



THE GROUNDHOG

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Volume 38, No. 9

"Neighborly News from the Heart of Lookout Mountain"

September 2019

APPLES TO APPLES

The Journey from the Biddle Farm to Little River Orchard

by Kelly Leavitt



The "Biddle" home was built circa 1910 on East River Road in Mentone by Jack and Alice Biddle. It is a handsome and comfortable Craftsman home which originally sat on almost 40 acres, situated across the road (at the time just a sandy lane) from the west fork of Little River. The current property is 24 acres, about half of which is wooded, with 90 feet on the river.

In 2016, while Jennifer and David Booker were touring the home with real estate agent Heather Nicely, she mentioned that they were in "the apple room." The couple's attention was piqued by this reference. Heather explained that the Biddle family had an apple orchard, and that Mrs. Biddle

traditionally stored the apples in a room adjacent to the kitchen which the family always called "the apple room."

These were like words of poetry to the Bookers' ears. David's long-time desire to create his own apple orchard seemed one step closer. The couple purchased the home and, with the help of their three young adult sons, have made the renovations necessary for the house to remain strong in the 21st century.

On a recent hot and sunny August afternoon, the Bookers graciously hosted a visit with two of the Biddles' descendants—granddaughter Jacqueline Biddle Porter (daughter of Jack Biddle, Jr.), who turned 96 years old in May, and her daughter, Jill Porter Gray. Jacqueline and Jill were raised in Birmingham, but often visited the family farm in Mentone. Their memories of the time they spent in Mentone are rich and varied.

Jacqueline and Jill had driven from Birmingham to discuss the history of the Biddle family and farm with The Groundhog. They arrived with a sheath of papers to share, which included the original land grant to Peter Olsson in 1902. John "Jack" and Alice Biddle bought the land in 1910.

Jack Biddle was born in Birmingham, England, in 1862. After serving in the British Army for two years, he emigrated from Liverpool to the United States in

1883, spending a week in steerage on the Nova Scotian, which sailed into Baltimore. He met his brother, Jim, who had sailed on an earlier ship to New York. Two months later, the brothers connected with their parents, who had sailed to New York accompanying sisters Alice and Polly Frost, the fiancées of Jack and Jim, respectively. After Jack and Alice were married, the couple moved to Birmingham, Alabama ("Perhaps because the

name was the same as their hometown," suggested Jacqueline), and they had five sons and two daughters.

Jack worked at Birmingham's Sloss Furnace for a while after his arrival, as did Jim. He eventually became widely known in athletic circles in Birmingham, where he taught and refereed boxing

(continued on page 7)



*L to R: Jim, Jack, Alice
and Polly Biddle*



**FREE Concert for all ages
Saturday, September 7 • 7-10pm
Linger Longer Pavilion, Mentone**

"Music for the People" Summer Music Series Microwave Dave & the Nukes

Microwave Dave & the Nukes is a popular heritage blues band from Huntsville that has been performing for 30 years in multinational venues, varying from French soccer stadiums to neighborhood saloons to events such as Daytona Bike Week. Their accomplishments in performing, writing, and preserving blues music led them to receive the Blues Achievement Award in 2001 from the Alabama Blues Society. They've released six albums, all to high acclaim, and are certain to end this summer's concert series presented by the Little River Arts Council on a high note.

Bring a chair or blanket for an evening

under the stars beginning at 7 p.m. on Saturday, September 7, at the Linger Longer Pavilion behind the Mentone Inn.

Fontana Stinson will provide a fish fry, with \$10 plates consisting of fish, tarter sauce, hush puppies, slaw, and baked beans, with a drink. A vegetarian option will also be available. Email info@littleriverartscouncil.org with any questions.

The Little River Arts Council's annual Summer Music Series is made possible in part by the Alabama State Council on the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts.

THE GROUNDHOG



The Groundhog is published monthly by the Mentone Area Preservation Association (MAPA). First conceived on Groundhog Day, 1982, and then organized on April 5, 1982, *The Groundhog* has been in publication for 37

years. MAPA is dedicated to preserving and protecting the heritage, natural environment and other unique qualities of life in the Mentone area. MAPA is chartered as a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation.

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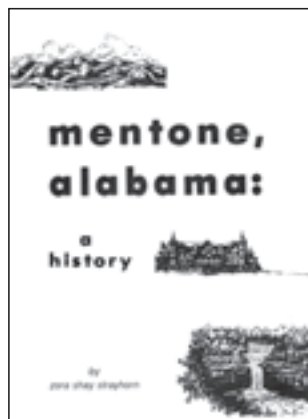
Do you have a story idea?

Perhaps a poem or recipe?

We welcome contributions!

Email groundhognews@yahoo.com

Learn about the History of Mentone



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

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

Groundhog wood cut courtesy of Meg Justice.

Mentone Matters • by Mayor Rob Hammond



Volunteers must go through some training with DeKalb Tourism. If you're interested in becoming a volunteer, contact Kristen at Town Hall.

By the next issue of *The Groundhog*, the town hopefully will have finalized plans for the restaurant side. Five really good proposals have been presented to the council.

Recently I viewed *Mentone: Where Little River Runs*. It is really, really well done. Holley Midgley and his team did an outstanding job on Mentone's bicentennial project. A lot of Mentone history is shared and preserved. It runs 88 minutes and can be found on YouTube (enjoy with popcorn!).

The town will partner with DeKalb Tourism when work is complete on the visitor center side of the town's new building across the highway from Town Hall. The plan now is for Kayla Worthey to be there on Fridays. The town will seek volunteers to be there on Saturdays.

As the sun sets,
the Lady Sky
lets the soft blue robe of day
ease gently off of her shoulders
and slip slowly
down
around her ankles
and she becomes the night.

A poem by Jerry Megli

Letter from the Editor

Being the editor of *The Groundhog* has been a great blessing for me. Countless opportunities have opened for me to meet people I possibly never would have met. Each month begins with, basically, a blank slate, and as the submission date comes around (always the 15th of the month preceding publication), I always enjoy seeing what comes in. Some articles, like our regular columns, are expected, while others are completely unexpected. The photograph and poem above illustrate this well. Jerry submitted them just days before publication, and I felt lucky to be able to include them.

I enjoyed getting to know the Biddles and the Bookers this month (see page 1). A definite perk of writing the feature article was being able to taste one of the Bookers' delectable honeycrisp apples. So tasty! I am personally very excited that we'll soon have a variety of locally-grown apples to choose from.

In researching and fact-checking that article, I consulted Mentone resident Cindy Beard, whose sleuthing abilities are formidable, and who I've called on in the past. I'd shoot her a message asking her to find, say, an obituary or newspaper article, and she'd send what I needed, usually within the hour. Thank you, Cindy. It's always fun working with you.

I enjoyed the moment one day when I had stopped

by Moon Lake School and unexpectedly found the after-school children measuring trees to determine their age. First, they learned how to identify the various species of trees at the school. They then used their math skills (diameter = circumference divided by 3.14) to measure a tree's girth at 54 inches above the ground. A chart which lists that tree's growth factor was consulted; for example, a white oak has a growth factor of 5. By multiplying the growth factor by the diameter in inches, the estimated age of the tree is determined. See page 24 to learn the age of the stately tree in Moon Lake's playground—you may be surprised. I know I was!

And then there are the dreaded moments when I realize I've made an error, as happened in last month's issue. In the article about Elizabeth Romans, one of the singers was incorrectly identified. In the photo with Sue Schwarz, her singing partner's name was actually Beverly Danielson. As well, the article said that Amelia Kirk Lolly was raised in Mentone, where it should have said that, having grown up in California, she spent a good amount of time in her childhood with her grandparents in Mentone. (Ah, to err is blissfully human, yes?)

I certainly hope you enjoy this issue as much as I have enjoyed preparing it. —Kelly



Mentone Area Preservation Association

by Mark Hoffman

I can feel it. Fall is coming! I hope everyone had a wonderful summer, and all the kids are back in school just bubbling over with excitement for the new school year. Our best to all the teachers and administrators at Moon Lake School—thanks for all of your hard work and dedication.

You will be reminded over and over I'm sure, but here it is again—please mark your calendars for October 19 and 20: Colorfest! Sharon Habin is working extremely hard (as usual!) to coordinate and

put on the best festival possible. I know she needs volunteers. If you are able and willing, please contact her to see what may be needed and how you can help. It truly is a community event. See page 4 for details.

Here's hoping your AC is idle, and windows are being flung open to let in the early fall breeze. It's a special time of year, so enjoy!

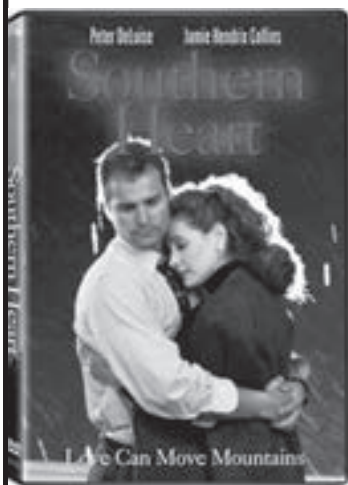
Mark Hoffman is president of the Mentone Area Preservation Association.

FREE OUTDOOR MOVIE NIGHT SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

Enjoy *Southern Heart* at the Mentone Inn's Linger Longer Pavilion.

Movie starts after dusk, around 7:30 p.m.

Free music featuring Jerry & Pixie Bloom at 6 p.m.



Turn back the clock for the night! Mark your calendar for Saturday, September 14, so you don't miss the annual screening of *Southern Heart*, a movie that was filmed in Mentone in 1999. This marks the 20th year since its release. It's a sweet "feel good" movie that's sure to make you smile. Local filming locations included the Mentone Springs Hotel, Mentone Inn, Nippersink Lodge, Log Cabin Deli (currently the Green Leaf Grill), Cragmere

Manna, and many more.

Free popcorn, sodas and water for all! Limited seating will be available on the lawn. Bring your chair and a blanket in case it's chilly. (In case of rain, everyone will huddle up together on the pavilion.)

Sponsored by the Mentone Inn and Mentone Realty.

**FREE
POPCORN!**

"Mentone: Where Little River Runs" Coming soon to a mailbox near you

by Holley Midgley

The 88-minute documentary, "Mentone: 'Where Little River Runs,'" is completed, and in early September, people with post office or mail boxes in the Mentone postal area will receive a complimentary DVD copy. Funded entirely by grants, with no town funds, the program is being distributed free of charge.

If you don't have a local mailing address, you can obtain a copy by either stopping by Mentone Town Hall on weekdays, or by sending a self-addressed, stamped (\$.70—more if you use a larger envelope) 6"x9" envelope in care of Kristen Emory, Town Clerk, P. O. Box 295, Mentone, AL 35984. A limited number of these complimentary DVDs will be available while supplies last. The program has been uploaded to YouTube; you can find it at bit.ly/mentonefilm.

This project was supported by grants from the Alabama Humanities Foundation, a state partner with the National Endowment for the Humanities; The Mentone Area Preservation Association (MAPA); the Menlo-Tillotson Foundation; and the Alabama Bicentennial Commission.

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MAPA

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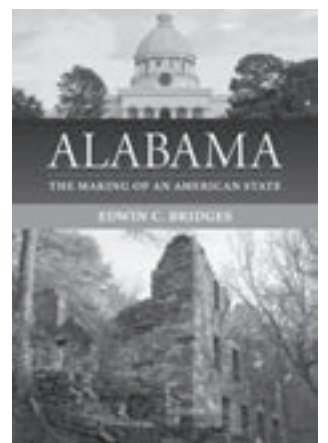
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Read Alabama 200 Book Talk

As part of Alabama's state-wide bicentennial celebration, the DeKalb County Historical Society will host Dr. Edwin Bridges, author of *Alabama: The Making of an American State* (2016). Dr. Bridge's talk will begin at 2 p.m. on Saturday, September 23, at the Historic Cricket Theatre in Collinsville. The program is free of charge.



Colorfest

Arts · Crafts · Live Music

October 19 & 20

Brow Park, Mentone



Mark your calendar for MAPA's annual **Colorfest** festival! This family-friendly event features arts & craft vendors, live music, festival food & more!

mapamentone.com/colorfest2019

Lend a Hand! Be a Colorfest Volunteer

Scarecrow Hollow

Prepare site, recruit judges.



Vendor Committee

Help mark booth spaces during week before; check in vendors on Friday and early Saturday.

Performer Committee

Select performers from applications; select sound provider.

Signage

Inventory all signage; set up promotional, shuttle, parking lot, and directional signs; put up sponsor banners.

MAPA information booth

Time slots are available throughout the weekend.

Scavenger Hunt

Get clues from merchants, prepare sheets and answer sheet.

Children's Activities

Organize activities for children; lead and/or supervise activities.

Photographer

Take pictures at festival and for teams working for online media and *The Groundhog*.

Sponsors

Help secure Colorfest sponsors.

Odds & Ends

Folks who are willing to do odd tasks as needed!

Beau-ti-FALL Bizzness

Storefronts in Mentone dress up in their fall finery! The top three which are judged to best represent the theme of "Celebrating the Fall Season on the Mountain," will receive gift certificates for advertising space in *The Groundhog*.

Scavenger Hunt

Enjoy this fun and creative way to explore our downtown shopping area! Grab a game card, and as you proceed around the businesses, search for hidden treasures. Drop off the game card at the end of your visit to enter the raffle to win \$50 prize money.

Scarecrow Hollow

Create a scarecrow and enter to win place-prizes of \$75, \$50 and \$25! Individuals, organizations or businesses may enter. The location will be in Mason Park in downtown Mentone. Complete and return the form below, or go to mapamentone.com/scarecrow-hollow to enter.

Complete the online interest form at mapamentone.com/colorfest2019-volunteers

SCARECROW HOLLOW CONTEST Official Entry Form

Please Print Clearly

Contact Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Scarecrow Name _____

Complete and return this form, or go to mapamentone.com/scarecrow-hollow to enter.

Deadline for entry is Saturday, October 12, at 8 p.m.

- Please maintain the Colorfest theme of "Celebrating the Fall Season on the Mountain" for your scarecrow.
- Entries must be located in a designated and numbered 5' square area. One square bale per entry will be included. Electricity is available on a first-come basis.
- Set-up will be Saturday through Friday, October 12-18. Location is at Mason 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 2. Any display that is not removed by that time will be discarded.
- Scarecrows should be in good taste and family-friendly, keep with the theme of the festival, and not reflect controversial, social, or political situations. No handouts, promotional materials, or free giveaways can

- be associated with any entry. MAPA and the Scarecrow Committee reserve the right to remove any Scarecrow that does not meet these standards.
- 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). The judging criteria will be determined by the Scarecrow Committee, to include originality, theme, content, etc.
- 1st place-\$75, 2nd place-\$50, 3rd place-\$25. Judging will take place on Saturday, October 19, 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.



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September in Mentone's history...

Compiled by Annette Peteck

1984

In connection with the town's centennial celebration during the week of October 13 of this year, a Mentone Museum is being established at the front room of the Hitching Post. Citizens are asked to bring to the museum all items they think will have a historical interest.

1987

Beginning September 1, the Mentone Springs Hotel will enter the second phase of its restoration. Work to complete the west wing of the hotel has begun.

1988

Acting on a tip, Mentone Police Chief, along with officers from other agencies including the Alabama Bureau of Investigation, seized, harvested, and destroyed marijuana worth in excess of 1/4 of a million dollars. The plants were up to 14 feet tall and were found around Mentone. The ABI used a helicopter to spot the fields of marijuana and directed the search.

1991

Mentone Area Preservation Association will begin circulation of a petition this month requesting GTE telephone operations to include phone calls to Ft. Payne under local services for Mentone, Valley Head and Hammondville customers.

