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THE GROUNDHOG

Mentone, Valley Head, Hammondville, Menlo, Cloudland
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Volume 37, No. 1

"Neighborly News from the Heart of Lookout Mountain"

January 2018

Bridging Nature, Art and Science

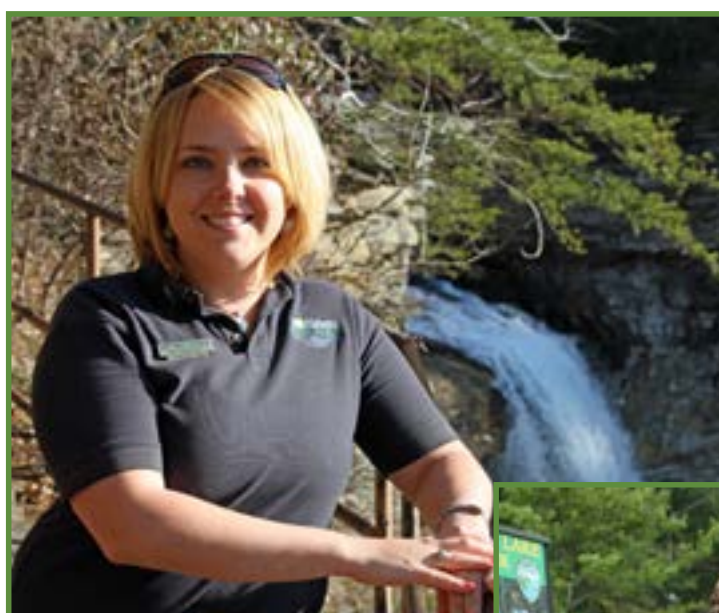
A Profile of DeSoto State Park Naturalist Brittney Hughes

by Kelly Leavitt

Some of our state's most beautiful woods and waterways are situated within DeSoto State Park's 3,502 acres, and those who live in our area are fortunate to call it their backyard. Boasting scenic waterfalls, an abundance of native wildflowers, and 30 miles of hiking and biking trails, this park is popular among both traveling campers and local neighbors.

Dedicated on May 24, 1939, DeSoto was the fifth state park to be established by the state of Alabama. The last 78 years have seen many changes within the park, and Park Naturalist Brittney Hughes is playing an important part in the park's continuing evolution.

Brittney was raised on Lookout Mountain near Noccalula Falls by a family who loves the outdoors. After her younger brother joined Cub Scouts, her mother became very involved in Boy Scouts and they spent much family time at Camp Comer (where Brittney met her husband, Josh, who is the park's assistant superintendent). "I am told my first visit to DeSoto was when I was three months old. I camped a lot with my parents



Above: Park Naturalist Brittney Hughes

Right: Brittney assisting with the "Great Horned Owl: Bird of Prey" program



and my grandparents in the park, as well as in the Smokies," she said.

She eventually went to college in Birmingham and majored in ornamental horticulture. She found a job she enjoyed during college, but the stresses of city life drove her back to Lookout Mountain. Former park superintendent Tim Whitehead asked Brittney to apply for the open position of park naturalist, and she's glad he did. She began her tenure on May 5, 2005.

According to the State of Alabama's Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Brittney's role as park naturalist calls

for "the interpretation of the biological, geological, scenic and historical features of DeSoto State Park". This fairly broad job description has allowed Brittney to explore creative ways to share the wonders of the park with our local community and with thousands of nature

(cont'd on page 23)



MAPA President Anna Mae Horn presents \$5,000 grant to MERF Executive Director Sarah Wilcox and MERF Board Chairperson Kristen Emory.

NEIGHBOR Helping NEIGHBOR: MAPA Gives Grant to Initiate MERF Fundraiser

by Anna Mae Horn

For 24 years, the Mentone Educational Resource Foundation (MERF) has strengthened the Mentone community by reaching out to a wide variety of the population. More specifically, MERF's mission is "to enrich the learning and living of the community by identifying needs and coordinating resources."

MERF provides tutoring, fine arts, and field trips for Moon Lake students; awards scholarships to teens and adults; sponsors

teacher workshops, and organizes social lunches for senior citizens, among other services. The MERF Community House has been a large part of these programs.

Recently, the MERF board was looking to renovate the building to better fit their needs and discovered that the foundation under the MERF house was in major need of repair. They reached out to the Mentone Area Preservation Association (MAPA), completed a grant

(cont'd on page 5)

THE GROUNDHOG

P. O. Box 387
Mentone, AL 35984

The Groundhog is published monthly by the Mentone Area Preservation Association (MAPA). It was first conceived on Groundhog Day, 1982, and organized April 5, 1982, for the purpose of preserving and protecting the heritage, natural environment and other unique qualities of life in the Mentone area, and is chartered as a 501(c)3 non-profit corporation.



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MENTONE MATTERS

by Mayor Rob Hammond



Senator Steve Livingston contacted me last week with some good news for Mentone. The town will receive a Community Development Block Grant for \$335,322 to repair the failing water lines on Cutler Avenue

and West River Road. The town's match will be \$37,259, which the water department will fund. This is the second time the town has applied for a grant for this project. Thanks to Lucas Blankenship of TARCOG for preparing the application and steering it through the process. Thanks to Ladd Environmental for preparing the engineering report and to Thad Heinrich of Mentone Water Works for his work in preparing the application.

The bid has been let for constructing the bridge replacement over the West Fork of Little River in Mentone. The low bid was \$5,714,487.41 by Wright Brothers Construction Company of Charleston, TN. It was recommended that this bid be awarded, and it is awaiting final approval by Transportation Director John Cooper.

Letter From The Editor

The new year...the quintessential time for review and renewal. This world is unceasingly amazing to me, with its sheer diversity of cultures, beliefs, and traditions. Did you know that the

Kutchi people of India begin their new year with the beginning of the rainy season? Some begin their new year with the winter solstice, and some the vernal equinox. Others begin their new year based on the astrological position of the planets. Historically, there has been an amazing array of "new year" dates.

Since the 16th century, western culture has traditionally begun the new year with the calendar year, on January 1. In our culture, the tradition of making New Year's resolutions doesn't seem to be as popular as it once was, presumably because people have wised up to the relative ineffectiveness of such fleeting intentions, which too often reflect our immediate wishes, rather than our most heartfelt commitments. What if, rather than continuing to burden the new year with promises of change, we truly do the work that effectively brings it on?

What if we make deeply seated pledges to change, and then honor our personal responsibility to follow through? Granted, sometimes we need reminding, in spite of our good intentions, because all too often we forget what it is we really want. We fall back into patterns. We fall back into comfort.

As editor, I have the privilege of access to thirty-plus years' worth of past Groundhog issues. So, while I haven't lived in Mentone during all those years, I can learn about the past. I can see what's endured to the present. And I can be inspired by the devoted efforts of countless Mentonians who, over the last 134 years, have (or purposefully haven't) effected change. The more I learn about Mentone's history, the more I know

that its history is the key to its future.

Just as I am amazed by the diversity of the world, I am often amazed by the diversity of our community. In this tiny town, we have folks who were born and raised here, folks who live here because their ancestors did, folks who have moved here and found ways to make a living, folks who spend weekends at their vacation homes, and folks who have chosen to retire here. I often muse about how, in many ways, we are a community of hermits, since so many of us love nothing more than spending time in our homes, and on our land. An odd mix comes into play, since we are visited by countless tourists who are drawn to our area's peacefulness and natural beauty.

Most of us who live here have made a conscious decision to be here, for whatever the reason. It's this commonality that forges rich community. But, not all of us want change to occur within our town. Or, we want increments of change. Some, however, wish for significant change. It's no different from our own personal desires for change—some are major, heartfelt, abiding shifts; some are more fleeting; some never happen.

My New Year's wish for Mentone and the extraordinary people who live here is that, as a community, we continue to find ways to progress the discussion about effectual change. What do we really want? What will most benefit the lives of our residents, especially the children...our future? How will our deepest resolve manifest? I encourage us all to join together in this important, continuing conversation. Happy New Year!

Kelly Leavitt

**Have a Letter to the Editor
or a story idea?
Send it to
The Groundhog
at groundhognews@yahoo.com.**



MAPA NEWS

by Anna Mae Horn

Happy New Year from MAPA! We are excited about all the possibilities a new year can bring—new ways to fulfill our mission, new projects, and new members!

In December, MAPA granted money to two local organizations with big plans for 2018. Mentone Scout Pack 106 was given a \$1,000 grant so that younger Cub Scouts can now be a part of the pack. MERF has big plans for repairing the foundation of the MERF house and possibly doing some inside renovation. MAPA helped them start that fundraiser with an initial grant of \$5,000 and a pledge of matching an additional \$5,000.

MAPA has a fresh project for the new year as well. You will now be able to purchase a treasured book that is filled with Mentone history at several places in the area. Over 30 years ago,

MAPA published a book titled “MENTONE, ALABAMA: A History”, written by Zora Shay Strayhorn.

It is filled with local history, geographical information, and a center section of photos. Mrs. Strayhorn researched extensively to ensure the publication's integrity. She has information (accurate through 1986) about the camps, churches, and local personalities. It also includes facts such as a listing of postmasters and the founding of the DeSoto Rescue Squad in 1962 by about two dozen men. Have you heard about the bear that went to the church in Valley Head? (Hint: read page 10.)

For all the details on locations where you can buy the book (\$15), visit our website at mapaMentone.com. MAPA holds open meetings the first Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m. at Moon Lake Community Library, where you can also purchase a copy of Zora Strayhorn's book. Join us for a meeting sometime and have a very happy year!

The purpose of the Mentone Area Preservation Association is to preserve and protect the heritage, natural environment, and other unique qualities of life in the Mentone area for current and future generations.

Mrs. Horn is the current president of MAPA.

WELL, HERE WE GO!



by
Charlotte
Gentry

Here it is, the new year. Old man winter has dug in his toes and does his usual cold, warm, cold, warm dance with us here in the mountains. Holiday decorations are stored away and tax season looms ahead like a dark cloud. Resolutions have been made (and many have already been laid aside) and it's time to get to work.

The Mentone Business Association's December meeting at the Mentone Inn was a combination of fellowship and a planning session. We had a very good crowd (including some who had never attended a meeting and others who actually had no idea there even was an MBA until they were invited to the meeting by friends). There was discussion about whether or not the association is even relevant. We believe it is.

What is the MBA, anyway? The short answer is, it's something like a chamber of commerce. Our goal is to help promote business and to help

those businesses that already exist. How do we do that? That is the big question. Businesses in the Mentone area are small “mom and pop” shops and many are open on weekends only. In the winter, some are not open at all.

Is there a need for the MBA? That is another big question. We don't have a crystal ball to see the future, but we have an expectation that Mentone's economy is on the upswing. There are folks who are looking to open new businesses here. Having a grass-roots, established business association seems like a wise idea. We can be a viable resource for the economic future in our area.

Our association has potential. It can be strong and vital. That is possible only if we have active members who consider it worthwhile to see strong, growing, thriving businesses in Mentone and the neighboring communities. Business owners, especially, should consider being a part of the MBA. We also welcome those who are simply a part of the community and interested in the business of Mentone.

We have this wintertime lull to plan, get creative, put our heads together and then implement our ideas as opportunities arise in this new year. You are invited to join us for our January meeting at the Green Leaf Grill on Monday, January 8, at 6 p.m.

Get to know us by visiting our Facebook page. We have also created a Mentone Business Association Facebook “Group” where folks



Become a MAPA
Member Today!
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Individuals - \$20 a year
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can give and get information about goods and services in our area. A list of “Daily Openings” is available on the web at MentoneBusiness.com. There are no dues or fees to belong to MBA and we welcome all business owners and interested folks to join.



by Barb Stoll

A Wonderful New Year!

Happy New Year from your Community Library, everyone. I hope everyone had a great holiday season full of good cheer and lots of goodies. Now that winter's frigid days are upon us, it means time for hunkering down with a good book or movie. Here are some of the newest selections we have for you at your Community Library this month.

BOOKS

The Whispering Room



This new novel from bestselling author Dean Koontz has Jane Hawk, fiction's most relentless, resourceful, stunning new heroine, continuing her battle against a murderous conspiracy in this riveting sequel to *The Silent Corner*. Driven by love for her lost husband and by fear for the five-year-old

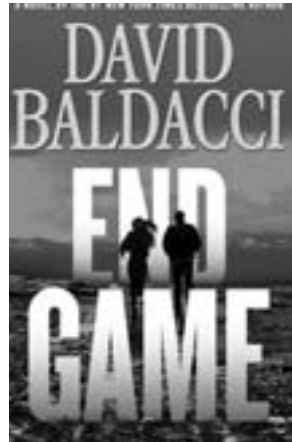
son she has sent into hiding, Jane has become an unstoppable predator. Those she is hunting will have nowhere to run when her shadow falls across them.

