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THE GROUNDHOG

Mentone, Valley Head, Hammondville, Menlo, Cloudland
P. O. Box 387, Mentone, AL 35984

Volume 37, No. 6

"Neighborly News from the Heart of Lookout Mountain"

June 2018

"Old Yeller" Continues to Serve

Local artist Lydia Adele Randolph wanted to help the North Lookout Mountain Fire Protection District (NLMFPD) in some way and decided the best way was to do what comes naturally to her — paint. So she pulled out her brushes and paints and soon the colors began to explode all over her canvas. The end result was an amazing painting of the NLMFPD's old yellow firetruck, with the former site of the Mentone Springs Hotel as the backdrop.

Ms. Randolph donated her original painting to the NLMFPD and suggested that we sell prints of it to help raise money for our ongoing fundraising efforts. She hinted that if this idea were well received, she might even paint another scene or two for the fire department.

On June 1, the NLMFPD will begin taking online orders for art prints of Ms. Randolph's painting, aptly named "Old Yeller". The art prints are a perfect size for framing at 11"x17" and each print will be individually signed by the artist. The cost is \$44, which includes a small fee of \$4 for shipping and handling. All proceeds from the sale of these art prints will be used to purchase much-needed equipment for the firefighters.

These prints will be sold for a limited time only — from June 1 through June 15. All orders will be processed and shipped via regular mail



the week of June 17. If you are interested in purchasing an art print, don't delay. Please go to NorthLookoutMountainFPD.com and look for the Fundraising tab.

As always, the NLMFPD greatly appreciates your support.
— Submitted by the NLMFPD



Summer Music Series begins June 23 • by Kelly Leavitt

Music is in the air this summer, thanks to a grant received by Little River Arts Council (LRAC) from the Alabama State Council on the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts. Our fifth annual Summer Music Series begins on Saturday, June 23, with

a performance by Lost in Tyme, a 6-person bluegrass band from Middle Tennessee. They've performed for us before, and we've invited them to Mentone once again, simply because we enjoy them that much. Mark your calendar and invite your friends for a musical evening at the Mentone Inn Pavilion. The concert begins at 7 and is free to all.

On July 7, Jerry and Pixie Bloom will perform at the historic CCC Pavilion at DeSoto State Park. Our partnership with the Park allows us to share our local talent with visitors who are staying at the park for the holiday weekend. On August 4, during the World's Longest Yard Sale, Lumbar Five will perform for our local population and visitors alike. This Chattanooga band is a group of five chiropractors who simply enjoy playing music together. They've got a great sound and we know they'll be a lot of fun.

Since the Arts Council believes everyone is an artist, we will have art activities at each of our summer concerts for everyone attending. Last year, we offered art for children at one of the concerts, and realized it wasn't just the children who enjoyed making art during the concert — folks of all ages enjoyed it. So, everyone

will be able to make art during each of our concerts this summer. If you are an artist who would like to help out, please let us know. We also invite artists to contact us if you would like to display and sell your work during the concert. Email info@littleriverartscouncil.org for details.



"Lost in Tyme" bluegrass band will perform in Mentone on Saturday, June 23.

We are continuing to build an artist registry that will serve both artists and art lovers alike. Sometimes we receive inquiries from people wanting a certain kind of artwork, so by building this registry, we'll be best able to connect those people with artists. Also, the Arts Council has several public art projects in mind, and the registry will help us identify artists who might be interested in participating. Artists don't need to be members of the Arts Council to join the registry. Visit littleriverartscouncil.org for details.

In May, we hosted two discussion sessions which focused on creative placemaking. Thanks to all who have attended. Your ideas, vision, and contributions are important. Our next meeting is Saturday, June 2, at 9:30 a.m. at Moon Lake Library. Visit our web site for future dates as we schedule them. In addition to learning more about the concept behind creative placemaking, several projects are being researched and discussed by

participants. An important characteristic of placemaking is the total involvement of community, both in the implementation and the perpetual enjoyment of the project. This is an exciting experiment for our town, and its value will be best marked by the involvement of many, so please join us for future meetings to learn more or to become involved.

(continued on page 7)

THE GROUNDHOG



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

publication for 36 years. MAPA is dedicated to preserving and protecting the heritage, natural environment and other unique qualities of life in the Mentone area. MAPA is chartered as a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation.

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Jerry Megli shared a photo of a groundhog he encountered on a recent walk. Thankfully, the little fella was not camera shy.

Do you have a story idea?

Perhaps a poem or recipe?

We welcome contributions!

