



THE GROUNDHOG

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Volume 39, No. 9

"Neighborly News from the Heart of Lookout Mountain"

September 2020



A MAN OF THE LAND

by Kelly Leavitt

Roger Lee has had an affinity for water wheels since he was a child. He and his brothers spent their childhood years outside playing on their land, learning about such things as the laws of physics as they played. "As a kid we didn't have a lot of money," said Roger. "Our best toys were toys we could build. All of that's a learning experience."

At age 60, Roger decided to build his own water wheel on his piece of wooded land near Mentone. The result: a 20-foot bright red steel vertical overshot water wheel.

In the early days of Mentone, several mills were powered by water wheels on the West Fork of Little River. In the late 19th century, Ed Mason (the son of Mentone's founder, John Mason, and brother of Alice, who named Mentone) operated a mill near Moon Lake. Mr. Ellison operated a mill further downstream, and John Christopher Crow operated one above Taylor Ford. Another mill was built at Alpine in the early 20th century.

Following the Renaissance, water wheels were popular sources of energy for efficient production. Their use dates back well over 2,000 years, having

been invented by the ancient Greeks and used by the Romans. Other cultures began devising their own types of water wheels.

The vertical water wheel was one of the most important inventions ever made and marked a turning point in the history of technology, with the use of water supplanting human and animal power. Some surmise that the lifting power of a water wheel is stronger than a hundred men.

Roger built his wheel by himself in a large workshop off-site and then transported the pieces to its present site, where he secured it to a 3-level mill house which he constructed using wood he milled from the trees on the property along with more than 90 yards of poured cement. "This might be the only working mill in Alabama," Roger mused.

Being the industrious type, Roger dug a mill pond. He placed pipes about 10 feet below the surface that lead in the direction of the wheel. Once the water nears the wheel, gravity pulls it up a pipe that feeds the flume at the top of the wheel in an overshot fashion, which is the most efficient use of a water wheel.

(continued on page 20)

MAPA CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT OCTOBER 10 @ LIL' MOLE RUN

by Kelly Leavitt

MAPA is pleased to host a charity golf tournament at the newly renovated Lil' Mole Run Golf Course on Saturday, October 10. (The rain date is October 17).

With the loss of revenue in 2020 from our two canceled festivals—the Rhododendron Festival and Colorfest—proceeds from this fundraising event will allow us to continue to be able to financially provide for some of the needs of our local non-profit organizations. Usually, the profits generated by the festivals allow MAPA to fund grant requests by organizations such as Mentone's fire department, DeSoto Rescue Squad, Boy Scout Troop 106, Mentone Educational Resources Foundation, Moon Lake Library, Little River Waterkeeper, Ryleigh's Closet, the Mentone Bicentennial Committee, and more.



CALLING ALL GOLFERS!

Lil' Mole Run is a lovely 18-hole, par 71 golf course located in Mentone at 741 County Road 647.

The tournament will follow a four-man scramble format, which is a popular and friendly option for charity golf tournaments, as it allows players of all abilities to participate. After each player in a four-person team hits their driving shot, the team chooses

the best drive and then all players hit their next shot from that position. Subsequent shots follow the same process until one of the players sinks a putt. The team then records its score for the hole and progresses to the next tee.

The registration fee, which includes the green fee, shared 2-person cart, and lunch, is \$75/person or \$300/foursome through September 23. The late registration fee is \$85/person or \$340/foursome. Space is limited, so it is advised to register early.

Teams will be organized to begin on different tees at 8 a.m. CDT. The top three flights will win prizes, and prizes will also be given for the longest drive and closest to the pin.

In addition, Tommy Ledbetter of Twin City Auto in Fort Payne will offer a free car for a hole-in-one on

(continued on page 3)



THE GROUNDHOG

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

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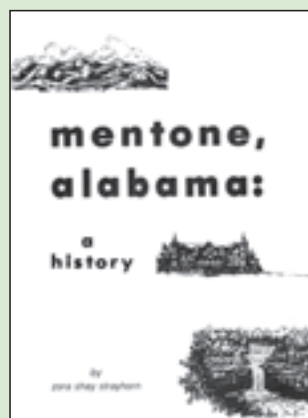
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readthegroundhog.com

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

Groundhog wood cut courtesy of Meg Justice

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



Learn about the History of Mentone

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

Mentone Matters • by Mayor Rob Hammond

Congratulations to David Allgood on his election to the Mentone Town Council. David and his opponent, J. D. Trammell are to be commended for running positive campaigns. In today's political climate, running for office, even in a small town, is challenging. It comes at a personal cost. We should appreciate their willingness to serve and their contributions to this community.

Town Clerk Kristen Emory did a great job in organizing her first municipal election. She put in many hours of preparation. Thanks to Donna Hedgepath, Jim Hedgepath, Marsha Tucker, David Tucker, Susan Van Apeldoorn, and Hank Van Apeldoorn for working the polls. Even without COVID-19 protocols, it is a long day.

Lastly I would like to recognize and thank Wesley Griffith for his long service (20 years)



on the town council. During his tenure, Wesley also served as chairman of the Mentone Water Board. In short, he donated many hours of his time to Mentone. His thoughtfulness, judgment, and sense of humor will be greatly missed on the council. We are indeed fortunate to have Kat, Wesley, and the Griffith family in our midst.

Letter from the Editor



It will certainly be a different October this year with the cancellation of MAPA's annual Colorfest arts and crafts festival, but also interesting with the advent of MAPA's first charity golf tournament. If you golf, this event will be a fun and relaxing time amid the beauty of Lil' Mole Run Golf Course, with its mountain breezes and picturesque views. MAPA certainly appreciates the helpfulness and support of Lil' Mole Run, since this is our first time hosting a golf tournament!

This issue offers some fun stories, including a sunrise wedding at DeSoto Falls and the naming of a local island. I enjoyed getting to know Roger Lee, who is featured on the cover. Roger is the brother of Col. Robert Lee, who passed away in 2018, and the uncle of Robert's son, Joseph, who serves as Mentone's fire chief. It's a shame there isn't space to write more about Roger's accomplishments, passions, and dreams—because there are many. I hope you enjoy this brief introduction to a very interesting and kind gentleman.

Mentone said farewell to Marjorie Jones Berry in late August. Marjorie was the youngest of 11 children born to a family with deep ties to Mentone. She was the mother of Dr. Bill

Berry, a well-respected principal at Moon Lake School for many years. I happened to drive by the Berry Patch (the family compound) on East River Road during her funeral, and noticed the attendees sitting in rows of chairs under leafy shade trees on a gentle slope leading down to the river. It was a beautiful setting in which to celebrate her life. She will be missed by her many, many friends and family members.

MERF's Pathway to Community project is nearing completion, thanks to the contributions of hundreds of community members. Drop by for a walk on the pathway (just east of Moon Lake Library on AL Hwy. 117) and enjoy the art and musical instruments that are being installed this month. To a small degree, this project is changing the landscape of Mentone, and it's all due to the collective effort of a tremendous number of people. Friendships have been made and hidden artistic talents have been revealed. Children and adults have been enjoying playing the xylophone and steel pan drum that were recently installed, and it's nice to hear their music carried on the wind on our beloved mountaintop. Thanks to all who have helped make this happen.

Be well. And Happy Fall! —Kelly



MAPA News by Mark Hoffman

this fall (and use as a fundraiser!) we decided to host the first annual (maybe!) MAPA Charity Golf Tournament. It will take place on Saturday, October 10, at Lil' Mole Run Golf Course, and should be a lot of fun. I hope you will put a Team together, sign up, and come join us in the day's activities. Detailed information

I hope everyone is doing well, and staying healthy! As you probably know by now, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we have had to cancel Colorfest this year—it would be highly irresponsible to stage an event that brings so many people in close and direct contact with each other. Let's hope we are well out of the woods on this by next Spring and that we will be able to move forward with the best Rhododendron Festival ever.

