up for all other families will be at the MERF house that day from 4–6 p.m. on a first-come, first-served basis.

Mountain Framing (Tom Emory) and Mentone Arts

and Cultural Center are graciously allowing MERF to place in their galleries the Taste of the Mountain Auction items that are still available. They will each have a purchase-now price and all proceeds will benefit MERF. Stop by Mountain Framing at 1714 AL Highway 117 (just past the Summit Church) and MACC artists gallery at 5951 AL Highway 117 to see the items in person. Or view them at 32auctions.com/mountainframing and 32auctions.com/MACC. These pieces will be available until December 31. Thank you for your continued support!

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.

Go to bit.ly/pathway-fence to see a video of the fence installation and ALL the pickets!

A panoramic view of all 400 pickets



Moon Lake Community Library News by Kelly Leavitt

It's a tribute to our community that the library has continued to function in spite of being closed since mid-March. Thanks to everyone who has continued borrowing books using our curbside service, and to those who have purchased books through our virtual book sale. We've had several large donations of books from readers' collections, and our sale shelves are overflowing. We hope to have a public parking lot sale sometime in October. Keep an eye on our website or join our email list to learn more at moonlakelibrary.org.

Curbside service continues at the library, as well as our virtual book sale. Visit our website to reserve books to check out or to place an order for books to purchase.

Kelly Leavitt is the librarian at Moon Lake Community Library.



Video Discussion

The library will host a discussion of the documentary, "The Social Dilemma," now available on Netflix. We will meet online via Zoom on Tuesday, October 13, at 6:30 p.m.

The movie explores the rise of social media and its often unseen, pervasive impact on our lives. The filmmakers feature commentary by some of the people who first created social media and their reactions to how their original intent has been co-opted, including their concerns that technology is not only diminishing human creativity, but is manipulating people's thoughts and opinions.

This video should be of interest to anyone who uses social media such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube, and Pinterest and to anyone who has young people in their lives. We know, and have largely accepted, that our data is mined for the benefit of advertising dollars. This documentary shows us a deeper look into how social media technology influences us—to the degree that many who have watched the film have closed their social media accounts. As the final credits roll, several of the film's commentators, including former Google design ethicist and Center for Humane Technology co-founder Tristan Harris, state that they severely limit or, in some cases, don't allow, screen time for their children.

In order to watch the movie without a Netflix account, you can either sign up for a free trial, or watch via Zoom on Sunday, October 11, at 7 p.m. There is no charge for the Zoom viewing. We hope you will join us for this important discussion on October 13. See moonlakelibrary.org to learn how to connect.



Moon Lake Book Club

The Moon Lake Book Club decided to explore historical fiction for our next discussion on Tuesday, October 27, at 6:30 p.m. We will read *THE NIGHTINGALE* by Kristin Hannah (Macmillan, 2015). From the publisher:

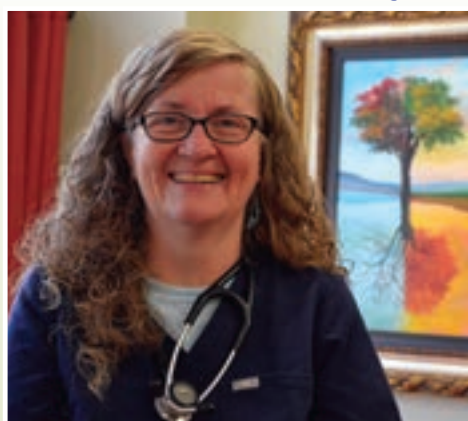
"With courage, grace and powerful insight, bestselling author

Kristin Hannah captures the epic panorama of WWII and illuminates an intimate part of history seldom seen: the women's war. "The Nightingale" tells the stories of two sisters, separated by years and experience, by ideals, passion and circumstance, each embarking on her own dangerous path toward survival, love, and freedom in German-occupied, war-torn France—a heartbreakingly beautiful novel that celebrates the resilience of the human spirit and the durability of women."

Everyone is welcome to join the book club for our monthly discussions. We meet online via Zoom. The Zoom room will open at 6:15 p.m. for a period of socializing before we begin the discussion. Visit our website or Facebook page to learn how to connect.



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on the square at the Mentone Inn
* No dogs allowed at the Market **

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Rev. Dolas D. (DD) Bain: Still Going at 99 by Dale Bain



Rev. Dolas D. Bain enjoys working in his garden

Born in Mentone in 1921, Rev. Dolas D. (DD) Bain will turn 99 years old on October 25. After miraculously surviving World War II, he made some life-changing promises to his God. He started into the Church of God pastoring ministry in 1950 in a small wooden church in a cotton patch in Rosalie, AL. While there, his third child, Rick, was born with a horrible case of skin eczema. Dolas prayed, while Della—his faithful wife of almost 71 years—cried. Rick is healed today and is living in St Louis, MO.

From Rosalie, Dolas and Della and their three children were called to pastor his home church in Mentone for the first

time. After a successful pastorate there, Rev. DD Bain and family were called to the Church of God in Ider, AL. Here, his fourth child, Bob, was born. (Later, Bob developed juvenile diabetes and himself became a Church of God pastor before being called to Glory at the early age of 49. Losing this son just about did it for DD and Della Bain, who were at the time aged 84 and 80, respectively. However, God had brought them through rough times before and this time was no different.)

