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Volume 40, No. 10

"Neighborly News from the Heart of Lookout Mountain"

October 2021

Colorfest

**Handmade Arts & Crafts Festival
Live Music | Food
Mentone's Brow Park
October 16 AND 17**

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

Jessica Boman, festival organizer, and Mariah Emmett, vendor coordinator, have been working hard to prepare for this exciting weekend. Held at Mentone's Brow Park on North Cool Street, festivalgoers enjoy the scenery of the spectacular view from the western brow of the mountain into Wills Valley and beyond. Live music fills the air, while shoppers browse the booths of vendors selling hand-made arts and crafts. Festival food of all kinds will be available, including barbeque, roasted corn, blooming onions, brittle and fudge, ice cream floats, kettle corn and more. Colorfest vendors will be open on Saturday from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m., and on Sunday from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. To keep your health and safety in mind, vendors have been asked to wear masks, and masks and hand sanitizing stations will be provided.

Jessica and Mariah have planned several activities focusing on art for children and teens, including a coloring contest, an art exhibit, and art activities during the festival. "We are so excited about the wonderful activities and opportunities for children to express their artistic side at Colorfest!" Mariah said. See page 15 for more information.

The Howl-O-Ween Pet Parade will be held on



Collectible Colorfest posters will be for sale, featuring the artwork of Mentone artist, Lydia Adele Randolph. MAPA appreciates Lydia's ongoing support, as she has generously created paintings for several festivals in recent years.

Sunday afternoon at 1 p.m. Dress your dog up, and judges will award prizes to the Most Creative, Best Pet and Owner Duo, and Most Hilarious. The entry fee is a \$1 donation to the Dekalb County Animal Shelter. See more details on page 13.

Another popular activity that is being resumed this year is Scarecrow Holler, which will display scarecrows that contestants have created based on the theme, "Fairy Takes and Folk Tales." Scarecrow Holler will be in the woods across from Brow Stage at the north end of the festival. If you'd like to enter a scarecrow, read more details on page 13.

Festival parking will be available only at designated lots for a fee of \$5 per car. A shuttle service will take festivalgoers to and from the designated parking areas to Brow Park, with stops along the way. Masks will be required for shuttle passengers while riding the bus, and will be available at no charge at each shuttle stop. NO parking allowed on Scenic Highway or Cutler Avenue. Please respect the homeowners and businesses on these roads.

MAPA is grateful to each of this year's Colorfest sponsors, who are featured on pages 13–16. Their generous patronage helps MAPA defray expenses in order to be able to raise funds which are distributed into the community in the form of grants to local non-profit organizations.

Stop by MAPA's booth at the festival entrance to pick up a map, buy a Colorfest t-shirt or collectible poster, or ask any questions.

To stay up to date with festival events, visit Facebook at "Mentone Alabama Festivals" and Instagram @mentonecolorfest.

We're looking forward to a great festival!



Photo of Will Dooley & Friends by Mark Wallheiser

Music Under the Stars Will Dooley & Friends

Come to the Linger Longer Pavilion at 7 p.m. on Friday, October 15, when Will Dooley and Friends kick off ColorFest weekend with a concert sponsored by Little River Arts Council and funded by Mentone Area Preservation Association. These local favorites play Americana folk and many original songs, so expect a fun-filled evening under the stars. The concert is free and open to the public.



See pages 13–16
for full Colorfest
information, including
vendor booths and a
schedule of live music.



THE GROUNDHOG

Published monthly by the
Mentone Area Preservation Association

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

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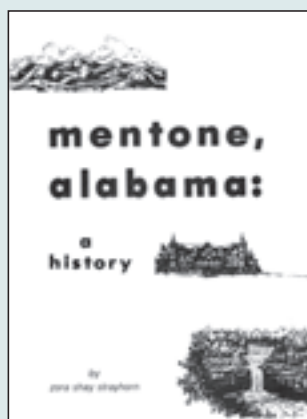
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The opinions, beliefs, and viewpoints expressed by the various authors in this publication do not necessarily reflect the opinions, beliefs, and viewpoints or policies of the Mentone Area Preservation Association.

Groundhog wood cut courtesy of Meg Justice

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



Learn about the History of Mentone

Zora Strayhorn's book, *Mentone, Alabama: A History*, is for sale at Mentone Market, DeSoto State Park, and Moon Lake Library. \$15; proceeds benefit MAPA.

Mentone Matters • by Mayor Rob Hammond

Lambert Contracting was the low bidder for the Mentone sidewalk along AL Hwy. 117. The sidewalk will run from the Mentone Market to Dempsey Avenue (the street next to Little River Hardware). The total cost of this project is \$540,699. Federal funds through ALDOT's transportation alternative program total \$382,400. Local matching funds total \$157,699. Construction should begin later this fall.

The town is in discussions with the DeKalb County School Board on the future of the Moon Lake School campus. The roofs on the library and lunchroom had suffered hail damage. The town agreed to pay the deductible to replace the roofs and the board's insurance covered the rest. Hopefully, further details will be available for the November edition of *The Groundhog*.

Covid continues to take a terrible toll in DeKalb County. The arrival of the Delta variant was a game changer. I continue to urge all eligible non-vaccinated people to get their vaccine.



Letter from the Editor



Art and creativity can be powerful healers, and can help us make sense of our world, while relieving stress and creating things of beauty and function.

The accompanying photo of Olivia was posted by her mother on Facebook, and I was struck by its sheer sweetness. The "Secret Garden" is an area on MERF's Pathway to Community that has been quietly created by local neighbors. Rhododendron Garden Club members Mary Ann Robbins and Dee Kelley originally cleared a hidden space (no more poison ivy!) and then set up the initial atmosphere. From time to time, surprising additions "secretly" appear. Young children love it.

We are fortunate to have the Pathway during these times. It's a place where children, adults, and seniors can relax, get some exercise, sit comfortably in fresh air and

sunshine, play some music, enjoy art, and meet new friends. If you (and your children) haven't yet visited the Pathway, I encourage you to drop by and see all that it has to offer. It's located next to Moon Lake Library and is open to everyone.

You might want to express your own creativity this month by creating a scarecrow for Scarecrow Holler (following the theme of "Folk Takes and Fairy Tales") or by dressing up your dog (and yourself?) for the Howl-O-Ween Pet Parade. Other ways to get your creative juices flowing might be taking photographs of the fall beauty surrounding us, or writing simple poetry, or making music. Science has proven that any creative process improves our physical health and mental and emotional well-being. Even the simple act of being in the presence of creativity is beneficial.

I wish you all a healthy, relaxing, and creative October! —*Kelly*



MAPA News by Mark Hoffman

Fall is here and it's time for Colorfest! MAPA is excited to be able to put on the festival this year after having to cancel last year's festival due to COVID. Please bring your family and friends and enjoy everything the festival has to offer.

We have scheduled the annual Members' meeting (which also could not be held last year) to coincide with the festival weekend. It will be held at the Mentone town square at 6:15 p.m. on Friday, October 15. All current MAPA members are encouraged to attend. The Board will present a financial report and discuss the various grants to local non-profits that we have been able to make over the last couple of years.

Joe Piscatelli, who has served on the Board and held various offices within the organization over many years of service, has decided to retire and make room for some "new blood". We will miss you, Joe. Thanks for all that you have done on MAPA's and the community's behalf. If any Member is interested in becoming a Board member, please contact me directly so that we can get your name on the ballot for the meeting. Members will have the opportunity to vote on Board positions at that time. I can be reached via email at mhoffmanatty@yahoo.com. Stay safe, and we hope to see you Colorfest weekend!

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

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SAVE THE DATE!

MAPA Membership Meeting

Friday, October 15

6:15 p.m.

**Town Square,
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**All current MAPA members are
encouraged to attend.**

Come for the meeting...Stay for the music! At 7 p.m.,

Will Dooley & Friends will perform at the Linger

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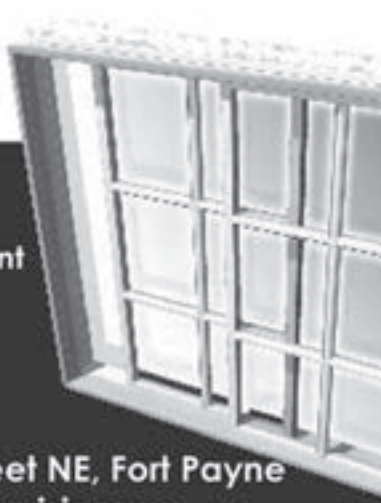
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Constitution Week Recognized by Mentone and Valley Head

The Hannah White Arnett Chapter of the national society, Daughters of the American Revolution, received proclamations from the towns of Mentone and Valley Head supporting the federal recognition of the week of September 17–23 as Constitution Week. The Chapter encourages the

public to celebrate the foundation of America by recognizing the importance of Constitution Week. The proclamations ask town citizens to reaffirm the ideals of the Constitution and protect the freedoms guaranteed by this document, which was signed 234 years ago on September 17, 1787.



Mayor Hammond presenting the Mentone Proclamation to HWA members Linda Jones, Marian Doss, Ann Gilbreath, Debbie Bates at Mentone Town Hall.



Mayor Mike Key's proclamation was presented to HWA members Linda Jones, Marian Doss, Ann Gilbreath and Debbie Bates at the Valley Head Town Hall.



MERF's Senior Lunch Bunch

The Mentone Educational Resources Foundation (MERF) invites local senior citizens to a complimentary lunch at the MERF house in Mentone. Singing and entertaining will follow the lunch. The meal is served at 11:30 a.m., so arrive a bit early to visit and meet your neighbors. The meal is provided by local businesses and organizations. Contact Sarah Wilcox at 256-635-8193 with any questions.



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by Kelly Leavitt

A large group of curious citizens enjoyed a conversation with black bear researcher Hannah Leeper in September in the Linger Longer Pavilion behind the Mentone Inn. Following is a sampling of some of the questions asked.

How many bears are in our area?

I really can't give a number. In 2015, there was a genetic hair snare survey that estimated a population of 34 bears. I've personally handled 49. That's the number that's been handled, knowing

that only a fraction of the population is ever actually captured. Part of my research is determining the size of that fraction and how fast the population is growing. Hopefully we'll get an answer in the next couple of years.

Can bears break into cars?

Yes, it's a learned behavior. It's not always food that bears are after. It might even be a car air freshener. Overall, they're curious about strong smells. Once a bear sees someone open a door, or they figure it out on their own, then they teach their cubs, who teach their cubs, and so on.

What do you do if you're walking and you see a bear?

Chances are very, very low that you'll see a bear. If you do happen to see a bear, enjoy the sighting! Take a picture. They're so rare and they're so neat to see out in their natural environment. Make noise, wave your hands. I usually just start talking. "Hey there, I didn't mean to scare you." If they get cornered, they might get a little bit aggressive, but if they know they can get away from you, they'll scramble away. They're very shy creatures.

What do you do if a bear starts chasing you?

They won't chase you unless you run. They have the same chase instinct as dogs. Don't run from a black bear. Just start backing away slowly. Animals have a strong "flight or fight" instinct.

They're either going to run away or fight. Bears are always going to run away, unless they don't have that choice. If something's blocking their ability to get away, then they might try to defend themselves. If necessary, fight back. Bears don't want to risk injury, so they'll escape as quickly as they can.