After throwing around several options for something that MAPA can sponsor

about the event, how to sign up, etc. can be found on page 1 in this issue.

Now that September is upon us, I know we are all looking forward to that first burst of cool air coming down the east side of the Appalachian trail and the coloring of the leaves. Fall is my favorite season of the year. Let's all get outside and enjoy it, and maybe even get a little exercise while we're at it! I enjoyed painting a picket for MERF's Pathway to Community project (see page 9).

I would love to hear from you, and can be reached via email anytime: mhoffmanatty@yahoo.com.

Mark Hoffman is the president of Mentone Area Preservation Association.



Join MAPA Today

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

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

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

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

Individuals \$20/year • Couples \$30/year
Your membership includes a complimentary subscription to *The Groundhog*.

JOIN AT mapamentone.com

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

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

MAPA Charity Golf Tournament (continued from page 1)



the 6th hole.

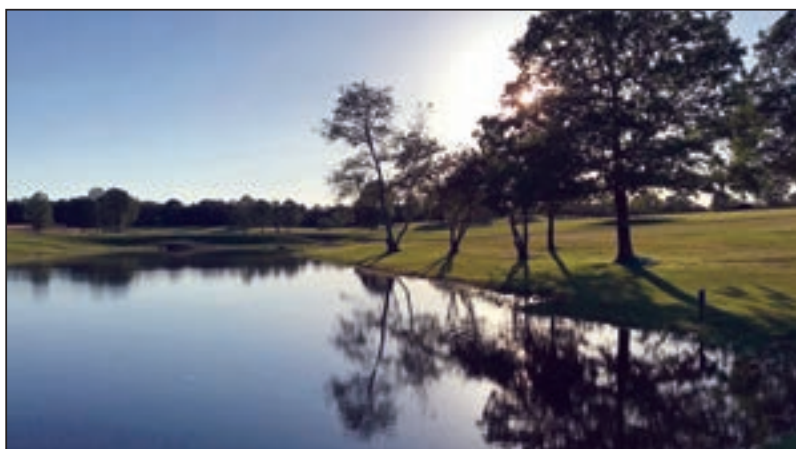
Mulligans, which allow an extra shot after a poor shot (which is not recorded), can be bought for \$10 each (maximum of two for the front nine holes and two for the back nine). The MAPA Special

(3-2-1) is available for \$25, which includes three mulligans, two raffle tickets, and one free throw.

Lunch will be provided by DeSoto Rescue Squad in the pavilion overlooking the lake near the clubhouse.

Tickets for a 50/50 drawing will be sold; the winner and MAPA will split the proceeds of the tickets sold. Door prizes will be announced, and a golf gift basket donated by Lil' Mole Run will be raffled.

Sponsorships are available. Hole sponsors (\$100) will be acknowledged by a sign at the hole. Cart sponsors (\$50) will be acknowledged by a sign in each cart. Corporate sponsors will be acknowledged on the team scoreboard, and in an individual banner (\$750) or a group banner (\$350) in the



November *Groundhog*. To become a sponsor, please go to mapamentone.com/golf or email mapamentone2@gmail.com.

Ways to register:

- MAIL.** Send a check payable to MAPA to P.O. Box 50, Mentone, AL 35984. Be sure to include a contact name, phone number and email.
- ONLINE.** Register at mapamentone.com/golf. A small surcharge will be added to cover the fees charged by PayPal. Be sure to include a contact name and phone number in the comments box.
- IN PERSON.** Register at Lil' Mole Run Golf Course at 741 County Road 647 in Mentone any day of the week between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m.

Because of COVID-19 precautions, no spectators will be allowed at this event. MAPA is grateful to Sharon Habin for coordinating this event; Marc Walsh, manager of Lil' Mole Run, for helping organize this event and for managing the team scoreboard; and Darlene Shore and Tommy Roberts, co-owners of Lil' Mole Run, for generously discounting green fees so MAPA can have a successful event.

To learn about Lil' Mole Run Golf Course, visit lilmolerun.com. See the July *Groundhog* at readthegroundhog.com for an article exploring the history of the property.

Congratulations to the winners of August's Municipal Elections

**MENTONE
TOWN COUNCIL**
Place 2: David Allgood

**VALLEY HEAD
MAYOR**
Michael Key

**VALLEY HEAD
TOWN COUNCIL**
Place 1: Karen Vest
Place 4: Dean Freeman
Place 5: Chris Busby



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Broker/Owner
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Holly Watson-Houston
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Melody Sellers
Assoc. REALTOR®
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LOOKING TO RELAX AT A LAKESIDE CABIN? We believe this to be THE best little water-front gem in Mentone. Certainly, it's the only one on the market right now. The cabin is a beautiful, well-maintained, but still rustic. There's a tiny guest cabin included! Each has a perfect porch with lake views. The property has a park-like feel with easy access to the lake. 1.38 acres. \$264,500 (1148466)

PENDING



IT'S SO PEACEFUL & QUIET HERE, and the land is just gorgeous! 33.78 acres, with 2 ponds; fenced & cross-fenced; pole barn; verdant pastures; lush woodland areas. Simple 4BR/3BA ranch-style home, with finished, walkout basement. Land is approx ½ woods & ½ pasture; level to gently rolling. Spring-fed pond creates a small stream that dances down to the woods. Picturesque, gated, ranch entryway welcomes you with a gently-curving driveway leading past the pond & to the house. Satisfying views of pond & pasture from the front porch. House needs repairs, but this is one of those truly special places well worth considering. \$299,000 (1145542)



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

LOTS and LAND

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

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



SPACIOUS CABIN HOME ON 3.31 ACRES 3BR/2.5BA, 2500 sq ft, one-owner home features a welcoming front porch & a deep, oversized back porch for easy entertaining outdoors. Open living/dining/kitchen features an efficient, wood-burning heater; hardwood floors. Main-level master suite. First level also offers a laundry room & a half bath. Upstairs are two large bedrooms & guest bath. Two new CH/A units in Aug 2019. Outdoors, the property includes a well-equipped workshop/garage; a large pole barn for firewood with an attached chicken coop; and a pleasant, winding, private drive. Additional land available. \$264,500 (1128526)



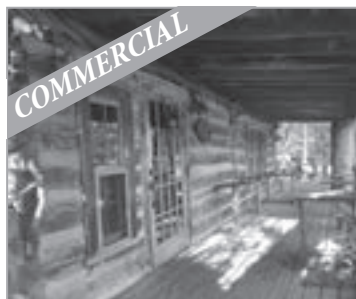
LIVE YOUR DREAM! This unique home sits atop Lookout Mountain, built on the edge of the brow. Open style w/windows throughout both sides & both floors of the entire home, the top floor is a full open loft w/2 sep bedrooms each w/balconies above the main deck for sipping coffee or a glass of wine while watching the sun set. Galley style kitchen + butlers pantry w/ top of the line stainless steel appliances+washer & dryer. Outside-screened porch with hot tub, fire pit w/cedar chairs/tables, circle drive & wooden fence. On top of all this, it's also being sold fully furnished!! If you're wanting a brow-front getaway that also has income potential, you won't beat this one! \$325,000 (1138642)



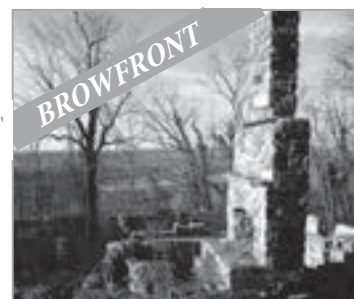
10 ACRES OF WOODED LAND, WITH SPRING. Public water/power avail nearby. A driveway was cut into the property several years ago, still viable. If you've been considering building your own cabin in the woods, this might just be the place to start. \$65,000. (1137280)

NEED A BIT OF EARTH? Well, here it is! Less than 5 minutes from downtown, public water, 1 acre, unimproved, hard to find. Nicely wooded. Survey markers in place. Now \$17,500. (1109345)