From Alabama, DD Bain moved on to very successful pastorates at five different churches in Kentucky. After this successful pastorate in Kentucky, DD and family were called back to his home church at Mentone for a second time. Here his two oldest children, Dolas “Dale” and Veronica, were able to graduate from their hometown high school.

DD and Della moved on to evangelistic work in the state of Kentucky and were eventually called to pastor the Church of God in Springfield, IL. From Springfield, they moved to the Church of God in Harvey, IL, where their youngest son, Bob, graduated from high school. In the early 1980s, DD, Della, and Bob were called to pastor the 18th Street Church of God in Louisville, KY. The church began to grow, and DD was able to sell the church property and build a beautiful church across town. However, the stress of this event played too heavily on DD and he was diagnosed with colon cancer in 1983. He was rushed to the hospital, where they removed some of his colon. DD was laid up for a long recuperating period.

After some 30+ years in the ministry, DD decided to retire and moved back to his home state of Alabama. He suffered for two years through his cancer ordeal, and then got down to business with God. He began to pray and fast and two years later, God miraculously healed his body completely. That was over 37 years ago and DD is still going strong, preaching as hard as he ever did. For over 20 years, he has had a weekly TV and radio program in Trenton, GA.

The Church of God Ministry to the Military Division awarded DD a medal for his service and in 2016 the French Government presented DD the French Legion of Honor in recognition of his courage while helping to liberate France during World War II.

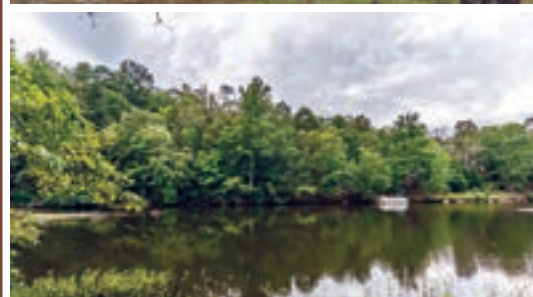
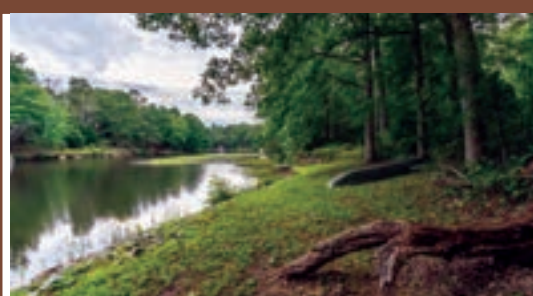
For more than 68 years, DD Bain has been proclaiming God’s gospel, whether in a church or over the air waves. God has blessed him and Della, who passed away in 2013, just a month before they were to celebrate their 71st wedding anniversary. Some of his friends call DD the “energizer bunny”—he just keeps going and going!

Dale Bain is “Son #1.”



Many thanks to Don Highfield for sprucing up MAPA’s community bulletin board at the Mentone Post Office. A wood carver by trade, he generously crafted a new dedication sign, painted the posts, and repaired some of the wood.

The bulletin board has been provided as a service by MAPA for the general use of the community since 1982. Feel free to open the back of the board and post your flyer or notice. NEW POLICY: In order to keep notices up to date, write the date you’re posting the flyer in its lower right corner. After two weeks, your flyer will be removed unless you have updated the date. Please be respectful and do not cover up other people’s posts. Thank you!



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Mentone Arts & Cultural Center Update

by Randy Grider

Gallery & information center to open this month



Staff, volunteers, and board members of the Mentone Arts and Cultural Center made huge strides in recent weeks to meet its goal of opening the doors of the art gallery, visitors' information center, and gift shop later this month.

Improvements and upgrades to the former Kamama building at 5951 AL Highway 117 include a fresh new look inside and out and needed repairs.

In mid-September, local and regional artists started dropping off arts to sell in the gallery. While an exact opening date is still to be announced, the third weekend of October is the current target timeframe. Please check our updates on our Facebook page at facebook.com/mentoneartscenter.org.

We also have begun workshops and classes. The first was a digital photography workshop by photographer/instructor John Dersham. In addition to local students, it drew participants from Chelsea and Alexander City.

On October 2-4, artist/instructor Alan R. Young will hold his rescheduled "Watercolor by Drybrush" class



Students in John Dersham's photography class at Brow Park

as part of our Visiting Artist series. Young is an instructor at the renowned John C. Campbell Folk School. The class has sold out.

Another long-tenured Folk School artist/instructor, Virginia Urani, will hold her beginners' class, "Getting Your Feet Wet with Watercolor," on October 26-28. The cost of the class is \$195 and all supplies are furnished. Class is limited to seven students. We still have three spots available at press time.

All students must pre-pay to be considered registered for a class. For more information or to reserve your spot in a class, please see contact information below.

We are keeping art classes small in number of participants and taking all recommended precautions due to the current pandemic. Masks will be required in the visitor's center, gallery, and in all classes where 6-feet of social distancing is not possible.