What if you're walking with a large dog? Will that dog repel the bear or rile the bear?

It depends on the dog and the bear—and the wind direction. If the bear smells the dog first, it'll take off. If the dog smells the bear first, it might get curious and approach the bear. That's when bears can become aggressive. They like their personal space and if a dog tries to invade that space, they could try to defend themselves. One swat can kill a dog. I recommend having a bell on your dog if you're going to be out hiking and your dog is off-leash. Let the bear know you're coming. The same thing applies if you're at home. Turn the porch light on before you go outside. Open the door and say, "Hey bear, my dog's coming out," even if you can't see a bear. Let the bear know it's time to leave.

What do bears eat?

Everything. We call them opportunistic omnivores, so that means they'll eat anything they want, however they can find it. Omnivore really means plants and animals, but for bears it means

plants, animals, fruits, vegetables, acorns, pecans, garbage, bird feeders, dog food—it means anything. But, bears don't eat humans, so you don't have to worry about that!

If you walk up on some bear scat, does that mean a bear is nearby or is just wandering by?

It could be either. Black bears digest their food really quickly. If you find scat, that usually means there's a nearby food source. It might mean the bear's been hanging out there for a while, or it could just be wandering. You can send me pictures. I get pictures of poop all the time. The thing I need with it is a size reference. I usually just put my hand next to it to show the size.

How big is bear scat?

The size of a dinner plate. And it's very beautiful. It's full of berries, so it gets that pretty color. This time of year, it has a lot of seeds in it. Coyotes often poop on a road. Oftentimes people send me pictures of scat, thinking it's bear scat, but it's usually coyote. Bear scat will be bigger and not usually in the middle of a road. You can see seeds, grasses, bugs, and fur in the bear scat.

Do bears eat meat?

Yes. 90% of their diet will be fruits and vegetables, but they do eat meat. In my experience, they don't eat as much meat here as they do in some of the more northern or western states.

(continued on page 21)

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JUST BETWEEN US

A Curious Q & A by Rebecca Henderson

When Mentone Police Chief Gene McKee is on the job, you can imagine he is on the move most of the day. So when I initially called him, I was expecting to persist by making several calls. Not the case! He returned my call quickly, and I was fascinated to learn more about him.

He's held the police chief position for two and a half years and is one of Mentone's volunteer firemen. For many years, he was the head of maintenance at Alpine Camp for Boys, where he continues to work as an instructor in archery and sharpshooting.



Chief Gene McKee

Q Where were you born?

A Scottsboro, but I grew up in Henagar. I lived there 20 years. My mother still lives there.

Q What brought you to Mentone?

A My wife, Angela, and I got married and bought some land from her grandfather — land that's been in the family for 50 years. Her grandfather was Clyde Phillips. He lived to 94 and worked until he was 90. Everybody knew him.

Q Who was your first friend in this area?

A Joseph Lee. He's one of my neighbors.

Q What made you decide to enter law enforcement?

A I blame this on Sheriff Nick Weldon and Chief Deputy Brad Gregg. No, really, I was encouraged by those guys to enter peace offer training in Jefferson County. Public service has always been my interest.

Q What advice would you give your 18-year-old self?

A Couple things: First, my dad told me to always tell the truth. I'll always stick to that. When you do that, you'll have a lot less to have to think about. I've passed that on to my son. Second, respect elders and those in authority. Most people in Mentone do that, by the way.

Q Where was your last vacation?

A Gulf Shores. It's my favorite place because it's my wife's favorite place. No, I'm kidding. We all just love the beach.

Q First historic event you remember?

A In 4th grade I was in class watching TV when the space shuttle [Challenger] exploded.

Q Would your wife say you're a talented dancer?

A Absolutely NOT. [This may have been the most emphatic answer from any question I've ever asked.]

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

A Yes, absolutely she would.

Q If I turned off your police radio [I wouldn't dare] and turned on some music, what would you want to listen to?

A Classic rock...70s and 80s.

Q Build your perfect burger.

A Two slices of cheese, ketchup, mustard, pickles. Perfect.

Q Favorite way to spend a Saturday night?

A I'm a home body. If I get a Saturday night off, I'm home with my wife.

Q Most interesting wildlife sighting?

A I've encountered a couple bears. I got to help Hannah Leeper actually tag and weigh a couple of them. It was awesome — I loved it!

Q What do you like most about Mentone?

A What I love is that the town is friendly and it's also relaxing to me.

Thank you, Chief!



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Mentone Arts & Cultural Center Update

Photography workshop series in October; Bob Ross painting class in January

by Randy Grider

MENTONE ARTS AND CULTURAL CENTER

We are offering a three-night basic photography workshop series in October. The workshops will take place inside the Chuck Sennett Center for the Arts (5951 Alabama Highway 117) on October 8, 15, and 22 at 6:30 p.m. Renowned photographer David Cummings, whose photography from around world is on display in the gallery, will lead the lecture/workshop series. The workshop is capped at 10 students and tuition is \$50. All students must bring their own adjustable camera. This class is not for cell phone cameras. Each night's 90-minute lecture will cover a different aspect of photography,



David Cummings

followed by a guided photo shoot on Saturday, October 23, at DeSoto State Park.

The tentative outline:

Week 1—"Know your Camera: Exposure Control, Composition, and Getting Better," focuses on exposure basics—shutter speeds, apertures, and ISO—what they mean, and how to use these controls to affect the look of your images. There will be plenty of time for questions and answers.

Week 2—Making better images through using exposure control to get the right look. Composition. Portrait techniques. Travel Photography.

Week 3—This subject will be determined by the class needs and wants: either Photoshop and basic technique of image management or a deeper exploration of nature shooting.

Due to its popularity and requests for another Bob Ross painting workshop, we have scheduled Gary Grider to make a return to Mentone on

January 15. Grider is a Certified Bob Ross Instructor (CRI) from Tennessee. The class takes about four hours and is limited to 10 people (ages 13 and up). Tuition is \$100 and supplies are included to create your own 16 x20" Bob Ross Technique painting. We will also provide snacks and drinks.

The late Bob Ross was the creator and host of The Joy of Painting, a PBS instructional television program that aired from 1983 to 1994. Thanks to the internet, there has been a renewed interest in Ross and his painting technique among younger generations.

Artist/instructor Gary Grider, completed his CRI in 2019 and begin his Happy Little Pain Brushes classes at

his studio in Chattanooga. He currently teaches at 12 venues across Alabama, Georgia, Tennessee and North Carolina.

To register for either workshop, please see contact information below. Your spot in the class is confirmed when payment is received.

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



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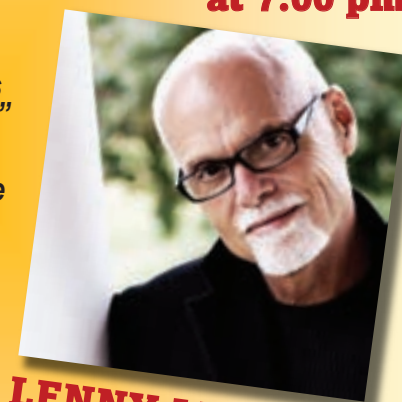
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Mountain Memories

by Kennedy

You hear the sound of leaves crunching under your feet, as you walk through a silent, motionless forest. Suddenly you snap back to reality. You're in Mentone, Alabama, where my grandparents live. I spent two weeks here last summer and I can assure you that it's an enchanting place. This trip really impacted the way I process life. Here I'll get into more detail but let me just say the weight of the world is lifted off your shoulders as you enter this magical fairytale.

To begin with, the view is so mesmerizing, that it can make you breathless in seconds. Humidity and beauty are two of many reasons why we mostly eat dinner outside. There also happens to be bugs though, but this is why we have a fly swatter. It is almost impossible to miss the orange glow of the sun as it sets behind the mountain. We would stay for longer, but the mosquitos kindly reminded us it was time to go. Lastly, you can enjoy the view a lot more than you probably want to because the best internet connection is by the lookout on the mountain brow.

In addition, people may think there is nothing to do on top of a mountain, but I was very amused during my stay. Knowing I was surrounded by wildlife, I decided to make the most of it by hiking to the bottom of a waterfall and exploring caves. I really enjoyed the quality time I spent with my grandmother exploring shops, food trucks, and restaurants. Normally you can find me playing Minecraft on a daily basis, but because of the weak internet I actually read a book. As you can see, I had plenty of things to entertain me while I was in the middle of wildlife.



Kennedy is an 11-year-old 6th grade student at a magnet school in Montgomery, AL. She is the granddaughter of Barry Morton and Lynna Meadows Morton of Mentone.

The population in this little town is very small, so everyone knows each other, meaning nobody really is a stranger. It is so sweet how they help each other out, and the effects of this include my grandparents getting invited to people's houses a lot. The last time I went to Mentone was when I was three, and I didn't really remember a lot. This is why I was thankful for getting to go this past summer. You could really learn a lot from this caring community.

I really enjoyed this visit for various reasons that I have stated in the previous paragraphs. I really look forward to going back to Mentone. It brings me much pleasure to see my grandparents because they live three hours away. Mentone is a secure place and brings everyone who visits it much excitement. This trip has really taught me some important life lessons, and I can't wait to make some more mountain memories.



DESOTO RESCUE SQUAD Fundraiser

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2021
at 3 PM

Concert featuring
THE WILLIE UNDERWOOD FAMILY
performing Motown and Gospel hits
Mentone Community Church

Tickets \$10 available at Little River
Hardware and at the door



N•E•W•S

by Mikel Yeakle

holidays are right around the corner and this is a grand opportunity to purchase some one-of-a-kind gifts for your family and friends while supporting your local artists and makers.

There is no fee to attend. There is limited parking in the picnic area, the tennis court area, and in front of the Country Store. If parking in the picnic area, there is a \$2 fee per vehicle. Dogs on leash are welcome in the park.

Interested in being a vendor at this year's Creative Spirit Market? Vendor applications are available at littleriverarts council.org/artist-entry-form. If you are a paid member of Little River Arts Council, the booth fee is complimentary.

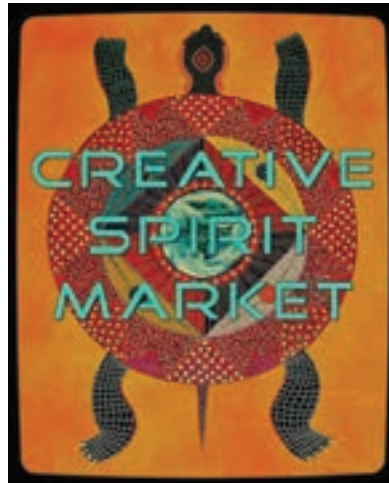
Mikel Yeakle serves on the board of directors of the Little River Arts Council.



6th Annual Creative Spirit Market November 13 & 14 • 10am–3pm

Hosted by DeSoto State Park and the Little River Arts Council, and made possible in part by the Alabama State Council on the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts, the Creative Spirit Market will take place Saturday and Sunday, November 13 and 14, at DeSoto State Park's picnic area across from the Country Store on Hwy. 89.