1998

Moon Lake Elementary School boasts its largest enrollment ever. 150 students in Kindergarten through 6th grade, plus 21 Head Start students.

2002

The movie, *Southern Heart*, which was filmed in Mentone and the Little River Canyon area, is now available on video for \$19.95 per tape.

Source:
Groundhog archives



Leslie Bunch is Enjoying Her Retirement by Kelly Leavitt

"We're going to China for two weeks!" Leslie and Jim Bunch are looking forward to their overseas trip this fall. After Leslie's retirement from Moon Lake School in June of this year, the couple is looking forward to their adventure. "Thankfully, we'll be on a tour, because it would be a little daunting to go on our own," she said.

The structure of her days has changed since her retirement began. "I go to aerobics in the morning and then I take care of errands or relax until it's time to head up to Moon Lake, where I'm working with the after-school students. It's been a good weaning process, because I love everybody there," she said.

Leslie taught 6th grade at Moon Lake for about 21 years, after having also taught at other DeKalb County schools and in North Carolina. She was hired by Dr. Bill Berry, who was Moon Lake's principal at the time. The two had been classmates in junior high at Valley Head School.

"I love it when I see my students after they've left Moon Lake," said Leslie. "They always come up and give me a big hug. I was always thrilled when my students were the children of former students."

"I always liked to keep a television in my room. I'd keep an eye on the news, because when something was happening that related to our studies, we'd learn more with the real-world situation. Mud slides, hurricanes, tornadoes—you name it. In 6th grade, we study Earth Science, so the live action was really valuable.

"We watched 9/11 unfold as it happened, and we were able to discuss it together. I said, 'OK, you all are reporters, so write what you see.' It was a great exercise," she recalled.

Leslie said the biggest change she's seen over the years is that the students are reading better. "The teachers are all doing a really good job, very fine-tuned," she said.

Her 6th-grade students have had some of the top scores in the county and last year they scored 88% in math, which might be the highest score in the state, she said.

The Bunches moved to the area from North Carolina, where Leslie's husband Jim had been working. Her parents owned Winston Place in Valley Head, so they were happy to be closer to family. The couple continues to operate the popular bed and breakfast which is housed in one of DeKalb County's oldest structures, an ante-bellum house that was used as a hospital by Union soldiers during the Civil War. Their son, Jeb, went to Moon Lake during 5th and 6th grades. As a teenager, he completed his Eagle Scout project at Moon Lake, when he painted the United States map that is on the drive in front of the school. The map was repainted last year by board members of the Little River Arts Council, ensuring it will live on, as will the legacy of Leslie Bunch in the lives of her students over the past two decades.

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Annual Tour of Homes & Silent Auction by Anne McLeod

The Little River Arts Council's annual Tour of Homes and Silent Auction will be held on October 26 and 27, from 10 a.m.–4 p.m. on Saturday and 12–3 p.m. on Sunday. Funds raised from the sale of tour wristbands and the concurrent silent auction allow the Arts Council to fund community art activities throughout the year, including the Summer Music for the People series, the Creative Spirit Market in November, and the Linger Longer Pop-Up Art Series.

The tour showcases the community's natural beauty, while promoting local artists and highlighting the wide variety of architectural styles on Lookout Mountain. Historic homes on the tour are the Berry House, including the watercolor studio of homeowner John McFarland, Hank and Susan Van Apeldoorn's residence and guest house in the heart of Mentone, plus The Farm at Little River Orchard, known as the Biddle Farm, built by Jack Biddle over 100 years ago (see page 1).

Some of the featured homes are recent builds, such as a tiny home owned by Amanda Massa that was installed in August on acreage east of the Mentone town limits. Another newer home belongs to Nelson and Vickie Burger, who used local builders and crafters to create a serene cabin on the brow that they consider

their "peaceful and happy place." Roscoe Johnson used traditional rock construction to make the most of his cottage's setting on the river.

Two very special places on the tour are Marsha and Phil Hurt's The Farm at Windy Hill and the second floor of Mentone Inn Bed and Breakfast, owned by Mike Campbell and managed by Cynthia Stinson. The final line-up for the tour is still being finalized so more homes may be added soon.

Artists will be set up at many of the houses with displays and items for sale. Artists interested in participating can email Wil Henry Cobble at wilhenry@mac.com. You do not have to be a member of the Arts Council to participate.

The Little River Arts Council will sell weekend passes for \$10 for LRAC

members and \$12 for non-members at the town's new community building at 5951 AL Highway 117, directly across from Mentone Town Hall. While buying your wristband, check out the silent auction of artwork by local artists and other donated items.

Be sure to visit the Little River Arts Council's website at littleriverartscouncil.org or our Facebook page for more information about this year's Tour of Homes and Silent Auction.

Anne McLeod serves as the board secretary for Little River Arts Council.



Hank and Susan Apeldoorn's Mentone home

The Little River Arts Council is seeking artists and volunteers to assist with its annual Tour of Homes and Silent Auction. If you are interested in participating as an artist or as a volunteer docent for one of the homes on the tour, email Wil Henry Cobble at wilhenry@mac.com.



Architect and plein air aficionado Don David painting at The Farm at Windy Hill in August 2019

Lookout Mountain Plein Air Group

The Lookout Mountain Plein Air group is a group of plein air artists who meet weekly at locations in and around Mentone to paint out-of-doors. The group meets on Tuesdays at 9 a.m. and then often enjoys going out to lunch together after painting for a few hours.

Observers and all levels of painters are welcome. If you have any questions or would like to join the group, contact Barbara Umland at barbaraumland7@gmail.com.

September 3—The Cove, GA

September 10—Rome, GA

September 17—The Boardwalk at DeSoto State Park

September 24—Winston Place, Valley Head



The Little River Arts Council is pleased to announce the latest artists to appear in its monthly art series on Saturdays at the Mentone Inn's Linger Longer Pavilion. Artists will be at the pavilion from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. but are invited to "linger longer" if they choose. Enjoy the cool breezes and artwork on Saturday morning and support our creative community!



Taylor Allison, Blacksmith Saturday, September 7

Taylor Allison has lived in every small town in Northeast Alabama at one point or another, but has always called the woods home. Her interest in recycling and keeping waste out of landfills led her to pursue blacksmithing, using found and discarded steel. Mostly self-taught, she has been pursuing metal crafting for two years. Taylor's education in metalwork includes a welding workshop at Sloss Furnace in Birmingham and a blacksmithing intensive course at Goat n Hammer Forge in Atlanta, taught by Forged In Fire champions Mark J. Hopper and Jessica Collins. Follow her journey on Instagram at taylorblakeblacksmithing.

Interested in participating in the International Plein Air Painters' Global Paint Out on Saturday, September 7? Contact Barbara Umland at barbaraumland7@gmail.com.

Biddle Home (continued from page 1)

at Boutwell Auditorium, was involved with the Birmingham Barons, and was a charter member of the Birmingham Athletic Club, founder of the Birmingham Kennel Club, and an executive with the Birmingham Arms & Cycle Company. Well-known and respected in the Birmingham business community, he served as the potentator of the Zamora Shriners in 1916.

In 1910, the Biddles built the home in Mentone for weekend visits and family vacations. Jacqueline recalled that her grandparents had a root cellar/milk house and smoke house, and barns, cows, hogs, and a chicken pen. “My grandfather had apples like you wouldn’t believe,” she said. “There was an apple orchard out there that just wouldn’t quit.” A lilac which Jack brought from England still grows on the land.

“An outdoor billiards parlor was

built near the house,” Jacqueline continued. “Businessmen from Birmingham would take the train up to Valley Head to visit on business and for pleasure. I enjoyed watching them shoot pool. It would be summertime and they’d have on their coats and white shirts and ties, shooting pool in the heat. Then they’d come into the dining room and stand around the sideboard that was always filled with bottles of wine made from the farm’s abundant grapevines. I remember them drinking from beautiful crystal decanters and wine glasses.”

Jacqueline recalled that the dining room mantle was lined with silver cups that her grandfather had won for his beloved field trial dogs. “He had a row of about eight kennels out by the barn,” she said. “He made quite a bit of money with his bird dogs, and he also loved fox hunting.”

The house boasts five stone fireplaces, with a central chimney opening to a three-sided fireplace with grates in the living room, dining room, and

kitchen. “The winters were so cold that the river would freeze over with thick ice,” said Jacqueline. “They would cut big blocks of ice and a team of horses would pull them up to the milk house near the home. They would stack the ice blocks with sawdust and straw to keep them cold.”

“I remember Mother telling me that it would get so cold here, she and her brother would fight over who was going to sleep with the dog,” said Jill.

Jack used to meet his visiting grandchildren at the train station in Valley Head. “He’d pick us up in a horse and buggy. We rode up the mountain and came over the old covered bridge,” Jacqueline reminisced. “As a young boy, my brother was in our grandfather’s footsteps, all over the farm. He pulled down a hornet’s nest one day, and thought it was a coconut. He was the apple of my grandfather’s eye.” Jack Biddle III is now a retired Alabama state senator, having served three terms after five terms in the House. (It’s worth noting that Jacqueline and her brother, Jack III, were named after their father, Jack, Jr., a World War II veteran. The legacy has continued all the way to Jack VI. “And that’s enough!” exclaimed Jill.)

“This house has known a lot of history, a lot of romance, and a lot of grief,” said Jacqueline. “One winter, my cousin, who was a student at the University of Alabama, was visiting our grandfather during the winter break. He didn’t come in that night, and the next morning Granddaddy walked down to the river and discovered his body under the ice. He’d walked on to the ice and fallen through, and then the river froze back over.”

Jack and Alice Biddle knew tragedy on an even greater level. Their son, Edward, was killed in

(continued on page 26)



The entry to the “apple room”

Little River Orchard Takes Root by Kelly Leavitt

David Booker is a man who knows apples. “We’re from North Carolina, which is a big apple growing state,” he said. “Several years ago, I attended a 12-week apple production course at NC State University.” The result: David is a master pomologist. (Pomology is the science of growing fruit; the word is derived from the Latin word for fruit—*pomum*.)

In 2016 and 2017, the Bookers

transplanted 35 third-year dwarf apple trees that started bearing fruit this year. 750 apple trees were grafted and 600 were purchased from a nursery in 2018. This year, they have installed wildlife fencing, installed the wire trellis, and installed a drip irrigation system. In all, they have planted one acre with 1,050 dwarf apple trees in a high-density configuration. “Phase 1 is complete,” said David. Little River Orchard, LLC, was incorporated in August of this year.

“With modern apple farming, you plant apples almost like row crops,” he explained. “They’re put on a dwarfing root stock, so they only get 10 feet tall. The rows are 12 feet apart and the trees are three feet apart.

“One of our key values is environmental stewardship,” said David. “When you buy apples from, say, Peru, they spray the apples with pesticides—a chemical cocktail—every other day. They broadcast fertilizer and it all runs off. They’re not thinking of the environment at all.

“New ways of growing apples are to plant a high-density orchard

Left: Jonagold apples



H-frames secure the rows of trellises that support the orchard's apple trees.

with disease-resistant varieties. We incorporate Integrated Pest Management, or IPM. We monitor the trees for pests—insects, fungus, bacteria. When we see those things, we specifically treat for that. We do use fungicides, but we identify a disease before we start spraying.

“We have a few hard cider trees, but most of our trees are dessert apples—fresh market apples that you can eat out of hand. The honeycrisps and Jonagolds are ripe now, as well as some early Fujis,” said David. The

varieties that have been planted at Little River Orchard include Pristine, Williams Pride, Sundance, Galarina, winecrisp, Fuji, Jonagold, Zestar, honeycrisp, and Pink Lady. They are also testing Liberty, Scarlet O’Hara, Goldrush, and Bella apple varieties, Primacane blackberries, and heirloom tomatoes.

The Bookers’ long-term vision is a family-friendly “you pick” orchard with apples, blackberries, tomatoes, pumpkins, and Christmas trees.



Birthdays

- | | | | | | |
|---|--|----|--|----|---|
| 1 | Connie Bell
Yvonne Brock
Dustin Burt
Lindsay Elkins
Nancy Garrett
Scott Blansit | 8 | Van Freeman
Adele Phillips
Anastasia Pittman
Herman Johnson
Steve Watkins | 14 | Jacob Rosson
Pat Hunter
Benjie Crabtree
Griffin Winn |
| 2 | Grace Tucker
Lincoln Carden | 9 | Makenna Stalvey
Emma Harrison
Dillon Kirby
Ashley Harrison | 15 | Betty Blalock
Mikhaila Potts Watkis
Tina Cooksey
Bryant Ware |
| 3 | Callie Ann Shoults
Stella Mae Akins
Katie Smith
Morgan Spencer
Jessica Bowns | 10 | Morgan Gregory
Angela Downer
Sam Langston
Anna Lee
Jake Easler
Paul Miller
Chasity Smith
Autumn Lewchuk | 16 | Haley Jacobs
Kathy Casler |
| 4 | Vance Carden
Markettia Crane
Karen Smith
Cloyce Allen | 11 | Amanda Collins
Robert Johnson
Brittney Pepper
Chandler Johnson
Pam Wheeler | 17 | Sam Easler
Angie Godwin
Brittany Villarreal
Dylan Pannell |
| 5 | Evelyn Jensen
John Kirby
Payton Miller
Sawyer Putman | 12 | Shane Burt
Wyatt Spencer
Cynthia Stinson
Soni LaRock | 18 | Connie McElhaney
Stacey Brown
Ann Kelley |
| 6 | Craig Stanfill
Terri Gilreath
Austin Farmer
Benjie Mason | 13 | Macy Hirst
Marcus Pardue | 19 | Taylor Chaparro
Dianne Smith |
| 7 | Amelia Saferite | | | 21 | Peyton Williams |
| | | | | 22 | Addison Shoults
Cade Henderson
Cody Tedder
Scout Smith |
| | | | | 23 | Bailey Grace Ware |
| | | | | 24 | Darrel Clark
Rusty Morrison
Bill Parker |

Anniversaries

- | | | | |
|----|--|----|---|
| 25 | Nicole Stott
Gavin Bain
Gaynell Worthey | 1 | Shane & Ashley Ingram |
| 26 | Amy Henderson
Kenny Busby
Carley Collins | 3 | Josh & Mamie Miller |
| 27 | Alfie Chambers
Libby Tubbsville
Adam Hilliard
John Meadows
Jacob Meadows
Edris Gardner
Allen Wheat
Jordan Cordell | 4 | Carl & Katy Tubbsville |
| 28 | Bailey Kirby
Alley Hatfield
Tommy Langston | 5 | Benny & Kathy Graham |
| 29 | Rusty Chambers
Amy Keith
Braden Henderson
McKenna Jackson
Louise Jackson
Larry Bone
Dillon Bone
Kayla Mitchell | 6 | Jeff & Melissa Couch |
| 30 | Melissa Roe
Gracie Welden | 11 | Tom & Tonya Shanklin |
| | | 13 | Zach & Ashley Jones |
| | | 15 | Donald & Phyllis Stephens |
| | | 18 | Gary & Cassie Parker
Paul & Anna Bryant |
| | | 19 | Joseph & Crystal Lee |
| | | 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 |
| | | 30 | David & Marsha Tucker |

Happy Day!

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MERF News

by Sarah Wilcox



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

Summer is over and September is here, which means lots of activity at the MERF House! August brought the start of school at Moon Lake Elementary School so MERF provided lunch to the entire staff on August 5, as they were preparing for the new year. Then on Saturday, August 17, a fabulous car show and fundraiser to support our beloved, community school was organized by Gail Chambers, Milton Chambers, John O'Rear, and Chuck O'Rear on the MERF walking track, with the grill going to feed all the hungry car enthusiasts. An amazing selection of door prizes and raffle items were donated by local businesses. With 36 vehicles on displays and active bidders, these Moon Lake School enthusiasts raised \$1,500, of which MERF receiving \$500 for school programs. What a wonderful community that supports our Moon Lake School! Though I can barely differentiate between a Chevy and a Ford, I walked around the car show and enjoyed learning about the vehicle owners and their pride and joy.