Email groundhognews@yahoo.com

Mentone Matters • by Mayor Rob Hammond



Summer is here. Mentone is about to experience its seasonal population explosion. With the camps opening and summer folks coming, we see an increase in people cycling, jogging, and walking. Please keep an extra careful eye out when you are driving.

Last week, I had a visit from ALDOT Maintenance Superintendent Doug Hicks. He is responsible for maintaining the right of way on AL 117. There is encroachment from trees and bushes on the right-of-way, making it difficult to see coming out of some of the side

streets — particularly Dempsey and Dogwood. When ALDOT clears the right-of-way, they use a bush hog turned vertically. For a while after this is completed, the trees look a little ragged. Mr. Hicks pointed out that if property owners along 117 want to avoid this, they should take steps to clear the ROW in front of their property. Mr. Hicks is aware Mentone is a tourist destination and the natural beauty is important. He would like to give property owners an opportunity to do this before ALDOT has to do it.

Presently within the community development district in Mentone, it is legal to sell alcohol for on-premise consumption. Recent legislation will allow a yes or no vote on whether alcohol can be sold within the community development district for off-premise use. It was stipulated in the legislation that this vote had to take place at the next primary or general election, no less than 82 days after the bill was signed into law. The June 5 primary comes too soon. However, if there is a run-off in the primary, there is a possibility the vote could be held then, rather than wait until the general election held in November. Only voters who live in the town limits of Mentone will vote yes or no. There will be separate poll workers and there will be provisions for absentee ballots, just as in any municipal election.



Letter from the Editor

We're in the last days of growing light. Soon, the days will begin to become shorter. Hard to believe, isn't it? We aren't yet into the deep heat of summer, but it's coming. These are days to enjoy, as much and as often as possible. Enjoy those first tomatoes. Enjoy lying in a hammock with a compelling book. Enjoy a swim in the river — or a boat ride, if possible. Canoeing is an incredibly relaxing way to spend a few hours.

One of my favorite ways to spend summer evenings is to meet my friends at Brow Park to enjoy watching the sunset together. Summer's sunset is late enough that I can do all that my day requires of me, eat a light dinner, and be at the brow in time to watch the sun's westward dip. That's often when the real beauty begins. And that's often when most people leave. But...if you wait five or perhaps ten minutes, sometimes the sky will absolutely light up in ways not even conceived of.

This is a life analogy for me. Leo Tolstoy said, "The two most powerful warriors are patience and time." I have found this to be true. They each always pay off.

This leads me to a warm welcome to the campers and their families who are spending time in Mentone this summer. Please be patient with us slower drivers. We'll be patient with you, too. If someone waves at you driving by, don't be shy — wave back. It's a friendly thing. Leave the city in the city, and enjoy everything this mountain has to give to us.

Did you know it's often a good thing to be bored? This time can beckon to our imagination, and allow it space to fill our minds with real possibilities, to identify answers to problems, and to excite ourselves with future dreams and plans. My hope is that Mentone gives us all, locals and visitors alike, the peaceful relaxation that only summertime can bring. Happy summer! — *Kelly Leavitt*

Mentone Area Preservation Association • by L. C. Moon



It is a beautiful spring in Mentone, with flowers abundantly blooming across Lookout Mountain, along the river banks and beside the many meandering streams. We are grateful that the rhododendron blooms held on for folks to appreciate during the Rhododendron Festival. All who got to ride the boat up Little River during the festival saw a grand view of the rhododendron and mountain laurels.

Mentone Area Preservation Association (MAPA) owes much thanks to Sharon Habin for coordinating the Rhododendron Festival, as well as the countless volunteers who helped make the festival possible. The vendors who displayed their art were joyful about the perfect weather we had, even though there was a threat of rain. Many of them commented on how nice it was just to be in Mentone and on the brow of the mountain for the weekend.

At the last MAPA board meeting, the board unanimously voted to donate \$2,000 to DeSoto Rescue Squad. Their grant application stated that “having operating funds allows DeSoto Rescue Squad to continue to provide service to the community and its visitors.” MAPA’s grant will help with fuel, insurance, uniforms, medicine, office supplies, vehicle repair and maintenance, and medical supplies.

Festivals are one of the ways that MAPA raises money to continue to contribute to the community. We hope to continue to help support community needs and projects. If you would like to put in a grant application for a project or need for the Mentone community, please visit our website at MapaMentone.com.