The Market is designed as an open-air showcase, with artist demonstrations and locally- and regionally- crafted fine and folk art, premium hand-crafted goods, a free interactive area where market-goers can make their own art, and live acoustic music. Shoppers can browse and watch artists in their creative process and purchase goods from painters, photographers, potters, quilters, weavers and basket makers, fabric spinners, culinary artists, and craftsmen. The



Check It Out!

by Lynn Vanderhoff

Want to learn more about the world around you? Little Library Learners programs at the Moon Lake

Community Library is a great place to start! Presented on the second and fourth Saturday of the month for two age groups (3–5 years, and 6–8 years), it's a great way to learn and make friends. Join us in October for some fall fun!

Birds on the Wing Saturday, October 9



Why do birds fly South for the winter? How do our feathered friends know where they are going? We'll explore why some birds migrate and some don't. Then you'll get to be a bird and see if you can make it to your next home.



Halloween Stories Saturday, October 23

Come dressed in your costume! And be prepared to share your favorite Halloween joke. No tricks, only treats will be shared! (Non-scary stories and non-candy treats)

Programs for 3–5-year-olds begin at 10 a.m. Children ages 6–8-years old, please come at 11 a.m. Please plan to attend at the appropriate time for your child's age, as activities will be tailored to their abilities. Accompanying adults are welcome to learn too, or they can just hang out in the Adult section!

For more information, contact moonlakecommunitylibrary@yahoo.com. All activities are at the Moon Lake Community Library at 4607 AL Hwy. 117 in Mentone. Please note: We will observe pandemic guidelines and some activities may be conducted outside.



Ellen Spangler Memorial

Saturday, October 30, 2021
1–4 pm CDT / 2–4 p.m. EDT

Fellowship Hall
Cloudland Presbyterian Church
150 Partain Road
Cloudland, GA 30731

RSVP requested to
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second spring
when every leaf
is a flower.

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October Community Calendar

10/2—Yoga on the Brow. All levels welcome. 9am. Brow Park Pavilion, N. Cool St., Mentone. \$5 donation appreciated but not required. Contact Soul Shine Yoga & Wellness Studio on Facebook or Instagram or call 256-630-6998.

10/2—Desoto Rescue Squad Fundraiser. Concert featuring The Willie Underwood Family performing Motown and Gospel hits. 3pm. Mentone Community Church. Tickets \$10 available at Little River Hardware and at the door.

10/2-3, 9-10, 16-17, 23-24, 30-31—Kayak Rentals. The Paddle Shack at DeSoto Falls Picnic Area will be open to help you begin your scenic kayak trip up the West Fork of Little River. Rent sit-on-top kayaks to enjoy a peaceful flatwater paddle on Little River

overlooking beautiful DeSoto Falls. Your adventure can be up to 4 miles round trip, or as long as you want to make it! Life vests & paddles are provided. Boat Shack hours: Sat/Sun 10am-6pm. Kayaks are also available by reservation Mon/Thur, 10am-6pm (\$50 min). Single sit-on-top kayak/\$15 per hour. Tandem sit-on-top kayak/\$25 per hour. Corcl's/\$10 per hour. Call 256-845-5380 for info or visit alapark.com/kayak-little-river.

10/2—Campfire Talk: Falconry in Alabama. Falconry is the hunting of wild animals in their natural state and habitat by means of a trained bird of prey. Join guest speaker Matt Whitfield to learn about falconry, one of the world's oldest forms of hunting. Falconry is currently practiced in many countries around the world. In Alabama, the most commonly used bird is the red-tailed hawk and squirrel

is the most commonly pursued game animal. There are currently 58 permitted falconers in the state. Seating is limited, so bring your own comfortable camp chair if you wish. 6pm. DeSoto State Park's Campfire Ring in the Improved Campground. (In case of inclement weather will be located in the CCC Pavilion in picnic area.) Free, no pre-registration required. Masks are respectfully requested when in proximity of others not in your household. For any details about the talk, email Brittney.Hughes@dcnr.alabama.gov.

10/9—"Birds on the Wing" Children's Library Program. Program for 3-5 year olds at 10am; children ages 6-8 at 11am. Moon Lake Community Library, Mentone.

10/15—MAPA Membership Meeting. Annual meeting of the the membership of the Mentone Area Preservation Association. Mentone Town Square. 6:15pm.

10/15—Will Dooley & Friends. Free concert kicks off Colorfest weekend. Hosted by Little River Arts Council, funded by a grant provided by Mentone Area Preservation Association. 7pm. Linger Longer Pavilion, behind the Mentone Inn.

October 16 & 17 Colorfest

10/22—Campfire Talk: Hernando DeSoto in Northeast Alabama. Join us for a fun campfire talk in the Great Outdoors! Hernando de Soto, a Spanish explorer and conquistador is most famous for his exploration of North America. He and over 600 men landed in North America 483 years ago on May 25, 1538. They first arrived near what is now Tampa Bay, Florida & spent the next four years traveling over 4,000 miles all over the American Southeast. They went to a total of 10 states that exist today, and De Soto and his men were the first Europeans to reach and cross the Mississippi River. Jacksonville State University's Dr. Harry Holstein will take you through the amazing adventures of Hernando DeSoto, as he searches for the ancient town of "Coosa." Seating is limited, so bring your own comfortable camp chair if you wish. DeSoto State Park's Campfire Ring in the Improved Campground. (In case of inclement weather will be located in the CCC Pavilion in picnic area.) 7pm. For more info, email Brittney.Hughes@dcnr.alabama.gov.

10/22—Music in the Fields. Free concert at Windy Hill Farm by local Fort Payne band, Dad Company. Supper of Windy Hill grass-fed and finished beef burgers for purchase. Bring your own lawn chairs and blankets for seating to enjoy an evening at the farm. Please no outside food. In the event of rain, we will reschedule. 5-8:30pm. 445 Road 942, Mentone. Details at thefarmatwindyhill.com or 256-674-3639.

10/23—"Halloween Stories" Children's Library Program. Program for 3-5 year olds at 10am; children ages 6-8 at 11am. Moon Lake Community Library, Mentone.

10/23—Meandering Moonlight Paddle Trip. DeSoto State Park staff offers this relaxing guided moonlight paddle trip on scenic Little River. Enjoy the peace and quiet of nature as we paddle upstream on the 'coke bottle clear' waters of the West Fork of Little River. Enjoy this flatwater paddle as the full moon rises. Experience the peace & quiet of the gloaming-time! This trip is approx. 4 miles round-trip on flatwater, spans a 3- to 3-1/2-hour period and includes kayak, paddle, & personal flotation device. Weight limits: 300 lbs. for singles & 450 for tandems. Ages 8 to adult. Wear appropriate clothing and bring a headlamp or flashlight, bug spray, snacks, and drinking water. 7-10pm. Meet at Miller's Bend Paddle Shack at the DeSoto Falls Picnic Area. \$30/single kayak rental (tandem kayaks available on limited basis for \$50.) Pre-registration closes 10/20 at 5pm. To register, email Paige.Norsworthy@dcnr.alabama.gov. **Please provide date of paddle, a phone number; indicate number of boats and what type (single/tandem) requested for the trip. Payment will be required at time of registration.**

10/30—Moon Lake Book Club. Discussion of "American Dirt." 10:30am. Moon Lake Community Library, Mentone.

10/30—Candlelight Yoga on the Brow. All levels welcome. 5:45pm. Brow Park Pavilion, N. Cool St., Mentone. \$5 donation appreciated but not required. Contact Soul Shine Yoga & Wellness Studio on Facebook or Instagram or call 256-630-6998.



MAH JONGG IN MENTONE by Lynn Vanderhoff

Interested in playing or learning to play Mah Jongg? This fun tile game is enjoyed by millions. It takes some concentration, some strategy and a bit of luck to win. It's great for keeping your brain healthy and is a lot of fun. Warning: it can be addictive!

Mah Jongg with tiles is nothing like the online game. Four players mix and match tiles to create certain winning combinations, not unlike the card game "Gin Rummy." But instead of 52 cards, there are 152 tiles, so the combinations are exponentially greater!

Lessons have been taking place the last couple of months for new players, and we welcome anyone who wants



to learn. Experienced players have been coaching. We would like to offer several tables at our gatherings so that everyone can play at their level. We

use National Mah Jongg League rules.

The Mentone Mah Jongg Group meets at the MERF House on Sundays at 2-5 p.m. We may expand our schedule to include some weeknight evenings in the future.

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

For more information, contact Lynn. Vanderhoff@gmail.com.



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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
Dia White

3

Angie Shugart
Ansley Blalock
Elizabeth Gentry

4

Casey Cox
Mandy Williams
Reegan Shankles
Jensen Hawkins
Katelyn Brown

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
Lee Anne Hulgan

7

Christian Henry
Maggie Coots
Macy Smith

8

Allie Williams
Allen Ballinger

9

Donna Hallahan
Audie Beason
Alaina McElhaney

10

Jimmy Worthey
Sally Muschamp
Gayla Smith
Allie Rhodes
Scott Thomas
Charles Hammonds
Russell Stalvey

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 Stone
JayDan Haynes
Dustin Smith
John Foreman
Nick Price

14

Martha Kirby
Tina Langston
Olen Crowe
Ashley Phillips
Russell Wright
Judy Carolyn Rathel

15

Lanita Allen
David "Tater" Hopper
Pam Manning
Casey Cartwright
Tony Crow
Livvy Chamber
Bryce Rowan

16

Tucker Langston
Joann Fife

17

Sarah Blalock
Tina Carden
Jacey Traffanstedt
Glenda Turlington
Barry Sadowski

18

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

19

Zoey Kate Baggett
Ken Busby
Stacy Smith
Terry Manning
Hollie Dean
Alisha McElhaney
Ethan Wilborn
Harper Gregory

20

Isaac Underwood
Charles Robert Hammon
Matt Tillman
Chris Porter

21

Joseph Lee
Jamie Shankles
Koralyn Parker
Lana Baker
Khloe Thorerow

22

Darius Turner
Ross Van Pelt
Donna McClure
Joan Harrison
Alex Garrett
Bradyn Jenkins
Alyssa Poe
Emily Stone

23

Sally Johnson
Sydney Crow

24

Kendra Cartwright
Wanda Lewis

25

Levi McClure
Sandra Padgett
Robert Kirby
Edith Dean
Joe Piscatelli
Rhonda Holaway

26

Kyle Rape
Tytan Blevins
Marlie Spencer
Lorri Steinemann

27

Piper Kate Reed
Jordan Bain
Ethan Smith
Nicole Wolf
Deborah Givens

28

Jeff Harrison
Cindy Butler
Cheri Williams
Jacob Garner
Liam Williams
Logan Thorerow

29

Teresa Verdon
Charity Garcia
Johnny Wynn
Ava Blevins
Ella Holloway

30

Judah Grisham
Robert Worthey
Meagan Sutton
Matthew Patterson
Rayford Bethune
Allie Pritchett
Wesley Frost
Kristy Nance
Diana Philip

31

Jessica McGinnis
Blake Blevins
Dylan Newberry

32

Grady Gilbert
Tucker Gregory

33

Shannon Wagner
Jennifer Collins
Emmy Smith
Karen Prestwood
Elisabeth Womack

34

Ashley Sanderson
Charlotte Gentry
John Dersham
Wayne Miller

Anniversaries

35

Jim & Kelley Money

36

Donnie & Connie Bell
Jason & Karmen Smith

37

Eddie & Ashley Manning

38

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

39

Nelson & Brenda Kerby

40

George & Sandra Boehringer
Jim Bozek & Donna Arnett

41

Chris & Alisha Busby

42

Nathan & Holly Owen
Amanda & Nikita Prestwood

43

Dusty & Lily Smith

44

Adam & Alex Dupree

45

Lee & Tina Carden

46

Tim & Jennifer Ledford

47

Bret & Taylor Johnson

48

Larry & Faye Bone
Cody & Kaitlyn Tedder
Austin & Jaymie Potts
Mike & Gwen Stone

49

Josh & Hope Deal

50

Coby & Brittany Harrison

51

Ricky & Jennifer Linn
Colby Baty & Nickie Swanger

Ongoing Community Calendar

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Lookout Mountain Knitters meet each Tuesday at 3pm at the MERF House. All are welcome.