Hardcore Twenty-Four

This latest Stephanie Plum novel from author Janet Evanovich is sure to please. Brain-eating zombies, headless corpses, and a wayward fifty-pound boa constrictor named Ethel—yeah, it's been a pretty routine week for Jersey bounty hunter Stephanie Plum.



End Game



Author David Baldacci returns with his most explosive thriller yet. Jessica Reel and Will Robie are two of the most lethal people alive. They're the ones the government calls in when the utmost secrecy is required to take out those who plot violence and mass destruction against the United States. Now their handler, Blue Man, is missing. And when Will and Jessica find themselves up against an adversary with superior firepower and a home-court advantage, they'll be lucky if they make it out alive, with or without Blue Man.

D V D s

Baby Driver



Baby (Ansel Elgort), a talented young getaway driver, uses the beat of his personal soundtrack to be the best in the game. When he meets the girl of his dreams (Lily James), Baby sees a chance to ditch his criminal life and make a clean getaway. But after being coerced into

working for a criminal boss (Kevin Spacey), he must face the music. Rated R

Spider-Man: Homecoming

A young Peter Parker/Spider-Man (Tom Holland) begins to navigate his newfound identity as the web-clinging super hero. Peter returns home, where he lives with his Aunt May (Marisa Tomei), under the watchful eye of his mentor Tony Stark (Robert Downey, Jr.). But when the Vulture (Michael Keaton) emerges as a new villain, everything that Peter holds most important will be threatened. Rated PG-13



The Hitman's Bodyguard



Ryan Reynolds and Samuel L. Jackson star as an elite bodyguard and renowned hit man who are forced to work together. In order to succeed, they don't just have to avoid getting killed...

they have to avoid killing each other. Also starring Gary Oldman and Selma Hayek. Rated R

There it is folks, and that is not all – we have hundreds of other great books and DVDs for you to enjoy on a cold winter's night. So stop in to your Community Library, say hello, and have a look around. It's warm inside!

*Happy
New Year
-2018-*

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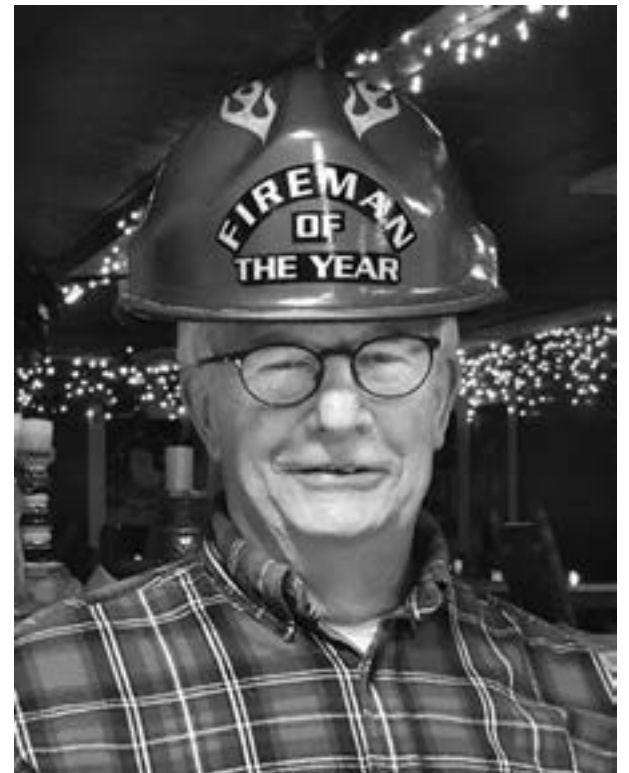
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Congratulations, Ken Trowbridge!

The votes have been counted and it is with great pleasure that the North Lookout Mountain Fire Protection District (NLMFPD) announces that Ken Trowbridge has been voted the NLMFPD 2017 Fireman of the Year. This award is presented to the one individual who best exemplifies the positive characteristics of a member of our volunteer fire department. Ken's fellow firefighters felt Ken exemplified what the fire service and protecting our community is all about and that he had gone above and beyond normal expectations during his service as a volunteer firefighter in the year since the previous award. Ken has demonstrated his commitment to the department and his community and

has contributed in a positive manner to the enrichment of the fire department and our community.

The North Lookout Mountain Fire Protection District always welcomes financial donations, which help them be prepared when the need strikes. Every little bit counts. For instance, \$30 buys a new fire hoe; \$45 buys a fire ax. Gloves and rakes cost about \$50, while chain saws and blower backpacks cost around \$500. To donate, visit northlookoutmountainfpd.com and click on the "Donate" link.



Neighbors... (cont'd from page 1)

application, and applied for help with funding.

The board of MAPA enthusiastically approved the \$5,000 grant request to assist in the MERF house project so she can continue to "open her doors to the young and the wise and her walls can remain full of joy, laughter, and learning" (paraphrased from the MERF Community House articles). The 80-year-old MERF house is the only public building which is available for public use throughout the week. MAPA and other nonprofits use it for meetings and gatherings throughout the year; it has hosted baby showers, birthday celebrations, and much more.

For MAPA, not only is this a way to help preserve an older building, but it is also a way to support a local organization that gives to the community in a variety of ways. Mentone is blessed with many nonprofit organizations,

each with its own goal, but each striving toward a common goal of making Mentone a uniquely wonderful place to grow up, retire to, and visit.

MAPA's mission includes preserving the heritage and unique qualities of life in the Mentone area. Certainly, the MERF house exudes heritage and contributes immensely to the unique characteristics of our caring community.

MAPA also expanded the grant by agreeing to match additional funds (up to another \$5,000) raised for work on the MERF house. So, when you donate to the building fund, the funds will be matched by MAPA, bringing twice as much value to the fundraising effort. The total renovation cost is estimated to be \$20,000, so every donation helps.

MAPA is happy to help MERF in its goal to enrich the community and looks forward to seeing the old Shigley homeplace stand firm for

many more years and continue to host community meetings and events.

If you value any (or all) of the ways MERF supports the community and want to help with the fundraising effort, please see the information below. MERF is in immediate need of financial donations and will be needing volunteers to help with fundraising events. Be a good neighbor and let MERF know how you can help.

Ways to support MERF

- Visit merfhouse.org for online donations.
- Mail donations to MERF, PO Box 107, Mentone, AL 35984.
- Support MERF through smile.amazon.com.
- Follow "MERF" on Facebook.



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MACC HONORS OUTSTANDING PATRONS



by Randy Grider

The Mentone Arts & Cultural Center (MACC) honored several individuals and organizations during its Christmas Appreciation Party at DeSoto Golf Course in Fort Payne on December 5. The party was sponsored by Friends of the Center, a local group of citizens who support the Center's goals. More than 70 people attended the fun-filled evening.

Each Outstanding Patron selected to be honored has made significant contributions to MACC in the past two years in either monetary or in-kind donations. Outstanding Patrons honored were: Alabama Mountain Lakes Tourist Association; Tillotson-Menlo Charitable Foundation; Alabama State Council on the Arts; Poarch Band of Creek Indians; DeKalb County Community Development Commission (Rep. Nathaniel Ledbetter, Sen. Steve Livingston, Deb Sizemore, Bill Mitchell); Dr. G. Bruce Head, III; Dr. Charles and Barbara Sennett; Carl McCleskey and Betsy Scott; Taylor Theakston; Juergen Beck; Lydia Randolph; Ann Benton; Clay Birchfield; Don David; and Sandra Lafferty. Each



Ray Padgett presents a certificate of appreciation to Sandra Burroughs of the Alabama Mountain Lakes Tourist Association.

Outstanding Patron received a certificate and a painting by artist Lydia Randolph. Presentations were made by Mentone Arts & Cultural Center executive director Randy Grider and Sandra Padgett of Friends of the Center.

Sandra Padgett invites anyone who wants to get involved to join Friends of the Center for \$25 a year. The membership fee is used to host events such as the appreciation party and future events. Friends of the Center will also receive discounts on admission to the Center when it is built, and to certain events. To join, please send a check to MACC, P.O. Box 515, Mentone, AL 35984 and note on the check it is for Friends of the Center.

Friends of the Center plans to honor wonderful people who have donated to the Center this year. We appreciate EVERYONE who has made a donation in any amount.

We also want to thank Darlene Rotch and Carolyn Nail, who decorated the banquet hall; Erica Wright and Jon Hood, who served as greeter and bartender, respectively; MACC Board President Ray Padgett and other board members who attended and helped Friends of the Center with planning the event; and Maraella Winery for donating a portion of the wine. Kudos also are extended to Corrine West and Shari Lovsey of Plowshares Bistro for catering the party. The food was beautiful and delicious. And last, but not least, Brenda Johnson for sharing her musical talents.

MACC has been busy in other areas. Sandra Lafferty, who is a nationally acclaimed actor and MACC's Artist-in-Residence for Theater and Film, and I were guests on Judy Watters' Morning Blend radio show (WLRH, 89.3 FM) in Huntsville on December 14. The Huntsville public radio host interviewed us about the Center, Sandra's role in working with area students, and her impressive career.

As we approach some important deadlines concerning construction, we need your help. Your tax-deductible donation will assure we stay on schedule. Remember, donations can be made "in honor" or "in memory" of a family, family member, distinguished citizen, civic group or other. Visit mentoneartscenter.org for more information, call me at 256-674-3366, or email me at mentoneartscenter@gmail.com.

Randy Grider is executive director of the Mentone Arts & Cultural Center.



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Little River Arts Council News

by Kelly Leavitt

Terrapin Hills Golf Club



Proposed changes to Full Membership for 2018–2019 Membership Year
(subject to reaching new membership goal of 50 members by February 1, 2018)

Full membership dues for existing and new members will be \$2460 or \$215 per month and will include cart and range at no additional cost.
Savings of \$800–1400

For new members to count toward membership goal:

- 1 New members will submit a new membership application along with a \$100 "good faith" deposit prior to February 1, 2018.
- 2 If membership goal is reached, the "good faith" deposit will be processed on February 1, 2018, and new members will be allowed to use the club during February at no additional fee. Balance of 2018–2019 membership dues are payable in a lump sum or with postdated check by March 1, 2018.
- 3 Upon submission of "good faith" deposit any time prior to February 2018, the two times per month limit for play on the golf course for non-members will be waived. Prospective members who have paid the deposit can play with payment of green fees.

Contact the club at
256-845-4624
for additional information.

The Little River Arts Council's board of directors enjoyed a cozy meeting in December at the Mentone Inn. Many thanks to Cynthia Stinson for her gracious hospitality. We recounted our accomplishments this year, took note of the strength of both our membership roll and our finances, and designated several committees as we go forth into another exciting year.

Committee members will address such tasks as: reaching out to artists and others for classes, lectures and the like; researching and applying for grants; organizing LRAC member tours of Manitou Cave; and planning our annual membership meeting, to be held in February. Many thanks to a great team who is dedicated to making sure the arts remain strong in the Little River area.

We are grateful to the Alabama State Council on the Arts for their recent award of a matching grant for the continuation of our "Music for the People" Summer Music Series. The state council especially noted their appreciation of our integration of art and music during last July's concert, when artist Lydia Randolph helped concert-goers paint pictures during the performance by "Lost in Tyme". This year, we will offer a variety of art activities during each of the four concerts planned.

Art is important. Visual art, musical art,

literary art...all of it. Art makes us think. It makes us look. It makes us listen. Sometimes it makes us laugh. Most often, it is a universal form of communication, erasing boundaries of race, nationality, language, and geography. It reveals our commonalities, as well as our distinctions. It gives us a way to personally express ourselves, and to tap the deep creative root that is within each of us. Much art lasts through the ages, allowing us to feel a connection with those who have created before our time.

The Little River Arts Council is dedicated to encouraging individual creativity and broadening community participation, appreciation, and support for the visual, performing, and literary arts. We aim to enrich the quality of life for people in Mentone and neighboring communities by raising funds for the arts; sponsoring events; providing educational opportunities; and strengthening cultural resources for the benefit of all businesses and citizens in the Mentone area. We have some intriguing public art projects in mind for 2018! Visit our web site at littleriverartscouncil.org to learn about our mission, see our calendar of events, and become a member of the Arts Council. You can also find us on Facebook. Your support makes a difference.

Kelly Leavitt is the president of the board of the Little River Arts Council.

Make a Book with Lydia Randolph

January's a great time to let this year's creative juices start to flow, and with Lydia Randolph's Book Making class, you'll have the opportunity to do just that. The Little River Arts Council will host the class on Saturday, January 11, from 1–4 p.m. at Moon Lake Community Library.

Each participant will create a unique book cover, using their own art, magazine clippings, photos...the sky's the limit. They'll decorate paper signatures to their personal taste and liking, and then learn how to use waxed thread to stitch the signatures into the cover.

These unique books can be used in a variety of ways. Perhaps you'd like to make an interesting address book for yourself, or as a gift? It could be a book of poetry, lyrics, or

inspirational quotes. Or it could be a journal to write your intentions, ideas, and dreams as we move into a new year.