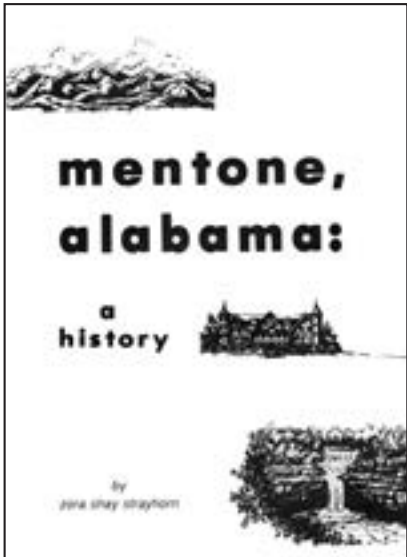
We are still in need of board members to keep the dream alive!

Please contact me at MoonMapa@gmail.com with any feedback for the board or if you are interested on being on the board to continue to support MAPA’s mission: to preserve and protect the heritage, natural environment and other unique qualities of life in the Mentone area.

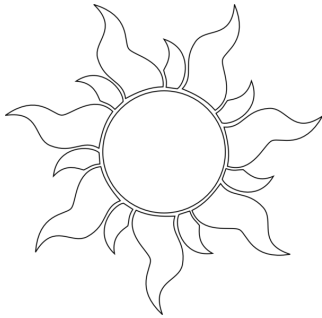
L.C. Moon is the parliamentarian of the Mentone Area Preservation Association.

Learn about the History of Mentone

Originally published by MAPA in 1986, Zora Strayhorn’s book, *Mentone, Alabama: A History*, is chock full of history, trivia, and anecdotes, with a section devoted to photographs. 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!



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



Become a MAPA Member Today!

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(includes a subscription to *The Groundhog*)

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www.MapaMentone.com

Memories of Mayberry

Saturday, June 2 • 9 a.m.

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Rhododendron Garden Club • by Mellanie Tuttle



The Rhododendron Garden Club met on May 8 for our annual MERF House yard clean up. A not-so-brief meeting was held before members donned gloves and did their magic. Honey Ennis provided a Nutty Butter banana pudding for the energy necessary to pull weeds, rake the hemlock needles, trim bushes and haul debris to the burn pile.

The group moved to the Mentone Post Office for a redo of its front bed. A grouping of evergreens purchased from the Master Gardener Plant Sale was planted, giving the bed year-round color and interest. Hosta provided by the Postmistress added texture and the next addition will be blooming annuals for color. Time and flagging energy prevented attention to the back bed but members will re-group to plant another day.

Conservation Chair Marsha Merrell discussed "How to Get Your Backyard Certified as a Wildlife Refuge." Requirements include: provision for food and water, cover and places to raise young and employ sustainable gardening practices. Visit the National Wildlife Federation website for tips, projects and how to certify.

Madelon David shared a printout from Auburn University that the school was named the first Bee Campus USA in Alabama. "The university joins a group of 39 campuses nationwide, aiming to raise awareness of pollinators, food production, native plant species and integrated pest management, all while stimulating the nation's economy through species protection and the services that those efforts support." If the pollinators are not protected, 90% of the world's wild plant and tree species could be endangered as well. Students also visit local elementary schools with Beeducation, so hopefully a new generation will be better caretakers of the earth's pollinators. "Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It's not." — *from The Lorax*

The joint (Moon Lake students and teachers, Master Gardeners, and RGC) after-school gardening program is coming to a close for this school year. Students planted

nasturtiums, coneflowers, and phlox in two of the raised beds to provide nectar and larval food for pollinators. For Earth Day and with the help of Rhea Pirch, Dee Kelley, and Master Gardeners Lynn Evans and Brandy Houston, the program "Save the Trees, Save the Earth" was presented. Facts were learned. Trees were drawn by tracing hands, filling in lines for bark and painting green leaves on. Cosmos seeds were taken home in origami envelopes. All materials were recycled in keeping with the *Reduce, Reuse, Recycle* theme of Earth Day. Moon Lake students are amazing learners and we're excitedly planning for August. The greenhouse will be an added bonus and we are so fortunate to be able to share and learn as well!

St. Joseph's on-the-Mountain Episcopal Church has dedicated an area to our beloved Shirley (and Oscar) Hussell. The RGC donated a Rhododendron (thanks to Misty Waters for the beautiful specimen) that was added to plantings from the Hussell yard. A bench, also from Shirley's yard, completes the tranquil site, where folks can take a moment to just be.