Ryleigh's Closet is a clothing closet that provides men's, women's, and children's clothing to those in need on 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month from 4-6pm. Mentone Community Church, 90 Summerville Rd. 256-634-4210.

Moon Lake Community Library is open on Saturdays from 10am-1pm, and Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4-7pm. Visit moonlakelibrary.org.

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

Ukulele Sessions Continue. Bring your uke to the Moon Lake Community Library at 1 pm on October 2 and 30. Follow us on Facebook (Mentone Ukes) or contact Debra Fey (debrafey@gmail.com) for more info. Beginners of all ages are invited to join in. Strum and be happy!

The Mentone Mah Jongg Group meets at the MERF House in Mentone on Sundays 2-5pm. Please note: We ask that you wear a mask and gloves. We have several players with underlying health concerns and just want to keep everyone safe. Also, please bring \$5/month contribution to the MERF House, so they can keep the lights on.

The Mentone Wicketeers play croquet on Saturdays at 2pm at Mason Park in Mentone. Everyone is welcome. (They will not play on 10/16 during Colorfest.)



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REDUCED! BUNGALOW-STYLE HOME gives you room for many possibilities! A spacious home, a gathering place for families, retreats, possible B&B, multi-family home with 3 bedrooms, large living area, 2/2 bath, large kitchen, new windows & roof 2019. Interior needs some upgrading & TLC. Beautiful yard w/seasonal sunset views. Hi-speed internet avail! Agent owned. \$300,000 (1780870)

PENDING



SHOPS? OFFICES? RENTALS? WOW! This is one of those places with almost unlimited possibilities! With its flexible zoning, frontage on 3 city streets (Douglas, Cutler Ave & Shady Ave), this simple little house could open the door to BIG things! Spacious front sunporch built in 2012; house was pretty much completely gutted & rebuilt in 2014. It's a great start to even greater things! Property once had at least 3 other tiny cabins on it, believed to have been part of a motor court back in the 1930s. Future for Rental cabins? Restaurant? Shopping plaza? Offices? Dream! The land is level, features 2 small streams, nice woods w/huge white oaks & other hardwoods. \$325,000 (1779531)



WOW! A PRIVATE FAMILY COMPOUND IN MENTONE, on a little over 2 acres. Multiple buildings already in place, including the main house, a semi-detached living room with stone fireplace, many bedrooms, a large workshop/storage building. So much potential, so close in to town, so intriguing on possibilities! Rentals? Family getaway? Dream it, DO it! \$350,000 (1789414)

PENDING

..... LOTS and LAND

NEW LISTING! 52 ACRES, W/ LAND ON BOTH SIDES OF PAVED COUNTY ROAD. This old home place offers so many options & some of the best Sand Mtn sandy loam soil there is; Shankles Branch runs through & along the property. Level land. Current use is approx. 22 ac in hay, 30 ac in woods. Old home site w/remains of the farm house. Public water meter in place; 3 wells on property. Deer & turkey often seen enjoying the fields & woodland. \$350,000 (1790110)

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

GORGEOUS VIEWS & 2.2 ACRES. This Mentone East-brow-front property already has the major prep work done for you to build your dream getaway! A lot of work already in place, building sites for a cabin & for a shop cleared & leveled. Now incredibly priced at only \$85,000. (1775068)

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



IT'S HARD TO IMAGINE ALL THE POSSIBILITIES FOR A BUILDING LIKE THIS! Good ceiling height combined with the wide open interior, plus a rear-entry, roll-up bay door, makes for a very adaptive space. Convenient to a downtown that is being revitalized, across the street from the Fort Payne post office, & pretty much move-in ready! Just listed for \$107,500 (1786006)



MEMORIES OF LAZY DAYS FULL OF FUN ON THE LAKE permeate this one-owner property located on the private side of Mentone's Lake Lahusage. Filled with one family's nostalgia, waiting for the next family to bring it back to life & fill it with their own memories of good times on the lake. One of those rare places with easy walk down to the water; swim & fish from your dock; put in a boat at the public ramp just a short distance away. 4BR/2BA; wood floors; wood beams; mtn stone fireplace; vaulted LR/KI/DR. Screened porch on back leading to huge deck overlooking the lake. Yes, it needs A LOT of work, but it is a rare gem awaiting the right person to make it shine! \$375,000 (1786628)



RIVERFRONT LOT ON W FORK LITTLE RIVER; 3.01 acres; approx 270' frontage on the river. Beautifully wooded w/ building site on the river side of the road. Imagine a cabin w/ river access, a screened porch to enjoy the sounds of the river & possibly even see the water. Very private, with that "away-from-it-all" feeling; less than 2 miles from downtown Mentone. Adjacent to historic Little River Baptist Church, just down the ¾ wraparound porch to enjoy the sound of the wet-weather Course. \$75,000 (1788717)



BEAUTIFUL LOG CABIN ON 2 ACRES, private & wooded. Stunning, vaulted great room with dramatic beams; mountain stone fireplace; granite kitchen w/island; Main-level MARR and bonus loft area. 1st floor living area, 2nd floor bedroom with full bath. 3rd floor game room & a separate workshop area w/bath stubbed out & ready to finish. \$375,000 (1787445)

SOLD



IVY COTTAGE, Classic lines, a pleasing color palette, durable Hardy-plank siding, shady porches, & a story-book guest cottage give this 2BR/2BA cottage a timeless, well-characterized charm. The cottage is situated on a wooded garden plot. Studio guest cottage with kitchenette. Property adjoins state park land off the DeSoto Parkway, accessed by a quaint little mountain lane into this small, woodland subdivision. \$369,900 (1790427)

PENDING



IT'S ALL ABOUT THE WOW FACTOR! From the wrought-iron, fenced entry, to its panoramic views from over 350' of brow frontage, this 4.2-acre property has plenty of everything you could want. 4 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, a large kitchen, great deck; walk-out basement w/views & great potential. Attached 2-car garage; detached 34x39 workshop (perhaps a future guest quarters or event building?) \$695,000. (1155122)

SOLD



*We're down to the nubs!
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too. Are you considering
selling? Want to know what
your property may bring
in this crazy market?
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Colorfest



Arts | Crafts | Live Music

PRESENTED BY MENTONE AREA PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION

October 16 *AND* 17 in Mentone's Brow Park



Scarecrow Holler

Join the fun and show off your creativity! Scarecrow Holler is a scarecrow-building competition for businesses, organizations and individuals. The Colorfest 2021 Scarecrow Contest theme is "Fairy Tales and Folk Tales." It's your chance to recreate a scarecrow version of a fairy or folk tale character and enter it into the contest for a chance to win prize money. Will your scarecrow be based on your favorite hero, the jokester who kept you laughing, or the villain you feared the most? If you are interested in participating in Scarecrow Holler, complete the application on page 17 or register online at mapamentone.com/scarecrow-holler. Registration deadline is 8 p.m. on October 9.

Festivalgoers can enjoy a stroll through enchanting Scarecrow Holler in "Brow Woods," the wooded area at the north end of North Cool Street (across from the music stage at Brow Park), where these creatively-crafted scarecrows will grace your path. Feel free to have your picture made with your favorite one!



1st Place scarecrow, 2019
"George, the Cotton Pickin' Scarecrow,"
created by Christy Shell

Parking + Shuttles

Festival parking is available only at designated lots for a fee of \$5 per car. A free shuttle service will take festivalgoers to and from Brow Park, with stops along the way. **Masking will be required while riding the shuttle busses.** Complimentary

disposable masks will be available for your use. **NO PARKING** is allowed on Scenic Highway (County Road 89) or Cutler Avenue. Please respect the homeowners and businesses on these roads.

Howl-O-Ween Pet Parade



On Sunday, we invite you and your dog to parade through the festival! Register on-site before 12:45 p.m. at the MAPA booth located at the **south** end of the festival, where the parade will begin. Judging will be based on originality, showmanship, humor, and creativity. The costume contest categories are: *Most Creative*, *Best Pet and Owner Duo*, and *Most Hilarious*. Winners will be announced on the music stage at 1:30 p.m.

Parade Rules:

- Pets must be in costume.
- Cost is a \$1 donation to walk. All proceeds are given to the Dekalb County Animal Shelter.
- All dogs must remain leashed.

- Rabies and vaccinations must be current.
- No aggressive dogs or dogs in heat.
- Owners/handlers are responsible for the actions of their pet.
- Dogs must be sociable with other dogs, adults, and children.