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

Mike Langston Joins Mentone's Police Force

by Kelly Leavitt

Mike Langston is well-known in the Mentone community, as his family's presence in the town goes back three generations. Mike, age 24, is the son of Nicki and Tina Langston. After attending Moon Lake School, he attended and graduated from Valley Head School. During his senior year, he began working at DeSoto State Park doing general maintenance. After graduating, he held a full-time position at the Park for four years.

In 2018, he attended the Northeast Alabama Law Enforcement Agency and then became a law enforcement officer at the state park. "Growing up," he said, "I'd always had law enforcement in the back of my mind, and then I took a step towards it." That step has now led to Mike being a full-time officer on Mentone's police force. He began working in the middle of August and was sworn in on September 24 by town clerk Kristen Emory.

"I want to work in my own hometown and know the people that I'll be serving and protecting," Mike said. "I want to build a good relationship with the town and the people living in it." When asked if he has aspirations beyond Mentone, Mike said, "To be honest with you, I'll stay here as long as they'll have me."



Mike Langston was sworn in as Mentone's newest police officer at Mentone's Town Hall

Blessing of the Animals

Sunday, October 4 • 2 pm

St. Joseph's on-the-Mountain Episcopal Church Front Lawn

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This photo was taken by Miranda Reese Watson on September 12, when she led a DeSoto State Park Daybreak Kayak Trip up Little River from DeSoto Falls. It shows the new bridge which crosses AL Highway 117 near Camp Skyline. The bridge is replacing the old, more narrow bridge. This project has been long in the planning, and long in the making. Many years ago, concerned citizens met several times with AL-DOT representatives to ensure that the bridge replacement would reflect the beauty and grace of the original bridge, especially from the perspective of the river. Their efforts have certainly paid off.

The new bridge is slated to open in October. The older bridge will become a pedestrian bridge where people can stand over the river to enjoy the view.



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Contacts: Mike Key 256-996-5714
VH Town Hall 256-635-6814
Tigers Inn Restaurant 256-662-0956

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October

Birthdays

- 1

Ron Logan
Brian Baine
Kerry Breithaupt
Greyson Collins
Tate Langston
- 2

Kevin Gifford
Ben Kirby
Avery Burke
Brian Brandon
Tim Ledford
Liam Crawford
- 3

Angie Shugart
Ansley Blalock
Elizabeth Gentry
- 4

Casey Cox
Mandy Williams
Reegan Shankles
Jensen Hawkins
- 5

Grace Wright
Mack Flannigan
Sadler Emory
Starla Cash
Donald Daniel
Kathy Peterson
Stephanie Hester
Savannah Shannon
Lynn Headrick
- 6

Tylor Harrison
Breanna Blalock
Katy Tubberville
Casey Hellums
Tanya Thomas
Adyson Hughes
Timdavid Wheat
Jannie McElhaney
- 7

Christian Henry
Maggie Coots
Macy Smith
- 8

Allie Williams
- 9

Donna Hallahan
Audie Beason
Alaina McElhaney
- 10

Jimmy Worthey
Sally Muschamp
Gayla Smith
Allie Hedden
- 11

Michele Wooden
Amanda Reed
Rhett Freeman
Sam Harrison
Abigail Wallace
Caison Allen
Houston Spillman
Bethany Whittle
Kelley Frazier
- 12

Amanda Wright
Ariana Jenkins
Leslie Beason
Craig Smith
Cheryl King
Nicholas Senicz
- 13

Sadie Long
JayDan Haynes
Terry Brandon
Dustin Smith
John Foreman
- 14

Martha Kirby
Tina Langston
Olen Crowe
Ashley Phillips
Russell Wright
- 15

Lanita Allen
David "Tater" Hopper
Pam Manning
Casey Cartwright
Tony Crow
- 16

Sarah Blalock
Tina Carden
Jacey Traffanstedt
Glenda Turlington
Barry Sadowski
Kurt Winn
- 17

Renae Langston
Rose Cox
Alisha Lawton
Katie Poe
Tommy Battles
Eddie Coots
Andrue Smith
Aryan Wallace
Andreah Calvert
Megan O'Shields
Bill Shugart III
- 18

Zoey Kate Baggett
Ken Busby
Stacy Smith
Terry Manning
Hollie Dean
Alisha McElhaney
- 19

Isaac Underwood
Charles Robert Hammon
Matt Tillman
Chris Porter
- 20

Harry Hopper
Joseph Lee
Jamie Shankles
Koralyn Parker
- 21

Darius Turner
Ross Van Pelt
Donna McClure
Joan Harrison
- 22

Kendra Cartwright
- 23

Levi McClure
Sandra Padgett
Roberta Kirby
Edith Dean
Joe Piscatelli
- 24

Kyle Rape
Tytan Blevins
Marlie Spencer
- 25

Piper Kate Reed
Jordan Bain
Ethan Smith
Nicole Wolf
- 26

Jeff Harrison
Cindy Butler
Cheri Williams
Jacob Garner
Liam Williams
- 27

Teresa Verdon
Charity Garcia
Johnny Wynn
Ava Blevins
Ella Holloway
- 28

Judah Grisham
Robert Worthey
Meagan Sutton
Matthew Patterson
Rayford Bethune
Wesley Frost
Kristy Nance
- 29