The Rhododendron Garden Club is a member of Northeast Alabama Federation of Garden Clubs, The Garden Club of Alabama, Inc., District II, Deep South Garden Clubs, Inc., National Garden Clubs

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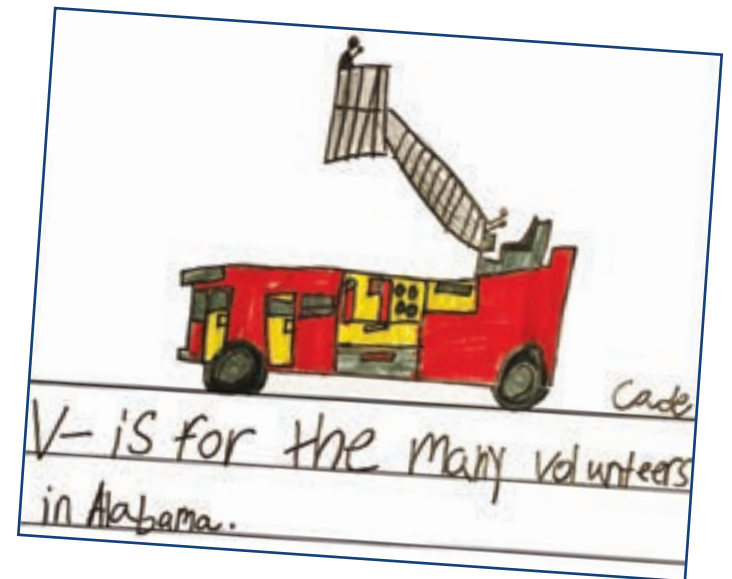
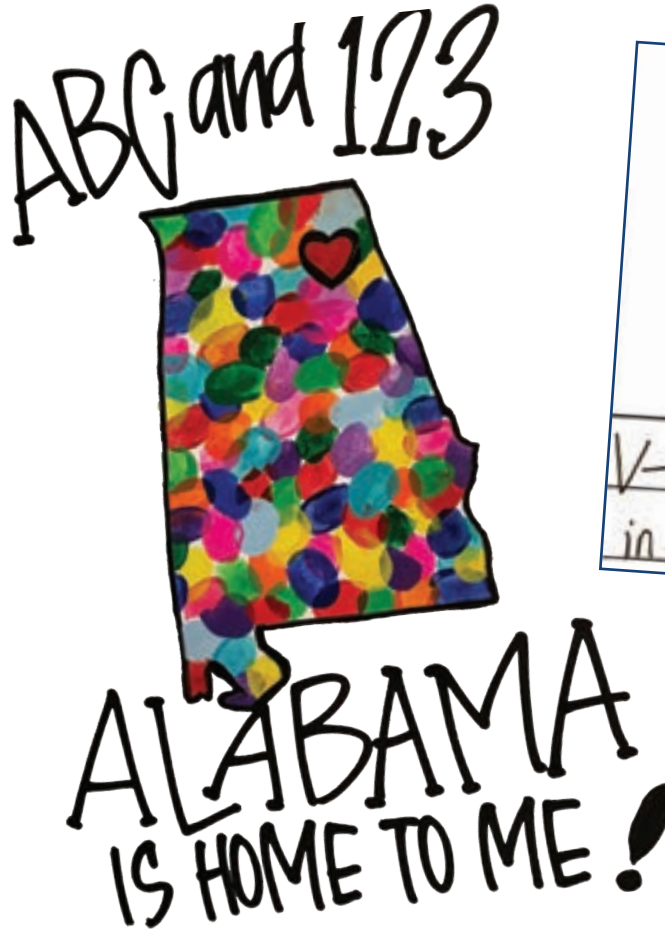


This Old House: MERF Community House

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.

It's a two scoop day at MERF! The Farley Moody Galbraith fund at the Community Foundation in Anniston choose Mentone Educational Resources Foundation (MERF) as a grant recipient this spring. MERF will receive half of the funds needed to take Moon Lake Elementary School's older students to Atlanta's Alliance Theater and Huntsville's Symphony Orchestra in the 2018–2019 school year. These are two great field trips that the students have enjoyed tremendously. If you don't know why it is a two scoop day, then ask Executive Director Sarah Wilcox about the story behind the phrase.

The month of May was filled with recognition and fun. On Tuesday, May 15, MERF's tutors were recognized at Moon Lake Elementary School's awards ceremony. Thanks to Carl Ferguson, Bill Rutledge, Vicky Patrick, Ken Trowbridge, Meg Richardson, Sadler Emory, Rebecca Henderson, and Kat Griffith for being faithful weekly tutors and subs this school year. Then, on Wednesday afternoon, MERF hosted another "Afternoon with the Artists". Max Mitchell (potter), Chuck Peters (stained glass sculptor) and Eddie Price (cartoonist) graciously gave of their time and their passion to the Moon Lake students. See Ms. Paula's article for more about this fun event.