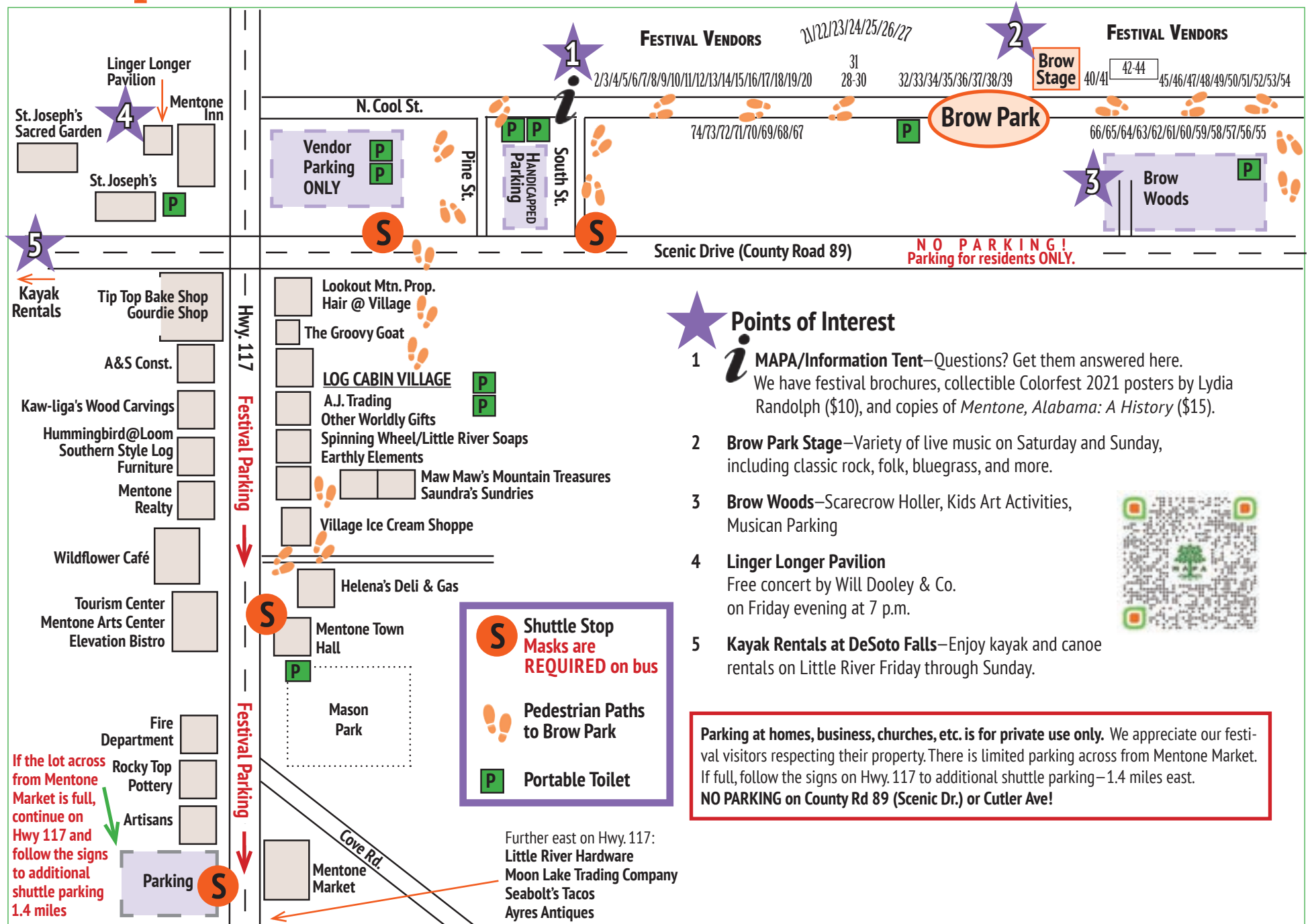
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Map of Mentone Town Center *AND* Festival Vendors



Visit the “Mentone Festivals & Events” Facebook page to stay up-to-date.

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GOLF COURSE

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mapamentone.com/colorfest2021

Live Music at Brow Park Stage

Saturday

10:00 Stuart Douglas
11:15 Jess Goggans
1:45 Pixie & Jerry Bloom
3:00 The Locals
4:15 Tommy Shields

Sunday

11:00 Dana Owens
12:15 Lisa Crow & James Roberts
1:30 Contest Winners Shout Out
1:45 Logan Graves & Meg McGatha
3:00 Dusty Smith

Children's Art Activity Tent

"Art has the role in education of helping children become more like themselves instead of more like everyone else." -Sydeny Gurewitz Clemens

Children are invited to stop by the Kids Art Activity booth located in the shady Brow Woods area at the north end of the festival, which offers youngsters the opportunity to create their own Colorfest tree. The Kids Art Activity booth will remain open from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. each day of the festival.
Elementary-aged kids have the chance to win prizes by using their creative abilities to complete the Colorfest coloring page that has been handed out to local schools. If your child would like to enter, you can download the coloring page at mapamentone.com/coloring-contest.

Winners will be announced on Sunday at 1:30 p.m. and their artwork will be on display during the festival.
The artwork of local middle and high school-aged students will also be showcased at the festival. An art tent will be designated to exhibit their art and promote their creativity, so stop by to see the artwork achieved by talented students enrolled in Fort Payne Middle School, Fort Payne High School, and Valley Head High School. If you're interested in having your artwork on display, contact your art teacher at Fort Payne City Schools and Valley Head School.

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Collectible posters featuring the art of Mentone artist Lydia Randolph on sale for \$10 at MAPA's booth

Beau-ti-FALL Bizzness

As you walk around town, we hope you'll enjoy the seasonal displays in front of local businesses who are participating in MAPA's BeautiFALL Bizzness contest by decorating their businesses to help set the Colorfest "spirit"!

Independent judges will pick the winners on the morning of Saturday, October 16, and ribbons will be placed on the winning displays. Contest winners will be featured in the November issue of *The Groundhog*.



Lend a Hand! Be a Colorfest Volunteer

Complete the online interest form at mapamentone.com/colorfest2021-volunteers

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Enter the Contest!

SCARECROW HOLLER

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Contact Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Scarecrow Name _____

Complete and return this form to MAPA, P.O. Box 50, Mentone, AL 35984

OR go to **mapamentone/scarecrow-holler** to enter.

Deadline for entry is Saturday, October 9, at 8 p.m.

- Scarecrows should be family-friendly and should not reflect controversial, social, or political affairs. No handouts or promotional materials can be associated with any entry. MAPA and the Scarecrow Committee reserve the right to remove any Scarecrow that does not meet these standards.
- Entries must be located in a designated and numbered 5' square area. One square hay bale per entry will be included.
- Set-up will be Saturday, October 9, through Friday, October 15, in the wooded area at the north end of North Cool St. in Mentone (across from the north pavilion at Brow Park). Pick your favorite area and record the number on the sign-in sheet. Scarecrows will remain up through Halloween and must be removed by Saturday, November 6. Any display that is not removed by that time will be discarded.
- Scarecrows must be constructed to withstand weather conditions. It is suggested that entrants check on their display periodically.
- Judges will be provided by sponsoring organization(s) and will be determined by originality, theme, creativeness, etc.
- 1st place—\$75, 2nd place—\$50, 3rd place—\$25. Judging will take place on Saturday, October 16, at 9 a.m. Winners will be announced and ribboned on the Brow Park stage during the festival and will be featured in the November issue of *The Groundhog*. MAPA reserves the right to use photographs for future publicity.

Town of Hammondville Sponsors Town Flag Contest

The Town of Hammondville is sponsoring a Town Flag Contest to create a Town flag that will serve as a symbol of the past, present, and future for our cherished hometown. The public is invited to submit a design for the first official Town of Hammondville flag.

- Designs should be in color, simple, clean, and clear. All entries should be designed on a rectangle that can be enlarged to fit on a 3'x5' ratio.
- Each design submitted should be accompanied by an official application, including a written description of the meaning and/or symbolism contained in the design.
- Designs can be submitted in one of two ways:
 - In digital format shared via Google Drive to hammondvillesocialmedia@gmail.com
 - As a paper copy
- Town Flag Design Contest entries (if not submitted online) may be mailed or delivered to: Town of Hammondville, Town Flag Contest, 37646 US-11, Valley Head, AL 35989
- All entries for the Town Flag Design Contest must be received by 5 p.m., October 30, 2021.
- All submitted entries become the property of the Town of Hammondville and may be modified, reproduced, and published at the Town's sole discretion.
- A selection committee will review all entries and choose finalists to submit to the Hammondville Town Council for consideration. The winning design will be selected and announced in November, 2021. The winner will be recognized at a Town Council meeting with a Certificate of Recognition and a framed copy of the winning design signed by the Hammondville Town Council.

For more information on the Town of Hammondville you can go to our Facebook page—Town of Hammondville @townofhammondvilleal.

If you have questions regarding the contest, please email hammondvillesocialmedia@gmail.com.

SENIOR SERVICES

Medicare Savings Program by Lynn Hixon

Medicare Savings Program is a Medicaid sponsored program for people with Medicare. Each state runs different Medicaid programs for various groups of people. If you have Medicare and Medicaid, you likely have Medicaid for individuals who are aged, blind, or disabled. This is the most common type of Medicaid that Medicare beneficiaries have. State Medicaid programs also run the Medicare Savings Programs, including the Qualified Medicare Beneficiary (QMB) program, that help cover some Medicare Costs.

If you qualify for Medicare and Medicaid, the two programs work together to cover your health care needs. People with Medicare and Medicaid are known as dual eligible. If you are a dual eligible and have no other coverage, Medicare pays first for your health care services and Medicaid pays second. Medicaid is the payer of last resort, which means it pays for your health care costs after all other insurance has paid. Other than QMB, Medicare Savings Programs also include SLMB and QI-1 programs.

In general, an MSP puts the \$148.50 back on your check and includes Extra Help on your prescription drugs. It pays for your Part D plan premium up to a certain amount, and you will have very low copays at the pharmacy.

The takeaway point is that if you have Medicaid, you should likely receive assistance from an MSP and/or Extra Help. If you think that you qualify for one of these programs but you are not enrolled, contact your SHIP Counselor, Lynn Hixon, at the DeKalb County Council on Aging at 256-845-8590.

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

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Mentone Area Church Directory

Mentone, Alabama

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

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

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

Mentone Community Church invites you to Crosswalk Sunday School (K through Adult) 9:15am, Adult Worship Service 10:30am, JC Kids Worship Service 10:30am. Pastor Heath Croft, 334-315-3459. Van Ministry for Children pick-up/take home, ages K-12, for all surrounding areas 8:15am. Wednesday small group study 6:30pm. 90 Summerville Rd. 256-634-4210.

Mentone United Methodist Church invites you to come and worship with us. Each Sunday our worship service is held at 11am and is led by Rev. Robert (Bob) Reynolds. Sunday School is at 10am. The service of Holy Communion is held the first Sunday of each month and fifth Sundays are a service of music. 415 Cutler Avenue. 256-634-8006.

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

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

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

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

Hammondville, Alabama

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

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

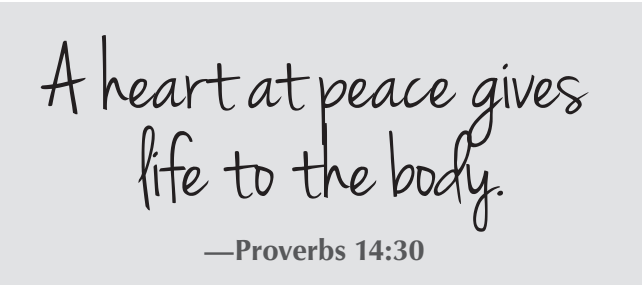
Church). MidWEEK re-charge Wednesday 6:30pm. Pastor Tim Coppock. 38623 US Hwy 11. 256-601-0679.

Valley Head, Alabama

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

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

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



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.

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

New Oregon United Methodist Church is located just off DeSoto Parkway, 1/4 mile south of Fischer Crossroads. We invite you to worship with us on Sundays. Our worship services are at 11am and also on Sunday evenings in the Chapel 6pm. You can also worship with us on-line @ facebook.com/neworegonumc. We have Wonderful Wednesdays during the school year with Bible studies for all ages meeting at 6pm in the Family Life

Center. Pastor Ian Conerly. 1204 New Oregon Drive NE. 256-845-7446.

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

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

St. Stephen Anglican Church invites you to attend service on Sunday mornings at 1pm. Sunday School is at Noon. 1519 Smith Gap Road NW. Father Rodney Jackson, 205-405-0055; Deacon Jack Gilbreath, 256-845-2605.

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

Cloudland, Georgia

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

Menlo, Georgia

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

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

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

Summerville, Georgia

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

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

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



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Agency, Inc.