Jessica McGinnis
Blake Blevins
Dylan Newberry
- 30

Shannon Wagner
Jennifer Collins
Emmy Smith
Karen Prestwood
Elizabeth Womack
- 31

Ashley Sanderson
Charlotte Gentry
John Dersham
Wayne Miller
- Grady Gilbert
Tucker Gregory

Anniversaries

- 1

Chuck & Cheri Williams
- 5

Donnie & Connie Bell
Jason & Karmen Smith
- 7

Eddie & Ashley Manning
- 8

Casey & Madie Gregory
Steve & Carry Pope
Craig & DeeDee Hendricks
- 9

Nelson & Brenda Kerby
- 10

George & Sandra Boehringer
- 15

Nathan & Holly Owen
- 17

Adam & Alex Dupree
- 18

Lee & Tina Carden
- 19

Tim & Jennifer Ledford
- 22

Larry & Faye Bone
Cody & Kaitlyn Tedder
Austin & Jaymie Potts
Mike & Gwen Stone
Sherman & Charlotte Goss
- 25

Josh & Hope Deal
- 27

Coby & Brittany Harrison

Community Calendar

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

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

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

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

FREE FOOD for eligible persons and families. Wednesdays, 9-11am. New applicants are welcome during these hours. Joint effort between St. Joseph's-on-the-Mountain Episcopal Church

(Community Outreach Ministry) and the Food Bank of North Alabama.

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

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



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River Voice

by Angie Shugart

The river moves from land to water to land, in and out of organisms, reminding us what native peoples have never forgotten: that you cannot separate the land from the water, or the people from the land. —Lynn Culbreath Noel

What is an environmentalist? No one wants to be stereotypical. Can the term be defined? Growing up in the 80s, I saw that often the proverbial environmentalist was an seen as an irrational person who chained themselves to a tree to keep it from being cut down. Honestly, these people inspired me greatly. I know there are still

those who take those measures to make a statement, however I believe techniques have evolved and there is conversation among the environmental community that inspires real change. Everyone is an environmentalist to some degree. If you love to fish, hunt, kayak, or hike, you could fall in the category of “nature lover.” If you are a member of an environmental organization such as The Sierra Club or The Audubon Society and have a good understanding of the importance of environmental regulations, you could be considered an “advocate.” Going one step further on the environmentalist spectrum are the people working on behalf of the environment, such as myself.

There are over 40 river and lake groups in Alabama who are actively addressing environmental issues regarding our state’s 132,000 miles of lakes, rivers and streams. In my book, these people are considered heroes, as they work each day towards solutions for a healthy environment and sustainable future that we all are relying on.

Alabama Rivers Alliance is a partner non-profit organization based in Birmingham that brings the environmental community together and holds an annual conference, the Alabama Water Rally. The event is usually held in the spring at Camp McDowell or Camp Beckwith, however, with COVID-19, this year’s conference was a virtual Zoom meeting in September. Although it was disappointing that we could not be together, I was truly impressed how the small organization of three, pulled off the technical task of managing a four-day virtual conference. From start to finish, the rally was jammed packed full of inspiring messages from advocates from across the state.

Subject matter from the conference was everything from a beautiful poetry reading honoring our land and water, to meaningful conversations about how climate change is affecting Alabama’s natural world and southeastern rivers. The 2020 Southern Exposure Films were premiered and groups could learn in depth about the roles of our state agencies and ways to become a stronger organization. There was even a virtual “meet and greet,” when we mingled with friends and met new people while sipping on the new “River Defender” beer by Red Clay Brewing.

My favorite speaker was Dr. Scot Duncan, professor of biology at Birmingham-Southern College. Scot is the author of the award-winning book, “Southern Wonder: Alabama’s Surprising Biodiversity” and he spoke on what inspired his second book about the future of southeastern rivers. Nationally, Alabama is #5 in species diversity and #2 in species extinction. Dr. Duncan’s presentation about the connection between species extinction, dams, and runoff reminded us that everything in nature is connected. He referred to how an extremely beneficial mussel, the purple bankclimber, is now rare and endangered and how at one time, these creatures kept our southeastern rivers clear by filtering the flowing rivers and streams through their shells. Because of dams, its host, the endangered Alabama sturgeon, is limited to a small section of approximately 130 miles of rivers in lower Georgia and Alabama. This is only one example of two connected species. Alabama has lost over 100 species since the industrial revolution. When we damage and alter aquatic ecosystems, we are removing natural ecosystem services that filter and clean our water naturally.

The takeaway message from Dr. Duncan and the other incredible speakers was: Take Action. Take action in policies that shape our lives and impact Alabama’s environment. The state of Alabama lacks a water management plan, a dam inspection program, and policies that encourage renewable energy and water conservation. I encourage you to get involved with groups who are engaging in positive change when it comes to a sustainable future with clean air, clean water and clean energy. We need more citizens contacting representatives about these issues. Do we want our children and grandchildren to look back on how we didn’t take an active role in preserving the environment for their future? Personal choices like not littering and using less plastic are important, but it’s going to take more people becoming involved in environmental policy.

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

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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".