The week ended with the revelation and receipt of the fabulous book, *ABC and 123 Alabama is Home to Me*, illustrated and written by all of the K–3rd grade students at Moon Lake, with great assistance from their teachers: Lea Long; Jennifer Gorham; Christa Sims; Kelbi Ballenger; and Paula Easter. Joy, excitement, and pride was beaming from the students as they received their collaborative creation with shouts of "I did that one!" and "Where is your picture?" Don't you love all of their thumbprints creating the state of Alabama on the cover? Thanks to a matching grant from Alabama State Council on the Arts and the National Endowment of the Arts, MERF was able to work with Moon Lake students to produce this wonderful piece of art and literature. Congratulations on a job well done! Extra copies are available for purchase from Sarah.

Thanks to MAPA for hosting another wonderful Rhododendron Festival! We loved everyone who came by our booth to say hello and to purchase a "Leave Me in Mentone" item. Didn't you love the new mug colors? Oh no, did you miss a chance to shop MERF items? Stop by the Country Store at DeSoto State

Park, Little River Hardware or Magnolia Rose & Co. for great Father's Day gifts or gifts for yourself. Thank you for supporting MERF and its programs by stopping by to say hello and/or making a purchase.

Although senior lunches take a summer break, be on the lookout for information about senior gatherings at local restaurants and summer socials. Make sure Sarah has your contact information if you are interested in joining us.

And another two scoop celebration is that we can meet at the MERF house again, thanks to Kevin Cash and crew, who fixed the foundation this spring. The MERF house is also available again for meeting use and family gatherings. But we are sad to have lost a senior lunch bunch friend, Betty Carmichael, this May. We have loved getting to know her and her husband, Jim, as they discovered the fun of senior lunches this past fall. Rest in peace sweet Betty, your sweet smile and spirit will be missed.

Thanks to Charlie Stone, from Blue Sky Photography, for capturing wonderful moments in pictures at MERF's 6th annual Taste of the Mountain and Art Auction. See all of the pictures

on MERF's youtube that can be reached through our website merfhouse.org.

As you enjoy summer breezes on the mountain, please remember to support our local artists and our restaurants that support so many organizations in Mentone, such as MERF. A piece of artwork is a memorable wedding, graduation or Father's Day gift. Time would be well spent having a wonderful meal at a local restaurant or cooking with fresh, locally grown vegetables and meat. Let's support our artisans so they can keep creating.

Sarah Wilcox is the "voice" of the MERF House. Mentone Educational Resources Foundation (MERF) 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 P.O. Box 107 Mentone, AL 35984 or contribute online at crowdrise.com/MERF. Contact us at merf.mentone@gmail.com or 256-634-4673.

Artists in the Classrooms • by Paula Easter

Wow, I can't believe that this school year is just days away from being over, but what an incredible year it has been in the Fine Arts classroom! I have to admit, as each month has rolled around I have continuously asked myself, "What will I write about this month?" Without a doubt, there always seem to be so many wonderful things to write about. This month is no exception.

MERF recently sponsored our third annual "Artists in the Classroom". What an incredible group of artists our Moon Lake students had the opportunity to experience again this year!

An artist, designer, and craftsman throughout his life, Chuck Peters has been creating stained glass windows and sculptures since the early 1970s. Originally, his stained glass was a hobby but his ongoing passion for stained glass led him to offer his talents professionally. Unique in the world of stained glass, he has developed and built three-dimensional stained glass sculptures to include full-sized realistic eagles, standing eagles, and full-wing-span eagle sculptures. One amazing stained glass outdoor sculpture resides nearby in Lafayette, Georgia. Mr. Chuck Peters and his beautiful stained glass artwork brought out lots of "ohs and ahs" from Moon Lake students. First grader Hallie Lee loved all the beautiful colors in the stained glass, and was amazed by how Mr. Peters made all of the glass pieces fit together to make a beautiful picture.

Another wonderful artist who shared her talents in clay with Moon Lake students was Ms. Max Mitchell. She talked about how she was always surrounded by art with the interest of her parents. At

first, she loved painting with the use of lots of colors, but when she discovered clay she loved taking something, feeling it, and creating whatever she wanted to with it. Ms. Mitchell talked to the students about the early use of pottery as functional and how people had to figure out how to make something hold water. As the students worked with the clay, Ms.



Chuck Peters spoke to grades 4–6 about his stained glass art.