Volunteers needed! Want to make a difference in the community? MERF has two volunteer opportunities working with the school. MERF is seeking weekly tutors on Tuesdays from 3-4 to tutor Moon Lake students. The minimum commitment is to work with a student every week until December, though staying until the end of April would be great. Snacks are provided, as well as tutoring tools. This is a great way to get to know a local student well. Subs are also needed if you can't commit to every week. A new opportunity is providing support to the teachers by coming to the school every Thursday or Friday and do tasks such as copying, organizing, and laminating. Depending on the availability of volunteers, this may be a bi-weekly or monthly commitment. The teachers work hard, so let's give them some support. Contact Sarah if interested.

Best day ever in September is Wednesday the 18th because the MERF house will open its doors for another season of senior lunches! Fall lunches will be served at 11:30 a.m. followed by fun, singing, and entertainment up until November 20, with a Christmas party in December. This is also a great opportunity to support the community if you want to provide a meal—just contact Sarah.

And guess who celebrates a birthday in September?! MERF turns 26, so let's celebrate the group of visionaries that began dreaming what MERF could be in Mentone! Thank you for the many ways everyone supports MERF through your actions, words, and finances. MERF is ever grateful. Love seeing that use of the walking track has increased—get out there and walk. Thanks to Walt Pullen for keeping the grass in great shape all summer. MERF moms meet on Thursday mornings at 10 a.m. Please join the moms and under-4-year-olds for a fun time. #leavemeinmentone #merfisgrateful

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



36 cars parked on the MERF walking track for the Save the School car show organized by the Chambers and the O'Rears.



William Bolt uses his '29 dump truck and '50 Ford pickup daily on his farm on Flarity Road.



Opening wide to show off their beautiful insides!



John O'Rear, Herman Johnson, and Danny Hopper staying cool in front of John's four Ford trucks—two '68s, a '71 and a '72.

Mentone Farmers Market

Every Saturday
10 a.m. – 1 p.m.
YEAR ROUND



**At the corner of AL Hwy & Co. Rd 89,
on the square at the Mentone Inn**

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Soaps • Teas • Herbal Remedies

facebook.com/mentonefarmersmarket

Mentone Area Church Directory

Mentone, Alabama

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Hammondville, Alabama

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

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

Valley Head, Alabama

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

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

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

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

Above all,
love each other deeply.
—1 Peter 4:8

Fort Payne, Alabama

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

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

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

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

New Oregon United Methodist Church is located just off DeSoto Parkway, 1/4 mile south of Fischer Crossroads. We invite you to worship with us on Sundays. Sunday School for all ages 9:45am, Traditional Worship 11am, and Sunday Evening Service 6pm. Sunday Evening youth meet at 5:30pm. We have Wonderful Wednesdays during the school year with Bible

studies for all ages, meal at 5:30pm and classes at 6:15pm. We also have Wednesday morning Bible study at 8:45am, and knitting every Tuesday at 9am. Pastor Ian Conerly. 1204 New Oregon Drive NE. 256-845-7446.

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

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

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

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

Cloudland, Georgia

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

Menlo, Georgia

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

Menlo Church of Christ invites you to attend 10am and 11am Sunday services and evening services at 5pm on Sundays and Wednesdays. Visitors are always welcome. Annual Homecoming and Gospel Meeting on July 14-17, 2019: Sunday Services 10am & 11am & 5pm EDT; Homecoming Covered Dish Meal Spread at the Lawrence Center at noon on the 14th; Weeknight Services Mon-Wed 7pm EDT. Visiting Evangelist: Bro. Gary McCurdy of Piedmont, AL.

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

Summerville, Georgia

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

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

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PEACEFUL CABIN featuring an open floor plan with new cabinets & appliances, fireplace to enjoy cold evenings, exposed beams and vaulted ceilings, covered front porch & screened back deck. Community access to 3 lakes, walking trails, and common areas. \$225,000. MLS #1125601

NEW



ONE LEVEL RANCH located near Georgia Line of Alabama, offers 2 bedrooms, 1.5 baths, open floor plan, and screened porch allowing outdoor living you can enjoy! Attached garage plus detached carport situated on 3.5 acre parcel! \$149,900. MLS #1125366

NEW



NEW CONSTRUCTION! 3 BEDROOM AND 2 BATH CABIN IN MENTONE! Tongue and groove walls and ceilings, act quickly and you can finish customization. Sitting on over 2 acres lightly restricted. Call today for more details. \$299,900. MLS #1125546



GORGEOUS COUNTRY SETTING with a Modern 1-level, 4BR/3 Full BR home. Built in 2014! Open floor plan with a split bedroom design. Many upscale touches include a wood-burning fireplace, full stainless steel appliance package, crown molding, tile flooring, security system. \$365,000. MLS #1099363.

REDUCED



QUAINT DOWNTOWN BUNGALOW Looking for a new owner to enjoy the character and charm it offers. Built in 1910, the house has been fully restored, updated, and expanded. GREAT location on a quiet street. \$169,900. MLS# 1108601.

REDUCED



JUST THE PLACE FOR YOU TO CALL HOME! This three-bedroom, 1 bath home features newer CH/A unit, hardwood flooring, fireplace, and rear patio all within walking distance to downtown Mentone. The large lot includes 1.6 acres \$159,000. MLS#1117032.

REDUCED



2500 SQ FEET of One Level Living with Stone and Vinyl exterior, 2 bedrooms, 2 baths, with 15 x 23 Master Suite, Master Bath with soaking tub and separate shower. Home is situated on 2 acres. \$269,900. MLS #1122165.



PRIVATE HIDEAWAY—3.60 +/- wooded acres surround this 3 or 4 bedroom, 2-1/2 bath BRICK home in Oakwood Sub-division in Mentone. Ready to be enjoyed by a NEW owner! Call for more details. \$194,500. MLS #1120888



LOOKING FOR THAT GET-A-WAY that you will NOT want to leave? Take a look at this one of a kind property in Mentone. 1.2 acres with 100-year-old farmhouse and barn. \$199,500. MLS# 1119979.



PEACE AND PRIVACY ARE YOURS! Three bed/1 bath home within walking distance to downtown Mentone. \$84,500. MLS #1123288.



CRYSTAL LAKE LODGE in Mentone... Fifteen breathtaking acres surround you in this one-of-a-kind property. Call today for your private tour! \$570,000. MLS #1070805.



OWNER FINANCING CONSIDERED! This tastefully designed cabin comes furnished and decorated! Main living area has open floor plan. Main level master has one of-a-kind style with reclaimed furniture. Loft bedroom, utility room, screened porch and wood burning fireplace! \$189,900. MLS #1110505.



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



4/ 5 BEDROOMS, 2 bathrooms, hardwood and tile floors. 2 campers on the property, double deck dock, boat ramp, seawall, storage building, pole barn or pavilion, with over 300 feet of water frontage. Call today for an appointment. \$299,900 (Cedar Bluff) MLS #1119919



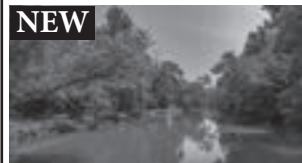
WEISS LAKE HOME ON SEASONAL WATER! 3 bedrooms, 2 full baths, open kitchen, dining area, living room, two sitting areas to watch the sunrise, covered front and back porches, and deck for entertaining outside. 80 foot water frontage with dock. \$179,000. (Gaylesville) MLS #1122724



UNIQUE PROPERTY featuring multiple structures including a tiny house and a chalet at the base, creek and views. Located between Rome GA, Weiss Lake, Chattahoochee and Ft Payne. Plentiful wildlife, fruit and nut trees, and a small pine forest. \$169,900 (Gaylesville) MLS #1120619



TENNESSEE RIVER VIEWS! 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, and game room with bar. Large kitchen, cathedral ceilings, formal dining room, and detached sun room. Storage building, stocked pond, concrete circle drive and views, views, views! Call today! \$649,900 (Section) MLS #1121566.



UNIQUE SECLUDED RIVER CABIN. Kayak, Fish, or Float from the Chattooga River to beautiful Weiss Lake. 2 bedroom /1 bathroom and fully furnished. Call today for your appointment to see or for information on this special property. \$97,900 (Gaylesville) MLS #1100257.

LOTS & LAND

#1011734... Located on a private road just minutes from downtown Mentone. \$21,900

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

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

#1065542—90 acres on Co. Rd. 89 in Mentone. REDUCED TO \$299,000.

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

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

#1073864—Brow Lot! .78 acres. REDUCED TO \$89,500.

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

#1076286—1.75 acre building lot in West Fork Subdivision. REDUCED TO \$39,900.

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

#1080922—.54 acres, Mentone Bluffs. \$69,999.

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

#1098785—Beautiful wooded BROW lot in Mentone with winter views! \$77,640.

#1099911—LAST CHANCE to buy open land before entering into Georgia!!! \$179,000.

#1107397—Build here! \$99,900.

#1107398—Build here! \$99,900.

#1107408—Build here! \$99,900.

#1107411—Build here! \$99,900.

#1107412—Build here! \$99,900.

#1108339—Better Than a Bargain...this is a STEAL! \$99,000.

#1111628—AMAZING VIEWS! YES, VIEWS!!! REDUCED TO \$81,900.

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

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

#1116127—VISTAS AND VIEWS are breathtaking from this 3.2-acre tract on the brow in Mentone. \$199,900.

#1117656—Just Right! You'll find this 12.10 acre tract mostly wooded with plenty of privacy. Call TODAY for more information. \$41,900.

#1118808—A GREAT PLACE TO BUILD YOUR GETAWAY NOW! Level wooded lots with underground utilities, inside gated community. Just minutes to Historic downtown Mentone. Call today for more information. \$35,000

#1118810—A GREAT PLACE TO BUILD YOUR GETAWAY NOW! Level wooded lots with underground utilities, inside gated community. Just minutes to Historic downtown Mentone. Call today for more information. \$35,000.

#1118812—A GREAT PLACE TO BUILD YOUR GETAWAY NOW! Level wooded lots with underground utilities, inside gated community. Just minutes to Historic downtown Mentone. Call today for more information. \$35,000.

#1118813—A GREAT PLACE TO BUILD YOUR GETAWAY NOW! Level wooded lots with underground utilities, inside gated community. Just minutes to Historic downtown Mentone. Call today for more information. \$35,000.

#1118815—A GREAT PLACE TO BUILD YOUR GETAWAY NOW! Level wooded lots with underground utilities, inside gated community. Just minutes to Historic downtown Mentone. Call today for more information. \$35,000.

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

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

#1120910—Five-acre wooded property with stream, across from Lake Lahusage. \$62,000.

#1121175—Beautiful Treed Lot in Mentone with underground utilities! \$25,000.

#1123412—14 acres and pond in Mentone! The old home place makes for a great new setting. Driveway, Septic and public water believed to still be in place. Great setting for your dream home, secluded with views of the pond and plenty of wildlife. \$50,000

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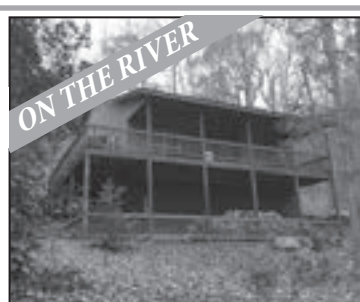


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CUTE CABIN & 1.4 AC OF WOODLAND! If you're looking for a personal retreat that could also be used as a rental, this could be the cabin for you! Combination of rustic & civilized elements: HW floor & mtn stone, WB Fplce in LR; spacious BR; galley kitchen; shower bath; CH/A; lg laundry; new roof; updated ext paint; HUGE screen porch w/ hot tub; timber-frame pavilion for garage or gatherings! \$133,500 (1104545)



FURNISHED CABIN ON 5 WOODED ACRES. 3BR/2BA, approx 1800 sq ft; wood-burning fireplace; open living/dining; spacious kitchen w/lots of cabinets. Beautifully furnished, including locally-crafted table & benches. Front porch & side deck. Land is lush with native holly trees, huge boulders, large hardwoods. PLUS this property offers a river-side park area across the road with OVER 300' ON W FORK LITTLE RIVER. There's a nice launch site for kayaks; river-side deck; level areas for picnicking, camping, outdoor adventures of all sorts. Newly-installed driveway & convenient parking. \$229,000 (1086017)



A MOUNTAIN HAVEN ON A PRIVATE, WINDING LANE. Through the wrought-iron gate & through the woods & you'll find this charming, one-level 3BR/2BA cabin home. 1,400 sq. ft.; all wood floors, wood-burning fireplace, & back porch with a screened back porch, with a pleasant view of neighboring lake. Best of all, this property contains approx 15 acres of wooded land. \$284,500 (1120418)

LOTS and LAND

UNIQUE YEAR-ROUND NAVIGABLE RIVER LOT FOR SALE AT MENTONE. DeSoto Falls Lake area. Approx 94' frontage on the prime part of W Fork Little River, the truly navigable part where you can canoe, kayak or pontoon all the way to Mentone! Survey & perc in file. So much natural beauty! \$155,000 (355152)

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

30 ACRES (+/-) IN MENTONE
of mostly hardwood forest, some
pasture land. Slight slope to offer a
great elevation for future cabins, a
farm, hunting cabin or whatever your
Mentone dream dictates. \$105,000
(\$3,500 per acre). (1067525)



IRIS MEADOWS FARM. 3BR/3BA, beautifully-updated, one-level cottage; on 8 delightful acres, pasture & woodland, w/ small pond, seasonal waterfall, fruit trees & 22'x24' workshop w/pavilion area. Land is unrestricted & mostly fenced. Cottage features fab kitchen w/ lots of counter & cabinets; wide-plank pine floors; dining nook w/ built-in benches & hand-made plank table. Large dog kennel area. Now \$244,500 (1109864)



UNIQUELY MENTONE
RIVERFRONT HOME Intriguing spaces inside & out. Pagoda-inspired gated entry; privacy fence. Open, vaulted great room w/corner windows & seating; large, masonry & stone, wood-burning fireplace; hardwood & pine plank floors on main level. Inviting outdoor areas w/many native & transplant species & moss garden. Paths down to swimming hole w/big rock river access. \$334,500 (1098813)



GOOD THINGS OFTEN COME IN TWOS. 2BR/2BA cabin; 2+ acres, with 2 porches (each is 8' deep). One-level, all-wood interior & exterior cabin has had 2 owners yet...like brand new...m; large...m; m...w/ gal...in pantry. Small bonus room, heated & cooled, could be a 3rd BR or office. Cabin sold furnished. Need more land? There's a 2nd lot avail. \$202,200 (1120253)



KNOCK, KNOCK! Who's there?
Well, it could be you! Cute & cozy cottage w/private upstairs guest quarters. Furnished. Front & back porches w/benches & swings. Main level w/hardwood floors; 1BR/1BA; light & breezy living area; handy kitchen. Upstairs is a tree-house-feel, efficiency apt w/ claw-foot tub nook, privy" closet, wood floors & multiple beds. Storage bldg. Near DeSoto Falls, State Park, Corner Scout Camp. Just off the parkway. \$119,900 (1124542)

40 ACRES ON LOOKOUT MTN,
with single-wide mobile home, a
three-bay garage/barn (with
apartment above) and a large
one-acre lot. The property is
lovely and well-maintained. It
as a great investment or a place
to live. Located just a
few miles from Little River Canyon
National Preserve. Dogtown area.
\$175,000 (1076802)