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



THE YELLOW DELI, LOG CABIN DELI, MOONLIGHT BISTRO, GREEN LEAF GRILL.... There have been some great memories made in this cool, old storybook log cabin. The time has come for the next chapter to be written in this iconic property's story. Tucked into the heart of Mentone's Log Cabin Village, this place could be most any kind of business. Come & sit on the front porch, nestle up to the wood-burning fireplace inside, take in the hand-hewn beams & other rustic elements of this unique property. Dare to dream. \$159,500 (1145258)



SOUTH COOL STREET brow-front property with a beautiful old stone fireplace chimney, part of the foundation, plus a small garage. New survey. A small lot in an area where properties are seldom available. In the very heart of Mentone, but in an area most folks don't even know exists. Build your own memories! (1070474)

SOLD



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



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

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

A Unique Wedding at DeSoto Falls

by Kelly Leavitt

It was a gorgeous day on Saturday, August 1, when I happened to drop by the Mentone Inn late in the morning. In the living room, innkeeper Cynthia Stinson sat on a chair by the fireplace quietly speaking with a couple who sat close together on the couch. After some small talk, Cynthia introduced the couple as the “parents of the bride” and explained that she was hosting a bridal party and their guests at the Inn. The happy parents, Diana and Russell Lloyd, then told me the story of their daughter’s unique sunrise wedding at DeSoto Falls early that morning. What made this wedding unique is that the wedding party and guests had actually hiked down to the pool below the Falls for their ceremony.

Katie Lloyd of Birmingham, AL and Joshua McGregor of Houston, TX, knew that that’s where they wanted to marry, and they made it happen. The mother of the bride tells the story:

The wedding party and attendees met at the trail head on County Road 613 shortly after 6 a.m. for the 25-minute hike down to the pool. To protect her dress, Katie had designed a temporary overlay to wear over her gown during the hike. This was removed prior to the ceremony to reveal

a beaming bride in her custom-designed, princess-style ivory lace wedding gown with matching veil. The ceremony was officiated by the bride’s uncle, James Lloyd, with guitar music by her father, Russell Lloyd. After the ‘Man and Wife’ pronouncement and the happy couple’s kiss, cheers erupted from both the party at the foot of the falls and from observers on the overlook above. Following the ceremony, all hiked back out of the canyon and proceeded to the Mentone Inn. There, Cynthia Stinson hosted a fabulous breakfast for the guests and radiant couple.

The parents of the bride and groom are so grateful to the Lord for His provision in the couple’s marriage. Attendees travelled from Texas, Oklahoma, Michigan, Tennessee and North Carolina to join those from Alabama in celebrating this happy event, and the clear morning skies were just one of the many answered prayers surrounding the wedding. Many thanks to Cynthia, her daughters, and others for their efforts in making this such a memorable and enjoyable gathering!

I thought how wonderful it was that as I lay asleep not far from the Falls, this wonderful story



Joshua and Katie McGregor

was unfolding. It was my good fortune that I learned about it in such a serendipitous way. Sometimes you learn the darndest things by simply striking up a conversation. Congratulations to the happy couple!

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Birthdays

1

Connie Bell
Yvonne Brock
Dustin Burt
Lindsay Elkins
Nancy Garrett
Scott Blansit
Ralph Hammon

2

Grace Tucker
Lincoln Carden

3

Callie Ann Shoults
Stella Mae Akins
Katie Smith
Morgan Spencer
Jessica Bowns

4

Vance Carden
Markettia Crane
Karen Smith
Cloyce Allen

5

Evelyn Jensen
John Kirby
Payton Kirby
Sawyer Putman
Pam Cook

6

Craig Stanfill
Terri Gilreath
Austin Farmer
Benjie Mason

7

Heather Nicely
Amelia Saferite
Blakely Shoults
Robbie Smith
Sharon Cox

8

Van Freeman
Adele Phillips
Anastasia Pittman
Herman Johnson
Steve Watkins

9

Makenna Stalvey
Emma Harrison
Dillon Kirby
Ashley Harrison

10

Morgan Gregory
Angela Downer
Sam Langston
Anna Lee
Jake Easler
Paul Miller
Chasity Smith
Autumn Lewchuk
Joey Cox
Shatara Caraballo

11

Amanda Collins
Robert Johnson
Brittney Pepper
Chandler Johnson
Pam Wheeler

12

Shane Burt
Wyatt Spencer
Cynthia Stinson
Soni LaRock

13

Macy Hirst
Marcus Pardue

14

Jacob Rosson
Pat Hunter
Benjie Crabtree

15

Alex Tillman
Betty Blalock
Mikhaila Watkis
Tina Cooksey
Bryant Ware
Lisa Powell

16

Haley Jacobs
Kathy Casler
Chase Byrum

17

Sam Easler
Angie Godwin
Brittany Villarreal
Dylan Pannell

18

Connie McElhaney
Stacey Brown
Ann Kelley
Luke Williams

19

Taylor Chaparro
Dianne Smith

21

Tae Harmon
Peyton Williams

22

Addison Shoults
Cade Henderson
Cody Tedder
Scout Smith
Oliver Williams

23

Bailey Grace Ware

24

Darrel Clark
Rusty Morrison
Bill Parker

25

Griffin Winn
Baylece Walsh

26

Nicole Stott
Gavin Bain
Gaynell Worthey
Ian Blair
Katy Bell Moore
Scout Anderson

27

Amy Henderson
Kenny Busby
Carley Collins
Helen Coutu

28

Alfie Chambers
Libby Tubberville
Adam Hilliard
John Meadows
Jacob Meadows
Edris Gardner
Allen Wheat
Jordan Cordell

29

Bailey Kirby
Alley Hatfield
Tommy Langston

30

Rusty Chambers
Amy Keith
Braden Henderson
McKenna Jackson
Louise Jackson
Larry Bone
Dillon Bone
Kayla Mitchell
Gail Ray

30

Melissa Roe
Gracie Welden

Angie Hammon

Anniversaries

1

Shane & Ashley Ingram

3

Josh & Mamie Miller
Heather & Lyle Nicely

4

Carl & Katy Tubberville

5

Benny & Kathy Graham

6

Jeff & Melissa Couch

11

Tom & Tonya Shanklin

13

Zach & Ashley Jones

15

Donald & Phyllis Stephens

18

Gary & Cassie Parker
Paul & Anna Bryant

19

Joseph & Crystal Lee

21

Don & Glenda Ingram

22

Cameron & Paige Norsworthy

23

Kevin & Kayla Worthey
Casey & Kayla Hellums
Michael & Pam Wheeler

24

Tom & Kristen Emory

25

Jeff & Linda Stephenson

26

Josh & Melissa Shoults
Jesse & Brittney Coleman

28

Joey & Beth Cox

30

David & Marsha Tucker

Happy Day!

Community Calendar

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Fall Equinox September 22

Menlo Restaurant

American Family Style

Friday Night Special 7.99
Hamburger Steak w/ 2 sides, Texas Toast & Drink

Saturday Night Special 13.99
Ribeye Steak w/ 2 Sides, Texas Toast & Drink

Choose from these sides:
tossed salad • slaw • baked potato • baked sweet potato • okra
tater tots • french fries • onion rings • pintos • corn nuggets
onion strings with jalapeno buttons • fried or grilled squash

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MERF News

by Sarah Wilcox



Happy Birthday to MERF (Mentone Educational Resources Foundation)! Twenty-seven looks good on you! Thanks to Green Construction for fluffing up and enriching the look of the MERF house with new siding, doors, porch extensions, and roofing to keep us dry. And look at the work being done to bring the walking track to a bright, naturally attractive, and interactive Pathway to Community with native plants, artwork, and musical instruments. Thank you to the Rhododendron Garden club for working to

eliminate unwanted plants and prepping the grounds for great new additions. Thank you to all who came out and painted the pickets for the fun, make-you-smile fence being erected soon. Thank you to the installment team for getting the musical instruments firmly in the ground. Thank you all for the excitement and encouragement for this community



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



group sometime soon. To keep up with all that MERF is doing, sign up for our newsletter on our website or send Sarah your email to add to the list. Thank you for your commitment to MERF and to our beloved Community for these 27 years!