Mitchell explained how the ashes combine with clay to make the glaze but that the clay must be fired at a high heat to solidify it. Jacqueline Morgan said she loved getting her hands in the clay like Ms. Mitchell, and was very proud of her clay bowl. I would love to add that Max's mom, Ms. Lucy Mitchell, often visited me in my Fine Arts classroom and was one of the early fans of Moon Lake students' artwork. I would often find boxes on my doorsteps filled with wonderful things Ms. Lucy had left for me.

The last artist that I want to talk about is different in a couple of ways. I have had the privilege of getting to know Chuck Peters and Max Mitchell during my years here at Moon Lake. This last artist I knew as a youngster when I was working at Trion Elementary School, in Trion, Georgia. I didn't know of his talent in art, just his wonderful musical ability (which I

am glad to say that he still makes very good use of). A few years ago, I read a very interesting article about a young promising artist — and it was my former music student, Eddie Price! For several years now, I have been trying to get Eddie to take part in our "Artists in the Classroom." Finally, this year, Eddie was able to spend the day with us here at Moon Lake. I have to admit I felt like a "proud mom" and was excited for him to share with our students. Eddie has quickly built a fan base with his unique 3D art, keeping the audience turning heads and becoming known as "that 3D guy." He is also an international artist for Topps and Upper Deck, with various completed projects such as Marvel, The Walking Dead, Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2, Star Wars and

more. Eddie taught proportions with all Moon Lake students and everyone left the art room with a version of Captain America.

I would like to say a great big "THANK YOU" to these three wonderful artists for sharing their incredible talents with my Moon Lake students.

Well folks, that wraps it up for this school year — and now on to the next! Happy Summer from the Fine Arts Classroom!



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10 Things You Need to Know About Your New Medicare Card • by Lynn Hixson

Medicare began mailing new Medicare cards in April, 2018. Many people may have already received their new cards. Make sure your mailing address is up-to-date. If your address needs to be corrected, contact Social Security at ssa.gov/myaccount or 1-877-316-4418.

Here are ten (10) things you need to know about your new Medicare card.

- 1. Mailing takes time.** Your card may arrive at a different time than your friend's or neighbor's.
- 2. Destroy your old Medicare Card.** Once you get your new Medicare Card, destroy your old Medicare Card and start using your new card right away.
- 3. Guard your card.** Only give your new Medicare Number to doctors, pharmacists, other health care providers, your insurers, or people you trust to work with Medicare on your behalf.
- 4. Your Medicare Number is unique.** Your card has a new number instead of your Social Security Number. This new number is unique to you.
- 5. Your new card is paper.** Paper cards are easier for many providers to use and copy, and they save taxpayers a lot of money. Plus, you can print your own replacement card if you need one!
- 6. Keep your new card with you.** Carry your new card and show it to your health care providers when you need care.
- 7. Your doctor knows it's coming.** Doctors, other health care facilities and providers will ask for your new Medicare Card when you need care.
- 8. You can find your number.** If you forget your new card, you, your doctor or other health care provider may be able to look up your Medicare Number online.
- 9. Keep your Medicare Advantage Card.** If you're in a Medicare Advantage Plan (like and HMO or PPO), your Medicare Advantage Plan ID card is still your main card for Medicare — you should still keep and use it whenever you need care. However, you also may be asked to show your new Medicare Card, so you should carry this card too.
- 10. Help is available.** If you don't get your New Medicare Card by April 2019, or if you need assistance with Medicare, please call your SHIP Counselor, Lynn Hixson, at the DeKalb County Council on Aging at 256-845-8590.

Little River Arts Council

(continued from page 1)

A project we'd like to initiate this month is painting the book drop box at Moon Lake Library. The box has three visible sides, so potentially three artists could each paint a side. We'd like a colorful box that will stand alone as a work of art, in addition to serving its utilitarian function. We will provide the paint, as well as a donation to the artist(s) who participate. Stop by the library for a look at the box, and see what inspiration comes to you. If you'd like to participate, please contact us.

Thanks to LRAC board member Brittney Hughes for maintaining and planting new flowers at each of the three Mentone rock signs (two are on Hwy. 117 at each end of town, and one is on Co. Rd. 89 near DeSoto Falls). These signs have been a collaborative effort between the Arts Council, MAPA, and the Town of Mentone for several years now, and we're glad to have a hand in welcoming people to Mentone in a beautiful way.

Little River Arts Council was formed in 2006 by a people dedicated to the mission of encouraging individual creativity and broadening community participation, appreciation and support for the visual, performing, and literary arts in the Mentone Area. If you'd like to support this mission, please consider becoming a member. As individuals, we each make a difference. Together, we make beauty.