 THIS 2 BR/2 BA HOME ON 2.3 ACRES is ready for Mentone living. The outdoor kitchen, large front deck and screened back porch are perfect for summer entertaining. Begin your next hobby in the multiuse storage shed or work space. The beautiful wood interior and three fireplaces will keep you warm on those cool nights in the North Alabama mountains. \$175,900. MLS #1779284	 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 AND a 2-room studio apartment w/ kitchenette. Also included is a Gathering house with living and kitchenette. Approx. 7 acres borders DeSoto State Park. \$379,000. MLS #1153859	 THIS DUPLEX OFFERS paved driveway, metal roof, gutters, county water, and well with filtration system. "Big Bear" is 2 BR 2 Bath, central heat and air open kitchen, dining and living room, rock fireplace w/ gas logs, hardwood floors. "Little Bear" is 1 BR 1 BA, recessed lighting, ceiling fans, central heat/air, hardwood floors, smooth ceilings. \$319,900. MLS #1778704	 KNOWN AS HIGHPOINT AND ONE OF THE MOST CELESTIAL AREAS FOR STAR GAZING...This 7 BR, 6 BA manor boasts 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	 STORYBOOK HOME built with the mountain's views in mind. 3 BR, 3 BA home with artistic touches throughout. Relaxing large deck, screen porch & sunroom or by the stone fireplace in the cozy living room. Attached garage, attic/storage space, gorgeous siding/stone exterior, full basement and 1 acre +/- lot. Oversized kitchen w/ seating options at bar or breakfast nook, walk-in pantry, and amazing counter space. \$550,000. MLS #1779265
 WHITETAIL COTTAGE is cute as can be! Features pine floors, tongue and groove wood walls, wrap around porch, and plenty of gardening space. It offers 2 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms, picture perfect den along with a fireplace. Open kitchen and dining area, spacious laundry and pantry room. Situated on 4 lots with two detached buildings. \$199,900. MLS #1790263	 SUNSETS & WILDLIFE! It will be hard to leave the back porch of your new Mentone brow home. Features 3 bedrooms, 4 baths, Living Room with wood burning fireplace, sitting area or office, den, central heat and air, gas wall heaters, matching double attached garage with workshop area behind, detached garage with finished 1 room apartment with bathroom and separate septic tank. Metal roof, paved driveway, All this on 2 lots totaling 2.2 acres. \$519,000. MLS #1786526	 PRIVACY & PEACE Just 2/10-mile from back entrance to DeSoto State Park, this FURNISHED rustic cabin offers access to many outdoor activities! Situated on a Wooded Lot of approx. 1 acre. Open Living/Dining/kitchen, 4 bedrooms, 2 baths, wood floors, wood-burning fireplace, metal roof, hot tub, 2 decks, large pavilion for family gatherings! \$375,000. MLS #1787578	LOTS & LAND #1034997—Approx. 6 acres on Middle Fork of Little River. \$48,900 #1076286— Beautiful Building Spot in Mentone! Perfectly located 1.75 acre building lot in West Fork Subdivision with over 400 feet of river frontage! \$39,900. #1092235—Building lot in Laurel Creek Lakes. \$19,900 #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 #1776065—Lot 59 in Crestline Park Subdivision in Mentone. This location is just off of the scenic County Road 89. This subdivision offers light restrictions including no mobile homes, no commercial buildings or temporary structures. Insuring	

Southern Properties Agency, Inc., has been serving DeKalb County and surrounding areas in residential, land and commercial real estate sales since 1992. The Southern Properties team is made up of 15 REALTORS®, 2 full-time Licensed Real Estate Assistants, and a Marketing Manager. Together, we strive to deliver superior results for our clients while maintaining a level of integrity and professionalism that sets us apart.



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Moon Lake Community Library: Alive and Well, Thank You

by Holley Midgley



OPEN HOURS
Tuesday & Thursday 3–7
Saturday 10–1

Greetings, book lovers. There is a lot going on at your Moon Lake Community Library. Almost everyday someone stops me and asks if the library is going to continue, after our long-time partner, the county board of education, closed Moon Lake Elementary School this spring. The answer is a firm, definite, unequivocal “yes.”

After Covid delays, we are retooling what we do, and bringing back several activities which have been on hold for many months. Our current hours of operation are Tuesdays and Thursdays, 3–7 p.m., and Saturdays from 10 a.m.–1 p.m. The ukulele players are back at it, and if you have an interest in learning to play this diminutive first cousin of the guitar, or if you already know how to play, the group invites you to come to the library on the first and fifth Saturdays of October at 1 p.m. to play to your heart’s content.

We are also rejuvenating our monthly book club, as well as scheduling interactive author talks. The library is a wonderful venue, with plenty of space for groups to come together to play games, talk together (softly—this is a library after all), and read a good book. We have an enormous supply of pre-loved books for sale at ridiculously low prices. If you’ve read a new book and would like to donate it, drop it off during operating hours. However, we are so overloaded that we aren’t accepting any used book donations right now.



We are fortunate to have Ms. Lynn Vanderhoff volunteering to hold interesting and fun sessions for children on the second and fourth Saturdays of each month (10–10:45 for 3-5-year-olds and 11–11:45 for 6-8-year-

olds). Lynn has years of experience working with children in the Atlanta area, and has a wonderful way of engaging the kids during 45-minute sessions. Her recent get-togethers included topics like learning about the stars and hearing all about toads, frogs and tadpoles. There is no charge to attend, and the kids love it. In October, she is planning sessions on Birds on the Wing (October 9) and Halloween Stories (October 23—Lynn says the stories will not be scary).

I am happy to report that we applied for and received a major grant from the Alabama Humanities Alliance, under a federal Covid recovery program, that will help the library continue to operate. We are one of only two grant recipients in DeKalb County. But as always, you can play a part through financial contributions that are needed and appreciated.

If you drove by the library in late September you may have noticed a new roof being installed. Over the years, storms had damaged both the roof on the library and the Moon Lake School lunchroom. The DeKalb County Board of Education filed an insurance claim to replace both roofs, and the Town of Mentone



paid the deductible. Our sincere thanks go out to both. The work was done by Mentone roofer Robert Johnson. Thanks to all who made this happen. The torrential downpours following Hurricane Ida hit just a couple of days after the roofing job was finished.

Finally, we are beginning the search for a new certified librarian. This will be a paid, part-time position, requiring about 45 hours a month. If you are qualified and interested, please send a brief resume stating your past experience to P.O. Box 481, Mentone, Alabama, 35984, by Friday, October 15. We will interview appropriate candidates on the evening of October 21, during our regularly scheduled monthly board meeting.

So, is the library open? Oh, yeah! Come see us.

Holley Midgley is chairman of the Moon Lake Community Library board.

Moon Lake Book Club Resumes

by Jennifer Booker

Calling all readers! The library will be resuming its in-person Book Club meetings on Saturday, October 30, at 10:30 a.m. with a discussion of the book *American Dirt* by Jeanine Cummins. This book has been highly praised and was chosen as an Oprah Book Club novel. It is the story of a woman and her young son who are forced to leave Mexico for their own safety, and make a daring journey to cross the border into America. This book was not published without some criticism, but as Stephen King put it, “It’s one hell of a novel about a good woman on the run with her beautiful boy. It’s marvelous.” The book also received praise from John Grisham for being a page turner, saying “Its plot is tight, smart, and unpredictable.” The topic will make for a lively discussion in a safe environment where we are free to express our opinions and feelings for the content, while respecting each other’s viewpoints. The library board looks forward to hosting this event which will include refreshments to be enjoyed as the book is discussed.



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*Mike Leath, Caleb Roberts,
Amy Justice & Ronnie Highfield*

**The Moon Lake Community Library
is seeking an experienced, certified
librarian. Initially the position will be
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Midgley at 334-313-1540 for more details.**

BOOK REVIEW **On Writing: A Memoir of the Craft**

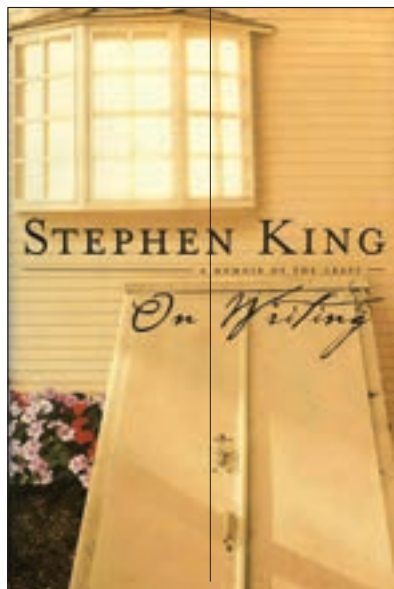
by Anne McLeod

High school prom night turns into a bloody massacre when a teen with telekinetic powers wreaks her revenge. A rabid dog hurls itself at the windows of a car as its terrified owners cower inside. Survivors of a devastating plague converge on Boulder, Colorado, for an apocalyptic showdown. Over his almost 50 year

career, author Stephen King has kept readers up late with some of the most nightmare-inducing images and tales imaginable. Since his first book, *Carrie*, was published in 1974, King has written more than 60 novels, along with just a few nonfiction titles.

King's *On Writing: A Memoir of the Craft* was published in 2000 so it is by no means new, but for aspiring writers of any genre and for fans of the author, it's well worth checking out. It is both memoir and craft manual, a guide to writing by a man who, after so many years and multiple bestsellers, remains passionate about storytelling.

From a childhood spent in near-poverty to his years as a young teacher with his wife Tabitha and two small children living paycheck to paycheck, Stephen King was writing, submitting to magazines and publishers, and collecting the rejection slips on a spike in the wall. But there were occasional encouraging words, a few stories accepted for publication, and finally his first novel, which became a bestseller and hit movie. I defy anyone to read King's account of the phone call in which he learned about the six-figure



sale of paperback rights to *Carrie* without tearing up a little, as he and his beloved Tabitha realized how radically their lives had just changed.

King's writerly advice is as solid as any I've ever seen. Writers must read, he insists, so that they absorb written language and then use that broad base of knowledge to find their own style. He

often gives examples of description and dialog with commentary about what works and what may be a little weak. He is scathing about the passive voice: "The body was carried from the kitchen and placed on the parlor sofa" is passive voice, and to be scorned. "Freddy and Myra carried the body out of the kitchen and laid it on the parlor sofa" is active voice and much stronger writing.

One of the parts of the book I enjoyed most was a chapter in which he provides a first draft and then demonstrates how he revises it to make it sharper. It's a reminder that not even professional writers get it right the first time. In fact, it's the art of revising that makes someone into a professional writer.

Although King goes to some dark places in *On Writing*, including his years of drug and alcohol addiction and the accident in 1999 that shattered his leg and came close to killing him, it's clear that Stephen King is a very happy man, grateful for his health, his family, and a career built upon his gift with words. *On Writing* is available for check out from the Moon Lake Community Library.

Celebrating Howard Finster

Born and raised (and buried) in Valley Head, Howard Finster (1916–2001) is considered to be one of the world's most notable self-taught artists. In 1961, Finster began building Paradise Garden in Summerville, GA. The historic garden contains more than 46,000 pieces of his original artwork.