Lydia is a talented teacher as well as artist, so if you feel creatively "stuck", she will help you get "un-stuck". No particular artistic ability is needed for this project. The Little River Arts Council believes that everyone's an artist!

The cost for the class is \$12 for LRAC members, or \$20 for non-members (ages 13 and older). Supplies will be provided, but feel welcome to bring your own paper, photos, drawings, old books, cuttings from magazines, ribbon, string, beads, buttons, etc. Pre-registration is required. Email info@littleriverartscouncil.org or visit littleriverartscouncil.org to register.

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Sacred Harp Singing School

by Susan Cheronos

Have you ever heard of “Sacred Harp” or “shape note” singing? Did you know that DeKalb County is the home of some of the world’s most fascinating a cappella shaped note music? If you are from this county, Sacred Harp singing is your rich heritage. You may have even had a momma or a granddaddy who sang. Sacred Harp singing is a proud history to claim and a fun tradition to join.

This form of singing harkens way back and since 1844, when the oblong tune book was first published, many local families have been singing from it. Today, especially if you know anyone related to an Ivey or a Wootten, you may encounter 6th and 7th generation singers who come from an unbroken line of folks who have kept this soul-thrilling music alive. Folks come from all over the country and from around the world to join in with these local singers to learn the old ways and to sing with joy.

You are invited to come learn more about it on Sunday, January 7, from 2-5 p.m., when a singing school will be held at Liberty Baptist Church in Henagar. David Ivey, recipient of the 2013 National Endowment for the Arts fellowship, will lead this informative, fun afternoon. Whether you have other types of musical training or not, you will be able to pick up the basics of this easy-to-learn system.

“Sacred Harp” means several related things. It’s the name of the book we sing from. It also refers to one’s voice, the “sacred harp” from God, and when we get together to sing, we love to preserve the traditions of the culture of Sacred Harp. Today we have camp and occasional singing schools such as this, the main singing school for the year.



Above: Ellee Curran of Texas leading her father Scott and Dennis George of Fyffe.



Left: Shane Wootten of the DeKalb County Commission, Hayden Arp, Rainsville EMT,

and Isaac Green encouraging young leaders to sing.

Right: Nicholas Thompson and Reba Dell Windham leading “Delight”



Back in the day, traveling singing masters would come into town and everyone would gather, maybe daily for a week or more, to learn a new style of singing or tunes from a new book—what else did folks have to do for worship and recreation and proper socializing? Many books came and went, but The Sacred Harp has endured and has never been out of print. The oldest song in our book is from 1551 and the newest is from 1991 (the last year it was revised). This “old” music is still being written to this day.

Some reasons for the longevity include the majestic beauty of the songs and the way they are sung, which is full voice, with each of the four harmonic parts reading their own staff of

music. This allows each part to be more of an independent melody, with the flexibility of the lower parts to occasionally soar above the higher parts. The music is written to be sung, not adapted.

Singers sit in what is known as “the hollow square,” facing each other in four-part harmony. It is never performed; there are no practices or auditions. Singing doesn’t cost anything. Loaner books are almost always available, although if you want to buy a book they cost \$20. One delightful feature of Sacred Harp singing is that everyone who comes is offered the opportunity to lead their own song. In general, each song is led by another member of the class so, from toddlers to

tottering elders, everyone is included. This keeps the energy fresh and insures that no singing is ever like any other.

The way children are treated within Sacred Harp makes it very

attractive for parents and grandparents to involve their kids. Children are encouraged to participate as fully as adults and are given much focus and attention when they lead. For a child to command an entire room full of people in an authentic leadership role is priceless and both boys and girls are afforded respect and opportunity.

Sacred Harp songs come in major and minor, are slow or fast, and use all the notes (but just call them something different). There are no instruments used except for the human voice. Although the key for each tune is clearly printed, a skilled pitcher will consider the class assembled, the time of day, and other factors when choosing the relative pitch of the song, placing it so the highs and lows of each song aren’t outside the capability of those assembled and hopefully just in the right spot to make each song sound

(cont’d on page 9)

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Your Golden Ticket for Exciting Things in 2018

by Kelly Leavitt

"I have found the most valuable thing in my wallet is my library card."—Laura Bush

Library cards are like golden tickets. They give us access to age-old ideas, to fanciful stories, to inspiring memoirs, and to human history. The wealth of information on the internet is astounding. When we hold a book, though, worlds are in our hands. Humans have long honored the connection between hand, head, and heart, and reading a book—on any topic—honors that connection, as well.

In fact, we're so grateful for library cards that we at Moon Lake Community Library invite you to come by during open hours this month and show your library card to receive a free book of your choice from our sale shelves. If you don't yet have a library card, it only takes a few minutes to apply. There is no charge for a card, and patrons may borrow books for two weeks and DVDs for one week. We have thousands of books on our shelves, and almost a thousand DVDs.

We're starting something new and fun in January. When you borrow a book, you'll receive a bookmark with five stars on it. When you've finished the book, you can fill in the stars to

show how well you liked the book, and then leave the bookmark in the book for the next person who's interested in it. We'll also have review cards available, so if you want to share something about a book you've read or a movie you've seen from our collection, you can post the card for others to see. We have a special section for books that have been recommended by community members.

Saturdays have been popular with folks of all ages who come to play games. The chess players are gearing up for a tournament we'll be having in the spring. One recent Saturday, a group was playing Mexican Train dominoes, and, honestly, I didn't know dominoes could be so fun. Laughter filled the air. If you enjoy games of strategy, please join us on Saturdays between 10 a.m. and noon. We have chess, backgammon, cribbage, dominoes, playing cards, and Rubikub.

Another change in 2018 is that we'll be serving organic coffee on Saturday mornings on a donation basis, with soft music playing in the background. Moon Lake Community Library is your library, and we want you to feel as comfortable there as you are at home. To that end, we plan to add a seating area for anyone who wants to sit and read, or speak quietly with a friend. We'll soon be on the search for two easy chairs and a small coffee table. We welcome any contributions to this cause, whether it be in the

form of money or actual furniture.

The library is open Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3-5 p.m. and Saturdays from 9 a.m.-12 p.m. A board policy is that a volunteer always be present when the librarian is on duty, both for safety reasons and to be able to offer assistance. Volunteers are trained to check books and movies in and out, to re-shelve them, and to answer any questions patrons may have. We appreciate our current volunteers—Brandy Barrett, Jane Faile, Dianne Gilbreath, Dianne Kuehl, Mickey Luck, Kathy Norrell, Pat Peterson, Rhea Pirch, Rita Shirley, Pat Schoen, and Dianne Tindoll—and we welcome new volunteers. (If we had enough volunteers, it's even possible the library could expand the number of days we're open.) Let us know if you're interested or have any questions.

The board welcomes ideas for any classes, lectures or workshops you might be interested in having the library host. Email moonlakecommunitylibrary@yahoo.com with your suggestions. We look forward to offering some interesting opportunities throughout the coming year. Visit our Facebook page to stay up-to-date with news and announcements.

Kelly Leavitt is the librarian at Moon Lake Community Library.

Sacred Harp Singing School (cont'd from page 8)

just right.

Sacred Harp offers a lifetime of singing and learning. Once you master the shapes and the rudiments and learn "your" part, there are still three more parts you could learn to sing, aspects of singing like accent or the poetry that you can

focus on, and so many places to travel to and people to sing with.

Several long-standing traditions have helped Sacred Harp to continue to this day. First of all, everyone is welcome and invited to authentically participate, regardless of age, gender, background, skill level or church affiliation. Because we need each other to sing (you need at least 15-20 people to approximate a Sacred Harp singing), we have made it a norm that we bring nothing to the square that might divide us. This means that when we come together, we are not our denomination or our political affiliation, but, instead, we are altos, tenors, basses and trebles who share a love for singing. This assures a good time for all.

We also take a break every hour, as this singing is athletic and will wear you out if you don't pause regularly! We generally contribute to and share a meal together. On the day of the singing school, there will be a light meal served between the singing school and an evening singing, where you get to try out your new-found knowledge with some of the world's most admired Sacred Harp singers (also known as your friends and neighbors).

During January's Singing School, you will learn the four shapes, which we call Fa, Sol, La, and Mi, and how they form the basis of a new "language" you can learn that will greatly improve your ability to sight read music over time. This system was designed to help people learn to sing together without the presence of expensive pianos or organs, which were not often available. The

school will cover the basics of the tradition and give a simple introduction to the modes of time and other rudimentary aspects of Sacred Harp. After Singing School, join us for the evening singing from 5:30-7 p.m. at Liberty Baptist Church, located at 1500 Liberty Road, Henagar, AL 35978. All are welcome.

If you can't join us this time, there are plenty more opportunities to explore Sacred Harp. Each year in Alabama, there are two sessions of Camp FASOLA, a 4-day singing school in a fun camp atmosphere. Check out more at campfasola.org. One session in Anniston at Camp Lee puts its focus on kids. Lots of fun outdoor "camp" activities are included with daily singing and instruction. The adult-focused camp is at Camp McDowell, near Jasper. Local singings within a short drive are plentiful throughout much of the year. Find out where you can catch a Sacred Harp singing at fasola.org/Singings, then click on Red Book—it's the 1991 Denson revision (partially compiled by our singing school master, David Ivey) that we mostly sing from.

Join us in Fort Payne from March through October on the last Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the Fort Payne Senior Center. Also, don't forget the annual Mentone Singing, which is held every year on the Saturday before the third Sunday in May which most years coincides with the Rhododendron Festival.

If you have questions, please call me at 706-859-1124. Hope to sing with you soon!

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What To Do Around Here!

January 2018 Community Calendar

January 4–Bouldering Adventure atop Lookout Mountain. Come experience first-hand what bouldering is all about with guides who are fun, safe and energetic. No prior climbing or bouldering experience is needed. Noon. True Adventure Sports. 256-997-9577.

January 6 & 7–Northeast Alabama Cutting Horse Show. Northeast Alabama Agri-Business Center, Rainsville. Begins Sat 9am, ends Sun 6pm. 355-902-4604.

January 6, 15, 19, 20, 22, 23, 27, 30–Rock Climbing / Rappelling Adventure Combo. Come experience first-hand what rock climbing and rappelling is all about with guides who are fun, safe and energetic. This trip includes all the gear plus basic instruction. No prior climbing experience is needed. 10am–2pm. True Adventure Sports. 256-997-9577.

January 6, 15, 19, 23, 27, 30–Rock Climbing Adventure. Come experience first-hand what rock climbing is all about with guides who are fun, safe and energetic. This trip includes all the gear plus basic instruction. No prior climbing experience is needed. 1–5pm. True Adventure Sports. 256-997-9577.

January 8, 24–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.

January 9–Advanced Rappelling Class. This 8-hour class reviews rappelling basics then teaches advanced rappelling. Learn special rigging, mechanical advantage, ascending and rope walking, alternate rappel devices, changeovers, advanced knots, safety procedures, special gear, and backup belaying. You will also do several rappels and a change over before returning to the store for the rappelling test and knot exam. \$145. True Adventure Sports. 256-997-9577.

January 10–Rescue Rappelling Class. This 8–10-hour class reviews advanced rappelling then teaches you rescue rappelling. Learn rescue rigging, rescue hauls, rescue rappel devices, rescue knots, safety procedures and protocols, rescue gear, and emergency belaying. You will also do several rappels, emergency changeovers, and staged rescues before returning to the store for the rappelling test and knot exam. \$179. True Adventure Sports. 256-997-9577.

January 11–Book Making Class with Artist Lydia Randolph. Participants will create a unique book cover, using art, magazine clippings, photos, etc., then decorate paper

signatures to their personal taste and liking and learn to use waxed thread to stitch the signatures into the cover. Hosted by Little River Arts Council. \$12/LRAC members; \$20/non-members. 1–4pm. Moon Lake Community Library. Pre-registration required. Email info@littleriverartscouncil.org to register.

January 12 & 13–West Bucking Bulls. Come and enjoy the thrill! A Rickey West Bucking Bull Production. Event will be held at the Northeast Alabama Agribusiness Center in Rainsville. Gates open at 6pm and bull riding starts at 7:30pm. \$15 Adults, Kids 6-12 \$10 and 5 & under Free. 256-638-1650.

January 13–Sculpt Your Own Flower. Have you ever wanted to actually sit at the gaffer bench and feel what it is like to shape hot glass? It's all about hands-on experience in a safe and fun atmosphere with a final product we know you will love. Minimum of 3 people and a maximum of 5 in each class. 1pm. Orbix Hot Glass. Reservations and full payment are required. \$75 per person. 256-523-3188.

January 20–Paperweight Class. This class is designed for those who really just want to see what molten glass is all about. Feel the heat, gather from the furnace, sculpt the glass into your own design. Please join us for

some in-depth discovery at Orbix Hot Glass. Reservations required. \$145 per person. 9am–1pm. 256-523-3188.