The MERF community grieves with the families of Margie Berry and Carter Holland, both of whom we lost in August. Margie's son, Dr. Bill Berry, is a

founding member of MERF and of course we enjoyed Margie's wit and smile at senior lunches and MERF events. Carter Holland and his mom, Lucie Stephens Holland, have enjoyed the mountain through many seasons of camp and their summer home in Mentone. Thanks to the graciousness of choosing MERF as a possible recipient of a memorial for their son, friends of the Hollands will impact opportunities for our Mentone area youth. Thank you for that honor for a son who is gone too soon.

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



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SENIOR HEALTH

Helping Seniors Save Money by Lynn Hixon & DiAnne Callahan

Senior Rx and SHIP can help seniors cut costs and save money. These programs are a joint effort between the Alabama Department of Senior Services and Disability Resource Center and the State Health Insurance Assistance Program. The Senior Rx is state-funded, helping provide brand-name prescription drugs for citizens. The SHIP program is funded by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and is administered by the Alabama Department of

Senior Services and the area agencies on aging.

Although the Council on Aging is closed to the public, they are working diligently to help people over the phone and then asking clients to come by the office and bring their necessary information. The Council on Aging has a special mailbox at the door that is being used as a drop-off location, and individuals can call, blow their horns, and someone will come to the door, retrieve the documents, copy them, and return them to the

mailbox for pickup.

For more information, please call the DeKalb County Council on Aging at 256-845-8590 and ask to speak with DiAnne Callahan or Lynn Hixon. For regular updates, follow DeKalb County Public Transportation and Council on Aging on Facebook at facebook.com/DeKalbCoA. The DeKalb County Public Transportation and Council on Aging is located at 600 Tyler Ave. SE in Fort Payne.

Menlo/Cloudland News by Pat Johnson

Menlo School

Menlo School began in-class instruction on August 3. Every class room is implementing social distancing, teachers sanitize their classroom between classes, and they have substituted water bottles with fill-stations instead of water fountains. Masks are highly recommended, but not required. The entire school is fogged every night to clean the air of any virus. Teachers always wear masks in the halls and everyone gets their temperature checked. So far, no one has tested positive on a COVID test. The students seems very glad to be back in school and seeing their school mates after a long summer of isolation. Menlo School is also offering virtual learning to students who wish to stay at home. Virtual learning started on August 20.

Menlo and Cloudland Cancel Events

Menlo's Yard Sale and Bake Sale, originally scheduled to be held on September 11 and 12, have been cancelled. The Cloudland Volunteer Fire Department's Annual Labor Day BarBQ and gospel sing has also been cancelled. They are still deciding if they want to sell BarBQ as a drive by. Watch for signs.

MAPA CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT

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River Voice

by Angie Shugart

September is the month when summer officially comes to a close and we welcome the cooler temperatures that autumn brings. This time of year, the lakes on Little River (Lahusage and DeSoto) are experiencing turnover, which means the surface water that was once warmed by the sunlight, begins to cool. The cool water then becomes dense and sinks, forcing the bottom layer of water to rise, in order for it to cool and the water become an equal temperature.

You can see the signs when this happens, as the decaying matter on the lake bottom is warm and begins to bubble and release an odor. This seasonal, natural occurrence plays a critical role in the ecosystem. Fresh oxygen replenishes the bottom layer and allows fish to return and spend the winter months in the deep layer of water. The turnover happens again during the spring when the water begins to warm up.

I encourage you to get on the river this fall. Paddle a canoe or take a swim before the water is too cold. Hike along the river on the yellow trail in DeSoto State Park. Soon, the leaves will be changing, and the scenery is breathtaking. The water is like glass on the lakes, early in the morning and late in the afternoon. Watching the trees reflect on the water's surface is a great way to experience serenity. River therapy is the perfect prescription!

Update on SwimGuide Season!

We conclude our summer SwimGuide season on September 3. For 16 weeks—Memorial Day to Labor Day—we monitored seven swimming holes on Little River in order to get a big picture of the overall health of Little River. The water quality in Little River is pristine and we had only a few high readings of E Coli bacteria. This doesn't mean that there were no issues. We did observe high turbidity (muddy water) in the water table because of a wet summer and also because of impacts from land development along the riverbank. It is vital to the health of Little River that the riverbanks stay intact. Because Little River is shallow and rocky in most areas, aquatic and terrestrial species cannot survive when large loads of sediment wash in the river. We strongly encourage landowners on the river to leave a riparian (vegetation) zone between their property and the river in order to prevent erosion and degradation of the water quality in Little River.

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

Hemlock Informational Meeting Available to View

The Eastern hemlock species is on a path to extinction because of the hemlock wooly adelgid, a parasitic insect which is present in the Mentone area. Forestry professionals with the Alabama Cooperative Extension Service hosted a Zoom meeting in August for concerned landowners. They explained the problem with the pest and discussed ways to prevent and treat infestation. The meeting was recorded and can be viewed at aces.edu/go/HWA.

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N•E•W•S by Rhea Pirch

A plein air event will be hosted by the Little River Arts Council on September 11-13, when some of our area's talented outdoor painters will bring their paint boxes and easels to Mountain Cove (Friday), Fort Payne (Saturday), and Mentone (Sunday). Fort Payne artist Eugenia Johnston will be the facilitator of this event, which is being held in conjunction with the 18th annual International Plein Air Paint Out. Artists across the globe will paint outdoors during the course of the weekend.

Plein air painting developed in

France in the mid-19th century and is now enjoying a revived popularity. Plein air artists seek the quality of natural light and atmosphere outdoors. Using a variety of media, including oils, watercolors, and pastels, their artwork is in direct response to the beauty they find in nature.

The international organization, International Plein Air Painters, hosts the annual event, which was created for the sole purpose of advancing the execution and enjoyment of plein air painting without limitations of borders or regions. They encourage other artists to get outside, paint, and share ideas with other artists. You can learn more about the group at i-p-a-p.com.

If you are an artist and would like to participate, please register at littleriverartscouncil.org and we will send you details about the weekend. For those who would like to see the artists' works, we will post videos of the painters at work throughout the weekend on our Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube pages, so keep an eye out!

Our Artist Registry benefits both artists and art lovers. The registry bridges the gap between the idea of an artists' community and the accessibility to the artists of the community. Visitors to the registry will see the rich array of visual artists living in the environs of Little River and neighboring communities.

Our registry offers artists more

awareness through an expanded web presence via our website and social media platforms, in addition to a connection with LRAC members and art patrons. Members of the Artist Registry will receive exclusive notifications of opportunities such as grants, events, and competitions. Artists do not need to be members of Little River Arts Council to be included in the registry, which will launch in September.

Our annual home tour has been cancelled this year. The board has decided to postpone our annual silent auction until our membership meeting is held in 2021, hopefully in late winter.

Join our email list or Like our Facebook page to keep informed about some exciting upcoming events we're planning. We remain cautious about hosting gatherings, so we will be focusing on free online events such as concerts, art classes, and tours of artists' studios. Visit littleriverartscouncil.org for more information or to become a member.



A plein air paint out will be held at Mountain Cove, Fort Payne and Mentone on September 11-13 in celebration of the International Plein Air Paint Out.