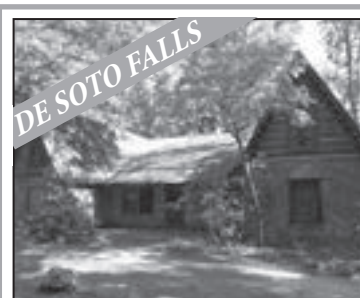
COOL STREET brow-front property with beautiful old stone fireplace chimney, part of the foundation, plus a small garage. New survey. An original Mentone summer home once stood here, owned by the same family since early 1920s. Approx 0.45 acre lot in an area where properties are seldom available. \$118,000 (1070474)

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

NEED A BIT OF EARTH? Well, here it is! Less than 5 minutes from downtown Mentone. Public water & power avail. A single acre, unrestricted, has been very hard to find in this area until now. \$27,500. (1109345)



MOUNTAIN CABIN"...DEFINED AND REFINED. All the elements you might have imagined come together in perfect harmony in this furnished 2BR/2.5BA cabin w/ bonus loft area. Locally-sourced woods inside & out. Wraparound porch w/hot tub.Vaulted great room w/striking, stone wood-burning flpce; wide-plank pine floors. Detached 30x30 garage. Mostly-wooded 1.69-acre lot; 3 miles from downtown Mentone. \$259,900 (1121928)



THE ESSENCE OF MENTONE! STORYBOOK STONE & LOG COTTAGE, overlooking the gorge at DeSoto Falls, designed & built by Phyfer Smith in the 1920s. Filled with mountain charm, eclectic antique furnishings & lots of memories! Great room w/original ceiling pole timbers; stone wall accented by a huge fireplace; pegged, wide-plank walnut floors. 5BR/3BA. Stone "apron" overlook offers an unparalleled vista of the falls & gorge. Sited on 2 lots, totaling 0.9 acres. Two, screened sleeping porches where the sound of the falls sings you to sleep. It's magical! \$750,000. Call Charlotte for details! 256-996-5995



FUNKY, QUIRKY, ARTSY, CLASSIC MENTONE summer home. Your own "Secret Garden" home, w/screened sleeping porch. Interesting nooks & crannies. Many nooks for sitting. Kitchen/living area. Secondary w/great storage. All wood interior. Sweet little yard. There's work to be done, but this is a place in the heart of Mentone to put your heart into. \$99,000 (1100721)

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Two New Park Rangers at Little River Canyon

by Betsy Dillbeck

This summer, Matt Switzer and Kaleb Kleiss-Hoeft joined the staff of the National Park Service at Little River Canyon National Preserve as Interpretive Park Rangers.

Switzer comes to Little River Canyon from Whiskeytown National Recreation Area, Whiskeytown, California, where he held the Interpretive Park Ranger position since 2012.

Kleiss-Hoeft had worked for Gulf Islands National Seashore as an intern since 2017, in interpretation, and will work with Switzer as a seasonal Park Ranger through the Pathways Program as he works on his master's degree.

The position of Interpretive Ranger at Little River was formerly held by Larry Beane, who retired in 2018 after 26 years in that position. Beane was well known for his Archaeology and Geology workshops and tours, and kayaking tours on Little River.

"Larry was an institution," said Switzer, "and we're so happy he is open and sharing about his work in primitive skills, and the other workshops and tours. I hope to take the best of Larry and with Kaleb's and my skills and interests provide many new programs for all our visitors and those who regularly use the Canyon for their recreational and educational exploits."

Switzer explained the role of an interpretive ranger as establishing the communication process, through which meanings and relationships of the cultural and natural world, past and present, are revealed to a visitor through experiences with objects, artifacts, landscapes, sites, exhibits, and people.

Switzer's other duties at the preserve include public information officer, interpretive media creator, VIP (Volunteer in Park) coordinator and program scheduling manager.

Switzer is already at work designing a new Junior Ranger patch and revising the Junior Ranger program booklet. "I want it to be more engaging and a little more specific to our Preserve," he said.

He is also working on a Bark Ranger tag and program. "Since we are a dog friendly park, I hope to establish a checklist of pet-related safety dos and don'ts and incentives to enjoy the park with your pet," said Switzer. "My goal is to bring greater diversity to the preserve, blending the historic and natural resources together for a greater experience in visiting our preserve."

Among the many interests that brought Switzer to Alabama and this area was his love of carnivorous plants. Little River Canyon National Preserve is home to the carnivorous "pitcher plant." It is his plan to study the plant and help be a steward of this rare species. Among Switzer's other interests are photography, kayaking, hiking, mountain biking, astronomy, and all things outdoors.

"Every chance I get, I try to hike or drive a different section of the Preserve, just

to get familiar with the wildlife, terrain, and special spots a visitor would enjoy, and determine what parts of the preserve we can bring to the visitor in more depth," said Switzer.

Kleiss-Hoeft is a Florida native with a passion for rock climbing, kayaking and history. When he was in the 7th grade, his family took a year off and toured the

United States, stopping at most national parks. "I saw a ranger rappelling on the face of Teddy Roosevelt at Mount Rushmore, and I decided then I wanted to be a park ranger," he said. He sought out an internship at Gulf Islands while an undergraduate student at the University of West Florida and worked there for two years.

"I love history and was very involved in the Civil War reenactments and black powder small arms and artillery. Fort Pickens was part of the Gulf Islands and I did Civil War-era living history interpretation programs," said Kleiss-Hoeft.

Kleiss-Hoeft also conducted kayaking tours and programs there and in his leisure time, pursued his love of rock climbing, eventually securing his certification as a rock-climbing

instructor from the University of West Florida. "I have been checking out all the places for rock climbing in the canyon and hope to develop a program where we can have rock climbing workshop," he said.

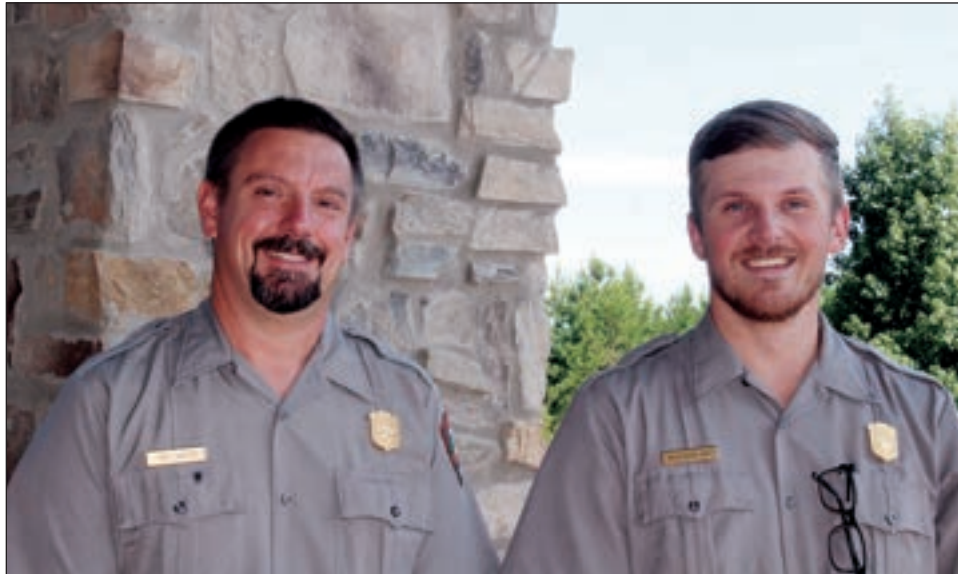
He hopes to stay in the National Park Service while he studies for his M.A. in International Relations and Global Security. His long-term goal is to run for political office.

With the rich Native American history in the Canyon area, both Switzer and Kleiss-Hoeft hope to develop educational programs for school field trips and hikes that revolve around the Native American presence and resources in the Canyon. "We'd like to present a melding of the history, geography, geology, wildlife, and cultural assets of the Canyon and the area," they remarked.

Switzer was especially encouraged by the current programs and school field trips offered by the staff of Jacksonville State University Field Schools, who own and occupy the Canyon Center. "By partnering with them in our program development and strengthening our community outreach, we hope to attract many more visitors, surrounding residents, and school groups to the preserve," commented Switzer.

Head Ranger Valerie Saferite said, "We are really excited to have them both on board. Each one has a unique skill set and when we combine that with Larry's legacy, I have confidence the outcome will be fantastic."

Betsy Dillbeck is a retired newspaper publisher and editor living in Fort Payne.



Little River National Preserve Interpretive Rangers Matt Switzer, left, and Kaleb Kleiss-Hoeft look forward to establishing new programs at the Preserve, and interacting with visitors and the community residents.

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Rhododendron Garden Club by Rhea Pirch



The Rhododendron Garden Club held its monthly meeting in the MERF House at 10 o'clock, Tuesday, August 13. Hostess Dee Kelley provided refreshments and Madelon David read "Garden Meditation" by the Reverend Max Coats. This meditation expresses thanks for the variety of people in our lives, and compares them to the bounties of the garden, like "loving friends, who wind around us like tendrils and hold us, despite our blights, wilts and withering."

President Marsha Merrell called the meeting to order. For roll call, we were asked to mention something we could enter in September's flower show. The group brought (or mentioned) sunflowers, basil, ivy, zinnias, terrariums, and dish gardens.

For the Horticulture report, members Martha Wood and Sharon Harris brought in a collection of late summer wildflowers they found around their properties and along their roads. Martha identified them for us, a lovely collection of orange-fringed orchids, black-eyed Susans, mountain mint, trefoil, aster, mountain beauty, cardinal flower, monarda (bee balm), butterfly weed, liatris, blanket flower, swamp milkweed, and one of the 13 species of goldenrod found in DeKalb County. The flowers made a beautiful bouquet and reminded us to keep an eye out on the roadside for these gifts of nature.

Member Jan Wilkinson encouraged us, in her Conservation report, to consider the definition of conservation through physics: "the principle by which the total value of a physical quality or parameter remains constant in a system which is not subject to external influences." She used a flower arrangement as an example, where "the application of the senses... sight, smell, touch and sound... in an arrangement of live materials in a static container represents

conservation values in a way we perhaps have not thought of previously."

We went on to discuss old business and expressed our appreciation to member Dee Kelley, keeper of the Post Office garden, for her work on keeping the flowers looking so healthy and pretty. Not easy work, we realize, with the lack of rain we've been experiencing lately! One of the members mentioned she noticed a group of people taking pictures in front of the flower garden; a compliment to any gardener indeed!

Discussion continued and focused on the upcoming flower show at the DeKalb County Fair, September 23 to September 29, at the VFW Agriculture Fair Grounds in Fort Payne. This year's chairman is our own Mellanie Tuttle, who has already put in countless hours in preparation for the show. This year's theme is titled "Oh, the Places You'll Go!" based on Dr. Seuss and his wide array of fun-filled

children's books. Divisions and classes within each division of the flower show are cleverly titled after a Dr. Seuss book and can be used for inspiration for the designs. For example, what type of construction design might I come up with from "The King's Stilts," (which I signed up for) or what type of Illuminary design might come from "There's a Zamp in my Lamp?" For the August program, Mellanie reviewed the criteria for each class of designs and gave us hints on what materials we can or cannot use to have the design



Butterfly weed

qualify for entry and a ribbon. She also reminded us of a design practice session at the VFW Hall on Friday, August 23. Open to all area garden club members, this session served as an opportunity to play with flowers and materials in order to inspire the muse and learn the don'ts and do's of flower show design.

The flower show also gives us and other garden clubs an opportunity to educate. This year, for our educational booth, we'll create a display of the different types of floral design techniques; ways to tie materials together (plant and otherwise); methods to create a mass, such as clustering, layering or grouping; and samples of braiding, weaving, and wrapping. These techniques are only a few that add a touch of the unique and professional to each design.

Marsha, Mellanie, and Martha encouraged us all to submit something for the show. If flower design doesn't sound appealing, there are many other possibilities. Name the tree, flower, shrub, herb, terrarium, dish garden, container plant, or hanging plant, and it's most likely listed in the 13 sections and 103 classes of horticulture available to enter. Not a garden club member? No worries! The Horticulture part of the flower show is open to everyone. It's a great opportunity to show off the efforts you've made in your garden this year. Children can participate, too, in the additional 27 classes available for pre-school up to 17 years old. We would love to see Mentone represented at this year's fair! As Dr. Seuss might say, "Something for everyone, everything for all..."

Our next meeting on September 9 will be held at the home of member Honey Ennis, where her husband, Dr. Larry (Doc) Ennis, a Master Gardener, will discuss raised bed planting and koi ponds.

Rhea Pirch serves as secretary for the Rhododendron Garden Club. The Rhododendron Garden Club is a member of National Garden Clubs, Inc., Deep South Region, The Garden Club of Alabama—District II and the Northeast Federation of Garden Clubs.

Lunch
&
Learn

Join the DeKalb County Master Gardeners for a Lunch & Learn program on Thursday, September 5, from 11:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Christy Igou-Brandon will present "Julia, Edna and Alice: Cooking with the Seasons," featuring recipes and tips from Julia Child, Edna Lewis, and Alice Waters. There is no cost. Bring a friend and a sack lunch and you may win a door prize. Master Gardeners will provide drinks. The program will be held at Fort Payne's Coal and Iron building at 500 Gault Ave., NE.



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Mentone Arts & Cultural Center Update by Randy Grider



Groundbreaking, L to R: Director of Stringfellow Health Fund Grants Fred Smith; Alabama Sen. Steve Livingston; Mentone Mayor Rob Hammond; MACC Executive Randy Grider; Community Foundation of Northeast Alabama President/CEO Jennifer Maddox, MACC Board President Ben Shurett, Community Foundation Trustee/Treasurer Judge Randall Cole and Lynn Brewer, wife of Dr. Stephen Brewer.

The past few weeks have been busy with events and visits from supporters of the Mentone Arts & Cultural Center (MACC) to the planned building site of the facility. These include a ceremonial groundbreaking of the planned sculpture garden and tours by a U.S. congressman and the executive director of one of Alabama's largest charitable foundations.

The ceremonial groundbreaking took place in late July as representatives of the Community Foundation of Northeast Alabama joined board members of the Mentone Arts & Cultural Center along with Alabama Sen. Steve Livingston for the event. The foundation awarded the center a \$10,000 Open Spaces Sacred Places Grant to construct the garden, which will be named after Dr. Stephen Brewer of Fort Payne, thanks to a generous donation from his family. The garden will feature a bench from the foundation honoring the legacy of Susie Parker Stringfellow and a sculpture of Sequoyah, the creator of the Cherokee syllabary. Artists Carl McCleskey and Betsy Scott donated their sculpture work on the statue. The sculpture

overview of the plans for the center.

Rep. Aderholt has represented Alabama 4th Congressional District since 1997. He is a member of the powerful House Committee on Appropriations, which has jurisdiction over funding the operation of the federal government. He serves as Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice and Science

forms, done by Sandra Comley, were recently transported to a foundry in Sarasota, FL, where they will be cast in bronze. A reception was held following the ceremony.

In August, U.S. Congressman Robert Aderholt toured the building site with his wife Caroline and met with MACC Board President Ben Shurett, Executive Director Randy Grider and Mayor Rob Hammond. He also was given an

and also serves as a member of the Agriculture and Rural Development Subcommittee and the Defense Subcommittee.

In June, Maria Kennedy, executive director of the Daniel Foundation of Alabama, the third largest charitable foundation in the state, visited the MACC site. Last year, the Daniel Foundation awarded MACC a \$40,000 challenge grant.

We appreciated all our supporters who share our vision of building a regional arts center to promote the arts, local artists and arts education. Donations can be made "In Memory" or "In Honor" of a loved one or a distinguished citizen. There also are naming opportunities for various parts of the facility.

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



Daniel Foundation Executive Director Maria Kennedy and MACC Executive Director relax after tour of MACC property and sights around Mentone.