January 27 & 28–Alabama NBHA 01 Barrel Racing. The National Barrel Horse Association, headquartered in Augusta, Georgia, is the largest barrel racing organization in the world. In 1992, the NBHA revolutionized the barrel racing industry by pioneering the divisional format, which allows riders of all skill levels a chance to win money and prizes in barrel racing competition. NBHA has over 23,000 members of all ages across the United States and affiliates in twelve countries. Saturday 8am and Sunday at 9am. NE Agri-Business Center in Rainsville. 256-638-1650.

January 27–Russell Moore & Illrd Tyme Out. Russell Moore & Illrd Tyme Out will be at DeKalb Theatre! Tickets are available at Bruce's Foodland, Roger's Pawn, BBQ Place, and DeKalb Theatre. \$20 advance. \$23 at door. 7-9pm. 256-997-0396.



Ongoing Calendar

The Little River group of Alcoholics Anonymous meets every Saturday AND every Tuesday night at 6pm at St. Joseph's-on-the-Mountain Episcopal Church in Mentone. Both meetings are Open AA Discussion Meetings. Anyone who thinks they might have a problem with alcohol is welcome. Questions? Call 256-634-3060.

AL-ANON family and friends support group meets every Tuesday at 6pm at St. Joseph's-on-the-Mountain Church in Mentone. Same time and location as the AA Meeting. Come join us and help us grow!

Ballroom dancing lessons are offered at DeKalb County Council on Aging on Monday nights from 6–8pm. 256-845-8590.

Line dancing lessons are offered at DeKalb County Council on Aging on Tuesdays from 1:30–3:30pm. 256-845-8590.

Mentone Town Council meets the 2nd Tuesday every month at 6pm at Mentone Town Hall. Everyone is welcome.

MAPA Board meets on the 1st Tuesday of every month at 6pm at Moon Lake Library.

Gluten Free/Diabetic All Natural Cooking classes with Brenda Trace are held at Little River Hardware at 6pm on Wednesdays. Classes \$10.

Lookout Mountain Parkway Association meets every 3rd Wednesday of the month at 11am. Call to find out how to get involved! 256-845-3957.

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

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

Free Square Dance Lessons offered most Thursdays, 6:30pm, at Tom Bevill Center in Rainsville by Duos and Solos Dance Club. 256-638-2780.

FREE FOOD for eligible persons and families. Wednesdays, 9–11:30am. New applicants are welcome during these hours. Joint effort between St. Joseph's-on-the-Mountain Episcopal Church (Community Outreach Ministry) and the Food Bank of North Alabama.

The NLMFPD Board meets the 3rd Monday of every month at 7pm.

The Lookout Mountain Wholistic Center meets monthly on the 1st & 3rd Wednesdays at Rock Ridge Retreat Center in Valley Head at 6:30pm. Everyone is welcome!

Mentone Farmers Market is open year 'round on Saturdays from 10am–1pm.

The Mentone Business Association (MBA) meets the 2nd Monday of each month from 6–7pm.

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

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

JHH & CLC meet at 9am each Friday at the DeKalb County Council on Aging, followed by a quilt-making class that is open to the public.

Exercise Room is open at the DeKalb County Council on Aging each week, Monday through Friday (except for certain holidays), from 8am

to Noon.

Little River Arts Council meets the third Tuesday of each month at 6pm at Moon Lake Library.

The Farm at Windy Hill hosts an Open Farm Friday Market every Friday from 3–6 pm (through November). 445 Road 942, Mentone.

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

Writing anyone? Point of the Pen is a small, supportive writing group that welcomes anyone to join us for a casual sharing time with other writers interested in life stories, poetry, and fiction. Come to St. Joseph's the 1st Tuesday of each month at 1 pm. Call 256-635-8775 for details.

Chess players and others who enjoy games of strategy meet on Saturday mornings at 10am at Moon Lake Community Library. Casual games, for all ages.

*Calendar entries
are subject to change.*

MERF COMMUNITY HOUSE - JANUARY



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.

Joy to the World! What a great end to 2017 in the world of MERF. The Christmas party and lunch was a great celebration. Cute and talented elves, who may have been K-3 Moon Lake students, pranced into the Moon Lake Baptist fellowship hall and sang their hearts out. Sunglasses, jingle bells and energetic singers made a joyful noise! And Santa took time out of his busy schedule to join us and delight both the big and little kids. Thanks to John Bares and the Mentone Community Church for providing a



Clockwise: Barbara Blalock, Jim and Mary Carmichael, Richey Phillips, Doug Kiker and Elizabeth Romans all visit with Santa.



fabulous meal and Doug Kiker and Ms. Paula for entertaining us. Lunches couldn't happen without the wonderful kitchen elves who help every

Middle: Jan Wilkinson, Dean Jones, and Jim Carmichael

Right: Kathy McMunn holding granddaughter, Clementine Powell, and Sarah Wilcox

Bottom: Moon Lake Elementary elves singing for the seniors



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Nestled in the woods atop Lookout Mountain, near Mentone, Alabama, this quaint little chapel is surrounded by ferns, forest and flowers. The chapel is a scaled version of traditional Appalachian churches of days gone by. Stained glass windows filtering soft forest sunrays and soft organ music accent an ambience fitting the wedding ceremony. Inside, wooden pews will seat approximately 60 guests.

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

*To arrange your wedding or renewing of your wedding vows, call
256-634-4181*

MERF COMMUNITY HOUSE - CONT'D

MERF (cont'd from page 12)

matching grant from the Alabama State Council on the Arts, Moon Lake Elementary School's 4th, 5th, and 6th graders were able to see the Alliance Theater's production in Atlanta. Since the students had performed their own show two nights before, it was fun for them to hear the professional actors saying their lines and debating who the better performer was! The special effects were amazing, so the next Moon Lake production might have some characters flying or being raised out of the floor (just kidding, Mrs. Lance). The students were on the edge of their seats watching. Some great comments were, "I could do this every day!", "I'm going to learn how to do that!", and "It was amazing!" Thanks to Ms. Paula Easter for preparing the students well to get so much out of every experience and for putting on a fabulous school play on December 12. The trip was topped off with lunch at the Varsity ("What'll you have, what you'll have?"), with an anonymous donor treating all the students to their meals.

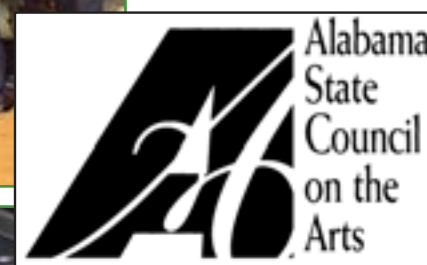
MERF is so grateful to be able to provide wonderful experiences such as the scholarships, field trips and lunches to the Moon Lake students, teachers, their families, and the community. Thank you to all who stepped up in 2017 financially and with the gift of your time to enrich the learning and living in our community. MERF could not do what it does without you. MERF is more than grateful to MAPA for seeing the importance of our beloved MERF house. MERF has received a \$5000 grant from MAPA to assist with funds to repair and renovate the house. Here's to a great New Year!

MERF: Mentone Educational Resources Foundation is a local non-profit with the mission "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 POB107 Mentone, AL 35984 or contribute online at



4th, 5th and 6th grades enjoyed "A Christmas Carol," performed by Atlanta's Alliance Theater.

Left: Ms. Paula, Mrs. Lance, Mrs. Bunch and Ms. Prestwood with the students in the lobby of the Cobb Energy Performing Arts Center.



www.merfhouse.org. Contact us at merf.mentone@gmail.com or 256-634-4673.



Above Left: Students discussing their favorite actors in the production of "A Christmas Carol".

Above Right: On the bus, headed to Atlanta and The Varsity for lunch after the play.

Cub Scouts Receive Donation from MAPA

by Anna Mae Horn

With a goal of having a den available for every child, local Cubmaster Greg Carreker is expanding local Cub Scout Pack 106. Three years ago, Weeblos

was added for fourth and fifth graders; it's been a success. Now, the pack will be available even to kindergarten students.

Boy Scouts of America does not have geographical boundaries, so anyone can join Pack 106 even though it is identified as the "Mentone" group. Additionally, beginning this month, Cub Scouts are also open to girls. This means that any child of elementary school age is welcome to join.

You have probably seen the older scouts from Boy Scout Troop 106 around town doing various service projects and parking cars at the annual MAPA festivals. The younger Weeblos assist in appropriate projects and help with school events.

Over the years, Boy Scouts have impacted the area in tremendous ways; with the completed expansion of the Cub Scout program, the next generation will as well.

Of course, an expansion of the pack creates a financial need for various materials for the members and their service projects. In December, MAPA gladly donated \$1,000 to help renew the Cub Scout program. Some scholarships are available based on need. This helps make Cub Scouts available to more children.

The Cub Scout program teaches important characteristics. Cub Scouts learn to be good citizens and assets to their community; they do fun projects, go on great adventures, and learn valuable lessons. If you have a child interested in Cub Scouts, please contact Cubmaster Greg Carreker at 256-899-2927.



Front row Left to right
Kenya Heinrich, Grayson Smith, Ben Killian

Back row
Luke Wright, Patrick Long, Aydn Heinrich, Lane Hawkins

Presenting a Musical Version of a Timeless Christmas Classic

by Paula Easter

All of a sudden, fall was here, and I had a BIG decision to make—what were my Moon Lake students going to present for their annual Christmas musical? Time was ticking...music had to be ordered, costumes figured out and found, music and lines to be learned...whew, the list was long and getting longer. I knew in my heart what I wanted (secretly) to do for several years now, but...? As I looked in the mirror I thought, “Seriously, are you really going to try and do ‘A Christmas Carol’ with your students this year?” My next thought was even more daunting; how in the world do I take these 21st century technology-driven marvels back to 19th century England? Mount Everest seemed to be looming in my future—the climb! Lucky for me, I found music that I knew would catch the “spirit” in which I wanted to share this timeless classic. Once I had indulged and bought the books and CD, there was no going back—the climb was now upon me.

Why I ever thought that there would be issues with my sweet kiddos, I don’t know. They remind me over and over again how well they can adapt to all kinds of situations (including very different styles of music) but I was kind of sneaky: the first song they learned was a very upbeat song that relayed one of the main messages of the story—“The Spirit’s Gonna Get Ya”—and it certainly did for them and Ebenezer Scrooge. A really nice surprise for me was the fact that several of my students knew the story, some had watched a movie version, and all were really excited about the performance.

There were many really funny experiences as we talked about the dialogue and vocabulary used in the script and musical. A favorite phrase for everyone

became “Bah Humbug” and it also became one of their favorite songs in the musical. I often had to remind them that Scrooge would be singing that in our play, but that during practice they could sing along, as they did to the top of their voices. Could a

teacher be more proud of her students and all they achieved with performing this play? I want to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of my Moon Lake students for an incredible job. Bravo!

A word about our Ebenezer Scrooge. I had



Above: The Cratchit Family with L To R The Ghost of Christmas Present (Hannah Golden), Ebenezer Scrooge (Logan Bloyer), Ghost of Christmas Past (Alexis Reed), Scrooge's nephew Fred (Aydin Heinrich), and Fred's wife Sarah (Kansas Lee)



The Cratchit family, L to R Anna (Sydney Ingram), Mrs. Cratchit (Gracie Pullen), Martha (Addison Lee), Bob Cratchit (Ethan Bailey), and Tiny Tim (Dallas Lee)



Left: Fred (Scrooge's nephew) and his wife Sarah (Kansas Lee)
Right: Victorian carol singer (Kenya Heinrich) and Fred (Aydin Heinrich)

the privilege of teaching Logan Bloyer here at Moon Lake, and after he graduated I continued to follow his efforts in drama at Fort Payne. He was always one of those students who was excited to be a part of the plays we did during his years here at Moon Lake. Logan was awarded

a theater performance scholarship to Northeast Community College, where he is now continuing his study of the theater and performance. It was a joy to have him return and play Ebenezer Scrooge in our Moon Lake production of “A Christmas Carol.” What I loved even more were his “pep”

talks to all of the students, and how he was always willing to answer a question, offer a suggestion, and just be a really great mentor for all of my students. I was really glad he said “Yes” when I asked him if he would be interested.

Charles Dickens’ “A Christmas Carol” has been a favorite of mine for many years. You might wonder why I would want to spend time with someone like Ebenezer Scrooge and introduce my students to this story. One reason I love to return again and again to “A Christmas Carol” is because it leaves me with one of the most powerful messages of hope in all of literature. If a miserly, mean,

sour and cruel old man like Scrooge can change, there is hope that anyone can change. If performing this musical teaches my sweet kiddos anything, it will be a message that



never grows old—that one is always capable of change, no matter what your age or what you have experienced, even in their young lives.

May 2018 be a year filled with heart-felt laughter, hope and goodness for you all.



HAPPY DAY!