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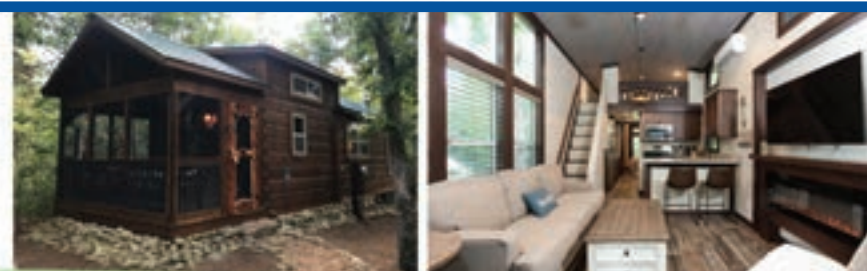
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Experience Tiny Living on Lookout Mountain!

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

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



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Renee Webb, Allison Watters, and Jan Routledge
enjoying Little River near Goose Island

Announcing... Goose Island! by Kelly Leavitt

A small rocky island is situated in Lake Lahusage at the confluence of the Middle and East Forks of Little River. Locals refer to it simply as “the island.” Wyatt Thornton, 18, considered the land feature to be prominent enough to be deserving of a proper name. After seeing Canadian Geese hatch eggs on the rock over the last two years, he decided to call it “Goose Island.”

The name is now officially recognized by the U.S. Geological Survey. In January, Wyatt completed an online application and submitted his idea along with GPS coordinates, the elevation, a physical description, and his reasoning for the suggested name. In August, he received a

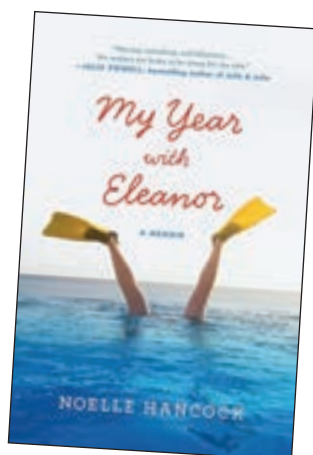
letter in the mail stating that his proposal had been approved at the August 13th meeting of the U.S. Board on Geographic Names.

Wyatt is a senior at Rome High School. His family frequently visits friends and family who live on Lake Lahusage, where he enjoys “kayaking and hanging out. We usually paddle out to the island and tie the boats up, then go for a swim.”

An idea, a bit of research, and a simple action now means that Wyatt will be able to one day swim in the waters of Lake Lahusage with his children and grandchildren, and point out the island that he officially named. And maybe there will be a goose nest on it.

Moon Lake Community Library News by Kelly Leavitt

The Moon Lake Book Club met in late August via Zoom. We’re all starting to get the hang of meeting online! Participants each presented to the group a memoir they had read, and many great suggestions were offered. Patti Harless said she would never have chosen to read a memoir if it weren’t for the book club, and now she’s hooked. She mentioned a statement she’d heard: “Your comfort zone is where dreams go to die.” Deidre Hall wasn’t able to attend, but she sent a message with her suggestion, *My Year with Eleanor*, in which author Noelle Hancock writes about conquering her own fears by following Eleanor Roosevelt’s advice to “do one thing every day that scares you.” This seemed like a good topic to follow up on, so the group decided to read this entertaining and inspiring book for our meeting on



September 22 at 6:30 p.m. Check our website or Facebook page for the link to the online Zoom meeting.

Curbside service continues at the library, as well as our virtual book sale. Thanks to Karole and Harry Ohme for a large donation of hardcover fiction books. We look forward to the day we can once again hold a public book sale, both to raise funds for the library and to make room on our sale shelves, which are overflowing. Visit moonlakelibrary.org to reserve books to check out or to place an order for books to purchase.



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LOTS & LAND

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

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

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

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

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

#1099911—LAST CHANCE to buy open land before entering into Georgia!!! \$165,000.

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

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

#1112787—40 acres in Mentone, AL with stream and untouched family owned property since 1923! REDUCED TO \$198,000

#1113936—Looking for a brow lot inside the city limits of Mentone? \$78,500

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

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#1118229—A great little investment property or place for your weekend get-a-way. \$49,900

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

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

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

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

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

#1139471—READY FOR THAT BROW VIEW IN MENTONE? 2.3 acres of untouched land! Make this your new home away from home and build the cabin of your dreams! \$125,000

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

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



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

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

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

#1149803—GORGEOUS LOT IN MENTONE with .81+/- acres in Hunter's Ridge Subdivision. \$15,000

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

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

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

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

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Mentone Arts & Cultural Center Update by Ben Shurett

What a pleasure it is to have this space to give you an update on what's going on with the Mentone Arts Center. Officers and committee members have been hard at work in July and August making plans for an October opening.

First, we have been busy recruiting artists and artisans to sell their wares in the Arts Center. We've invited a large number of artists who have some connection to Mentone. That connection might be because they live here full or part-time, or perhaps they've sold their wares in Mentone before. In any case, we are delighted that about 25 artists have already accepted our invitation and submitted photos via email for review.

You'll recognize many of these names. Those who have already emailed us include such noted artists as Cynthia and Mickey Luck, Melinda and Neal Whitt, Linda Espy, Adelaide Drennen, Ginger Lowery, Lydia Randolph, Meg Justice, Sandra Hall, Tammy Beane, Eugenia Johnston, Thomas Spake, Karin Mack, Tisa Barton, Penny Dobson, Wayne Hostetter, Don David, Rita Winters, Linda Munoz, Chris Patterson and Karen Duke. I'm certain we have more to come.

Better still, we have a wide variety of expressions of artistic talents. We have paintings of a number of different genres, pottery, woven wear, baskets and much more. There will be a wide price range as well, so there will be value and bargains for everybody.

The Mentone Arts Center will also have antiques, large and small for sale. We already have a commitment from one well-known dealer and we are currently in negotiations with several others. We think it's important to pair art and antiques so that buyers looking for either will stop in and find something they like and learn about all the merchants in Mentone.

We very much want more artists, and especially artists who live in Mentone fulltime. We invite everyone to come join in and to sell your creations in downtown Mentone. It will be a terrific place for many people to see your art. Please email Executive Director Randy Grider at mentoneartscenter@gmail.com for more information and details.

We have committees hard at work for us. Committees include those for art, antiques, volunteers, point of sale, public relations, styling and display, small goods and display. We also have a building committee to consider and direct the look and feel of the Mentone Arts Center both inside and out.

In addition to selling arts and antiques, we will also operate a Welcome Center for visitors and residents alike. The Welcome Center will have brochures for local and nearby attractions and an impressive section to honor the history of Mentone. We are so pleased that Doreen Crow Waters will lend us some significant historical pieces for display, and there will be a television monitor with a continuous showing "Mentone: Where Little River Runs," the excellent video produced by Holley Midgley and the Mentone Bicentennial Committee.

In addition to that, we're in the process of organizing a gift shop there, where there will be an array of items such as tee shirts and caps designed especially for

the Mentone Arts Center. The small goods committee is actively exploring other items for the gift shop.

Finally, while we are all limited by the restrictions brought about by COVID-19, we press on with plans to provide instruction and workshops for anyone near Mentone. Three classes have already scheduled and are filling up fast.

First, photographer John Dersham will lead a digital photography workshop on September 18 and 19. John is renowned in the world of photography and his classes sell out quickly. The cost of this class is \$125, includes a lunch on Saturday and is limited to 10 students.

On October 2-4, artist/instructor Alan R. Young will hold his "Watercolor by Drybrush" class as part of our Visiting Artist series. Young is an instructor at the well-respected John C. Campbell Folk School in Brasstown, N.C. This class has already sold out.

Another long-tenured folk school artist/instructor, Virginia Urani, will hold a class for beginners titled, "Get Your Feet Wet with Watercolor," on October 26-28. The cost of this class is \$195, includes all supplies, and is limited to seven students.

All students must prepay to be registered for a class. For more information about this and any other programs at the Mentone Arts Center, email our executive director at mentoneartscenter@gmail.com or call him at 256-674-3366. And become our friend and follow us on Facebook at Mentone Arts and Cultural Center. Be on the lookout for the official announcement of our opening and look for our Instagram account.