Left: MACC Executive Director Randy Grider and Board President Ben Shurett look over plans with U.S. Congressman Robert Aderholt.

Museum Day Offers Free Admission

Saturday, September 21 is Museum Day, a national event created by the Smithsonian magazine, a publication that is part of the Smithsonian Institution. More than 1,300 museums across the country will open their doors with no admission fee.

The Booth Western Art Museum in Cartersville, GA, is participating, where a new show called "Warhol and the West" examines the iconic artist's fascination with Western culture. This is the first museum exhibition to fully explore

Andy Warhol's love of the west represented in his art, movies, attire, relationships and collecting. In 1986, Warhol completed his Cowboys and Indians portfolio, the last major project before his death the next year.

The Gone with the Wind Museum in Marietta, GA, is also participating, as is Oak Hill and the Martha Berry Museum in Rome, GA.

Other nearby participants include Reflection Riding Arboretum & Nature Center in Chattanooga, TN, and the Mary G. Hardin Center for Cultural

Arts in Gadsden.

The Museum Day website (smithsonianmag.com/museumday/search/) displays all participating museums, for which you can search by location. Museum goers may order one ticket per email address. Each ticket grants the ticket-holder (and one guest) free access to any participating museum.



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In the Blink of an Eye...Summer vacation is over, and school has started back

by Paula Easter

Well, it is true, folks—we have completed our first month of the 2019–2020 school year (thankfully) back at Moon Lake Elementary School. We have had a few adjustments to make but to me, it has been a great start and is going to be another great year.

My summer was filled with lots of fun student-related activities. During the first two weeks of June, the students and I were painting and crafting at summer school. The week of "Transportation" at summer school was a wonderful time to introduce the children to American artist Edward Hopper and his paintings of boats, trains and bridges. On our trip down the Tennessee River aboard the Southern Belle, we were all excited to see a tramp steamer just like the

one they had completed in art class.

On June 20, during Alabama's Teddy Gentry's "Singing with the Stars" Contest, rising Moon Lake fourth grader, Addison Lee, took to the coliseum stage at Northeast Alabama Community College and wowed the audience with her musical talent. What a joy, as her teacher, to see her talent grow in leaps and bounds.

I, once again, had the privilege of working at Camp Laney, as the "Craft Cabin Lady" this summer. What a joy it is to reconnect with so many returning campers! I love it when they come running into the craft cabin, as glad to see me as I am them.

As soon as camp was over, I headed to Nashville for a teacher workshop and a visit to the Frist

Museum to see the Frida Kahlo and Diego Rivera exhibit. I have always been so amazed at the perseverance Frida Kahlo exhibited throughout her life, surviving polio as a youngster, then almost losing her life in a school bus accident at age 18. Frida suffered the rest of her life from her injuries but never gave up and continued to paint for the rest of her life, even when it meant sitting in a wheelchair at her easel to paint. Perseverance is a quality I would love to see every Moon Lake student have in their art, and one I plan to teach using Frida Kahlo as an example.

Until next time, from the Fine Arts Classroom...it is wonderful to be back.

Paula Easter is the Fine Arts teacher at Moon Lake Elementary School in Mentone.



L to R: Paula Easter, Solei Neuschaefer, Olivia Crawford, Abby Pullen, Sydney Crow, Catie Crawford

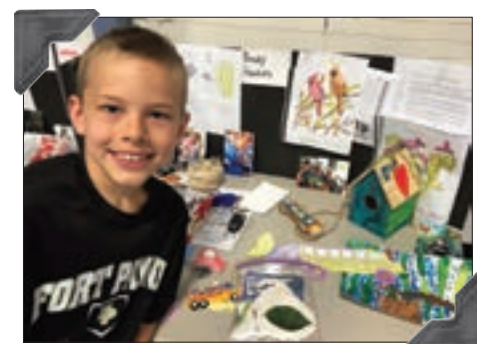
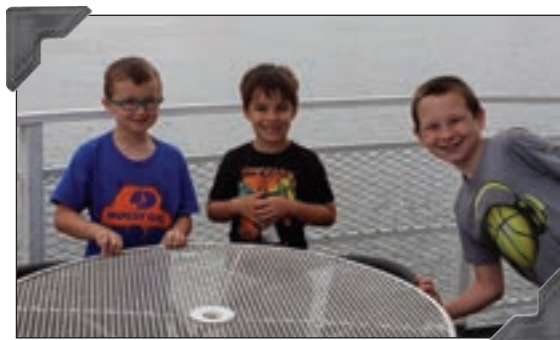


The "After School Summer School Bunch" L to R: Bottom Row...Merrick Arnold, Ian DePaul, Myles Battles, Abby Pullen, Emma Spraggins, Catie Crawford, Olivia Crawford, Sydney Crow; 2nd Row...Randall Lowrance, David Jackson, Grayson Phillips, Christian Whalen, Solei Neuschaefer, Brady Hawkins; 3rd Row...Savannah Shannon, Sydney Ingram, Kenya Heinrich, Addison Lee, Cade Hawkins, Jay Hawkins, Carson Bullock, Alex Tillman, Hunter Battles; 4th Row...Mariah Shannon, Lydia Hulkan, Ricky Hawkins, Gracie Pullen, Hayden Bullock, Zach Pullen



Mr. Dave Bailey, Moon Lake custodian, and his crew aboard the riverboat. L to R: Brady Hawkins, Grayson Phillips, Myles Battles, Ian DePaul, David Jackson

Below, L to R: Myles Battles, Merrick Arnold, and Hunter Battles enjoying the upper deck of the Southern Belle



Brady Hawkins and all the things he made during summer school

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September 2019 Community Calendar

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

SEPTEMBER 2 Labor Day

September 2—Annual Collinsville Mule Day.

Fun games, food, pony rides, and stuff for the whole family! MULE AND HORSE PULLS along with other equine activities. Begins at 9:30am. Bar C Farms, 240 Co. Rd. 871, Collinsville.

September 2, 16, 18—Rock Climbing Adventure.

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

September 3—Rappelling Certification

Class. This class covers rappelling basics indoor and basics outdoor. The basics indoor class teaches you about rappelling safety, rappelling gear and its application, rappelling knots and application, and rigging points needed for rappelling. The basics outdoor class reviews safety procedures, knots, gear, and rigging points; then you learn how to safely rappel and do several rappels before returning to the office for the rappelling test and knot exam. Meet at True Adventure Sports Training Center. \$165/person. 10am–6pm. 256–997–9577.

September 4 & 18—Outdoor Classroom. All ages and for the whole family, this is an outdoor adventure with learning, exploration, skills, and good fun outside. Spend the day outside participating with nature and getting a chance to learn from the natural world and what it has to teach. Learn hands-on skills to help you understand and inhabit the natural world around you. Meet other families with the same interests, share skills and stories, children will get to make new friends, learn important social skills, play outside, play games that encourage learning and using their senses as well with teamwork and communication skills. Parents will have a chance to meet and learn from other parents, learn how to do outdoor activities in a safe and productive way, and have the opportunity to pass on what they know to not only their kids but other families. 9am–1pm. DeSoto State Park. \$5/child and parent or \$10/whole family. Pre-register by contacting Robert Wilson of Seven Pines Survival at sps@sevenpinessurvival.com or 209-559-0040. Wear outdoor clothes, closed toe shoes. Bring water bottle, snacks, lunch, blanket to sit on.

September 4, 17, & 23—Rappelling

Adventure. Come experience the thrill of rappelling down the sheer sandstone gems of NE AL. Each trip includes all the gear plus basic instruction. 10am–2pm. True Adventure Sports. 256–997–9577.

September 5—GPS Basic Training and

Navigation Class Part 1. Learn how to use a map, compass, and a handheld GPS. Learn basic

navigation and how to pinpoint a location for quick return, or quick rescue. Also learn how to search by waypoints or coordinates. True Adventure Sports. 10am–4pm. 256–997–9577.

September 5—Lunch & Learn. Presented by DeKalb County Master Gardeners. Christy Igou-Brandon presents "Julia, Edna and Alice: Cooking with the Seasons," featuring recipes and tips from Julia Child, Edna Lewis, and Alice Waters. Free. Bring a friend and a sack lunch and you may win a door prize. Master Gardeners will provide drinks. 11:30 a.m.–12:30p.m. Coal and Iron Building, 500 Gault Ave., NE., Fort Payne.

September 5—Art in the Alley. Enjoy local food, music, and art in Fort Payne's Entertainment District and Boom Town Makers Market. Look for the festival lights in the Alley behind the theater. 324 Gault Ave. N, Fort Payne. 205-531-5181. 5pm–8pm.

September 5—Fort Payne Art & Business Crawl.

Check out local artists at several locations, hear about the artists' backgrounds, the businesses' stories, and the history of the buildings they occupy. Musicians, writers, local officials, and others will speak, perform, and entertain. Prizes, food, and refreshments will be at every stop. Donations are not required, but are accepted. Funds will be used to feed events and go toward the enrichment of downtown, merchant areas, and public spaces. 4–8pm. Meet at the Coal and Iron Building, 500 Gault Ave. N, Fort Payne.

September 6—GPS Basics Training and

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

September 6–8—Kids Lookout Mountain

Exploration Camp. Set out for adventure on the big rock they call Lookout Mountain! For 2 days and 2 nights, kids will experience their backyard like never before, climbing sandstone boulders, hiking through the forest, and observing natural beauty away from technology. They will make friends and learn the importance of getting dirty through this challenging but very fun adventure. Recommended for ages 11–14. Cost: \$190/per person. Includes transportation, all equipment, awesome meals & snacks. One World Adventure. 256-634-8370.

September 7—Guided Hike—Walls of Jericho.

A forested canopy, rocky bluffs, grass coves, and a cascading waterfall will greet you at the Walls of Jericho trail. One World guides will lead you through this 8-mile out and back hike that is rated moderate to difficult. To register or for more information, email angie@oneworldadventureco.org or call 256–634–8370.

September 7—Plant Discovery Hike.

Join naturalist Robert Wilson, "The Traveling Herbalist" from Seven Pines Survival, for an experiential journey within the forest, taking in every opportunity to learn more about the natural world. On this meandering hike, Robert will identify many native plants of the southern Appalachians and will teach how to

recognize the natives found in the park. Journey throughout DeSoto State Park to see what can be seen along the trail. Easy to moderate meandering hike. As with all outdoor events, if it is stormy or very poor trail conditions, the hike may be cancelled. If the weather is questionable, please call ahead to make sure the hike is a go. 9am. Meet on the porch at DeSoto State Park's Country Store on County Road 89. Free and open to everyone. Have questions? Email Robert at sps@sevenpinessurvival.com or call 209–559–0040.

September 7—Linger Longer Pop Up Art

Exhibit. Hosted by the Little River Arts Council. Blacksmith Taylor Allison's interest in recycling and keeping waste out of landfills led her to pursue blacksmithing, using found and discarded steel. Mostly self-taught, she has been pursuing metal crafting for two years. Free. Linger Longer Pavilion behind the Mentone Inn. 10am until the artist decides to leave. Email info@littleriverartscouncil.org for more info.

September 7—Moon Lake Library Pop Up Book

Sale. New & used books for sale to support the library. Mentone Farmers Market. 10am–1pm.

September 7—Summer Music Series:

Microwave Dave & the Nukes. This heritage blues band from Huntsville has been performing for 30 years in multinational venues varying from French soccer stadiums to neighborhood saloons to events such as Daytona Bike Week. Their accomplishments in performing, writing, and preserving blues music led them to receive the Blues Achievement Award in 2001 from the Alabama Blues Society. They've released six albums, all to high acclaim, and are certain to end the Little River Arts Council's summer's concert series on a high note. 7–10pm. Linger Longer Pavilion behind the Mentone Inn. Seating is limited, so bring a chair if you can. Email info@littleriverartscouncil.org with questions.

September 7—True Blue Youth

Rally and Concert. Performers include local musicians Judy Nicole Kirby, Dakota Wright, Jared Cushen, Stuart Douglas, and Matty Croxton (performing an Elton John tribute). Food trucks will be present, snowcones, and the City of Fort Payne will have alcoholic beverages available to anyone 21 and older. Presented by DeKalb County Democratic Club. DeKalb Theater in downtown Fort Payne. 7pm. Free.

September 8—Serious Skills

Series: Pine Tar Making Workshop. The Serious Skills series at DeSoto State Park offers a variety of classes and workshops that provide opportunities to discover a hidden talent or learn a new skill for personal enrichment.

Classes are open to local residents, overnight guests and park visitors. Join Robert Wilson, "The Traveling Herbalist" from Seven Pines Survival, for a class on making your own Pine Tar. This is a hands-on class teaching everyone how to dry distill pine wood to extract pine tar. This is an all-day class. We will gather the material from the landscape and refine it down to a tar that is commonly used in herbal recipes and has a lot of great uses. Expect to be walking in the woods, looking and gathering natural resources, making a fire, and extracting the final product. 10am–4pm. DeSoto State Park Country Store & Information Center. \$20/person. Pre-registration required. Call 256–997–5025 or email Brittney.Hughes@dcnr.alabama.gov to sign up or for more info. About Seven Pines Survival: sevenpinessurvival.com/desoto-state-park.

September 9—Identity Theft & Cyber Security

Discussion. This a free event brought to you by First State Bank as a community service. We will have two discussions, at 2pm and at 6pm. DeKalb Theatre, Fort Payne. 256–845–1601.

September 10—Mountain Bike Tour. This tour explores some beautiful trails and paths atop Lookout Mountain or Sand Mountain. Come have an enjoyable ride without the fear of getting lost. This 3-hour tour includes a mountain bike rental, instruction, and a guide for safety, direction, and information. True Adventure Sports. 3–6pm. 256-997-9577.

September 10—Cornwall Strummers. The second Tuesday of each month, Little River Canyon Center hosts the Cornwall Strummers for an informal and educational dulcimer concert. Come enjoy, ask questions, or bring your own instrument and join them for a fun dulcimer group pickin'. Free and open to everyone. Little River Canyon Center 10am.

September 13 & 27—Community Game Night

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September 2019 Community Calendar

at Moon Lake Library. All ages are welcome. Bring your favorite game, or come play one of ours. Great way to make new friends! Finger food potluck. Free. 6pm. Moon Lake Community Library, 4607 AL-Hwy 117, Mentone.

September 13—Zip Line Adventure. All zip lines are set up just before the adventure to ford a gorge or cross from one high point to another. Pre-registration required at True Adventure Sports by 6pm the day before the adventure. 10am–12pm. 256–997–9577.

September 13–14—Fall Vintage Pickin' Barn Sale. Shop from some of the best vendors from around the South. Vintage marketplace featuring Farmhouse, Primitives, Rustic Junk, Industrial, Shabby & French Country, repurposed goods and more. Live music and local food vendors. White Oaks Farm, 202 Farmer Road, Fyffe. See vintagepickin.com for full details, including ticket prices.

September 14—"Confessions of a Lapsed Recycler." Tobey Miller offers an informative and often humorous program on everything you need to know about recycling—it's more than you think! Free. Moon Lake Community Library, 4607 AL-Hwy 117, Mentone. 12:30pm.

September 14—"Southern Heart". Watch the film that was made in Mentone 20 years ago! This annual showing is sponsored by the Mentone Inn and Mentone Realty. Seating is limited, so bring a chair or blanket if you can. Free admission. Free popcorn, sodas, and water. Music with Jerry & Pixie Bloom at 6:30pm. Fish fry (\$10) by Fontana Stinson at 6:30pm 'til the food runs out. Movie starts at dusk, around 7:30pm. On the lawn at the Linger Longer Pavilion, behind the Mentone Inn.