January Birthdays

Jan 1 – William Blackburn
 Jan 1 – Alexis Reed
 Jan 1 – Brittany Harrison
 Jan 1 – Harold Carden
 Jan 1 – Jim Byrum
 Jan 1 – Kathy Carson
 Jan 1 – April Hurst
 Jan 1 – David Tucker
 Jan 2 – Donnie Bell
 Jan 2 – Kristen Ann Nelson
 Jan 2 – Amber Stokes
 Jan 2 – Rickey Williams
 Jan 2 – Gideon Grisham
 Jan 3 – Stacy Howard
 Jan 3 – Aiden Logan
 Jan 3 – Owen Izell
 Jan 3 – Lance Elkins
 Jan 3 – Cameron Hunt
 Jan 3 – Tressie Thomas
 Jan 4 – Ed Ringer
 Jan 5 – Aidan Dupree
 Jan 5 – Angela Chambers
 Jan 5 – Tiffany Wallace
 Jan 5 – Gage Gelfenstein
 Jan 5 – Steve Sharp
 Jan 6 – Sharron Hatfield
 Jan 6 – Laiton Keith
 Jan 6 – Amanda Dyar
 Jan 6 – Emily Guin
 Jan 6 – Ryker Chester
 Jan 7 – Kristen Emory
 Jan 7 – Madisen Smith

Jan 7 – Jace Carden
 Jan 7 – Hoyt Ashley
 Jan 7 – Ronnie Hulan
 Jan 8 – Tyler Carden
 Jan 8 – Garnett Smith
 Jan 8 – Zachary Wallace
 Jan 8 – Emily Stallings
 Jan 8 – Jerry Boatwright
 Jan 8 – Ryker Abernathy
 Jan 8 – Jessica Chester
 Jan 9 – Dallas Lee
 Jan 9 – Ellie Shugart
 Jan 9 – Kristy Sweatman
 Jan 9 – Ashley Jones
 Jan 10 – Neal Whitt
 Jan 10 – Stacey Worthey
 Jan 10 – Nancy Frost
 Jan 10 – Heath Miller
 Jan 10 – Eli Durham
 Jan 11 – Josh Shoults
 Jan 11 – Robert Green
 Jan 11 – Kandis Lawton
 Jan 11 – Preston Owen
 Jan 11 – Allen Powell
 Jan 11 – Freda Pike
 Jan 11 – Ryan Wooten
 Jan 11 – Avah Poe
 Jan 11 – Annabelle Ferguson
 Jan 12 – Beverly Henry
 Jan 12 – Aaron McKenzie
 Jan 12 – Bud Atkins
 Jan 12 – Thad Heinrich
 Jan 12 – Christina Wise
 Jan 12 – Chris Collins
 Jan 13 – Paulette Manning
 Jan 13 – Anita Johnson
 Jan 13 – Erin Dean

Jan 14 – Eric Kirby
 Jan 14 – Isabella Chaney
 Jan 14 – Larry Johnson
 Jan 14 – Emily Wheat
 Jan 15 – Joe “Dude” Brown
 Jan 15 – Anna Easler Bailey
 Jan 15 – Alice Shanklin
 Jan 16 – Wynston Keith
 Jan 16 – Trent Smith
 Jan 17 – Olivia Bowman
 Jan 17 – Jim Poe
 Jan 17 – Joseph Brown
 Jan 17 – Michael Owen
 Jan 17 – Caiden West
 Jan 17 – Naomi Chandler
 Jan 17 – Shaun Wheat
 Jan 17 – Margie Collins
 Jan 18 – Nicole Goldsmith
 Jan 18 – Bobby Blalock
 Jan 19 – Candace Perkins
 Jan 19 – Jacie O’Tinger
 Jan 19 – Judy McMahan
 Jan 19 – Olivia Elkins
 Jan 21 – Ryley Smith
 Jan 21 – Tiffany Gatlin
 Jan 22 – Kyle Carden
 Jan 22 – Anna Garrett
 Jan 22 – Rosetta McGee
 Jan 22 – Alvin Durham
 Jan 22 – Flor Chasity Battles
 Jan 23 – Jaden Turner –
 1st Birthday!
 Jan 23 – Scott Gifford
 Jan 23 – Melissa Couch
 Jan 23 – Dowe Forman
 Jan 24 – Sandy Sharp
 Jan 24 – Marysa Wigley

Jan 24 – Darrin Smith
 Jan 24 – Tommy Harrison
 Jan 24 – Lucas Elkins
 Jan 24 – Grayson Booker
 Jan 24 – Zakk Johnson
 Jan 25 – Shannon Tolbert
 Jan 25 – Sarah Wilcox
 Jan 25 – Larry Sonsil
 Jan 25 – Hudson Grider
 Jan 25 – Dennis Lewis
 Jan 26 – Seth Norman
 Jan 26 – Shane Grider
 Jan 27 – Kaie Facticeau
 Jan 27 – Jessica Heinrich
 Jan 28 – Ruth Battles
 Jan 29 – Allie Baker
 Jan 30 – Stephanie Roberts
 Jan 30 – Donna Hairel
 Jan 31 – Tyler Cooper
 Jan 31 – Bill Battles
 Jan 31 – Ashton Carpenter
 Jan 31 – Nate Bain

January Anniversaries

Jan 2 – Jim & Cynthia Connor
 Jan 4 – Raymond & Heather Evans
 Jan 10 – Tony & Cindy Tipton
 Jan 12 – Darius & Hope Turner
 Jan 13 – Kenny & Doris Chamlee
 Jan 23 – Kevin & Ashley Gifford
 Jan 24 – Taylor & Nancy Brown
 Jan 25 – Greg & Nikki Wheat
 Jan 28 – Robert & Annette Johnson
 Jan 29 – Bubba & Martha Browder

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Worship

Valley Head Baptist Church invites you to come and worship with us. On Sunday, Bible Study is at 11:00 AM & Morning Worship is at 11:00 AM; Kidz Connection is at 5:00 PM, Evening Worship at 6:00 PM. Kidz Connection & Youth meet on Wednesday from 5:00 – 6:00 PM & a snack supper is provided. On the second Wednesday of the month, there is a church wide covered dish Fellowship Meal at 6:00 PM.

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 to 18); 6:30pm Praise and Prayer time. Located at 4212 County Road 751, Valley Head. 635-1001.

Visitors are always welcome at the **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.

Wildwood Seventh Day Adventist Church, Mentone Chapter, is currently holding services in the Woodmen of the World Hall in Valley Head. All are invited to attend! Sabbath School and Song Service: 9:30-10:45AM, Worship Service 11:00-12:15. Pastor - Wilbur Atwood; Lay Pastors - James Hartley and Ryan Bunnel.

Our Lady of the Valley Catholic Church on N. Gault Avenue in Fort Payne holds Sunday mass in English at 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. in Spanish. Tuesday at 6:00 p.m. in English, Wednesday at 5:00 p.m. bilingual, Thursday at 6:00 p.m. in English, Friday at 9:00 a.m. in English and Saturday at 6:00 p.m. in bilingual.

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 1519 Smith Gap Road (County Road 85), Fort Payne. Regular Worship Services are at 10AM Sunday. Bible class or Lent/Advent services every Wednesday at 6:30PM. Steve Schrader, Pastor - 845-4314. Everyone welcome.

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.

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. God Bless You.

Grace Presbyterian Church (PCA), 5760 Gault Ave. NE, Fort Payne, AL. Sunday School 9:45AM; Sunday Worship 10:55AM. Church office: 256-845-4756.

Menlo Church of Christ invites you to attend the 10AM and 11AM services and evening services are at 5PM on Sundays and Wednesdays. Visitors are always welcome.

Mount Calvary Baptist Church, Cloudland, GA, welcomes everyone to come and take part in our church services. Sunday School at 10AM; Worship Service at 11AM, Sunday evening at 6PM, and Wednesday evening at 7PM.

DeSoto Church of Christ invites you to attend Sunday Bible Study at 10AM, Worship at 11AM, Wednesday Bible study at 5PM.

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

St. Joseph’s On-The-Mountain Episcopal Church, 21145 Scenic Highway, Mentone. Everyone welcome to 10:30AM Sunday service of Holy Eucharist. Open for daily prayer and thanksgiving. Supporting our community with outreach. Call for more information, 256-634-4476, <http://stjosephmountain.dioala.org>

Mentone United Methodist Church, 415 Cutler Avenue, Mentone, Alabama invites you to come and worship with us. Each Sunday, our Worship Service is at 11AM and Sunday School is at 10AM. Tony Gunter is the pastor. The service of Holy Communion is celebrated the first Sunday of each month, the second Sunday is Youth Sunday and Fifth Sunday is a service of music and pot-luck lunch. Bible Study Wednesdays at 6:00PM.

Moon Lake Baptist Church invites you to worship with us. Sunday School begins at 9:45AM, with classes for all ages. Morning Worship is at 11AM. The Lord’s Supper is observed on the first Sunday of September, December, March and June at the morning worship hour. Discipleship Training is at 5PM and Sunday Evening Worship at 6PM. On Wednesdays, Team Kids, Youth Bible Study, Adult Bible Study

and Prayer Meeting are all at 6:30PM. Pastor Mike Ellis

Alpine Community Church, 115 Hwy. 337, Menlo, GA. Pastor and Rev. Rodney Blaylock welcome each and everyone to worship service Sunday morning at 11AM GA time; Sunday School 10AM GA time; Wednesday night Bible Study 7PM GA time.

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

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

Mentone Church of God of Prophecy - regular service times are 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.

Mentone Community Church, 90 Summerville Rd, Mentone, AL 35984. Pastor Tim Miller; Crosswalk Sunday School K through Adult - 9:15am; Adult Worship Service - 10:30am; JC Kids Worship Service - 10:30am. Van Ministry for Children pick-up/take home, ages k-12, for all surrounding areas 8:15am. For children pick-up and drop-off van, please call Donna Bunn 706-398-0720. Wednesday small group study - 6:30pm.

Cloudland Presbyterian Church welcomes everyone to come join us for services, with Pastor Roger Kvam. Bible Study Sunday at 9AM (eastern) and Worship at 10AM (eastern).

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

New Oregon United Methodist Church: Located just off Desoto Parkway 1/4 mile south of Fischer Crossroads. We would like to 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. Address 1204 New Oregon Drive NE, Fort Payne, AL 35967. phone 256-845-7446.

The Church of God 7th Day in Hammondville located just off Hwy. 11 N. at corner of Hwy. 117 and Palmer Road. Sabbath School classes at 9:30AM and Worship Service at 11AM. Visitors are always welcome.

Gravel Hill Baptist Church, 14701 Hwy 11 South, Ft Payne, AL 35967 has Sunday School 10 AM & Worship Service at 11 AM each Sunday. All welcome! Wednesdays at 6PM we have supper and a brief devotional time together. Pastor George Moses.

Greater Vision Ministries Church of God, 38623 US HWY 11, Hammondville, AL 35989. Come as you are . . . LEAVE CHANGED! Sunday School 10 am, Sunday Worship *10:45 am, (*Nursery & Kid’s Church). MidWEEK re-charge Wednesday 6:30pm. Loving God & Serving Others. Pastor Tim Coppock. 256-601-0679.

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

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





Do you have a favorite recipe you would like to submit? We would love to share it. Mail it to us at P.O. Box 387, Mentone, AL 35984, email it to groundhognews.com, or send us a private message through facebook. We look forward to featuring our reader's recipes!

Greek Veggie Pitas

by Dowe Foreman

Freeze 1 lb. water-packed, extra-firm tofu (such as NaSoya) overnight, thaw, rinse and drain. Squeeze moisture out with hands, then place between flat-weave towels (like a flour sack) and squeeze until most of the moisture is gone. Cut into small cubes. Place in large bowl.

Add:

2 cups broccoli, cut in small pieces
1 cup red onion, thinly sliced
3 cloves garlic, finely minced

In a smaller bowl, combine:

½ cup olive oil
3 Tbs. lemon juice
1½ Tbs. sweet basil
1 Tbs. oregano
1½ tsp. salt

Mix thoroughly, then pour over salad and toss. Chill overnight.

Before serving, add:

2 cups chopped Roma tomatoes
½ can green ripe olives
½ cup crumbled Feta cheese

1 pack whole wheat pitas
Cut pitas in half, toast lightly, open pita (so it won't close as it cools) and fill with salad. Enjoy!

Dianne Kuehl served her delicious pecan cheese balls at the library's open house in December, and many asked for the recipe. Here it is!

Pecan Cheese Balls

submitted by Dianne Kuehl
Serves 18–20

12 oz. cream cheese, softened
1 cup cheddar cheese, shredded
8 slices bacon, cooked & finely chopped
1/4 cup fresh chives, finely chopped
1/3 cup pecans, finely chopped
1 tsp. garlic powder (or to taste)
1 tsp. paprika
Kosher salt
Freshly ground black pepper
Pretzel sticks

Mix softened cream cheese and cheddar cheese together with garlic powder and paprika. Season with salt and pepper. Form 1-inch balls and refrigerate until firm (about an hour).