Since 1991, Finster Fest has celebrated Finster and other artists. This year's family-friendly event will be held on October 9 and 10, and will feature the largest artist and musician lineup in the history of the festival.

The event features nationally recognized self-taught artists, and live music will be performed in various parts of the garden. Special presentations will include a chalking demonstration, an artist talk about Howard Finster as inspiration, and a discussion by Katherine Jentleson, Curator of Folk and Self-Taught Art at the High Museum of Art and author of "Gatecrashers: The Rise of the Self-taught Artist in America." A children's art activity area will be featured, and the whole family will be able to tour Howard Finster's famous art-filled garden.



Hours each day are 10 a.m.–5 p.m. EDT. Admission is \$5, with free parking at the Walmart on U.S. 27 just north of the Garden, with complimentary shuttle provided all day. Accessible parking is available on site. To learn more, visit paradisegardenfoundation.org.

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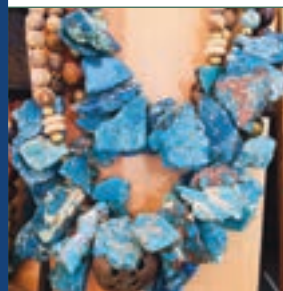
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MERF News

[Mentone Educational Resources Foundation]

by Sarah Wilcox



Oh, what a glorious day it was on Wednesday, September 8th when Paula Easter was able to start teaching art to the k-6th graders at Valley Head School! She was so excited to work with old and new faces and she looks forward to seeing all her great new students every other week. Paula spends one week in Valley Head teaching and then the next week in Menlo, GA teaching. MERF is thankful that art can still be offered to our local students thanks to Principal Dupree. We



Lulu creates a masterpiece of marble art with Paula Easter at LRAC's Follow Your Art festival on the Pathway to Community.

are also working on providing tutoring again for our local students so contact me if you are interested in volunteering weekly as a tutor.



Beautiful hand painted bird wine glasses by MERF friend Beth Harrison are for sale at the Mentone Arts Center, with proceeds going to MERF.

Thanks to Little River Arts Council for putting on a fabulous Follow Your Art festival in September on the MERF grounds. What a fun family event with perfect weather and talented artists. It was good to see everyone and MERF is grateful for those that strolled by the MERF house porch to say hello and/or to purchase a "Leave Me in Mentone" item. Paula and I are looking forward to seeing everyone too at MAPA's Colorfest the weekend of October 16th and 17th. Paula will be doing marble art with the kids again and I'll be enticing you with new shirts and caps. Hoping for a beautiful fall weekend!

MERF continues to be grateful for having a great working relationship with all the other organizations and businesses in the area. Mentone Arts Center and Mountain Framing still have for sale artwork that was donated to MERF for our cancelled art auction. Stop by either business to see what they offer and to consider purchasing MERF items whose proceeds will benefit MERF's programs such as senior lunches, arts education, tutoring, and scholarships. I know everyone was disappointed that senior lunches didn't start as planned, just needed to keep everyone as safe as possible. As always, #leavemeinmentone.

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



Love our picket welcoming friends to the MERF house with a depiction of the original owners, the Shigleys, and how they loved baking cookies for the school children at recess and having smiling pansies to greet you.

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The Musings of a Wannabe Farm Girl

by Martha Ooten

If you were to ask me what I hate about farming, I would tell you without hesitation it's July and August. During those two months I often question my sanity as every pore in my body leaks like a faucet as I do chores. If you were to ask me what I love about farming, there would be a long list. One of my favorites is sitting on the front porch, bundled up early in the cool morning, drinking my coffee while crocheting or knitting hats and headbands. I'm a hat wearer. I wear hats all year around. I think every woman should wear hats because there's never been an unattractive woman in a hat. Hats fit no matter what size our hips are. Hats hide bad hair days. You just can't be in a bad mood if you have a beautiful hat on. I could go on and on about the benefits of wearing hats, but for me part of wearing a hat is that I make them. Here on the farm I have sheep and pygora goats. I help shear them here on the farm. I then take their fiber and wash it, card it on a carder, then spin it on my spinning wheel and Wala!!! I have yarn from my own animals.

If you see me in town and notice that I am looking particularly gorgeous that day, it's probably because I'm wearing one of my hats. As I work on my hats I think of all the different types that I wear.

For the first part of my married life, the main hat that I wore every day was my domestic engineering hat. Yes, I had lots of lovely different types of hats that I wear when I go out. But the most precious and valuable hat was the one that I put on every day to take care of my family. I earned that domestic engineering degree by my own blood, sweat, and millions of diapers. Now that my kids are grown and moved away from home, I find that I don't have one particular kind of hat that I wear every day. I wear lots of different ones.

So, for instance, the other day when I was working with my quail, I noticed that one had a prolapse. I have learned over this year how to fix those. I lost my first quail because of a prolapse and since then I have been able to help three quail this summer. They are laying eggs every day and doing just fine. I know this morning that one of the hats I'll be putting on is for processing my quail and providing

clean, healthy meats for not only myself, but my family.

Then I'll put on my shepherdess hat to go out and work with my sheep. Trimming hooves, bandaging up boo-boos and chasing down the inevitable escape artist.

Then I come in the house and put on my domestic engineering hat. I spend hours in the kitchen making my soaps, lotions, and beeswax bars for all of my local shops.

Of course I cannot leave out my fiber artist hat. I spend my evenings working with the fiber from my animals or other local animals creating beautiful wearables in the form of knitting, crochet, and weaving. At the end of my long day, after a shower and PJs, I am thankful that God has given me the ability to be able to wear so many different hats.

So needless to say some hats are fun to wear, some hats are beautiful, some hats are ugly, some hats are painful, but all hats are essential in farm life.

May your hats today be full of health, peace, and learning something new.

From my farm to yours,

Martha Ooten/shepherdess/fiber artist/hat specialist



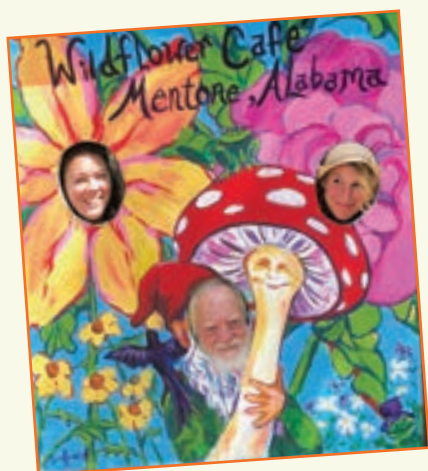
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In Memoriam

GERALD LYNN KING

October 4, 1946 – August 25, 2021

Gerald Lynn King, age 74, of Valley Head, passed away on Wednesday, August 25, 2021 at his residence. He was born on October 4, 1946 in Trion, GA.

He is survived by his wife, Kathleen McKenna King; children, William King and Amanda Robinson King (James); and grandchildren, Krystal King and Chase Robinson.

He was preceded in death by his mother, Nora Becht; father, Luther King; and seven brothers and sisters.

WILMA JEAN VAUGHN RAPE

July 3, 1925 ~ August 29, 2021

Wilma Jean Rape, age 96, of Cloudland, passed away Sunday, August 29, 2021, at Oakview Health and Rehabilitation.

Mrs. Rape was born July 3, 1925, in Wheelright, KY, daughter of the late Lonnie and Flora Baisden Vaughn. She was a homemaker and a member of the World Wide Church of God. Mrs. Rape was a loving mother and grandmother.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Joe Rape; brothers, Lonnie Vaughn, Jr., William "Bill" Vaughn; and a granddaughter, Julie Ann Rape.

Survivors include sons, John Paul Rape, David M. (Barbara) Rape, Joe (Mary) Rape, Jr.; sister, Betty Cates; six grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

MONNIE ADAMS STOKER

December 25, 1930 ~ September 4, 2021

Monnie Stoker, age 90, of Menlo, died Saturday, September 4, 2021, at Oakview Health and Rehabilitation.

Mrs. Stoker was born December 25, 1930, in LaFayette, GA, daughter of the late Jasper T. and Etta Lorraine Ely Adams. She was a member of Teloga Baptist Church, and prior to her retirement, was employed with Riegel Textiles.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her first husband, Rev. Robert James; second husband, James C. Stoker; brother, Starling Adams; sisters, Virginia Brown, Janie Broadrick, and Etta Lee.

Survivors include her daughters, Joyce White, Vicki (Randy) Bagley; grandchildren, Suzanne Willis, Michael (Betty) White, Clifton (Maghan) Bagley; great-grandchildren, Joshua White, Layla Bagley, and Peyton Bagley; step-great-grandchildren, Tony Floyd and Jordan Floyd.



HERSCHEL FRANKLIN RAMSEY

April 9, 1946 - September 5, 2021

Herschel Franklin Ramsey, 75, of Valley Head, passed away Sunday, September 5, 2021. He was born April 9, 1946 in Jasper, TN, to the late Lewis and Hassie Adkins Ramsey. He attended Little River Holiness Church and The Valley Holiness Church.

He is survived by his wife of 46 years, Roberta Ramsey; children Lewis Ramsey, Shane Ramsey (Rachel), Lisa Garmany (Paul), and Crystal Keef; brother Robert Ramsey; grandchildren Mahala Patterson (Cody), Josh Combs (Misty), Christy Williams (Bradley), Dylan Keef (Savannah), Wesley Keef, Kalib Ramsey, Kaydence Ramsey, Noah Ramsey, and Devin Ramsey; great-grandchildren Amiya, Brayden, and Ellie Mae Patterson, Asher Thomas, and Jacey, Corbin, and Remington Williams.

BILLY RAY GARRETT

September 3, 1955 - September 7, 2021

Billy Ray Garrett, age 66, of Valley Head, passed away Tuesday, September 7, 2021 at his residence. Mr. Garrett was born on September 3, 1955, to the late Henry Garrett and Laura Ruth Miller in Georgia. He was the owner of Dekalb Auto Repair in Fort Payne, a Mason and a Shriner.

Mr. Garrett is survived by his daughters, Jennifer (Russell) McElhaney and Angel Garrett; brothers, Butch Garrett, Gregory Garrett, Joey Garrett, and David Garrett; sisters, Patricia Williams, Sissy Garrett, Denita Chatham, Elisa Garrett, and Ronda Whited; grandchildren, Daiton Ashmore, Ashlyn McElhaney, Morgan McElhaney, and Ethan McElhaney; great-grandchildren, Emory Walker, Julie Jordan and Madelyn Jordan; 19 Nieces & Nephews; and several great-nieces and nephews who all loved him very much.

JOHN WESLEY WELLS

August 12, 1940 – September 10, 2021

John Wesley Wells, age 81, of Hammondville, passed away at his residence on Friday, September 10, 2021. He was born on August 12, 1940, in Nacogdoches, Texas. Mr. Wells was retired from the United States Navy.

He is survived by his children, Dee Ann Wells Stanbery (Robert), Terri Wells Browder (Bobby), Annette Wells Hawkins (Jon), and James Wesley Wells (Jackie); 17 grandchildren and 30 great-grandchildren; several aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, grand-nieces, and grand-nephews; and several other friends and relatives, along with the love of his life, his dog Roscoe.