September 14—Bowdrill Class. Survivalist Robert Wilson of Seven Pines Survival will

teach you about the bowdrill. Everything you will need to make your very first bowdrill set will be provided, including all the information you need to succeed. Don't be fooled, this class takes patience, persistence, and the eagerness to learn. Not only will you learn how to make a bowdrill, but knife safety and how to properly use a knife as well. This class starts at 9am and ends when you succeed! What to bring: water bottle, notebook and pencil, camera. 9am. Meet in front of the lodge at DeSoto State Park. \$40/student. Pre-registration required. Limited to 5 participants. Email Robert at sps@sevenpinessurvival.com. or visit sevenpinessurvival.com/desoto-state-park.

September 14—Guided Full Moon Kayaking Adventure. Join the Little River Waterkeeper for a special moonlight kayak tour where the East and Middle Forks and old washed out dam create Lake Lahusage near Mentone. The trip begins just before sunset and ends by the light of the full moon. Appropriate for adults and kids 16 and up. Trip lasts approximately 2–2.5 hours. Pre-registration is required. Kayak is included. To register or for more information email angie@oneworldadventureco.org or call 256–634–8370.

September 14, 21, 28—Rock Climbing / Rappelling Adventure Combo. Come experience first-hand what rock climbing and rappelling is all about with guides who are fun, safe and energetic. This trip includes all the gear plus basic instruction. No prior climbing experience is needed. True Adventure Sports. 10am–2pm. 256–997–9577.

September 15—Guided Hike: Cave Creek/ Pinhoti Trail. Hike along the ridges of the highest points in Alabama, including a stretch on the famous Pinhoti Trail. Beautiful bluff views will not disappoint on this moderate 4-hour guided hike in the Talladega National Forest. To register or for more information, email angie@oneworldadventureco.org or call 256–634–8370.

September 16—"Handle with Care: Preserving Your Family Papers and Photographs." Learn the fundamentals of home archiving with Jim Baggett, archivist for the City of Birmingham. Free. 6:30pm. Moon Lake Community Library, 4607 AL-Hwy 117, Mentone.

September 20 & 27—Night Zip Line Adventure. All our zip lines are set up just before the adventure to ford a gorge or cross from one high point to another. Pre-registration required at True Adventure Sports by 6pm the day before the adventure. 7:30–9:30pm. 256–997–9577.

September 21 & 22—Guided Backpacking Bordon Creek

& Sipsey River Trails (Sipsey Wilderness). Adventure awaits around every corner during this moderate 8-mile round trip in the Sipsey Wilderness. Canyons, waterfalls, and caves are only a few of the amazing features you will experience. It is the perfect backpacking trip for all skill levels. To register or for more information email angie@oneworldadventureco.org or call 256–634–8370.

September 21—Backpacking Basics. Join Robert Wilson of Seven Pines Survival and JSU Field School staff to learn the basics of backpacking. Everything from what to pack and how to pack it to cooking meals for your backpacking trips. This is a great class to take as a prequel to joining Robert on a backpacking overnight adventure at one of several locations such as JSU Field School's partner park, DeSoto State Park. Designed for adults, but kids are welcome to tag along. For more details or to register, contact Robert Wilson at sps@sevenpinessurvival.com or at 209–559–0040. Space is limited, so register today! 9am–3pm. \$20. Little River Canyon Center.

September 21—Boom Days 5K. Fort Payne Three Arts Club hosts their annual 5K walk/run, introducing Chronotrack chip timing. A \$100 cash prize will be awarded to the overall male and the overall female winners. Additional prizes will be awarded to category winners. A prize will also be awarded for the most creative team theme. \$30 registration. Email fpthreeartsclub@gmail.com for details.

September 21—Boom Days Heritage Celebration—3rd Saturday. This annual art and musical event displays citizens of Fort Payne taking a second look at their past and the heritage passed down to them through the arts and crafts of our area. Many events will take place the week prior to the celebration. The Boom Days Heritage Celebration will feature many of these facets in the presentation of musical performances as well as art displays in City Park. 256-845-1524.

September 21—Night Sky Swing Adventure. This is an adventure of a lifetime! Enjoy the thrill of the swing at night. Pre-registration required at True Adventure Sports by 6 pm the day before the adventure. 7:30pm–9:30pm. 256-997-9577.

SEPTEMBER 23 Fall Equinox

September 23—Read Alabama 200 Book Talk. Dr. Edwin Bridges will give a talk at the Historic Cricket Theatre in Collinsville, Alabama, hosted by the DeKalb County Historical Society. 2pm.

September 23–28—DeKalb County VFW Agricultural Fair. Rides on the midway, great food, live entertainment, livestock exhibits, agricultural displays, awards, and so much more. Held at the VFW Fairgrounds. Gates open at 5pm. 256–845–4752.

September 25—Celestial Navigation. This two-hour class is a basic introduction to navigation by the stars. Learn how to navigate

without the use of a compass or GPS with the same rules used for almost six thousand years. Meet at True Adventure Sports. 730pm–930pm. 256–997–9577.

September 26–2019 Southern Exposure Film Screening. The Little River Waterkeeper is excited to announce our amazing Little River was chosen as a film topic in the 2019 Film Fellowship: SOMETHING ABOUT LITTLE RIVER by Jeb Brackner. Little River Canyon Center, 472 AL- Hwy. 35, Fort Payne. 6–8pm. Free admission. For more information about the Southern Exposure Film Fellowship or to view the films from previous years, visit: southernexposurefilms.org. For more information about the Little River Waterkeeper, visit littleriverwaterkeeper.org.

September 27-29—Guided Backpacking South Cheaha Wilderness. Take a break from the world and let One World Adventure guides show you breathtaking views of the Talladega Mountains in the South Cheaha Wilderness. This 12-mile round trip is the perfect overnight backpacking trip for you to just get away into the wilderness to be with nature. All equipment is provided. To register or for more information email angie@oneworldadventureco.org or call 256–634–8370.

September 28—American Cruisers MC—2nd Annual Crusin' for Kids. It will be a poker run with stops at local scenic destinations. Proceeds go to the Children's Advocacy Center. 10am registration, 11am kickstand up. \$20 per bike, \$5 for passengers. Food available at the end of ride. Everyone is welcome. Event is not only for bike riders. Ride Starts at the CAC Center at 104 Alabama Ave in Fort Payne. Come out and support our local CAC. No alcohol please. If you need any more information, contact the CAC or Capt. Morgan 256–630–3072.

September 28-29—Guided Backpacking Trip for Beginners. Have you always wanted to get into backpacking? Here is a great way to start! Learn all you need to know so that you can head out on your own outdoor adventure. A fall backpacking class, and a great class for beginners/intermediate. Topics to learn: backpacking essentials, camping items to choose and use, fire building, cooking, etiquettes, pitching and striking camp, setting up a tent or hammock, and more! Hiking is moderate, about a mile one-way to backpacking campsite. Sign up for this fun trip soon! Check in 9am on 28th; check out the morning of the 29th. DeSoto State Park. Meet at DeSoto's Nature Center, next to the Country Store on County Road 89. \$85 per person (2-night trip), includes all equipment and food. Pre-registration is required, as class size is limited. Call 209–559–0040 or email Robert Wilson (Seven Pines Survival) for more details: sps@sevenpinessurvival.com.

September 30—Mountain Bike Tour. This tour explores some beautiful trails and paths atop Lookout Mountain or Sand Mountain. Come have an enjoyable ride without the fear of getting lost. This three-hour tour includes a mountain bike rental, instruction, and a guide for safety, direction, and information. True Adventure Sports 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. 256-997-9577.

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SENIOR HEALTH Fall Medicare Enrollment

by Lynn Hixon

Medicare's Annual Enrollment Period (AEP) begins on October 15 and continues through December 7, 2019. During this time, you will be able to switch your Part D or Medicare Advantage plan from one Boom Days Heritage Celebration honors Fort Payne's rich cultural past with events that tie the history to the present, great historical artifacts and clothing at the Fort Payne Depot Museum, a miniature railroad system in the original office of the Coal and Iron Company, music covering all musical genres with more than two dozen acts on 6 different stages. to another. Many people will have questions or need guidance during this time. If you are happy with your present plan, you do NOT need to switch to a NEW PLAN. If your present plan will no longer be covering

your medications, or you are not happy with your current coverage, this is the time to make changes. If you have original Medicare and a Part D plan, you may decide at this time to get a Medigap (Medicare Supplement). The DeKalb County Council on Aging can provide you with a Shopper's Guide for these policies. Last year, we helped 446 DeKalb County residents save \$547,467.

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

Ongoing Community Calendar

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Farm Market at The Farm at Windy Hill is open Fridays from 2-5pm and Saturdays from 11am-2pm. Seasonal produce, grass-fed and finished beef, pastured and wooded pork, and pasture-raised eggs. 445 Road 942, Mentone, AL. Email info@thefarmatwindyhill.com.

Moon Lake Community Library is open on Saturdays from 9am-1pm, and Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3-6pm. Visit moonlakelibrary.org.

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

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

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

Sacred Harp Singing in Ft. Payne at the Senior Center every last Tuesday of the month through October. 6:30-8:30pm. All are welcome, loaner books are available, and you're welcome to listen if you prefer.

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

Mentone. 256-634-4476.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Round Dancing is held the Fort Payne Senior Center on Tuesdays 5-8:30pm. 600 Tyler Ave. SE, Fort Payne. Call 256-244-5320 to register. (No session 9/24.)

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

Moon Lake Community Library News by Kelly Leavitt

“Handle with Care: Preserving Your Family Papers and Photographs” with Jim Baggett

There are many basic and inexpensive things you can do to ensure that your family letters, scrapbooks, and photographs are preserved for the future. Learn the fundamentals of home archiving from Jim Baggett at a free presentation on Monday, September 16, at 6:30 p.m. at Moon Lake Community Library.

Topics covered include:

- common threats to documents and photos, including mold, mildew, humidity, rodents, and insects
- supplies needed to preserve papers and photos and where to purchase those supplies
- advantages and disadvantages of scanning your papers and photos.

Librarian Jim Baggett is the archivist for the Birmingham Public Libraries and the City of Birmingham. He and his family live part-time at their home on Little River near Mentone. Jim is the author of two books about Alabama history: *Alabama Illustrated—Engravings from 19th Century Newspapers* and *Historic Photos of Birmingham*. This winter, he will present a program about the 1918 influenza outbreak in Alabama, which has a Mentone connection.

Come by the library’s Pop Up Book Sale at Mentone Farmer’s Market on Saturday, September 7 from 10am–1pm. All purchases directly support the library.

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Moon Lake Book Club 9/21 @ 10:30 am

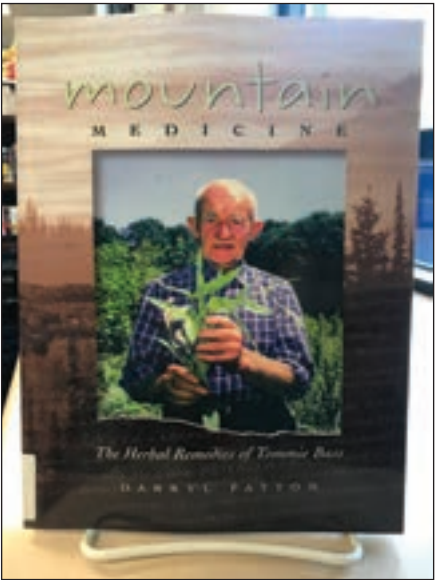


Join fellow book lovers for a discussion of *The Only Woman in the Room* by Marie Benedict. This bestselling historical novel tells the story of Hedy Lemarr, the glamour icon and scientist whose groundbreaking invention revolutionized modern communication. Booklist calls it a “compelling fictionalized biography [that] pays tribute to the overlooked scientific contributions and the hidden depths of a stunning beauty and beloved movie star.”

The book club will meet on Saturday, September 21, at 10:30 a.m. at Moon Lake Community Library (where the book is available for check-out). Everyone is welcome to join the discussion. Coffee and hot tea will be served.

Thanks to author and Mentone resident Darryl Patton, who recently dropped by the library to donate to our collection his book, *Mountain Medicine: The Herbal Remedies of Tommie Bass*.

Darryl has been hunting, gathering and working with medicinal plants for the past 35 years on Lookout Mountain, and has been called a walking encyclopedia of herbal folklore. For 13 years, he was privileged to study under one of the last of the old mountain herb doctors, the late A. L. “Tommie” Bass of Shinbone Ridge. The book is available for library patrons to borrow. Thank you, Darryl!



Community Game Nights

Fridays, 9/13 & 9/27 @ 6 pm

Enjoy playing a variety of games with your neighbors and friends (old and new) at Moon Lake Community Library. Bring your favorite game or come learn how to play a new one.

Games are good for your brain, and playing them with others is good for your spirit. Bring a finger food to share in the pot luck. Coffee, tea and water will be provided. All ages are welcome.

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... In Memoriam ...



Mr. Ralph Eugene Willingham October 17, 1944 – August 9, 2019

Mr. Ralph Eugene Willingham passed away on August 9, 2019. He is survived by his wife, Irene Blalock Willingham; son, Ladon Willingham (Donna); daughter, Amy Kirby (Preston); grandchildren, Caitlin Kirby, Kenzie Willingham, Bailey Kirby, and Kori Willingham; sisters, Glenda Williams, Joyce Brown, and Debbie Baty (Billy); and several nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, Gene and Ruby Willingham.



Olivia Baxter Cox May 15, 1945–August 14, 2019

Olivia Baxter was born to Frances Cochran Baxter and Wayne Oliver Baxter on May 15, 1945. She passed from this life on August 14, 2019.

Both sides of her family have a long history in DeKalb County. Brothers James and Willis Baxter were reputed to be the first white settlers who moved to Wills Valley and coexisted among the Cherokee. The Cochrans moved to DeKalb County in 1875. That long history might have had some influence on Olivia's love of and passion for the history of our county.

A great-granduncle on the Baxter side of her family, J. R. "Pap" Baxter, was a Gospel singer, teacher and prolific Christian music writer who built the largest gospel music publishing business in the world.

A great-granduncle on the Cochran side, Lucian Cochran, was probate judge when the first courthouse was built in Fort Payne. His name is on the cornerstone from that courthouse, on display at the Depot Museum. He also built the grand Victorian house across the street from the current courthouse, which Randy Owen now owns.

Olivia attended public school in Fort Payne, graduating in 1963. She attended Auburn University, where she studied art. After marrying and raising children, while living in Alabama and Texas, she returned to Fort Payne in the early 2000s to take care of her aging mother.

She joined Landmarks of DeKalb County in 2004 and became an involved and important member of the organization. Her amazing knowledge of Cherokee and other history of the county was legendary and unparalleled.

Olivia spearheaded several significant projects for Landmarks including: many special programs at the Opera House; reclamation of the Willstown Mission Cemetery; reclamation and archaeological excavation of the Spirit the Preacher cabin site; and many spectacular Hunt Hall exhibits. Her last major ongoing project is the ongoing reclamation of the Battelle site.

It is fair to say that Olivia had an impact on everyone she met and all those who had the opportunity to work with her. Her contributions to Landmarks are epic. Her passion for and encyclopedic memory of DeKalb County history will be forever missed. —Randy Cochran

Claud Christopher "Chris" Bence, Jr. April 15, 1947 - August 17, 2019

Claud Christopher "Chris" Bence, Jr. passed away on August 17, 2019, after a brief battle with cancer. Born to Claud C. Bence and Julia Blalock on April 15, 1947, he spent his growing up years in Abbeville, AL. A 1965 graduate of Abbeville High, Chris had a love of radio and even as a teen, became a DJ at the Abbeville radio station.