In a shallow bowl, stir together bacon, chives and pecans. Roll cheese balls in mixture, insert a pretzel stick in each ball, and serve.

If not serving right away, loosely cover with plastic and return to fridge. Let sit at room temperature 15 minutes before serving.

Legal Beer and Wine Comes to Mentone

by Holley Midgley

This is a pop quiz. Which of the following is true:
1) In 2018, the United States will become a province of Canada, or
2) Bulgaria will become the 51st state, or
3) It is legal to serve beer and wine in Mentone's restaurants which have applied for, and received, the appropriate license.

If you picked anything but number 3, maybe you didn't read the headline of this story. It's true! Belly up to the bar friends, 'cause it is now legal to plop yourself in a seat, order a meal, and wash it down with your favorite brew or wine. In Mentone. Truly the Age of Miracles, in the view of many, has not passed from this world.

Mentone Market owner/operators Tom and Kristen Emory began serving beer (and later wine) on November 3, 2017. Depending on your perspective, that was either a day that will live in infamy, or the bright dawn on a new era. At this point, only on-premises consumption is allowed by law, but a bill which will hit the 2018 session of the Alabama Legislature would expand the regulations to permit buy-and-go beer and wine sales.

Mentone businessman Ray Padgett was the principle force behind the bill which legalized on-premises sales and consumption here. The Town of Mentone did considerable work to



The author (L) stands behind the new bar with Mentone Market co-owner Tom Emory.

make the concept a reality, and will benefit from increased tax dollars flowing from alcohol sales. The Emorys say the town avoided some of the over regulation that hampered beer and wine sales in Fort Payne.

Many will recall that the old Mentone Market burned to the ground back on the day before Thanksgiving, 2016. The long process of rebuilding was finally completed, and the Market reopened this past July with a new look, a bigger kitchen, and the prospect of serving alcohol as soon as the new rules were put into place.

Tom has been pleased with the lack of problems the new situation has created. "Just like Mentone is nice," he says, "so are the customers. They come from all walks of life, and they behave themselves. We're seeing a lot of families come in, and since we know virtually everybody here, it's comfortable. And people who used to have to drive to Fort Payne and back now know they don't have to."

Initially, there was a kind of shake down period where the Emorys had to figure out how to do this thing efficiently. That break-in period has passed and now things are running as smooth as a fine pilsner beer. How eager was the community before sales started? The store was slated to begin sales at 5:00 p.m. on November 3rd. "But by 4 o'clock," says Tom, "every bar stool was already taken."

"It's been a good, positive experience," says Kristen. "People don't just come in and order something to go and leave. Now they come in, sit down, order a meal, and socialize. It's been fun and rewarding to see that."





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REDUCED
A piece of history is found in this tiny cottage constructed entirely of stone and wood sitting quietly on the hillside in East River Park developed by Col. Milford Howard before it became Camp Alpine. \$110,000. MLS #1077206



A RARE FIND! Mentone home w/acreage & guest home! 2BR/1.5BA, wood walls, hardwood floors, new appliances, Trane CH/A system. Fisher cast iron wood stove, tankless water heaters w/city & well water. 20 acres. \$199,500. MLS #1075132.



TWO Residences on the Brow with 45 +/- acres! Rock walls, walkways and patios. Call for more details. \$495,000. MLS #815966



CRYSTAL LAKE LODGE in Mentone... Fifty breathtaking acres surround you in this one-of-a-kind property. Call today for your private tour! \$899,995. MLS #1070805



Vintage bungalow, completely remodeled, zoned Commercial/Residential w/250' on Hwy 117. Bright & sturdy 1940's-era, 3BR/1BA gem. Wood walls; period trim details. Updated with new electrical, plumbing, floors & cabinets. \$125,000. MLS #1046940.



PRIVATE MENTONE COTTAGE! You'll love this gorgeous Mentone cottage that feels like a private retreat. Hardwood & tile floors, woodburning FP, covered porches, & more! \$154,900. MLS #1072513.



MENTONE BROW HOME! 2BR/2BA brow home with tons of character! Enjoy all the extras like hardwood floors, rustic wood walls, gas log fireplace & more. Being sold furnished. Call today! \$339,000. MLS #1076700.



ENJOY SUNRISE & SUNSET VIEWS in this cozy Mentone home located on Scenic Hwy. Open family room, dining and kitchen. Call for appointment today! \$325,000. MLS #1069365



WHIPPOORWILL FARM. 2BR/2BA rock/log home w/sunroom, FP, updated kitchen. Historic barn, stable w/1BR/1BA apt. Screened sleeping cabin, garage, fenced pastures, trails, rock walls/patio, gazebo, outdoor shower, old spring house & fire pit. \$995,000. MLS#1042624



BEAUTIFUL Mountain Get-Away with gorgeous view year round. 3 bedrooms, 2 bath, shake-sided outside w/low maintenance metal roof. Deck. \$235,000 MLS#1000691.



LAKEFRONT LIVING! Custom decks & walkways to your dock on Lake Lahusage. 2BR/2BA, pine floors, gas or wood burning fp and screened porch, 2-story. 2-car garage w/apt. potential. \$227,500. MLS#654813.



SWEET LII' MENTONE HOME! Life is sweet in this two bedroom two bath home! \$109,900. MLS #1068148.



3.3 ACRES of historic property in the heart of Mentone. Starting at \$325,000. Call for details. MLS #1045206.



UNBELIEVABLE brow home on 1.95 acres. 4BR/3BA, open living/kitchen area, formal DR., numerous decks and screened porch. Many gorgeous rock formations, a detached 2-car garage/workshop and more. \$323,900. MLS#1048899.



SECLUDED MENTONE CABIN. 2BR/2BA home on 3.25 acres in West Fork Sub. Pine floors & walls, vaulted ceilings, wood burning FP, lots of windows. Lge. deck, screened porches. \$179,900. MLS#1065642.



THE HISTORIC CRAGSMERE MANOR, on 5+ acres serves as rental lodging and/or event hosting. Perfect setting for large or small groups, 6BR/4BA, Large kitchen, dining, and living area, covered pavilion. \$749,000. MLS#1066488.



WATER FRONT Vacation Home. 2BR/2BA 1-1/2 story cabin located in the Laurel Lake subdivision, Mentone. Open floor plan. Master Suite has its own entrance to a large screened in back porch that could serve as a whole new living area in pleasant months. \$174,500. MLS #1017650.



Golden Opportunity! Let the tenants pay your mortgage. 5 apartments, large retail space and storage building located on Hwy 117 just minutes from downtown Mentone. Sitting on 1.5 acres, totally fenced. Appointment only! \$187,500. MLS #1013991.



TWO-STORY Mentone cabin w/2 BR/2BA, loft, dining area & lge. living. Screened front porch, 9' ceilings, pine floors, & fresh paint! Sleeps 10 comfortably. Great rental investment. \$169,900. #1062659.



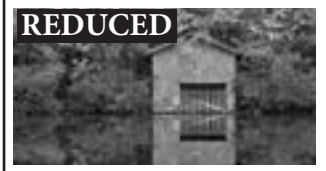
Cabin overlooking the water features pine walls & floors, vaulted 23' ceilings and fireplaces. Enjoy your own relaxing paradise w/plenty of Mountain Laurels and rocks. Built to preserve the property's natural beauty. \$459,900. MLS #1019610



LIVE & PLAY ON THE WATER! 200' of frontage on East Fork of Little River featuring 3BR 2BA, rock floors, some carpet, all appliances, WB fireplace, & storage building. Call for more details. \$239,999. MLS #902940.



BEAUTIFUL MENTONE CABIN w/2BR, 2BA, oak flooring and woodburning fireplace. Extra's include large screened porches, large walk-in closets, marble bathroom floors. \$199,900. MLS#1066473.



One of the most photographed landmarks in Ala.... The iconic "Red Boathouse" on Little River is less than 500' from Desoto Falls. One-acre w/186' on navigable part of the river. Mid-century wood cabin w/living & dining, 3BR/2BA, eat-in kitchen, rock FP, & screened porches. \$289,000. MLS #1054645.

LOTS & LAND

#656265 - 7+ WOODED ACRES in Mtn. River Estates. \$35,000.

#665968 - 1 ACRE LOT in Hidden Lake Sub. \$40,000.

#762331 - 1.02 ACRE lot in Hidden Lake Sub. \$40,000.

#1011734 - .69 ACRE wooded lot on Brush Creek.

REDUCED TO \$24,900.

#1014183 - 1.5 ACRES. Brow Lot on CR 89. \$124,900.

#1021165 - 2 ACRE LOT offering lake and brow footage. \$59,900.

#1027934 - Lot on River Lane. \$29,900.

#1034997 - Approx. 6 ACRES on middle fork of Little River. \$48,900.

#1038089 - 6.4 acres on Co. Rd. 89, Lot 8, in Mentone. \$138,000.

#1039769 - 6.32+/- waterfront building lot in Mountain River Estates! \$49,950.

#1056358 - 3.2 acres on Co. Rd. 89. \$369,000.

#1057228 - 5 acres overlooking Little River Canyon. \$69,999.

#1057429 - 4 acres in Valley View Forest. \$79,900.

#1061943 - 5 acres on Hwy 117 just before GA line. \$40,000.

#1065542 - 90 acres on Co. Rd. 89 in Mentone. \$360,000.

#1065504 - One acre on Co. Rd. 89 in Mentone.

REDUCED TO \$139,900.

#1069783 - Building lot with possible view. 2.11 acres. \$38,000.

#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.

#1072189 - Lake on The Brow, \$39,000.

#1073207 - .62 acres. \$23,500.

#1073864 - Brow Lot! .78 acres. \$109,500.

#1074480 - 5.45 acres on CR 89. \$79,500.

#1076191 - 12.10 acres mostly wooded. \$38,720.

#1076239 - Cleared & wooded 3.6 acres on Scenic Hwy. \$76,500.

#1076286 - 1.75 acre building lot in West Fork Subdivision. \$42,000.

#1076577 - Lot 6, Hunter's Ridge. \$16,900.

#1078002 - Brow view, 4.4 acres. **REDUCED TO \$125,000.**

#1078140 - 18.3 acres, unrestricted, partially

wooded! \$66,800.

#1079713 - Gorgeous lot in Mentone with .81+/- acres in Hunter's Ridge Subdivision.

#1080922 - .54 acres, Mentone Bluffs. \$59,999

#1081506 - 7 wooded acres within walking distance to DeSoto State Park. \$70,000.

#1080381 - Lot 43, Hidden Lake Subdivision. \$35,000.

#1080377 - Lot 42, Hidden Lake Subdivision. \$35,000.

#1083789 - 2.11 acres with 300' of waterfront in beautiful West Fork Subdivision. \$44,900.



Incredible Opportunity! Beautifully perched atop the West Fork of Little River in Mentone, AL, this large tract, scenic property presents a compelling opportunity to own a significant piece of paradise. Over 1,400 ft. of waterfront amidst 157 total acres. \$2,900,000. MLS #1077059.



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SAGE ADVICE: THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS



by Susan Seago

Winter is the perfect time to plan or plant a looking glass vignette. Yes, as long as the ground is not frozen, planting can be done. So, sit in your living room or another favorite spot in your home where you spend time during the cool weather months. You may have a big window, glass door, screen porch, or other much-used area from which to view the winter scene. Then, determine what kind of evergreen plants you would like to see in your "picture frame".

Do you want a fall- or winter-blooming camellia with red, pink, or white flowers? A majestic evergreen, perhaps a "Little Gem" Magnolia, looks especially pretty when snow falls. In the summer, it produces fragrant white flowers. Birds that overwinter love evergreens for nesting and shelter, especially hollies. A bird feeder placed nearby can provide food along with the holly berries. And, if you want to enjoy the outside on a sunny day, add a bench for watching the birds.

An evergreen's needles or shiny leaves can provide a variety of colors. Some are dark or light green; others are blue-green, variegated green and yellow, maybe even variegated green and white. This combination makes for an interesting assortment of textures. You might add rocks or a perennial such as the Hellebore (Lenten Rose), which blooms through early spring and looks great combined with the winter red of 'Firepower' nandina or low-growing junipers. Grasses add movement in the landscape, as well as a beautiful tan contrast to the green. To complete the scene, plant some pansies and kale or cabbage to add even more color through the winter. A good layer of mulch will help retain moisture and act as a backdrop for the plants and shrubs.

There is pleasure in watching the squirrels, deer, and birds romp in the winter air in the scenic landscape of your yard. Stay warm and enjoy the season.

Did You See What Was in the Rain?

by Sandra K. Comley

Did you see what was in the rain?
It had been there all along.
It had been there from the beginning of time.
Did you see what was in the rain?