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

St. Joseph's on-the-Mountain Episcopal Church and Sacred Garden is open daily for prayer and thanksgiving; however, indoor service and group meetings have been temporarily cancelled due to COVID-19. You may join us for weekly services by visiting our website at stjom.dioala.org. We are continuing to support our community with outreach, so please call our church office at 256-634-4476 for more information. 21145 Scenic Hwy, PO Box 161, Mentone, AL 35984.

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

*We suggest you
contact the churches
to inquire about how they are
currently holding services.*

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 Moon Lake Baptist Church's dining hall. All are invited to attend. Sabbath School and Song Service 9:30-10:45am, Worship Service 11am-12:15pm. Pastor - Wilbur Atwood; Lay Pastors - James Hartley and Ryan Bunnel.

Fort Payne, Alabama

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

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

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 (EST) and Worship at 10am (EST). 150 Partain Road.

Menlo, Georgia

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

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

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

Summerville, Georgia

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Book Review by Anne McLeod

Erik Larson's THE SPLENDID AND THE VILE: A SAGA OF CHURCHILL, FAMILY, AND DEFIANCE DURING THE BLITZ

Erik Larson, author of "The Devil in the White City," "In the Garden of Beasts," "Dead Wake," and other narrative nonfiction bestsellers, takes readers of "The Splendid and the Vile" to London just as Hitler's bombs begin to pound the city.

Much of the book focuses on Winston Churchill, the new Prime Minister, as well as his family, friends, and associates. Knowing now how the war would end, it is easy to forget the uncertainty that existed at its start. Larson describes a conversation between Churchill and his police guardian Inspector Thompson the day the king called him to Buckingham Palace to ask that he replace resigning Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain and form a new government. As the two men parted, Churchill told Thompson, "All I hope is that it is not too late....I am very much afraid that it is. But we can only do our best, and give the rest of what we have—whatever there may be left to us."

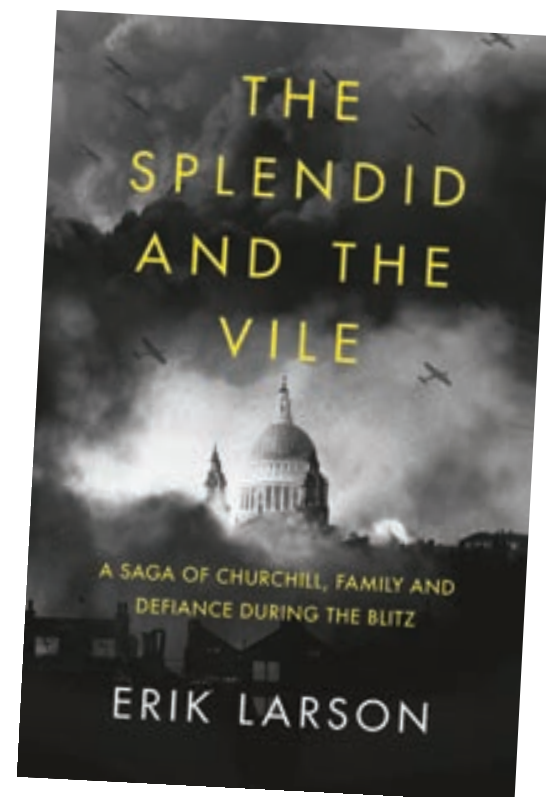
Winston Churchill emerged during the Blitz as a heroic and unifying leader, who never minimized the dangers facing Britain. Instead he called on the people to rise to the challenge, even as their homes and public spaces were shattered by bombs. Londoners darkened windows at night with curtains to keep enemy bombers from seeing any light that could become a target and sheltered in Underground stations during raids.

Two years before the war began, a group called Mass-Observation initiated a popular journaling project in which British citizens described their everyday lives and routines. When their lives were upended by the war, these journals chronicled the stories of ordinary people enduring extraordinary times. Larson uses short excerpts from these journals throughout the book, sometimes as stand-alone short chapters. "I stopped typing for two minutes to listen to an extra noisy enemy plane. It dropped a bomb which puffed my curtains in and made the house shiver (I am in bed under the roof) and now the guns are galoomphing at its back. There are craters at the bottom of my garden, and a small unexploded bomb." And yet diarist Olivia Cockett described her overall mood as "cheerful."

"The Splendid and the Vile" includes enough military history to help readers grasp the strategic importance of events, including fascinating accounts of emerging technologies both sides tried to keep secret. But the most interesting parts of the book are the characters, among them Churchill's private secretary John Colville who kept a secret diary of his years working for a demanding yet inspiring boss; Pamela Churchill, married to Winston's irresponsible son whose gambling debts and alcoholism threatened their relationship; German pilot Adolf Galland, who received cigars after the war as a gift from an RAF hero.

Larson has a gift for humanizing even the most privileged. Reading this book in spring of this year as the coronavirus pandemic wreaked havoc with the supply chain here in the U.S. and created a shortage of toilet paper, I felt for King George VI who was reduced to making discreet requests from the British embassy in Washington for "a certain type of paper which is made in America and is unprocureable here. A packet or two of 500 sheets at intervals would be most acceptable."

"The Splendid and the Vile" (Crown, 2020) by Erik Larson is itself splendid storytelling and is available for checkout from the Moon Lake Community Library.