He was preceded in death by his wife of 63 years, Norma Gregory Wells; brother, James A. "Mickey" Wells; mother, Ethel Pruitt; and father, Wesley Harrison Wells.



DEWEY L. BROWN

May 2, 1937 ~ September 11, 2021

Dewey Lathan Brown, age 84, of Menlo, died Saturday, September 11, 2021, at his residence surrounded by his family.

Mr. Brown was born May 2, 1937, in Summerville, GA, son of the late Elgin Dewey Brown and Connie Jewell Phillips Brown. He was Baptist by faith and prior to his retirement, was employed with J.P. Smith Lumber Company. He was a veteran of the United States Army where he attended Airborne School with the 11th

Airborne Division. He also served in the Federal Republic of Germany. Mr. Brown was a devoted member of the Menlo Lions Club, served as a youth baseball coach, and was a leader and mentor with the Boy Scouts of America.

In addition to his parents, Mr. Brown was preceded in death by his sister, Robin Brown; brother, Erick "Tom" Brown; son-in-law, Jeff Johnson; and special brother-in-law, Tom Ochs.

Survivors include his wife, Barbara Ann Lloyd Brown; son, Timothy (Ginger) Brown; daughters, Tina (Robert "Bo") Chapman, Michelle Johnson (Johnny Williamson); brothers, Doyle (Joyce) Brown, Gary (Shirley) Brown, Waldin Eugene Brown; a sister, Anise Ochs; five grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; special life-long friend, Johnny Nelson; and extended family members, Patty Compton and Justin Rose.

BRANDY NICHOLE CLURE

November 21, 1981 – September 11, 2021

Brandy Nichole Clure, age 39, of Valley Head, passed away on Saturday, September 11, 2021 at Floyd Medical Center in Rome, Georgia.

She is survived by her parents, Kathy Clure (Clark Smith) and Jeff Clure (Yessenia); sister, Lacie Keith (Nathan); grandparents, Tommy Clure and Lebron Hibbs; nephew, Laiton Keith; and niece, Taylee Keith.

She was preceded in death by grandparents Richard Gass, Betty Gant, Lillian Hibbs, and Maggie Clure; and aunt, Tracy Gass.



HEATH SHUAN FLANNIGAN

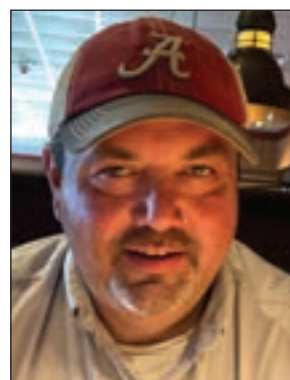
May 17, 1978 ~ September 16, 2021

Heath Shuan Flannigan, age 43, of Mentone, died Thursday, September 16, 2021, at his residence.

Mr. Flannigan was born May 17, 1978, in Fort Payne, son of Mack Arthur Flannigan and Deborah Bain Flannigan. He had attended Mentone Church of God and was the owner and operator of RTR Packaging Equipment Service and Repair. Mr. Flannigan was also an avid deer hunter and fan of the University of Alabama Crimson Tide Football Team.

Mr. Flannigan was preceded in death by his grandparents, Emmett and Jo Bain, and William and Ruth Johnson Flannigan.

Survivors include his wife, Felisha Key Flannigan; daughters, Raegan Key Flannigan and Alexis Flannigan; step-daughters, Brooke Copeland and Caroline Baty; parents, Mack and Debbie Flannigan; brother, Michael (Cindy Lee) Flannigan.



Rhododendron Garden Club

by Rhea Pirch



The Rhododendron Garden Club decided to keep our members safe and healthy and not meet in September due to rising Covid-19 cases in DeKalb County. Instead of sharing meeting notes, we would like to share some tips for fall garden clean-up.

Fall is the time when we think of preparing our lawn and garden for winter. This year, allow yourself to take a more relaxed approach and turn your garden into a welcoming place for wildlife all winter long.

Leaves are usually the first consideration. This year, instead of raking and burning, try running over your leaves with a lawnmower and leaving them on the lawn. If you want to rake or blow the leaves, spread them under shrubs or move them to an unused corner, or bag them and allow them to decompose for use as mulch next spring. Please don't burn them, as the hydrocarbons and microscopic particles found in leaf smoke will do more harm than good for the environment, and for your health.

Flower beds, for the most part, should be left alone until next spring. You can pull out the mulberry weed and other noxious weeds because they are setting seeds now for next year. Leaving hollow flower stems of plants like daylily and lilies will provide winter homes for beneficial insects. The ground litter underneath will provide safe homes for many overwintering insect cocoons.

It doesn't take an ornithologist to realize that the seed heads of black-eyed Susans and purple coneflowers offer winter food for birds. If you're concerned that

Leaving hollow flower stems of plants like daylily and lilies will provide winter homes for beneficial insects.

something may not re-seed on its own, then gather a few seeds from these flowers and scratch them into the ground or spread them in an unused part of the ground that may need some cheering up next year.

If you garden with vegetables, you'll want to pull out this year's plants. They may carry over disease or pests to next year's crops. Cover the bare soil where the plants have been pulled with 4 to 8 layers of newspapers and put down pine straw or other mulch to hold it in place.

For more great gardening tips, we recommend *Horticulture* magazine, which offers many smart articles on plants and gardens of all types.

Our October meeting will be a workday, as we gather to plant the rhododendrons and other foundation plants around the MERF House.

Remember to follow us on Facebook or send any questions to our email, rhododendrongardenclub@gmail.com.

Rhea Pirch is the secretary for the Rhododendron Garden Club.

Black Bears (continued from page 5)

How long do bears usually live?

They live to about 18 to 20 years in the wild. But that's really old. It's not common for bears to die of old age. They usually die of something else before that. In non-hunted populations, vehicle collisions are the main cause of death.

Are bears protected?

Yes. In Alabama, they're a species of Highest Conservation Need, the third rank below Endangered or Threatened.

To learn more about Hannah's research and about black bears in northeast Alabama, you can watch a video of her recent talk at DeSoto State Park at bit.ly/DSP-bear-talk.

Hannah may be reached by email at hzi0122@auburn.edu if you have any questions. She also welcomes photographs of any sightings.



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- Menlo Town Hall
- Mountain Top Country Store
- Paradise Garden

Ruby O'Rear's Days Come to Life

OCTOBER, 1936

October 1, 1936, Thursday

Cloudy this morn but cleared off in P.M. Mrs. Cash & Grace washed. Mother rested fine last nite & has eaten fairly well to-day. I made out order to Sears & sewed a little. Had some fire all day. Brod in 4 shocks of tops & got some turnips in field. Clara & Grace picked some beans. I went to Mrs. Cash's & got money for rent. Mother could play on piano.

October 3, 1936, Saturday

Warm & clear.

Mother rested fine again last nite but didn't eat much or stay up much to-day. Clara ironed. Jack cleaned up. A.J. went for mail. Paul took me to Fort Payne. I got a pair of oxfords. Stopped by Margaret's a few min just as they were serving refreshments. A.J. went to V.H. with mail & Paul went down there for her. Eula & Jodie stopped by & turned Mother's bed around. Clara scrubbed & made a blouse. She & Gracie went to church.

October 5, 1936, Monday

Cloudy in A.M. then cleared up later.

Mother up only once again last nite but been awake a good deal to-day. Has eaten quite a bit turnip, butter beans, fat meat & drank a little of my cocoa. A.J. went for mail & brot me some sawdust & dampened it & put on floor so I could sweep. Paul cleaned out play house & finished flooring it so it's ready for corn. Moved tool crib into wood house. Paul went for Jack. A.J. went back to Dan's. I crocheted a little.

October 6, 1936, Tuesday

Rainy. Rainy.

Car would not run so Jessie & J.B. walked to Dan's & he took them to school. Mother ate a lot of turnip to-day. A.J. went for mail. Paul worked on car all morn. Got it fixed about 2:00 & went to Mentone & back by school for Jack & J.B. My pkg from Sears came.



Paul took A.J. to Trion. Fried 2 chicks for supper. Lady where Ethel stayed died yesterday.

October 10, 1936, Saturday

Clear. Cooler.

Stayed at home all day. Mrs. Emerson & Jewell came over in P.M. J.B. spent day with Billy. Clara & I beat Mother's mattress. She lay on my bed while we beat it. Mrs. E. sent Mother a qt of grape juice.

October 11, 1936, Sunday

Cold. Clear.

Mother rested well on her beat up mattress. Aubrey came for Clara & she went home to all day singing. Paul & A.J. carried me to church. Frank Warren & a Mr. & Mrs. Taylor from Chicago were there. Paul came for me. We went on to Mentone. Hope got out at Lee's & we had to go back from Dan's to get him. Ether & Hope came by for a little while.

October 13, 1936, Tuesday

Warm. Clear. Temp in 30's last nite.

Mother rested fine latter part of night.

Editor's Note:

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

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

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

—Kelly

I fixed 2 dresses to-day. Widened skirt of brown dress. Took down stove. Cleaned out pipe & put it up closer to fire place. Paul went for Jack but she had to stay so her & J.B. came & went bak for her. Mother rested well today. Ate rice & guinea broth.

October 19, 1936, Monday

Fair & Pleasant.

Had windows open most of day. Dormant fire in stove. Jack & J.B. went to school. I wrote locals for both papers. Ether called from V.H. said she was sick & wanted A.J. & W. Paul to take her to Trion which they did. Kate Culberson & Aunt

Mag came to see Mother this P.M. First time Kate has been here since day Ed shot Clyde.

October 24, 1936, Saturday

Cooler. Clearing up.

Mother rested better last nite. Jessie cleaned up house. Clara scrubbed kitchen. I went to Franks for roasting ears, on to Kate for Country Gentleman then on to see Aunt Mag.

Mrs. Ellie Brown & Thelma, A.J. went to Emersons. Ralph came home to-day. Been to Texas Centennial. Paul went to Atlanta. Clara had date with Ernest Ferrell.

October 25, 1936, Sunday

Clear.

W. Paul didn't come over last nite as Sonny was sick. Paul & J.B. went to S'ville. A.J. went to Dans. Clara went to Lois & spent P.M. Hope & a Mr. Scott came out. Hope took saw back. He brot out motor for curt off saw. Ralph came over to see Mother. Gave her a Centennial handkerchief. May Ruth Cox & Vergie Brown came over. Clara & Gracie went to church.

October 28, 1936, Wednesday

Cold. Cloudy.

Mrs. Meda about the same. Frank Green brot lumber for pig pen. Also my lumber that was at mill. Poplar & pine. Then he & Milt cut us nearly a cord of wood. Mother sat up quite a bit & wrote some to-day.

October 30, 1936, Friday

Pleasant.

Mrs. Meda better. Mother up several times last nite. Clara ironed. I got in the wood & got some across for hog. Whipped on a little lace. Clara, A.J. & J.B. all went to Cash's then on to Henry Jones. W. Paul came over for few min.

October 31, 1936, Saturday

Mostly clear. Cold but not freezing.

Paul took me to Valley Head to get check cashed but could not get it cashed. Said they have to put it thru first. Billy E. & Jack came over. Jack & Paul went to F.P. Clara ironed some. Billy brot Mother some grape juice. Mrs. Meda still improving.



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