Finally, we want to be the place to help local artists sell their beautiful creations and provide education and entertainment for everyone living in or visiting Mentone. We hope you'll want to be part of something that is fun and rewarding for everyone!

Ben Shurett is board president of the Mentone Arts & Cultural Center.



Hike DeSoto

DeSoto State Park (DSP) is offering several free guided hikes in September. If you've never hiked to the basin of DeSoto Falls, here's your chance! On September 6, DSP staff will lead the way to the bottom of one of Alabama's tallest waterfalls.

DSP staff and volunteers will lead a moderate hike on September 19 to the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) Quarry. Learn how the CCC constructed the original structures that you can still see in the park today.

A moderate hike will be led on September 26 by DSP staff to the Civilian Conservation Corp's "unfinished" bridge. Learn the history of why the CCC left it standing and see several original structures.

To learn more about these hikes, visit the park's Facebook page or alapark.com/parks/desoto-state-park/park-events.

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Social distancing guidelines are in place and we ask that you use provided hand sanitizer when you arrive. Donations are welcome.

North Lookout Mountain Fire Protection District Fundraiser by Vicky Patrick

Thanks go out to our friends and neighbors for the successful fund raiser on August 8. The smoked pork butts and sandwiches were again a hit with the community. The Fire Department raised \$3,330. The monies from donations and fund raisers help the Department to purchase supplies such as bottled water and other expendables to make life easier for the volunteers. This would not be possible without the financial support of the community. Thank you for your support

Vicky Patrick is the treasurer for the board of the North Lookout Mountain Fire Protection District (northlookoutmountainfire.org).



Alabama Folklife Association Launches Folk in Five

by Emily Blejwas



The Alabama Folklife Association (AFA) is asking Alabamians to share their folk traditions in 5-minute videos as part of the statewide "Folk in Five" initiative, designed to highlight Alabama's diversity of culture, history, art form, and environment expressed through its folk traditions.

Folklife includes traditions passed down through families, communities, or work life. It could be a recipe, song, or story. Folklife is the way we learn to tie a fishing lure, lay out a

garden, stitch a quilt, or celebrate a holiday.

Folk in Five is a great way to spend time while at home. We hope it will inspire Alabamians not only to share their traditions, but to engage with family members from multiple generations and to express creativity. It's also a great activity for teachers to assign to students as a way to learn about local folklife.

Videos will be posted online, providing a wide range of folklife examples for access by educators and the public. Each month, the AFA will pick a winner to receive an AFA gift.

Videos will be received by email: alabamafolklife@gmail.com. Footage should include the participant's name, county, tradition, and how s/he learned the tradition. Participants can also involve those who taught them and/or those they are teaching (when safe). Videos should be no more than 5 minutes in length.

Emily Blejwas is the executive director of the Alabama Folklife Association, based in Montgomery. The Alabama Folklife Association was founded in 1980 to document, preserve, present, and promote the multicultural folkways of Alabama through research, education, and programming.

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In Memoriam

MARJORIE NELL JONES BERRY October 23, 1931 – August 18, 2020



Marjorie Nell Jones Berry died peacefully on August 18, 2020, at her home in Mentone at the age of 88.

Marjorie was born in Mentone on October 23, 1931, the daughter of Fred and Bertie Jones. A lifelong member of Moon Lake Baptist Church, in Mentone, she served for many years as director of Vacation Bible School and the Young Woman's Auxiliary. Marjorie was the Valley Head High School homecoming queen in 1948 and a member of Northeast Alabama Community College's first nursing class in 1972. She worked as a registered nurse on the surgical floor of DeKalb Regional

Medical Center, in Fort Payne, for 24 years.

Marjorie was known for her radiant smile and her cheerful personality, both of which contributed to the entertaining stories she often told about her childhood, her work, and the colorful characters and events of Mentone's past. Her house's central location on the family compound known as Berry Patch followed an open-door policy, with visitors frequently dropping by for a dose of her trademark humor or a helping of her delicious cuisine. Always eager to hit the road, she visited all 50 American states, all 10 Canadian provinces, and 16 different countries. She touched the lives of many with her distinctive wit and wisdom.

The youngest of 11 children, Marjorie was preceded in death by her husband, Jimmy Berry, and by five brothers and five sisters. Her survivors include her son, Bill Berry, of Mentone; sister-in-law, Dallyne Jones, of Mentone; and numerous beloved nephews and nieces.

In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts may be made to Moon Lake Baptist Church (at P. O. Box 423, Mentone, Alabama 35984) for the acquisition and installation of pulpit sconces that will honor Marjorie and her late husband.

SUSAN LYNN AKES August 14, 1962 – August 13, 2020

Susan Lynn Akes, age 58, of Valley Head, passed away on Thursday, August 13, 2020 at her residence.

She is survived by her husband, Andrew A. Akes; sons, Daniel O. Akes, Charles Akes (Caitlyn), Isaac Akes (Danny), and Henry Akes; five grandchildren, three sisters, and one brother.

RAYMOND EDWARD RINGER January 4, 1924 – August 3, 2020



Raymond Edward Ringer was born on January 4, 1924 in Jacksonville, AL, to Raymond J. and Mary Ruth Chisolm Ringer. He was the eldest of their three children. The family lived in Jacksonville, then moved on to Birmingham and Centre, before settling in Valley Head.

Mr. Ringer had a lifelong interest in radios from the time that he built his first one at age 12. After receiving a deferment to complete his high school diploma, Mr. Ringer was drafted into the United States Army during World War II. He completed his Basic Training at Camp Shelby, Mississippi, and then worked with the Corp of Engineers on flood control projects in north Mississippi.

He then received advanced artillery training, but rejoined his battalion, where he was taught about a "top secret" new technology "Radio Detection and Ranging," abbreviated and known today as RADAR. Mr. Ringer was deployed to the Pacific Theatre as a RADAR technician and was among some of the first Americans to arrive in Hiroshima after the dropping of the atomic bomb. He was a member of the Occupation Force until being shipped home to be honorably discharged at Camp Shelby, MS. Following his military service, he went to Jacksonville State Teachers College, now Jacksonville State University. He graduated in 1949 and went on to teach at Ider, served as principal of Moon Lake Elementary School in Mentone, and then as principal of Valley Head Elementary School.

Mr. Ringer was very involved with his civic and church communities. He was an active member of the Valley Head United Methodist Church and was involved with the Alabama Retired Teacher's Association, of which he was at one time President. He was a member of the Valley Head Volunteer Fire Department, the Veteran's of Foreign Wars, The American Legion, The Military Amateur Radio Service, the DeKalb County Amateur Radio Association, President of the Valley Head Water Board since 1981, and was actively involved in the Alabama Rural Water Association. His call sign was W4DGH, and he regularly communicated with friends around the world. Mr. Ringer and his brother, Dr. Robert Ringer, helped to form the McClure Professorship to honor a professor who had greatly influenced them both at Jacksonville. Mr. Ringer remained active into his 90s, often traveling to visit family and friends and to attend events related to his interests in Amateur Radio and genealogy. He will be remembered as a gracious, generous, and honorable man and will be missed by his family and community.

He is survived by a niece, Sara Allen Schmidt (Norbert); nephew, Robert "David" Ringer (Susan); several great-nieces and nephews; a great-great nephew; many cousins; and his special caregivers, Brenda Jimenez and Amber Stokes.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Raymond J. Ringer & Mary Ruth Chisolm Ringer; brother, Dr. Robert Ringer; and sister, Joyce Ringer Allen.

Memorial donations may be made to the Raymond J. Ringer and Ruth Ringer Faculty Development Award or the McClure Professorship. Mail donations to: Financial Aid Office, Jacksonville State University, 700 Pelham Road N., Jacksonville, AL 36265.