A woman looked into a well and saw her reflection
A thousand years ago.
The water kept it-----and
Gave it back to her.

It was a raindrop when it knew the moon.
On a lake it saw the clouds.
In a storm it saw destruction and
Death on every side.

In a crowded river
It saw so much that it became gray.
Trees and moss reached out to it.
Birds mourned on its littered banks.

Snowflakes blindly whispered to each other
Then opened their eyes when they found warm earth and
Through a million pathways they scrubbed the faces of all who lived there.
The good earth smiled.

In the ocean it saw the depths of existence
And there held the memories of all it had ever known
From the rivers, lakes, rain, snow,
And the tears on all the faces.

When the sky calls it up into the clouds
It takes with it the mystery...
It never forgets the face of the woman in the well.
It travels the world with her.

It changes, it stays the same,
It marries, it separates, it learns.
It sees all and knows all.
It is in us all even though we disregard it.

When the rain came did you see the mist---ery?
Did you open your mouth and drink it in?

When the rain came did you see the Mystery?
Did you open your mouth and drink it in?



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LOTS and LAND

EASTERN BROW VIEWS, sunrises, moonrises & amazingly vast star-filled nights! Visibility on a clear day that seems to go on forever! Shinbone Valley below, Georgia mountain peaks beyond. Wooded one-acre lot in Lake on the Brow Subdivision. Build your home or getaway here where minimum size is only 1,000 sq ft. If you're dreaming of a mountain-top lot with amazing views, minutes away from the "Hippie Hole" & other scenic areas of Little River Canyon, this is may just be the place to build! Only \$87,500 (1074914)

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)

DESOTO FALLS AREA LAKE-FRONT LOT with 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! So much natural beauty, so rarely available. \$155,000 (355152)

OWNER FINANCING AVAILABLE! 2 WOODED ACRES with a tiny little rustic one-room camping cabin (no plumbing, water or septic installed). Sort of a getaway or place to stay until you're ready to build your mountain home. Restricted. \$39,700 (1034503)

READY FOR YOU TO BUILD YOUR DREAM HOME! 2.75 unrestricted acres with underground utilities, & septic tank! Just minutes from downtown Mentone, tucked quietly into the woods! \$35,000 (1054586)

BROW-FRONT LOTS WITH STUNNING SUNSET VIEWS; each offers a panorama of the valley and mountains beyond. Perfect combination of wooded and cleared, ready for you to build your Mentone mountain getaway cabin (or a rental cabin on the brow!) Located along the scenic DeSoto Pkwy, just a mile or so from downtown Mentone. Quaint split-rail fence along roadway. Lot 16 offers 0.78 acres and approximately 90' of brow frontage and is priced at \$107,500. (1055395)



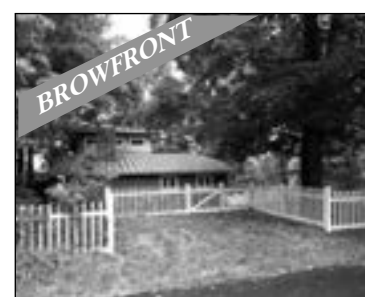
RESOLVE TO RELAX! 2BR/2BA cabin, on 3 wooded acres. All wood interior w/vaulted ceilings; stone, WB fireplace; master suite w/jetted tub & sep shower. Screened side porch, covered front porch & sweeping decks. 10x20 detached building for storage or workshop for the tinkerer. In Twin Oaks, a lightly-restricted & woodsy area with plenty of space to enjoy your down time on the mountain. \$170,000 (1083660)



CLASSIC MENTONE HOME, with approx 210' of brow frontage, nice woods, spacious gardens & walkways. 3BR/2BA, formal DR, sitting room, den & sun porches. Unfinished "grandma's attic" area with intriguing angles & nooks. Wood floors throughout. Mostly wood walls & ceilings, some sheetrock. 2.66 ac (+/-), with plenty of room for an add'l cottage to be built. \$250,000 (1074930)



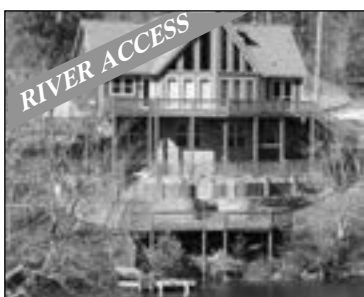
IT'S ALMOST MAGICAL! 1950s brow-front lodge, surrounded by boulders and punctuated with amazing rock work by mountain craftsmen stonemasons of yesteryear. Brow-front pool area & sun porch. Cool system w/wood floors. 3BR/2BA w/stone & masonry, WB flrce w/rock wall & raised hearth. Gorgeous kitchen! Quaint white picket fence. Near Brow Park & so close to everything Mentone. \$268,000 (1022983)



COOL MOUNTAIN BREEZES & casual elegance of an "old" downtown Mentone brow-front cottage, expanded & updated w/roof, vinyl "cool" floor, "cool" system w/wood floors. 3BR/2BA w/stone & masonry, WB flrce w/rock wall & raised hearth. Gorgeous kitchen! Quaint white picket fence. Near Brow Park & so close to everything Mentone. \$268,000 (1022983)



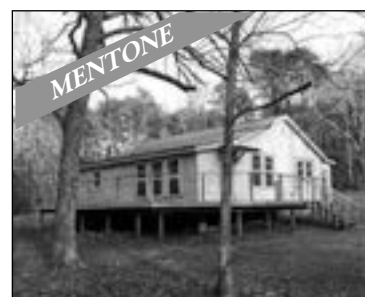
3 ACRES, 2 BARNs, 1 CREEK, plus a 2BR/1BA cottage. Land is mostly pasture, some woods. Barn w/garage area, stalls; small side fence. Fruit trees, creek. Charming stone side porch & foundation. Well & public water. Unrestricted. Sure, it needs some work, but there's a lot to offer in a small pkg such as this one, priced at only \$69,900. (1053845)



CLOSE YOUR EYES AND LISTEN TO THE WATER as it flows over the dam at Mentone's own Lake Lahusage. A rare opportunity to not only be close to hear the water, but to have a view of the falls. Open archway to a getaway with multi decks and a dock, on 3 acres (+/-). Unfinished, walkout basement for future gameroom, water toy storage or living space. Beautiful HW floors, place for every season! \$300,000 (1082197)



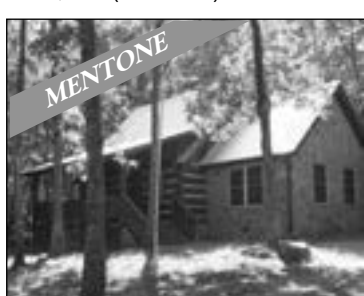
GET AWAY TO "SLEEPY HOLLOW" at Laurel Creek Lakes. The perfect place to relax, hike around on the walking paths or maybe even canoe on the lake. Charming cottage, the front porch of the cottage is a glimpse of deer or wild turkey. Inside is a vaulted living area w/huge window, wood ceilings, pine plank floors, French doors to screened porch. Great rental potential, too. \$153,900 (1082594)



NEW SIDING & PAINT! WHITE-TAIL CABIN, fresh exterior, updated interior! 2BR/2BA; on 4 lots (approx 1 acre). Living room, dining room, kitchen, bathroom. Original wood floors & granite counter. Retain all the character of yesteryear. New cabinets & appliances; new MABA; new windows, plumbing & electric; CH/A; much more. Fruit & nut trees, plenty of space for a garden spot. \$143,500 (1062364)

WANTED:
Listings! 2017 was a very good year for sales.

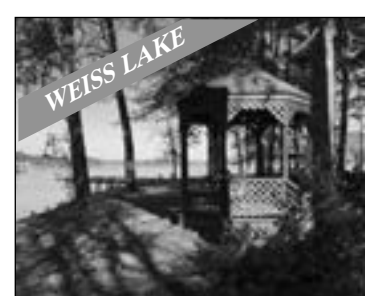
If you've been considering selling, now is the time to let us help you get your property **SOLD!**



THIS IS THE MOUNTAIN! Log & stone cabin, woodland setting, just off the DeSoto Pkwy. 14x14 great room; pine floors & ceilings; rugged beams; stone flrce in keeping room. 2BR on main level, 1BR in sleeping porch. One window air conditioning, on-peak water heater. Front porch w/swing & rockers; screened back porch; stone patio. Sweet getaway, residence or rental. Furnished! \$189,900 (1076545)

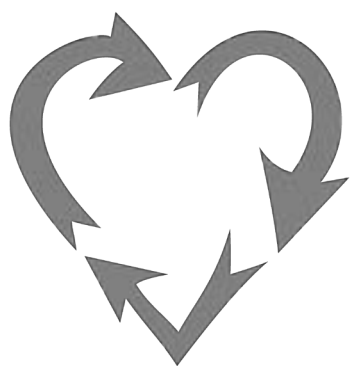


THE VIEWS, THE SPACE, THE LOCATION... it's all here. Lovely frame & stone cottage on the brow at Mentone. 3000+ sq ft; 3BR/4BA; lg bonus room for 4th BR, office, exercise or play room. Main-level Master Suite. Dream kitchen with granite counters, commercial gas cooktop, double wall ovens, wine cooler, disposal, compact, gas fireplace, enormous pantry. Large DR opens onto brow-side screen porch & decks. New wood floors & ceiling; new paint; new windows in MA BR & Living. Partial basement. Hard-wired propane generator. Detached 3-car garage w/efficiency apartment & shop. Wrought-iron gated entry; circular, paved drive. \$468,500 (1084334)



HOME WITH YEAR-ROUND WATER AT WEISS LAKE, Approx 230' of water frontage with dock & boat house with two boat lifts. Home completely renovated in 2010, spacious master suite w/sitting room. Windows galore! Outdoor features like a large side deck; front porch; beautifully-landscaped yard; detached 44x24 workshop/garage; lake-side gazebo; horseshoe pit. 1.26-acre, park-like property so much appeal. \$349,900. (1083178)

reduce.
reuse.
recycle.



Got recycling? You probably do, even though you may think it's trash. The Alabama Department of Environmental Management estimates that, statewide, Alabamians recycle about eight percent of the trash generated each day. That leaves a lot of waste destined for the landfill. We in the Mentone area are fortunate to have two recycling centers available to us.

The Town of Mentone furnishes recycling containers behind Town Hall. Pre-sorted white copy paper, newspapers, and cardboard can be deposited Monday through Friday between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m., and Saturday between 8 a.m. and 2 p.m. For more information about Mentone's recycling program, call 256-634-4444.

Fort Payne has an impressive recycling center located at 406 Logan Street SE (in a neighborhood near the post office). The facility is open 24 hours; an attendant is on site Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.

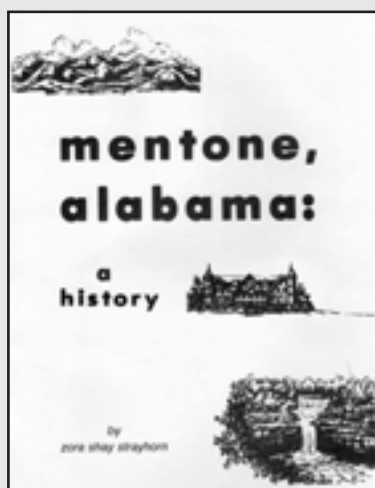
According to fortpayne.org, the facility accepts the following items:

- Clean, washed aluminum cans
- Mixed metal, including clean washed food cans. No fence wire is accepted.
- Used motor oil
- Used automobile batteries
- Styrofoam peanuts
- Narrow necked #2 HDPE plastic bottles, such as milk jugs and shampoo bottles
- Narrow necked #1 PET plastic bottles, such as soda and water bottles
- Shrink wrap plastic and plastic grocery store bags
- All glass products
- Cardboard boxes, broken down flat
- Clean white office paper and computer paper, shredded or not shredded
- All other mixed paper products.

For more information about Fort Payne's recycling center, call 256-845-8977.

Zora Strayhorn's book, "Mentone, Alabama: A History" is chock full of history, trivia, and anecdotes, with a section devoted to photographs. Originally published by MAPA in 1986, it is currently for sale at the Wildflower Café, Moon Lake Community Library, Green Leaf Grill, Little River Hardware, Mentone Market, DeSoto State Park, and Bell Battelle. The cost is \$15; proceeds benefit MAPA. Our supply is limited, so purchase your copy while they're available!

Chapter 1: An Overview
Chapter 2: A Description of the Mountain
Chapter 3: Mentone's First Inhabitants, the Indians
Chapter 4: The Explorers
Chapter 5: The Civil War
Chapter 6: Post Civil War Times
Chapter 7: The Turn of the Century
Chapter 8: Heyday to the Depression
Chapter 9: The Camps
Chapter 10: The Churches
Chapter 11: Personalities and Legends
Chapter 12: The Decade of the Centennial



Cloudland News

by Pat Johnson

The Burning Leaf Festival held on October 28 at Cloudland Community Park was rainy, but everyone enjoyed the wonderful music, hot food, and fellowship.