Kelly Leavitt is president of Little River Arts Council.



Menlo Restaurant

American Family Style

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Moon Lake Community Library

by Kelly Leavitt

Our community library continues to grow into a true community hub, and this only happens because of YOU. I, personally, enjoy meeting so many people as they come through our doors. Many of our new patrons have recently moved to Mentone. When the library's one of their first stops... well, I really appreciate that about them.

Do you love books and have three free hours a month? We're in need of additional volunteers, so if you'd like to give your time to a wonderful cause, come on in and let us know. Volunteers help shelve books, check them in and out, etc. (If you're talented at alphabetizing, bonus points for you!)

Free library cards are available to anyone who lives in our area. (We even have some patrons who come from Summerville.)

We are installing a large (3' x 4') bulletin board for the community's use. Stop in during open hours to see what your neighbors are posting. It might be an event flyer, a job listing, a house for rent, or perhaps an inspirational saying, or a piece of art. This will be a fun board to fill up.

Chess is becoming more and more popular, and Jerry Megli is rising to the occasion. He's in the library every Saturday at 9 a.m. sharp, and he stays until the last chess player leaves. If you'd like to

learn the basics of chess, or if you'd like to refresh your skills, Jerry's happy to help. He was once part of teams that worked on the lunar landing module and space shuttle, so you know you're in good hands!

*A book is a dream
you hold in
your hands.*

We have received some amazing donations lately — many books appear to be brand new. Thank you to all who donate. Our book sales are a major source of our funding, so you make a difference.

Come by and see the latest DVDs that we've bought and received as donations. We have some of the latest award-nominated movies. DVDs are available to borrow for a week.

We'd love to see more children in the library. Don't let the art of library-browsing become a thing of the past. Let's all show the children in our lives that we recognize the value of a collection of books. They do, after all, contain the world.

The library is open Tuesdays and Thursday from 3–6 p.m. and Saturdays from 9 a.m.–1 p.m.

See you at the library!



Kelly Leavitt is the librarian of Moon Lake Community Library.

Top Seniors Receive New Computers

Lookout Mountain Wholistic Center (LMWC) awarded computers and printers to the top seniors at Valley Head High School during the school's Awards Day Ceremony on Thursday, May 17.

Breanna Rae Blalock
Fulton Kyle Miller
Caitlyn Christine Collins
Caroline Elizabeth Baty
Abigail LeighAnn Otting
Alejandro Navarro Molina
Brianna Danae Powell
Megan Taylor Foshee
Isaac Alexander Gifford
Samuel Allen Morrow

Lookout Mountain Wholistic Center members present for the ceremony were Susan Seago, Reesa Barton, Susan Cheronos, Belinda Cobb, Charla Hermann, Clare Donohue, Brandy Pecaut and Rev. Edwene Gaines.

LMWC meets the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. at Rock Ridge Retreat Center, 451 Rock Ridge Rd., Valley Head. All are welcome. Call 256-635-1377 for more information.

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Mentone Arts & Cultural Center • by Randy Grider

Summer Arts Season Kickoff features Patsy Cline tribute and indigenous horses presentation



The Mentone Arts & Cultural Center (MACC) is kicking off summer with some fun and informative events that include a lecture, a Patsy Cline tribute, and a jazz performance.

The MACC Summer Art Season Kickoff is Saturday, June 9, at the MACC Education Center and Art Gallery (5951 Alabama Hwy. 117, Mentone). Visitors are invited to drop by the gallery throughout the day to see new artworks from regional artists. At 2 p.m., there will be a free presentation on indigenous horses by Dr. Yvette 'Running Horse' Collin.

Dr. Collin received her doctorate in Indigenous Studies from the University of Alaska, Fairbanks. Her research focused on the historical, cultural, and spiritual relationship between the Indigenous Peoples of the Americas and the horse. She is Lakota and Cheyenne on her mother's side, and of Cherokee and Choctaw descent on her father's side. During her decade of pre-research on this topic, she drew from the histories and traditional teachings of each of these Peoples, as well as many other Nations whose elders wished to share their knowledge.

Dr. Collin is one of the founders of Sacred Way Sanctuary (sacredwaysanctuary.org) and the Native American Horse Trail, and serves as executive director for a New Mexico-based 501(c)(3) that focuses on helping Native communities to heal. Her presentation will focus on the cutting-edge research she has done, and continues to do, in this field.

Capping off the day will be a Patsy Cline Tribute



Dr. Yvette "Running Horse" Collin will speak about indigenous horses on June 9.