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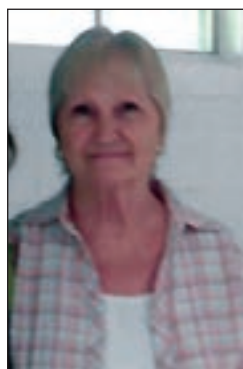
In Memoriam



HUBERT BLALOCK
May 12, 1947 – August 13, 2020

Hubert Blalock, age 73, of Mentone, passed away on Thursday, August 13, 2020 at DeKalb Regional Medical Center.

He is survived by siblings, Dave Blalock (Yvonne), Irene Willingham, Hazel Hilliard, Bobby Blalock (Sandy), & Kathy Wheat (Ronald), and several nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, Frank & Lucille Keith Blalock, and siblings, Joe Blalock, Mary Sue Hale, Katherine Blalock, Willie Blalock, and Jean Blalock.



GLENDA ROSE COCHRAN HOLLBROOK
October 5, 1943 – August 21, 2020

Mrs. Glenda Rose Cochran Holbrook, age 76, of Cloudland, GA, passed away Friday August 21, 2020, at her residence.

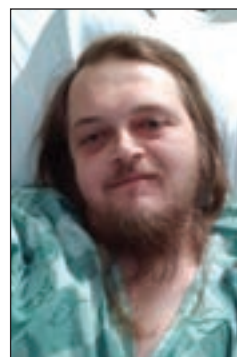
Mrs. Holbrook was born October 5, 1943, to the late Lee and Ida Ballenger Cochran. In addition to her parents she was preceded in death by her husband, William Terrell "Bud" Holbrook; a brother, Joe Cochran; and three sisters, Mary Schevermeier, Peggy Cummings, and Gail Medina.

Survivors include her son, Curtis Lee (Melissa) Holbrook; daughters and sons-in-law, Becky and Dudley Easler, Melissa Ann and Clinton Carroll, and Bitzi Jane (Marty Crow) Holbrook; brothers, Charles Cochran and Ray Cochran; sisters, Mildred Baker and Cordia Parleer. Eight grandchildren, 20 great-grandchildren, and two great-great-grandchildren also survive.

GORDON EUGENE TUCKER
October 3, 1929 – August 19, 2020

Gordon Eugene Tucker, age 90 of Mentone, passed away on Wednesday, August 19, 2020. Mr. Tucker was born on October 3, 1929 to the late Luther and Nora Kerby Tucker in Menlo, GA. He retired from Wheeling Foundry.

He is survived by his wife, Annie Marie Kerby Tucker; sons and daughters-in-law, David and Marcia Tucker, Michael and Patty Tucker, and James and Susan Tucker; daughter, Joyce Oliver; three grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; and two great-great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents.



KENNETH RODNEY BLACK
July 14, 1984 – August 11, 2020

Kenneth Rodney Black, age 36, of Cloudland, GA passed away Tuesday, August 11, 2020 at Emory Hospital in Atlanta, GA.

Mr. Black was born July 14, 1984 in Rome, GA, the son of Max Allen and Teresa Jan Johnson Black.

Survivors include parents, Max Black and Teresa Black; daughter, Kensleigh Mae Black; special companion, Sheena Reynolds; special friends, Amanda Avery and Gilbert Moreno; sister Kristin (Josh) Key; and several aunts, uncles, cousins.

CECIL ELLIOTT
May 3, 1953 – August 14, 2020

Cecil Elliott, age 67, of Menlo, GA, passed away Friday, August 14, 2020 at National Health Care Center of Chattanooga.

Mr. Elliott was born May 3, 1953, in Chattanooga, TN to the late Russell and Eula Elliott. He was Church of God by faith. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a brother, William (Billy) Elliot.

Survivors include his daughter, Kimberly Elliot; son, Cecil Elliott, Jr.; brothers, Larry (Brenda) Elliott, James Elliott, Rusty (Lisa) Cash; sisters, Martha (Nelson) Holland and Tina (Earl) Roberts; and several nieces and nephews.



THELMA LOU STOKER LOWERY
March 13, 1926 – August 8, 2020

Thelma Lou Lowery, age 94, of Menlo, GA, passed away Saturday, August 8, 2020, at Redmond Regional Medical Center.

Mrs. Lowery was born March 13, 1926, in Cloudland, GA, daughter of the late George and Annie Moses Stoker. She was Baptist by faith and, prior to her retirement, was employed with Riegel Textiles. In addition to her

parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, E.C. Lowery, and brothers, Claude Stoker and James Stoker. Mrs. Lowery is survived by several nieces and nephews.

Loss is immeasurable, but so is
the love that's left behind.

"Mentone: Where Little River Runs" DVDs Still Available By Holley Midgley

If you missed getting the 2019 history documentary "Mentone: Where Little River Runs," copies are still available for free by contacting the Mentone Town Hall. Call Kristen Emory, town clerk, at 256-634-0704 to request a DVD. There is no charge for either the DVD or for mailing it to you. Is this a great town or what? Can't wait to get your very own copy? Then go to YouTube, type in the name of the documentary, and watch it to your heart's content. Since its release last fall, it has been viewed more than 6,200 times.

In every project of this scope, there are bound to be mistakes and omissions. That's my story and I'm sticking to it. For instance, even though I travelled out to Valley View Ranch camp and videotaped it, in the frenzy to complete the program, the director (that would be me) somehow left it on the cutting room floor. Very sorry for that. It's one of the area's oldest and most popular camps and I regret the omission. And the outstanding Wildflower Café probably should have been included as a place that has achieved regional fame. Mea Culpa, folks, and pass the humble pie.



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When I was growing up, my parents followed politics like many folks follow SEC football. (They followed SEC football too.) When election time rolled around, they always voted, usually for the same candidate, but there were some election cycles when they enjoyed good-natured arguments about cancelling out each other's vote. Their example meant that when I turned 18, I registered to vote, and I've never missed a presidential or off-year election since. It's turned into a habit for me.

But after almost missing the 2018 midterm election because of a family emergency, I wanted to take a close look at the different options for voting in Alabama, especially as the coronavirus pandemic causes even more voters to consider casting absentee ballots this fall.

Maybe you haven't voted before. Maybe you stopped voting a while back but have decided that it's time to get engaged again, realizing that citizenship comes with responsibilities along with rights.

It's not too late to make sure you can cast a ballot in the general election on November 3. Here are some frequently asked questions to help you through the process.

I'm not registered. What do I do?

Register online at alabamavotes.gov or download a paper application at bit.ly/AL-voter-form to mail in or drop off at the DeKalb County Board of Registrars at 300 Grand Avenue South, Suite 200, Fort Payne, Alabama, 35967. You can also go by the Board of Registrars office and register in person.

If you've moved within the state and just need to change your address, you can do that using the same online or downloadable form.

Maybe I'm registered, but I'm not sure. How can I find out?

In DeKalb County, call the local Board of Registrars at 256-845-8598. Or check online at vote.org. If you're still on the voter list, ask where your polling place is, because sometimes these change.

When is the last day to register?

October 19, so do it now.

Okay, I'm registered. What happens now?

If you are newly registered, the DeKalb County Board of Registrars will send you a postcard within about two weeks that tells you exactly where you'll vote. If you haven't received a card after two weeks, call them at 256-845-8598. Or if you registered a long time ago and haven't voted lately, call to get an update on your polling place because sometimes these change.

Do I have to go to my polling place to vote or can I get an absentee ballot?

Because of the coronavirus pandemic, Alabama's Secretary of State John Merrill recently issued an emergency order that allows any registered voter to apply for an absentee ballot.

These are your choices in terms of voting methods:

- Vote at your polling place in person on Election Day.

VOTING 101 in 2020

by Anne McLeod



applies to your situation. The staff will make a copy of your ID and notarize the form. They will process and approve your request and give you your absentee ballot to complete onsite. This option is available from September 9 through November 2. This is essentially Alabama's version of early voting.