Chris's career was varied and notable as the voice of several radio stations but he found his true passion building the powerful FM 95 WTVY in the 70s and 80s as a DJ, programmer and general manager. Some will also remember Chris as a weatherman on WTVY-TV and a cohost on the Morning Show. Politics came calling and he had the privilege of serving Governor Fob James in two terms, as press secretary in the first term and as executive liaison in the second term. Chris also served as chief of staff to Attorney General Troy King during his term. After retirement, Chris and his wife, Charlene, traveled extensively; having completed their goal of hitting the road and not just visiting, but exploring all 48 contiguous states and Canada. A move to Lookout Mountain in Mentone in 2017 allowed the beauty of nature to refresh them in between trips. To continue to love and cherish Chris are his wife, Charlene; son, Jason Bence, Naples, FL; daughter, Lori Bryson, Smyrna, TN; grandchildren, Skyler and Savannah Cagle, Smyrna TN; sister, Priscilla Johnson (Max), Woodstock, GA; brother, Bill Bence (Paige), Smith Station, AL; brother-in-law, Charles Work, Centre, AL; sister-in-law, Vickie Murphy (Mick), Dothan, AL; and many nieces, nephews, cousins, and old and new friends.



J.R. Bledsoe March 10, 1952–August 4, 2019

J.R. Bledsoe, age 67 of Valley Head, passed away Sunday, August 4, 2019, at his residence alongside his wife, Blanch. Mr. Bledsoe was born in Greenville, TN, on March 10, 1952, to the late William H. and Della Bledsoe. He was a truck driver for Kerr Redi Mix.

Mr. Bledsoe was a member of Fort Payne Masonic Lodge #437 and Valley Head Masonic Lodge #394; was currently serving as District Lecturer of District 11 (DeKalb County) of the Alabama Grand Lodge; Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Mason of Alabama; past presiding officer of the Gadsden York Rite Bodies; Alabama Priory #31 KYCH; Red Cross of Constantine; the DeKalb County Shrine Club; and the Alhambra Shrine Temple, where he was very active in the transportation unit.

Mr. Bledsoe is survived by his daughter, Nadara Bledsoe-Brock; son, Chad Bledsoe; brother, Sam Bledsoe (Sharon); sister, Suzzette Bledsoe; and grandchildren, Lindsay Bledsoe-Chritton, Darek Brock, Alexis Bledsoe, and Dominic Bledsoe.

Blanch Elizabeth Bledsoe August 27, 1943–August 4, 2019

Blanch Elizabeth Bledsoe, age 76 of Valley Head, passed away Sunday, August 4, 2019. Mrs. Bledsoe was born in Ohio on August 27, 1943, to the late Charles Melvin and Terecia Poole Snively. She was a homemaker and was a huge supporter of her husband J.R. in attending numerous masonic and shrine functions.

Mrs. Bledsoe is survived by her son and daughter-in-law, Steve and Cindy Heath; grandchildren, Shawn Fleck and Ashley Breeding; great-grandchild, Mariah Jade Rogers; niece, Terry Casselman and husband Jim; and grand nephews, Nick Casselman and Cody Casselman.

Donations to memorialize Blanch and J.R. Bledsoe may be made to the Shriner's Children's Hospital Fund, c/o Alhambra Shrine Temple, 1000 Alhambra Drive, Chattanooga, TN 37421-3701.



Billie Sue Wade Harper May 2, 1933–August 24, 2019

Billie Sue Wade Harper, age 86 of Valley Head, passed away peacefully on Saturday, August 24, 2019.

She is preceded in death by her parents John Thomas and Minnie Jacoups Wade, four sisters (Josephine Wade, Evelyn Brown, Johnnie Ruth Tucker, Ida Hawkins), brother Charles

Wade, her twin sister Bobbie Jean Wade Broyles, grandson Gabriel Harper, son David Harper, and her husband of 63 years Floyd R. Harper.

Billie was a woman of many talents. As a baker, she made countless wedding and special occasion cakes for many years. She also worked alongside her sister Bobbie at the Valley Head lunchroom and the kitchen at Camp Skyline. She was an avid gardener and a member of local garden clubs. She loved quilting and spending time with the Stitch-R-2 quilting club.

She leaves behind her sons, Michael, Wade and Mark Harper, and daughters, Rebecca Barrier and Heather Jackson, along with nine grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

St. Joseph's Sacred Garden Labyrinth Workshop

by Kat Griffith

St. Joseph's on-the-Mountain Episcopal Church in Mentone is very grateful to be able to invite the community to our Sacred Garden to experience the new labyrinth. A labyrinth workshop will be held at the church on Saturday, September 14, at 10 a.m., followed by guided labyrinth walks and a time of reflection in the gazebo. We plan to complete the workshop by 12:30 p.m., but invite anyone who would choose to linger and process their experience, either by themselves or with the help of our trained guide. There are many benches in shady and restful spots in which to journal, if you so choose.

The workshop will be led by Mary Ellen Calhoun, ME, who has been a labyrinth facilitator for 22 years. She was Veriditas-trained in San Francisco, CA, by Dr. Lauren Artress, who is responsible for a resurgence of the ancient practice of wallking meditation on a labyrinth. Mary Ellen lives in Birmingham and has been instrumental in the reworking of the outdoor labyrinth at St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Birmingham, an indoor canvas labyrinth at St. Luke's, and the labyrinth in the woods of Camp McDowell. We are very grateful to host Mary Ellen, who will help us all glean the most from our personal encounters while prayerfully walking the paths of the labyrinth.

If you would like to prepare by reading ahead of time. Mary Ellen suggests two works: *Walking a Sacred Path: Rediscovering the Labyrinth as a Spiritual Practice*, by Dr. Lauren Artress, and *Labyrinths, Journeys of Healing and Grace*, by Zara Renander.

Please call St. Joseph's on-the-Mountain Episcopal Church at 256-634-4476 to secure a reservation. This will help our presenter be prepared for each of us. Also, feel free to call with any questions concerning the event.

Labyrinths through the Ages

by Annette F. Reynolds

The labyrinth seems to have emerged in cultures worldwide during times of change. There has been a revival in the use of labyrinths today possibly due to the instability, anxiety, conflict and uncertainty in which we find ourselves in this new millennium. The labyrinth offers all, regardless of political, social, ethnic, religious background, a place to be centered and connected.

In her best-selling book, *Walking a Sacred Path: Rediscovering the Labyrinth as a Spiritual Tool* (1995), Reverend Dr. Lauren Artress, grandmother of the labyrinth movement in the USA, invites communities to create labyrinths as part of a new paradigm to address modern-day issues. Her vision is to "embrace a new vision of spiritual maturity that values ethnic, cultural, and gender differences, supports creativity and the work of Spirit among all forms of life, what is needed for the global family to survive in the twenty-first century."

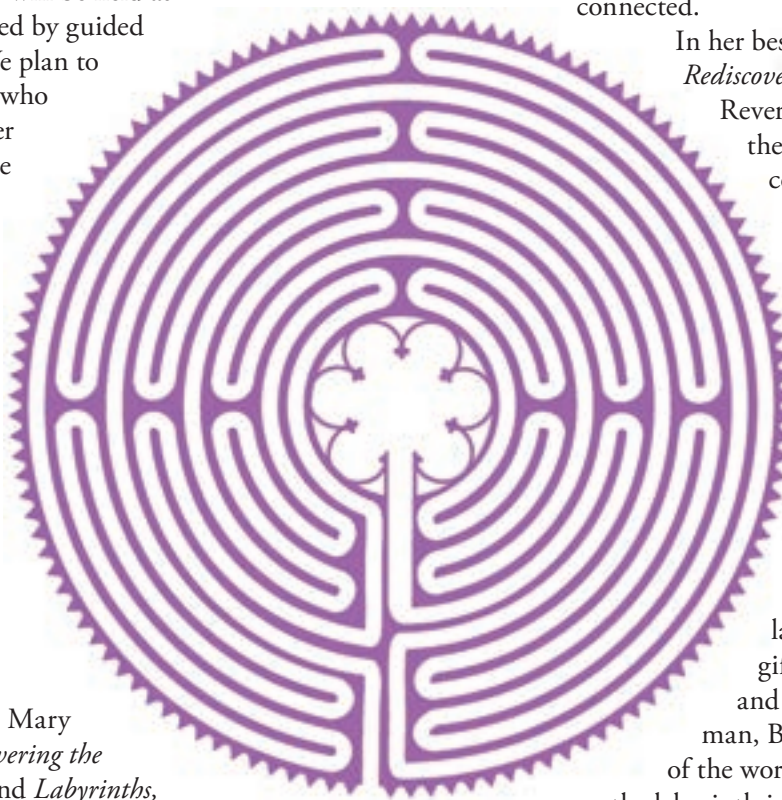
"Going around in circles" might mean getting nowhere, wasting time, unless those circular paths are within a labyrinth. Walking the circular paths of the labyrinth can offer a powerful blessing—a gift from the heart of the Creator for wholeness and transformation. Famous Oglala Lakota holy man, Black Elk described that everything the power of the world does, is done in a circle. The design of the labyrinth is a circle, a three-dimensional mandala, with which we can be a part and have direct experience.

There is a difference between an ancient labyrinth and a modern maze. The Greek word "labyrinthos" describes any maze-like structure that has only one single path. Over time, there has been a natural progression from ancient earth labyrinths, to medieval Christian church labyrinths, to modern mazes. Because of today's movies and video games, the word "labyrinth" is often misunderstood. Mazes are designed to engage the thinking mind. They can have many paths and contain dead ends. Labyrinths, on the other hand, have a center, which can be seen and is reached by a single path. There are no tricks or dead ends. However, like the journey through life or the spiritual journey, we might feel lost, but we just enter and take one step at a time. The non-linear pattern itself is designed to quiet the mind, which allows us to focus internally and let intuition and creativity flow. Some say that focused attention is the same as love.

History

The labyrinth is an ancient design found in almost every culture and religious tradition dating back thousands of years. The ancient seven circuit/path, classical, or Cretan labyrinth is the most common pattern in the world. These labyrinths are found in Bronze age petroglyphs of Egypt and Greece and in Africa, India, Afghanistan, Sri Lanka, Sumatra Java, Native North and South America. They were usually constructed on the ground and have been used for protection, often

(continued on page 23)



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Labyrinths (continued from page 22)

marking sacred places. It is believed that these designs known as the Golden Mean, Phi, Fibonacci sequence or Divine Proportion evolved out of universal patterns found in nature, creating beauty through harmony and proportion. Our fingers, bodies and faces follow this mathematical ratio, as well as flower petals, seeds, pinecones, shells, hurricanes, galaxies and DNA molecules. When applied to a design, this mathematical ratio is considered the most pleasing to the eye.

The earliest Christian labyrinth dates to the fourth century. Like many of the stories in Jewish and Christian scriptures and in classical writings, the labyrinth represents a journey, the hero's journey, a pilgrimage. During the 12th and thirteenth centuries, labyrinth were used in many Gothic cathedrals of Europe as symbolic pilgrimages to the Holy Land. When the crusades made travel too dangerous, the faithful would come to the cathedrals and following the footsteps of Jesus, walk labyrinths, the center of the labyrinth being the New Jerusalem. The most famous medieval labyrinth is located outside of Paris, France at the famous Notre Dame (Our Lady) of Chartres Cathedral, which for thousands of years has been a popular place for pilgrims, as well as tourists.

The labyrinth revival in the U.S. took two parallel tracks. In 1991, the first church labyrinth was painted on canvas initiated by the Reverend Dr. Lauren Artress, who was serving as Canon of Special Ministries at Grace Episcopal Cathedral, San Francisco, CA. She sensed that there was a need for centering and focus, a spiritual hunger to move out of the world of words. She also saw a need to find the sacred in nature, embodying the mind, body and spirit. Since that time, her primary focus has been on creating replicas of the eleven path, site specific 42' by 42' medieval stone labyrinth inlaid in the floor of medieval Chartres Cathedral. Rev. Artress currently heads the nonprofit Veriditas, which means "greening power of God," coined by Hildegard von Bingen, best known for composing sacred music.

A parallel movement emerged when an international group of 40 naturalists, historians, artists, educators, authors, engineers, researchers, and spiritual leaders organized and met for several years and formed another nonprofit, The Labyrinth Society (1998). One of their first projects was to raise the funds to update and translate from German the 350 pages with 750 illustrated photos, *Through the Labyrinth: Designs and Meaning over 5,000 Years*, written by internationally renowned art historian, Hermann Kern (1941-1985). This is the most comprehensive compendium of research ever to be published on labyrinths.

Since then, thousands of labyrinths have been co-created. Sponsored by The Labyrinth Society and Veriditas, the World-Wide Labyrinth Locator was launched in 2004 as a labyrinth database with over 5,800 known labyrinths in more than 80 countries. In Alabama, there are 31 public labyrinths listed.

Ways to walk and use labyrinths

There are many ways to use the labyrinth and there are no right or wrong ways to "walk" one. We can go through with childlike abandon or walk mindfully. The

setting and atmosphere surrounding a labyrinth depends largely on its intended use. There are several parts of the walk which mirror the therapeutic, healing process. Before we enter, we might take a few breaths and reflect on our life and what brought us to the labyrinth. Each walk is different, a snapshot in time. As we journey to the center, the labyrinth provides a container where we can release, let go. The center is a place of quiet rest, to listen, receive. Often the center helps us feel centered. We walk out on the same path that brought us in, often empowered, with a renewed awareness to face life's challenges.

Many say that walking a labyrinth calms the body and mind. It can be used as a grounding and problem-solving tool and as a stress reducer. The alternating left/right, clockwise/counterclockwise directions of the labyrinth path can create a balancing, relaxing, yet vitalizing motion. The labyrinth can be used as a walking contemplative or prayer path, a centering prayer, a body blessing. Some people dance, sing, drum in labyrinths. The labyrinth is a two-way path, so we might meet others coming or going. Just like in life, do what feels natural and respect self, others and the site.

The walk can also be a shared journey, which can unify vision and promote community involvement. Communities are using the labyrinth as a tool to foster unity by inviting everyone to walk the path together, as a symbolic act of community cooperation to bring people together on "common ground." A community could address, commemorate, or celebrate an event or day like New Year's Eve Walks.

Indoor, outdoor labyrinth have been created with various materials and used in a variety of public, private and religious settings. Labyrinths are shared with different faith groups and can be used for weddings, baptisms, communion services. Other settings include schools, camps, retreat centers, recovery meetings, hospitals, mental health centers, shelters, city parks, gardens, museums, spas, memorials, mental health centers, prisons, convents, conferences, and columbarium.

The labyrinth can connect us to an ever-expanding global consciousness—it is a synthesis of every consciousness-raising movement for which I have been involved: the Human Potential Movement, Peace, Civil Rights, Environment, Women's Rights, Human Rights, Women Spirituality, and Indigenous People's Rights. None of us travels alone—we are an interconnected and interdependent family. At the eye, heart, hand, and ground level, we connect individually and collectively, as pilgrims on a path.

(continued on page 24)



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Martha Wood and Mellanie Tuttle of the Rhododendron Garden Club recently taught Moon Lake after-school students how to determine the age of a variety of types of trees. This red oak, which anchors the children's play area, was calculated to be 220 years old (born circa 1790)! L to R: Cade Hawkins, Savanna Shannon, Nathan Hudgins, Kenya Heinrich, America Silvestri, Ricky Hawkins, Isaac Crow

Cloudland/Menlo News by Pat Johnson

Cloudland 5K Fun Run, Barbecue & Yard Sale

We at Cloudland Community Park would like to say a huge THANK YOU to everyone who helped make our 4th Annual Star-Spangled 5K Fun Run a success! We are so thankful for all of the sponsors, volunteers, and participants who helped with this event.

Labor Day Gospel Fest

The Cloudland Volunteer Fire Department is sponsoring a Gospel Fest on Labor Day, September 2, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Eastern time at Cloudland Community Park. There will be gospel singing, open mic gospel music, and Bobby Cavin's famous barbecue. All sound equipment will be provided. Barbecue plates will be \$10. All proceeds will benefit the Fire Department in completing construction of the new building on Highway 157.