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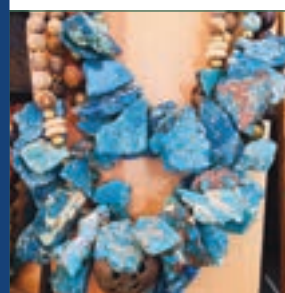
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In Memoriam



AMANDA MICHELLE "MANDIE" DOOLEY September 13, 1974 – September 7, 2020

Amanda Michelle "Mandie" Dooley, 45, of Summerville, GA, died Monday, September 7, 2020, at Redmond Regional Medical Center.

Ms. Dooley was born September 13, 1974, in Rome, GA, daughter of Terry Wayne Dooley and the late Barbara Ann Lankford Reece. She was employed with the Wildflower Café in Mentone. In addition to her mother, she was preceded in death by twin brother and sister, Bobbie and Terrie Dooley.

Ms. Dooley is survived by her son, Bryce Barrett; daughter-in-law, Rylee Hadley; father, Terry Dooley; brother, Michael Wayne Dooley; nieces, Ashley Michelle Dooley, Sarah MaryEllen Flower; and nephews, Michael Allen Dooley, Daniel Lee Dooley, and Gabriel Zayne Dooley.

In lieu of flowers, the family respectfully requests donations be made to the Hope Rebirth Homeless Shelter (50 Eleanor Street, Summerville, GA 30747).

MARY NELL GREGORY September 29, 1934 – September 18, 2020

Mary Nell Gregory, age 85, of Valley Head, passed away on Friday, September 18, 2020.

She is survived by her daughter, Karen Gregory Bowden; brother, Charles Robert Harper; sisters, Alice Faye Lowe and Reba Lee Bryan; and several grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her sons, Steve Gregory and Michael Gregory. Burial was at Head Springs Cemetery.

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

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

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

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

NEVA ISABELL ARMSTRONG STARNES April 10, 1929 – September 10, 2020

Neva Isabell Armstrong Starnes, 91, passed away Thursday, September 10, 2020 at Oakview Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Summerville, GA.

Neva was born April 10, 1929 in Laclede County, MO, daughter of Ellis and Lula Bell Armstrong. She was preceded in death by her mother and father, two brothers and one sister. Also preceding her in death were her daughter Beverly M. Holbrook, her great-grandson Joshua Marlin Hall, and her husband of 69 years, Rev. Marlin L. Starnes.

Neva met the Lord when she was 10 years old at Antioch Baptist Church in Laclede County, MO. Three years later she met her husband, Marlin, and they were married when she was 16.

Neva was known as "Nan" first to her grandchildren, and then many others as she and her husband ministered at churches from Georgia to Alaska. Nan and Bro. Starnes started their ministry at Pleasant Grove Baptist Church at Cloudland, GA. They then served at Emmanuel Baptist Church in DeSoto, MO, First Baptist Church of North Pole, AK, again at Emmanuel Baptist Church, First Baptist Church of Delta Junction, AK, Ebenezer Baptist Church in Haywood Valley in Chattooga County, and lastly at Cove Road Baptist Church in Mentone.

Nan's passion was pre-school children. She taught pre-school classes in all of the churches where she and Bro. Starnes ministered. She operated a daycare at Emmanuel Baptist Church. She also worked for the Alaska Baptist Convention and the Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, putting on pre-school training workshops.

Nan is survived by her grandchildren Tammy and Mike Cupp of Laurel Fork, VA; Jimmy and Maria Holbrook of Lyerly, GA, Shane Holbrook and Stacie of Hillsboro, MO, and Elizabeth Holbrook of Austin, TX. Also surviving are her great-granddaughter Alissa Cruz and great-great-granddaughters Analia and Rory Cruz and her son-in-law Lebron and Helen Holbrook of Fredericktown, MO.

Nan didn't want a funeral and asked that she be buried as soon as possible. She asked that a memorial service be held at a later date with "lots of singing and a meal." The family plans to hold a memorial service on Nan's birthday, April 10, 2021 at Pleasant Grove Baptist Church at Cloudland.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that memorials be made to Cove Road Baptist Church, P.O. Box 25, Mentone, AL 35984 or Pleasant Grove Baptist Church, 26692 Georgia Highway 157, Cloudland, GA 30731.

WESLEY THOMAS ROWLEY November 22, 1947 – August 27, 2020

Wesley Thomas Rowley, 72, of Mentone, passed away on Thursday, August 27, 2020 at his residence in the 1776 RV Campground. Mr. Rowley was born November 22, 1947 in Johnsonburg, PA. He was a member of Calvary Bible Church in Centre Hall, PA. He served our country in the United States Marine Corps where he retired as a Master Sargent.

Mr. Rowley was preceded in death by his parents. He is survived by his wife of eight years, Sally Ann Ratzel Rowley; stepchildren, Richard E. and Sarah Wood, Jr., Dale L. and Jami Wood, and Aundrea I. Clark; brother, Gilford Rowley; nine step-grandchildren; 11 step-great-grandchildren; and special friends, Dawn and Scott Jenkins.

Graveside services were held at the Chattanooga National Cemetery with Military Honors. In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorial contributions to the Animal Rescue Organization or the Cancer Research Center.