The park is grateful to have received a grant from the Menlo-Tillotson Foundation. The money will be used to buy benches and trash receptacles for the park. The officers of the park are gathering bids for repairs to the bathrooms and kitchen at the pavilion.

If you are interested in renting the park pavilion for a family or community gathering, contact Maggie Johnson at maggiemae1409@yahoo.com.

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THE GROUNDHOG WELCOMES THE COMMUNITY'S CONTRIBUTIONS

The *Groundhog* is a community publication that reflects the voice of the community at large. Do you enjoy writing? Do you enjoy talking to others about local history or memorable events? Do you recall with fondness certain people who made Mentone what it is today? If so, we encourage you to consider writing for *The Groundhog*, helping sustain the tradition of preserving Mentone's history and serving its current population. *The Groundhog* staff and MAPA board are here to help you if you will help us get these fabulous stories and biographies written down to share and save for posterity. (If you are worried about your writing skills, everything is edited before print.)

We'd appreciate, as well, your ongoing submissions of photographs, artwork, poetry and recipes. If you enjoy *The Groundhog* and would like to support it through your contribution, let us know. If writing doesn't interest you, we also welcome story ideas. Email us at groundhognews@yahoo.com or give us a call at 256-465-1107 to let us know how you would like to be a part of this great paper.

A Year for Change

What will the New Year hold?
Be brave. Be bold.
Be the change in the world.
Tomorrow is unfurled.
Make your resolutions,
And find the solutions.

Happy
New
Year

SENIOR HEALTH: MEDICARE AND VACCINE COVERAGE

by Lynn Hixson

Medicare Part B and Medicare Part D cover outpatient drugs differently. It depends on the drug, where you receive it, and whether you are in Original Medicare or have a Medicare Advantage Plan. Understanding how Medicare covers drugs can help you address denials and avoid unnecessary expenses.

You can get Medicare prescription drug coverage through a Part D stand-alone prescription drug plan or through a Medicare Advantage Plan that includes prescription drug coverage. The Part B benefit also covers certain prescriptions. You have the Part B benefit regardless of whether you have Original Medicare or a Medicare Advantage Plan.

Most outpatient prescription drugs are covered under Part D, as long as they're on your plan's formulary, which is the list of drugs they cover. Certain outpatient drugs are covered by Part B, however. For example, Part B should cover your flu shot. Antigens—a type of prescription drug often used to treat allergies—are also covered by Part B, not Part D. The general rule is that Part B covers drugs that usually can't be self-

administered, meaning you need a provider's help to take or inject them. Part B also covers a limited number of prescriptions from the pharmacy (mainly oral anti-cancer drugs).

Some drugs may be covered by either Part B or by Part D, depending on the situation. For example, if you use an insulin pump, you probably get your insulin and pump from a durable medical equipment supplier, and Part B will cover it. If you inject insulin using a needle, Part D will cover it. If you are a hospital outpatient, Part B should cover all medications that relate to the reason for your hospital visit; however, Part D will cover medication that you administer yourself and do not relate to the hospital visit.

Your pharmacist, your provider, or your plan (when applicable) can help you understand your prescription coverage. For objective counseling and assistance, you can also contact your State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) coordinator, who can explain which part of Medicare should cover your drugs, depending upon your circumstances. If you have any questions or need assistance, please call Lynn Hixson at the DeKalb County Council on Aging at 256-845-8590.

Classified Ads

WALL BEDS (Murphy Bed style) - We have all size Wall Beds. Great for spare room and small areas. Come see our showroom in Collinsville, AL on Hwy 68 at the Alabama Mattress Outlet. Store 9-5 Mon. - Sat. Call 256-523-3622 or Andy Crow 256-490-4025.

COX TILE - 706-766-2758 - Sunrooms, marble, baths, shower pan repair. James Pleas Cox, jpcxotile1@gmail.com.

ATTENTION GROUNDHOG READERS!

The *Groundhog* is available at the following locations:

MENTONE Body Maintenance Clip Joint Community Library Graceful Giraffe Gourdie Shop Green Leaf Grill Hair @ The Village Little River Hardware Lookout Mountain Realty Lookout Mountain Outpost Mentone Inn Mentone Market Mentone Realty Mentone Town Hall Moon Lake Trading Company Mountain Properties Plowshares Bistro Southern Style Log Furniture Wildflower Cafe	VALLEY HEAD Alabama Organics Bell Battelle Burt Funeral Home Citizens Bank Coffee Shack by the Tracks Dave's Antiques Hammondville Quick Stop Headquarters Beauty Salon Miracle Pottery Tigers Inn Valley Head Drug Valley Head Food Mart Valley Head Town Hall Victory Fuel Water Board	Brown's Cleaners Bruce's Foodland Chow King Days Inn DeKalb Library DeKalb Tourism DeSoto State Park Lodge DeSoto State Park Country Store First Federal Fisher X-Roads Store Ft. Payne Chamber of Commerce Hampton Inn Holiday Inn Huddle House Priceless IGA Quality Inn "S"-House Antiques Southern Gold & Silver Southern Properties The Spot Coffee Shop The Strand	The Wishing Well Waffle House Waffle King GEORGIA Auto Parts (Menlo) Little River Escape Menlo Healthmart Menlo Lucky's Mountain Top Country Store Restaurant (Menlo) State Line Store OTHER Alabama Welcome Center Little River Canyon Center Ralph's Grocery
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Bridging Nature (cont'd from page 1)

lovers from around the world who visit the park each year.

Brittney developed the “Serious Skills” series of free classes and workshops aimed at personal enrichment. Classes are open to local residents, overnight park guests and day visitors. “Fly Fishing for Beginners”; “Dutch Oven Campfire Cooking”; and a mosaic glass bench project were some of the offerings in 2017. “I don’t like to charge for programs,” Brittney explained. “Let’s face it. We’re in a rural area; \$10 may be a lot to pay. But sometimes I do have to charge for supplies.” To that end, Brittney has begun successfully writing and receiving grants, with the help of park partners.

This year, the park received a Stringfellow Health grant from the Northeast Alabama Community Foundation and the Conservation Education Institute that funded the “Forest and Field” series that Brittney developed. Programs in 2017 included: “Journal Journey”; “Sound Mapping”; “Enchanted Botany Hike”; the always-popular “Fairy Houses and Observation Hike”; and a series of “Yoga Hikes”.

Brittney is passionate about incorporating art and science into the nature programs she develops. The Stringfellow grant provided for the purchase of 10 hammocks and 10 backpacks filled with art supplies, including watercolor pencils and paints, wax pastels, and paper. Working with artist Starr Weems during the “Journal Journey” program, participants used the art supplies to reflect their observations of nature, using their own journaling style. Guests were invited to hang in a hammock during the “Sound Mapping”

program, and use the art supplies to create a sound map of the sounds they heard in the forest. “The grant also allows me to hire artists to lead our programs, and I like that we can support them that way,” said Brittney.

Brittney’s interest in art led her to the Little River Arts Council, which she approached in 2015 for support in implementing her idea of the “Creative Spirit Market.” For the last two years, the park and the arts council have co-hosted this November event, which is held at the park and features artist demonstrations

and an outdoor market of hand-crafted items and original artwork. Her involvement led to an invitation to join the board of directors of the arts council.

DeSoto State Park also maintains a working partnership with the National Park Service, JSU Field Schools, One World Adventure Company, and Seven Pines Survival. As a result, in 2017 the park and its partners hosted 120 programs, serving 6,889 people.

When park superintendent Ken Thomas began his career as the park’s naturalist in the spring of 1992, he developed “Campfire Talks”, a program which Brittney has sustained and continues to develop, with the help of many guest speakers. Campfire Talks are a series of free educational and entertaining programs held on many Friday and Saturday evenings in the months of May

through October. Generally science-oriented, some recent topics have included: “Voices of the Night”; “Butterflies of Alabama”; “Invisible Wonders of Little River”; and “The History of Moonshine”. These talks are held at the campfire ring at the improved campground;

they are sometimes augmented with photo slide shows.

“Wildflower Saturday” is another park tradition that Brittney has particularly enjoyed carrying on, given her own love for native wildflowers. This program began 26 years ago and is held on the first Saturday in May. A total of nine walking tours along three different trails are led by a variety of guides who are able to locate and identify many of the more than 100 native

plant species in the park. In addition, informative programs are hosted in the lodge on Friday and Saturday evenings.

Programs and classes are also held throughout the year in the park’s Benefield Interpretive Center

(cont'd on page 24)



Clockwise:

Cheaha State Park Naturalist Mandy Pearson presenting a program on “Snakes of Alabama” to middle-school students

A young park visitor meets a Barred Owl during the “Native Critters of Alabama” program

The park’s nature center

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Bridging Nature ... (cont'd from page 23)

Mandy Pearson shows a Black Rat Snake to park visitors during Spookapalooza

(popularly referred to as “the nature center”), which Brittney manages. Located near the Country Store, the center showcases the diversity of mammals, birds, reptiles and amphibians which are found in the park.

The park has long held events for Halloween, but since it is Brittney’s favorite holiday, in 2007 she created “Spookapalooza”, a weekend-long program that offers themed activities, including pumpkin carving, trick-or-treating, and educational programs for park guests and local residents alike. In 2017, she estimates 1,100 people attended the event.

In addition to her naturalist duties, Brittney has become known for her impressive talent in basket weaving. “In 2010, I learned how to weave baskets,” she said. “I first learned pine needle basketry, called ‘coiling’. It’s the same technique they use on the coast of Georgia with the sweetwater grass baskets. A year ago, I started learning reed work and I’m currently learning chair caning.” Brittney will be teaching several

basketry classes in 2018.

Brittney’s horticulture background has proven valuable in a unique project at the park: propagating Green Pitcher Plants (*Sarracenia oreophila*). “They’re a rare, endangered, carnivorous plant that’s only found in five counties in Alabama, one county in Georgia, and one county in North Carolina. We’re talking about populations of about 50 plants in each population,” said Brittney. “The world’s biggest population of this species is in DeSoto State Park and Little River Canyon National Preserve.”

Park Headquarters currently houses about



The main tube-like structure of the mature Green Pitcher Plant lures its prey.

200 Green Pitcher Plants. “The Canyon protects them, as we do. But since they’re a National Preserve, they have some restrictions that we don’t have,” Brittany said. “That’s why we’re able to propagate them. This is the fifth year we’ve collected seeds. We’ve worked with the US Fish and Wildlife Service, as well as the Atlanta Botanical Garden, on how to properly take care of the plants.” The seeds need a certain kind of condition and it can take a few years for them to germinate in the wild. Brittney explained that “once we learned how to do it, it’s been easier than we anticipated. After we collect them, they go in the refrigerator for six weeks, which makes their cold stratification for the winter. We sow them out, and then put them in their individual pots.” The only problem? “We’ve run out of room,” said Brittney. “I have seeds sitting on my desk, waiting to go in the refrigerator.”

Fortunately, that wait won’t be too long. The park will soon purchase a greenhouse with funding from a newly-organized group of supporters—Friends of DeSoto State Park, a small group that was founded with a bequest by a private donor and is working to raise funds for the park. “Many state parks aren’t really tied in to their local community,” Brittney said. “We’re really lucky to be so well supported by residents of Mentone and Fort Payne.”

Brittney is a young woman who has evidently found work that she loves. We all benefit from her enormous dedication.

To learn more about the park and its programs, visit www.alapark.com/desoto-state-park.

In 2013, DeSoto State Park engaged in a conservation project to help protect, preserve, and educate about the carnivorous Green Pitcher Plant of Alabama. One phase of the Pitcher Plant Project was completed with the help of Dan Grogan and his students of the Ft. Payne High School Agriculture program. Over the course of several work days, DSP staff members and students cleared the brush that shaded the Green Pitcher Plant bog and helped to prepare the area for a prescribed burn that took place a few weeks later.

While the bog where the plant grows wild is



These two-month old seedlings will soon be separated into small square pots and then nurtured until at least three years of age, when they are planted back into the park.

protected and maintained, staff members wanted to create an exhibit to display these plants to the public. Boy Scout Austin Evans teamed up with DeSoto State Park to plan and implement a public display of pitcher



In the bog, the adult summer pitchers catch the prey with what are known as “pitfall traps”. At the end of summer, these structures fall over and are decomposed into the ground.

plants to count as Evans’ Eagle Scout Project. Ron Determann of the Atlanta Botanical Gardens offered his expert knowledge and provided the Green Pitcher Plants for use in the display. The Green Pitcher Plant exhibit area can be viewed in DeSoto State Park at the Country Store.



In 2013, Austin Evans’ Boy Scout Eagle project involved transforming an existing plant bed into a bog, so now people can see the growth of the Green Pitcher Plant. L to R: Ron Determann, Atlanta Botanical Gardens; Austin Evans; and Ken Thomas, DSP Park Superintendent.