Burning Leaf Festival

Cloudland Community Park's annual Burning Leaf Festival will be held on Saturday, October 26, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Eastern time. There will be vendors, food and live music. Come join us for a fun time.

Cloudland Neighborhood Watch Meeting

The meeting was held on July 26 at 6 p.m. at Cloudland Community Park. It was sponsored by Cloudland Volunteer Fire Department and Cloudland Community Park. There were approximately 38 people in attendance. Josh Powell from Chattooga County law enforcement and Josh Summerford from Cherokee County presented a film on Neighborhood Watch Programs and answered questions. The main

takeaway was for everyone to keep their eyes open and report any strange or unusual activity. Call 911 in case of an emergency or, for non-emergencies, call 706-857-0750.

Menlo Bake and Yard Sale September 13 & 14

Menlo Housing Authority is sponsoring their yard and bake sale on Friday and Saturday, September 13 and 14. It will be located at Menlo's Lawrence Center from 8 a.m. until 1 p.m. Eastern time. Anyone interested in participating should bring their sale items or baked goods to the Lawrence Center on the day of the sale. All proceeds go to supporting the Housing Authority programs, which include the Veterans Marker Program and the Reading Buddies Program.

Menlo's Reading Buddies Program begins September 19 at 9:30 EDT

Reading Buddies is a program sponsored by the Menlo School and the Menlo Housing Authority. Menlo students are paired with volunteers from the Menlo Community. They meet once a month at the Lawrence Center in Menlo. Each month they select a book for them both to read. The books are supplied by Menlo School. Both students and volunteers love reading and discussing their books and getting to know each other. This year, Reading Buddies begins on September 19 at the Lawrence Center at 9:30 a.m. Eastern time and will continue every third Thursday for the rest of the school year. This year, there will be 46 fifth-graders from Menlo School. More volunteers are needed. Anyone interested should contact Glenda Hamilton at 706-862-2240 or email menlohousing@windstream.net.

Labyrinths (continued from page 23)

To me, the walk into Manitou Cave, for which I am the steward, is another pilgrimage journey. Manitou, an Ojibwe word which means "spirit," is the former ancient sacred ceremonial site for the Cherokee, who lived in this region before their forced removal on the Trail of Tears. Instead of walking a labyrinth on land, in the cave we walk into the heart and womb of Mother Earth and back out again on the same path. We can remember who we are by connecting to ourselves, to the earth and to each other.

The best way I have learned about the labyrinth journey is walking one regularly. My intention is to continue to align myself with the vision of my heart and spiritual path, walk the talk, and walk the walk. I hope to meet you on the Path soon.

Annette F. Reynolds, MPS, RN, ATR-BC, is the founder, director and steward of Manitou Cave of Alabama (manitoucaveofal.org), founder of The Labyrinth Project of Alabama, a certified Veriditas labyrinth facilitator (veriditas.org), and a founding member of The Labyrinth Society (labyrinthociety.org).



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River Voice by Bill Shugart

Hello, River Family! It's another day in paradise. As I am reflecting on the incredible summer that is fading fast, I feel really encouraged about the condition of Little River. At the end of August, SwimGuide season came

to a close. Over 15 weeks, we collected 172 water samples at 11 strategic points each week throughout the Little River Watershed. We do all of this to help keep you aware of the water quality and reinforce the fact that Little River is an amazing place to explore and enjoy.

Let's recap... Y'all, June was WET! It seemed like we stayed drenched the first four weeks of water testing. This wasn't a bad thing. (Personally, I loved it.) Because of the rain, we were able to observe stormwater runoff and how it is linked to higher *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*) levels. We found that higher *E. coli* levels usually returned to safe levels within 24 to 48 hours after a rain event. We also found that cloudy water usually had higher *E. coli* levels. Out of all 172 *E. coli* tests, only seven were dangerously high; nine were moderately high. That means, overall, Little River Looks Really Good!

July and August warmed up and dried up. My wife, Angie, and I love to go testing together, but sometimes work pulls us in separate directions. I caught myself hurrying through the testing day to see how efficiently and accurately I could perform the routine. As the temperature got hotter, that approach lacked the same fun appeal. So, I got my youngest daughter, Ellie, to go with me. She was a great help and great company. We could not, not have some fun too, so Ellie and I took the opportunity to cool off in the water at Martha's Falls and the Canyon Mouth.

If you haven't visited these areas, they are absolutely awesome places to swim. An annual pass to Canyon Mouth is \$35 and really worth it. The NPS folks are doing a great job with the park and we proudly support them.

Clean Water calls for a celebration! Starting 5 p.m. on Friday, August 30, at Roadside-Que in Fort Payne, Justin and the gang will have a band on the back porch. Come on and throw down with your river family. Roadside will donate a portion of beer sales from the night to LRWK. We hope you will come out and Raise A Glass to Little River. Cheers!

Another incredible opportunity we had this summer was to be a part of the Southern Exposure Film Fellowship. "Something About Little River" was produced and directed in Mentone this summer by an emerging filmmaker, Jeb Brackner. The short documentary film tells authentic, engaging stories about Little River and the people who cherish it. This film not only highlights our incredible waterway but will also help with our Wild & Scenic Campaign. Alabama Rivers Alliance will premiere the Southern Exposure films on September 12 at Altamont School in Birmingham and Little River Waterkeeper will host a free screening on Thursday, September 26, at the JSU Canyon Center at 6 p.m. We hope that everyone in the community will come out and support this exciting event. For more information about Southern Exposure Films, visit southnexposurefilms.org.

The Little River Waterkeeper organization held its annual board retreat last month on the river in Mentone. We completed work on a strategic plan for the next three years. Martha Hunter with the Alabama Rivers Alliance facilitated the two-day meeting and did an excellent job of guiding us through the process. We remembered where we have been as an organization and set clear goals for where we are going. We had great food, laughed a bunch, and—this goes without saying—we had a

cool-down swim in Little River. The result from planning will bring about some positive changes in the organization. Our goal to evolve Little River Waterkeeper into a stand-alone organization will reflect our mission to foster and protect the pristine resource of Little River through education, awareness, and monitoring. Another goal high on our agenda is to nominate Little River for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic River system. This is an extraordinary opportunity for Little River and our area. Our tests have proven that Little River has had GREAT water quality for the last several years and confirms that your Little River is one of the cleanest rivers in the water rich state of Alabama. We are excited to launch this campaign with our partners at Alabama River Alliance.

Our last Full Moon Kayaking Adventure of the season will be on Saturday, September 14, from 7–10 p.m. This is a fun and easy event, with great views of the rising moon. We'll launch on beautiful Lake Lahusage just before dark and paddle out to the old washed-out dam and talk about the days gone by. Experiences like these make a lasting impact on participants. The evening adventure is a \$40 donation that includes your sit-on-top kayak rental. Spaces are limited. Send Angie an email at angie@oneworldadventureco.org and let her know you want to join the fun!

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

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

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Biddle Home (continued from page 7)

Birmingham in 1915 at the Sloss Company's North Birmingham furnace. He was on his way home in a jitney bus (an old-fashioned taxicab) when it was struck by a train that was carrying molten iron slag. "The 'hot pot,' as we called it, turned over and killed him," Jacqueline explained. "My grandmother took to her bed. That's what women did in those days." Alice's health declined and she remained bedridden for the next 10 years, until she died at the Biddle farm in 1926 at the age of 62.

Jack had hired Miss Elsie Johnson (born in 1899) to care for Alice and the farm. Elsie lived in the log cabin on the property, and after Alice died, she stayed on to continue helping on the farm. "Back then, it didn't look too good for a younger woman to live in the home of an older man," explained Jacqueline, "so in 1927, she and Jack married." They had a child in 1935 and named her Mary Ann. Three years later, Jack died in his Mentone home at the age of 76, with his granddaughter Jacqueline, who he called "Bootsie" due to her love of dance, by his side.

Neighbor Dianne Lowe Kuehl recalls that Mary Ann, who was about 10 years older, taught her how to swim in Little River. "We'd walk up to the rock by the Berry Patch to swim, and then Mary Ann would swim by herself back to the farm. As a young girl, I was terribly impressed by that," she said with a chuckle.



The property's 100-year-old log cabin

One for the cat, one for the bucket, one for me. My sister would find arrowheads by the dozens, all the time, down by the rock wall on the road."

George died in 1958, and Elsie died in 1989. She is buried in Little River Cemetery, where her Johnson relatives are also buried.

Mary Ann inherited the home, and she and her husband Earl Lucas shared their time between their homes in Birmingham and Mentone. "Mary Ann was a nurse," explained Dianne Kuehl. "She kept her pony, Tinker, on the farm. Tinker suffered from seizures, so Mary Ann would drive up from Birmingham to prepare medication by hand. She loved that pony."

After Earl died, the house became too much for Mary Ann to handle maintaining on her own, and it fell to some level of disrepair. In 2012, Jacqueline bought the home from her, and Jill and her husband David attended to many of the renovations needed. In 2015, the family realized that tending to the home repairs on the weekends was unsustainable and they reluctantly put the house on the market. Then, to circle around, in walked the Bookers.

David Booker has personally done most of the renovation work during the past three years, bringing the house back to life. He installed 32 structural piers and replaced all floor girders and joists. He learned the needed skills when he took a class on being a general contractor at their local community college when he and Jennifer were ready to buy their first house. Since then, they've been "moving around, buying houses and restoring them," he said. "This was the pinnacle of our house restoration career."

"The 1910 piers were rectangular cut stones stacked

on top of each other and sitting on the ground without any footings or mortar to hold them together," David said. "The girders that sat on top of the stone piers spanned too much length, according to current code. They were also weakened by significant termite damage. The floors moved when you walked on them, kind of like a stiff trampoline!" He believes the restoration is now about 90% done. "The last three years have been a lot of work and no play," he said. "But the results have definitely been worth it. We love it here."

As our afternoon visit wound down, Jacqueline noticed that

on the coffee table lay a copy of August's *Groundhog*, which featured Elizabeth Jones Romans on the cover. Jacqueline fondly relayed that when she was a girl, she enjoyed walking down the river lane with her father to visit Hardy Jones and his daughter, Elizabeth. "We were the same age, and we enjoyed each other's company so much. We'd spend our time sitting and talking on the front porch of the Jones home."

The Bookers have developed an enduring friendship with Jacqueline and Jill, who are pleased that the family home is being so well cared for. Now dubbed Little River Orchard, the home and property will be on the Little River Arts Council's annual Home Tour on October 26 and 27; see page 6 for details.



L to R: David and Jennifer Booker, Jill Porter Gray, and Jacqueline Biddle Porter

Jack left the farm to Elsie, so she would have somewhere to call home in her older years. In 1940, she married George Barr, who, with a twist perhaps reminiscent of an early 20th-century novel, had been the husband of Jack and Alice's eldest daughter, Edith, who passed away in 1912.

George and Elsie lived happily for many years while taking care of the farm. "I loved coming up from the city as a child," said Jill. "Elsie taught me how to milk the cows. They'd line right up. I loved it.

Jack wasn't the only Biddle who grew to love Mentone. His older brother, Jim, had moved from Birmingham to Mentone, where he died in 1932. Another older brother, Joe, had also emigrated from England after serving as a captain in the British Army. Trained as an engineer, he spent time prospecting in Alaska during the Klondike Gold Rush, and moved to Mentone about 1906. He was recognized as a progressive farmer and, like David Booker, advocated vertical farming (see Little River Orchard, on page 7). Joe was a close friend of Col. Milford Howard's and considered to be the colonel's favorite craftsman. He helped build New Union School in Mentone, as well as Alpine Lodge and the dam and huge overshot water wheel at Alpine. While roofing the lodge, he fell from the roof and died as a result of his injuries in 1926. He is buried at Holly Springs Cemetery in Mentone.



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Confessions of a Lapsed Recycler

by Tobey Miller

I consider myself a staunch environmentalist. I've been active in environmental battles for most of my adult life. When recycling became a major issue, I was out there with my banner preaching against the curse of our American habit of Make It, Use It, then Throw It Away. I've made posters and presented lectures on the value of matching nature's circular, let-nothing-go-to-waste process. So, imagine my shame when I realized that I had become complacent about the value of recycling.

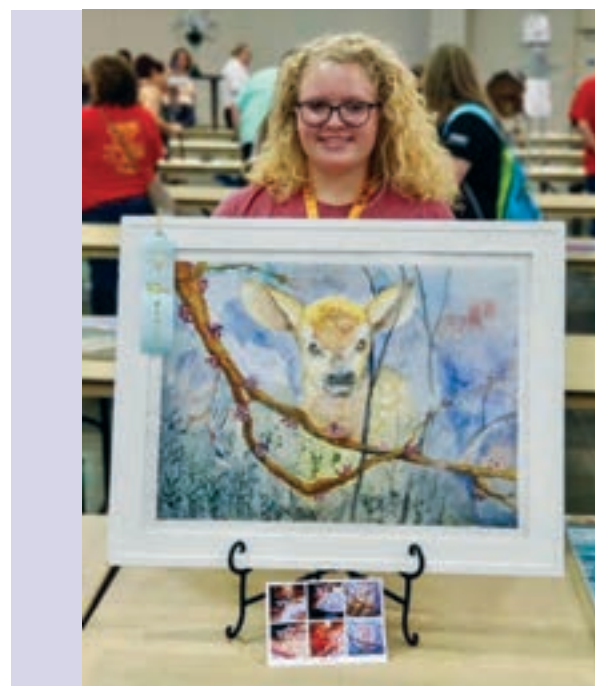
I can make excuses. After all, I moved here from a city where my recyclables were picked up at the curb. What? You mean I must take my recyclables to a recycling center 10 miles away?!? That could take me as much as half an hour a month! But suffering soul that I am, I did it. The only problem was that, over time, I was recycling less and less and not really giving much thought to the Reuse, Recycle, Reduce mantra. And I wasn't staying current with what is recyclable at our local recycling center. And I was way behind the times regarding the effect of plastics in our landfills and our lives.

It was clearly time to revive my environmental spirit and Think Globally, Act Locally. I learned what was currently recyclable at the Fort Payne Recycling Center. I learned that the center is clean,

well-organized, open 24/7, and it accepts a lot more items than one might think. I talked with the manager of the center, Theresa Stone, and found her to be knowledgeable, helpful, and dedicated to recycling. I studied the plastic recycle resin codes and learned why they are so important. With a little bit of research and a lot of helpful hints from Theresa and from websites like Earth911.com, I have been able to reduce my household waste stream by more than half.

So, once again, I'll raise my environmental banner and ask that you search your own recycling soul. Do you know what is recyclable locally right now? Do you know whether you can put that oil-stained pizza box into the cardboard bin? Do you know whether the recycling center now takes wide-mouthed plastic bottles? Do you know how to tell whether the plastic bottle cap can be recycled with the bottle? Are you unconsciously throwing away things that could be recycled? And when it comes to plastics, are there better choices than recycling?

Come to Moon Lake Community Library on Saturday, September 14, at 12:30 p.m. and I'll answer these questions and more. You'll learn some valuable information and laugh while you're doing it (think "recycling fashion show"). And you'll be doing the yourself and the earth a favor.



Ellie Cox displays her original watercolor painting on Oklahoma City.

Congratulations Ellie Cox!

Ellie Cox, who lives in Mentone and is a sophomore at Valley Head High School, earned first place in painting at the state-level Beta Convention last spring. Through the generosity of family, friends, and the community, she was able to travel to Oklahoma City, OK, this summer to compete at the national level. This was her third time to compete at nationals. Ellie earned 10th place. She was able to share this experience with her younger sister, who also placed in painting but at the Junior level. Ellie said it was an honor to represent her state, her community, her school, and her family.



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