MERLE BURTON SPERBER, JR. November 11, 1953 – September 24, 2020

Merle Burton Sperber Jr., age 66, of Cloudland, GA, passed away on Thursday, September 24, 2020 at his residence.

He is survived by his daughter, Catrina Sperber; special daughter, Dana Clements; sisters, Linda Sperber and Shirley Francis; and brother, Gary Sperber.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Merle B. Sperber Sr. and Dasie Adams Sperber, and sister, Barbara Prine.



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In Memoriam

REBEKAH A. YOUNG December 12, 1944 – September 10, 2020

Rebekah A. Young, 75, of Menlo, GA, died Thursday, September 10, 2020, at her residence. Mrs. Young was born December 12, 1944, in Trion, GA, daughter of the late James Prentice Alexander and Clara Mozelle Smith Alexander. Prior to her retirement, she was employed with the Chattooga County Board of Education. Mrs. Young was a member of the Menlo Presbyterian Church, where she was actively involved in the "Women of the Church." In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by a brother, James Prentice "Jimmy" Alexander.

Mrs. Young is survived by her husband, Blanding "Butch" Young; sons, Blanding Young, Jr., and Tip (Becky) Young; daughters, Gloria (Mark) Young, and Claudia (Wes) Maddux; grandchildren, Melanie Burnette, Mason Love, Olivia Young, Joslyn Maddux, Sarah Young, Haley Grace Maddux, and Will Maddux; and great-grandchildren, Callan Blanding Burnette and Carter Burnette.

In lieu of flowers, the family respectfully requests donations be made to either the AMI Cemetery Fund (c/o Sue Gilley – P. O. Box 25 Menlo, GA 30731) or to Menlo Presbyterian Church (c/o James Spears – 2325 Highway 337 Menlo, GA 30731).

S.B. STINSON January 15, 1928 – September 10, 2020

S.B. Stinson, 92, passed away on Thursday, September 10, 2020 at the home of his daughter in Columbia, TN. Mr. Stinson was a lifelong resident of Valley Head, AL until about three years ago, when his health began to fail. He worked as a mechanic in the Valley Head-Henagar area most of his life.

He is survived by his children, Cheryl and Kenneth Putnam, Joyce and Charles Evans, Richard and Donna Blevins, and Garry and Jenny Blevins; eight grandchildren, Tina and Joe Rogers, Ben and Dana Putnam, Isaac and Kelly Putnam, Matthew Evans, Jacob and Lisa Owens, Josh and Jolene Blevins, Stephanie and Gabe Maubach, and Samantha Blevins; 24 great-grandchildren; and one great-great grandchild. He is also survived by two sisters, Betty Biddle and Robbie Nelson, and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his wife Dorothy Blevins Stinson and Barbara Madison; parents, Ben and Lottie Stinson; three sisters, Nelda Johnson, Virginia Biddle, Lois Biddle; and one granddaughter, Robin Blevins Sanders.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to the Whitehall Cemetery in memory of the hours and years Mr. Stinson spent since his teenage years mowing the cemetery before the decorations. Checks to be made to Whitehall Cemetery and mailed to Steve Hoge, 5114 Greenhill Blvd. NW, Fort Payne, AL 35968.



JOHN PAUL SMITH, JR. April 23, 1931 – September 17, 2020

John Paul Smith Jr., age 89, of Mentone, passed away on Thursday, September 17, 2020.

John enlisted in the United States Army at the age of 22 and served his country during the Korean Conflict from 1953–1955. He married Bobbie Sue Bain in 1952 and they settled in Summerville, GA. They raised three daughters and one son. John worked at Riegel Textile Mill for 45 years. After his retirement in 1993, he and Bobbie moved back to Mentone, where they were raised.

John had a special place in his heart for all children. You could often see children running to sit with him during church. He was a faithful servant to his God, his family, and his church.

He is survived by his daughters, Sandra Sanders, Susan Spurling (Jeff), and Sheila Smith (Bayne Dobbins); son, Stanley Smith (Dana); grandchildren, Clay Sanders (Tonya), Gavin Smith (Lauren), Josh Smith, Ranzy Smith, Ansley Smith, Hillary Hall, and Jordan Spurling (Sarah); great-grandchildren, Maddox Sanders, Brantley Smith, and Bennett Spurling; and sister-in-law, Judy Smith.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Bobbie Smith; parents, Paul and Nettie Smith; son-in-law, Charles Sanders; brothers, Ernest Smith and William Guy "Squeak" Smith; and sisters, Lavonna Cooper, Dorothy Gray, Catherine Henley, and Geraldine Ellis. Burial was at Bankhead Cemetery with military honors.



DAVID WAYNE DEAN June 8, 1959 – September 23, 2020

David Wayne Dean, 61, of Valley Head, passed away on September 23, 2020. Mr. Dean is survived by his wife of 32 years, Pam Dean; sons, Jason Dean (Hollie) and Zack Dean; daughter, Kaitlyn Tedder (Cody); daughter-in-law, Anne Dean; grandchildren, Tyler Dean, Erin Dean, Rhett Dean, and Kopelyn Tedder; mother, Edith Dean; sisters, Doris Chamlee (Kenny) and Debra Rhodes (Steve); brother-in-law, Calvin Lanier; nieces and nephews, Allie Hedden (Troy), Wesley Rhodes, Taylor Lanier, and Tatum Lanier; and chosen children, Charity Crowe and children, and Steven and Tiffany Carroll and children.