- Pick up a copy of the absentee ballot request form from the clerk's office at the DeKalb County Courthouse or download it from bit.ly/DeKalb-absentee-ballot. You'll check the box that says: I have a physical illness or infirmity which prevents my attendance at the polls unless another reason applies. Read the instructions carefully! Along with your absentee ballot request, you'll send a photocopy of your identification, usually your driver's license. See AlabamaVoterID.com for more information on approved forms of identification. In Mentone, go by Mentone Town Hall or Little River Hardware for a free photocopy of your ID. If you're age 65 or older or disabled, you're exempt from the photo ID requirement. All requests for absentee ballots must be signed by two witnesses or notarized and submitted by October 29. Your ballot will then arrive in the mail. Mail or hand deliver the completed ballot to the DeKalb County Courthouse Circuit Clerk's office as soon as possible. Postage for the returned ballot is 3 first class stamps because of its weight. Also, if you are returning the ballot to the clerk's office instead of mailing it, you cannot have someone else take it for you. You have to deliver it yourself.

I plan to vote at my local polling place on Election Day, but I've never done this before. What should I expect?

Show up between the hours of 7 AM and 7 PM with your driver's license or other form of ID. Plan on the usual pandemic routines of social distancing, masks, and hand sanitizer. Poll workers will help you sign in, check your ID, and hand you your paper ballot, along with a privacy sleeve. You'll mark your choices, put your ballot in the sleeve and place it in the ballot box. There will be poll workers around to answer questions you have about procedures.

As long as you're in line at 7 p.m., you can vote. This isn't an issue in Mentone, but large polling places may have lines on Election Day.

Aside from the presidential race, I have no idea who or what is on the ballot. Help! What do I do?

One Alabama Senate seat is on the ballot, plus the Congressional race. There are just a few local races this time, depending on what part of the county you're in. Sample ballots will be available from the DeKalb County Probate Judge's office after September 9. These samples often appear in newspapers or are posted around town.



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A Man of the Land (continued from page 1)



Roger Lee uses his own power to help the water wheel start moving.

Roger is in the process of developing a small pond below the water wheel. He is excavating huge rocks from his and the neighboring property and moving them to the pond to create a rock floor and walls because he intends to raise trout. “Trout need cold, clean water. The water feeding the wheel has run underground and is as cool as it can be,” said Roger.

He also raises quail, and uses the power of the water to run a series of shafts and pulleys he has set up to grind the corn and soybeans for quail feed. He recently connected batteries to the wheel, so the mill house is electrically powered by the water. His next goal is to use the wheel to power a wood splitter and he will eventually install a grist mill.

What set him on this course of action? “I just decided to do it,” he said. He taught himself what



he needed to know in large part by watching videos on YouTube.

Roger has been developing and maintaining his neighbors’ 200+-acre property for the past dozen or so years. So far, three lakes have been built and nine ponds, some of which hold catfish and golden shiners. Fruit trees are thriving, as are several large garden areas which are irrigated by a system of underground valves and pipes that Roger installed to be able to draw water from the one of the lakes.



Roger Lee's bear-proof bee hive

Bears are on this property, as evidenced by plentiful bear prints and scat. In the summer of 2019, Roger experienced the devastating effect a bear can have when his beehives were destroyed. “The first hit, the queen was killed,” said Roger. “I had to rebuild the hive. Then the hive got hit two more times. So I moved it to another location and started all over. But then it must have been a bigger bear that got that hive because it was totally destroyed. It licked it clean.”

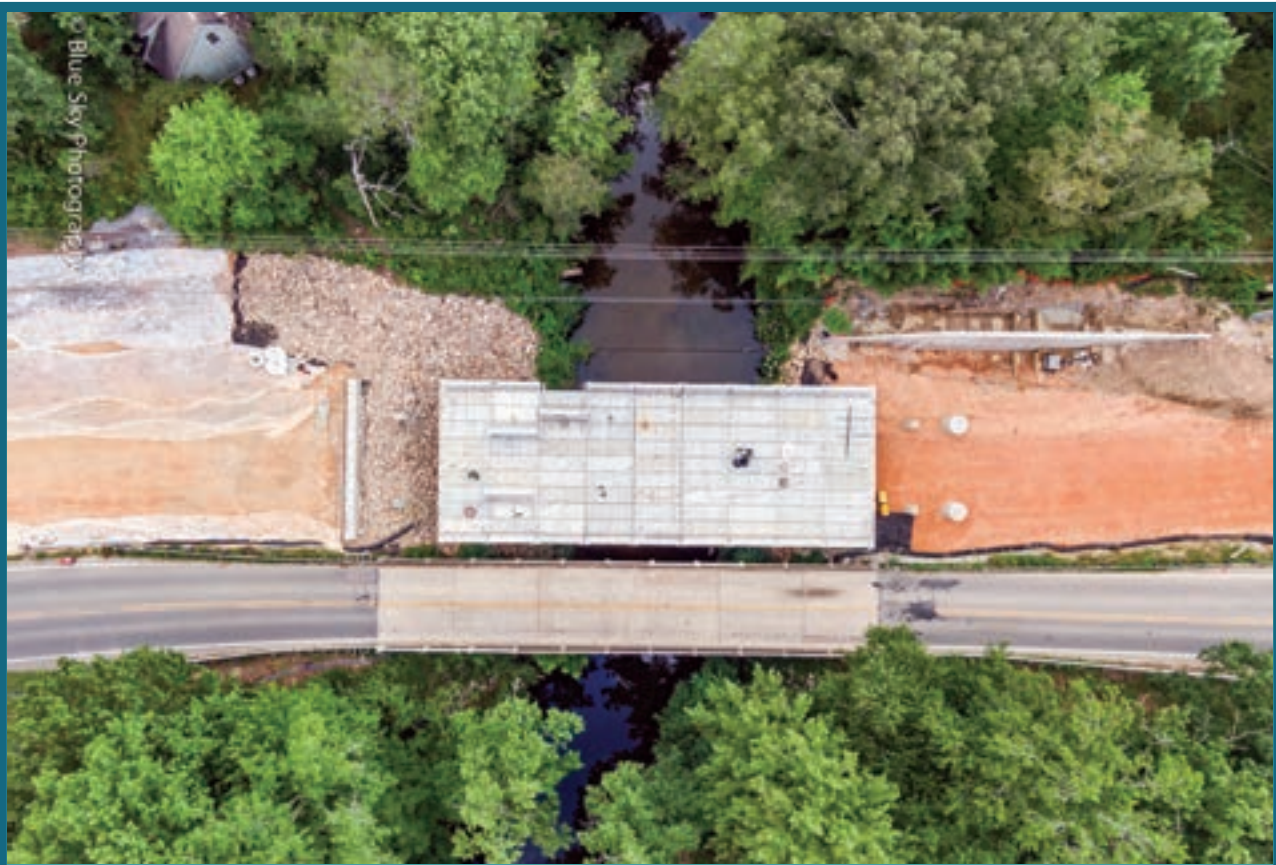
What’s a man of the land to do? “I have a big garden, and I want bees for the plants, so I thought, “I’m going to have to build a hive that bears can’t

get into.” The end result? A hive so heavy it needed to be set in place with a tractor. It’s constructed with solid wood and steel, sunk into concrete pilings with steel bolts. “A bear might scratch it up,

but he ain’t getting in that one. So far, he hasn’t even tried,” Roger said with relief.

“I am not a smart person when it comes to books and computers,” Roger humbly explained, “but I can build you about anything with my hands. I can figure

out to make it mechanically work, or fix it when it breaks. That’s my calling. But anything else, I’m an oddball. I don’t fit in the world today because the world has left me behind, with the computer age and all. But I’m not weeping over it. I like my lifestyle.”



A drone photo taken by Charlie Stone of Blue Sky Photography on August 8, 2020, shows the progression of the bridge construction on AL Highway 117 over West Fork Little River.



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