Mr. Dean was preceded in death by his son, SSG Jonathan Dean; father, John Dean; mother-in-law, Myra Lanier; grandparents, Otis and Edna Dean, and Taylor and Mildred Laws. Burial was at Valley Head Cemetery.

Mr. Dean was preceded in death by his son, SSG Jonathan Dean; father, John Dean; mother-in-law, Myra Lanier; grandparents, Otis and Edna Dean, and Taylor and Mildred Laws. Burial was at Valley Head Cemetery.



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Finding Common Ground

by Dennis Hessler

A dear old friend of mine in Pensacola swears this story is true. She was helping a Sunday school teacher who was working with a class of 3rd and 4th-grade children. The topic was the omnipresence of the Lord.

"Is God in Pensacola?" asked the teacher.

"Yes!" all the kids intoned in unison.

"Is God in Florida?" she continued, to make her point.

"Yes!" they all cried out, warming to the game.

"And is God in Alabama?"

"No—ooo!" the kids said, without any prompting.

I'll leave it to the theologians to determine where the Almighty resides and if one of those places might be Alabama. Those of us who live in Mentone and happen to catch a glimpse of the valley on an early fall morning are pretty sure He spends some time in this part of Alabama, anyway.

But I've discovered there are some pretty fierce local, sports and brand allegiances attached to folks in the South and, I might add, especially in Alabama.

I grew up in Northern Ohio so no one in Alabama—or Florida, for that matter—has mistaken me for a local boy. I have a good friend in Pensacola who's as Irish as a sheleightly and is a transplanted Bostonian. If you think I have problems assimilating into the Southern culture, you can imagine how he feels.

When I first moved to Mentone some 14 years ago, I relied on my builder, Jackie, to help me out if I had questions about the area. When I asked him if he could recommend a good plumber, he gave me a name, then added, "He's a Yankee, like you. But he's good."

I ignored this slight to the victors of the recent unpleasantness between North and South. From Jackie, that was high praise indeed, though grudgingly given. He was right, though. The guy fixed my leak.

A few years ago, my wife bought a piece of furniture from a dealer in Summerville, just across the border in Georgia. The seller said she'd have her husband deliver it in his truck and we gave her directions and awaited delivery.

Now let me add—just so you don't think I'm a complete city slicker—that I have my own truck, although it wasn't quite up to the job of delivering this piece of furniture. My sister-in-law has indelicately described it as a "toy truck," which annoyed me until I saw the vehicles bounding up and down the roads of Lookout Mountain. My truck does a pretty good job of bringing home a Christmas tree or hauling a dozen bags of pine bark mulch, but mostly I just throw groceries in the back.

But around Mentone, the real trucks are usually hauling an additional mode of transportation on the truck bed and it's often strapped down with fat, rusted



chains. As these trucks bounce down County Road 106, they toss off chunks of mud the size of small northeastern states.

When we first visited here, I was pleased to realize that once you got off Highway 117, the locals were likely to wave at you as the cars passed. When I was in my "toy truck," this wave would sometimes be accompanied with a sad, tolerant smile. I got the same thing when I stopped for lunch at the Tigers Inn in

Valley Head and ordered a club sandwich. I could almost hear the cooks in the back saying something like, "The Yankee ordered a club sandwich, bless his heart."

The point is, my fellow Mentonians don't pay much attention to my truck and I've learned to deal with it. So when the guy in the real truck brought my furniture to the cabin AND pulled in just a little too far AND sunk into my soft septic field AND started spinning his wheels flinging I-didn't-want-to-know-what into the air, there was no way I was getting him out. I knew it was time to call Jackie again.

He came over right away, took the measure of the problem in an instant and started shaking his head at the glum-looking driver.

"As soon as I saw that [Georgia] license plate and that Ford truck [Jackie's a Chevy man], I wasn't surprised this happened."

If Jackie seemed a little testy, I should add that it was early on a Friday evening and who wants to be called away at that day and time to yank a truck out of a septic field? I couldn't see into Jackie's truck bed but my Georgia driver's truck had all kinds of big tools and parts of tools. I wasn't sure what you did with some of them, but I figured any one could put a big dent into someone's head, if the tool user—even if he was from Georgia—got angry enough.

But Jackie was just messing with him. He smiled, grabbed one of his own rusty chains and pulled that big ol' Georgia Ford out of the hole nice as you please, then came back a week later and filled the hole for me. The two of them—by way of a truce, I imagine—walked me around my yard and explained the subtle distinctions between black oaks and white oaks and a dozen different other trees whose names I can't remember right now. It appears that such trees grow on both sides of the border.

After they left, I returned to my favorite rocking chair on the front porch, lit my cigar, and sat back to consider the experience. The lesson I took from it all was simply this. If two people from such different backgrounds (Alabama and Georgia) and widely disparate world views (Ford and Chevy) could come together and make nice, the world just might survive after all.

And maybe—just, maybe—that proves the Lord lives in Alabama too.

Dennis Hessler and his wife, Kea, live in Mentone and Pensacola, FL.

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