Show featuring vocalist Clare Donohue from 7-9 p.m. Admission is \$15 and proceeds benefit MACC. Donohue's tribute is a two-hour set of 15 songs made famous by Cline, impeccably executed by this New York jazz/cabaret singer who relocated to the South four years ago. From New York to Nashville, Donohue has wowed audiences with her portrayal of this musical icon with just a cowboy hat and her incredible voice.

On Friday, June 29, MACC will host an evening of jazz with the Watters/Felts Trio at 7 p.m. The trio features trumpeter/flugelhornist Ken Watters, vocalist Ingrid Marie Felts, and pianist Keith Taylor, as they perform jazz standards. Admission is \$15.

For reservations or more information, call 256-674-3366 or email mentoneartscenter@gmail.com.

We also encourage you to visit mentoneartscenter.org for an overview of our organization and fundraising efforts or MACC-Kamama.com for more information about our temporary location.

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

MACC JUNE EVENTS

JUNE 9 @ 2PM
Dr. Yvette Collin

JUNE 9 @ 7PM
Clare Donohue
Patsy Cline Tribute

JUNE 29 @ 7PM
Watters/Felts Trio

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The Mentone Inn Celebrates 90 Years

by Kelly Leavitt

In June, 1928, Hal Howe opened the doors to "Hal's Hotel" — what is known now as the Mentone Inn. The current building is the entire original structure, just as Mr. Howe built it. Since those early days, the Inn has changed hands, and names, many times over. It's been called Hal's Hotel, DeSoto Hotel, DeSoto Lodge, the Mountain View Inn, and (more than once) the Mentone Inn.



Nelda and Hal Howe

The property it sits on has an illustrious history. According to a booklet produced by Mrs. Howe, around 1873, Mr. H.B. Gillette built a 2-story boarding house near the site of the current building. It was known as the Huron Boarding House. Hal Howe rented the building and eventually bought it in 1922. With his wife, Lizzie (who died in 1929), he operated it as Hal's House until it burned in the fall of 1927. The fire was caused by blasting during the construction of Highway 117. Unbeknownst to Mr. Howe, the blasting had loosened the mortar in the chimney, and one day when a fire was lit, the entire building burned.

Not to be dismayed, Mr. Howe rebuilt the building and called it Hal's Hotel. In November, 1929, he married Nelda Ellis, and together they operated the hotel until September, 1954.

Throughout its many incarnations, it's been well-loved by its innkeepers and guests alike. The property is currently owned by Mike and Sarah Campbell, and the business of the Inn is owned by Cynthia Stinson, who is planning a celebration of the Inn's 90th anniversary. Look for details in the July *Groundhog*.



Hal's Hotel in 1928. "Fried chicken every day," the sign says. "Drive in."

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A Covered Bridge, Forbidden Passion, and Enduring Love

Americans have long been enchanted by covered bridges, perhaps because they represent a deep, collective memory of simpler days gone by. Many of us remember the craze that swept the country after the 1992 publication of *The Bridges of Madison County*, especially after the movie was released in 1995, the year that marked the 50th anniversary of James (“Jim”) and Dallyne Tilley Jones of Mentone. That year, their daughter, Sharon, wrote the following essay in recognition of her parents’ anniversary. Part of her story speaks in particular of one of Mentone’s old covered bridges — one that’s

so old that many do not know it ever existed. Back in the day when Cutler Avenue was Mentone’s main thoroughfare, a bridge spanned Little River’s west fork, connecting East and West River Roads. It was a well-travelled bridge that suddenly collapsed on a June day 73 years ago.

I first became aware of Sharon’s essay early this year. Her father had passed away in December, and when I told Sharon I’d like to print a feature story about him, she shared her essay with me. It’s just the kind of story we like to print in *The Groundhog*, as it speaks of the history of both Mentone and its people.

Jim and Dallyne’s granddaughter, Elizabeth (daughter of Alan and Susan [Jones] Manning), has Mentone blood that goes back many generations. Currently a magazine editor and freelance writer who lives in Birmingham, Elizabeth shares with us an introduction to her Aunt Sharon’s story, revealing the influence her grandfather’s storytelling had on her. In honor of Father’s Day, we hope you enjoy this tale about Jim Jones (1928–2017), a father of seven, grandfather of fourteen, and great-grandfather of nineteen.

—Kelly Leavitt

I spent most of my time with Granddaddy listening.

Listening to him talk about construction work and gas prices; listening to him sing songs from his youth; listening to him tease Grandmother; listening to him reflect on every play of last year’s Iron Bowl; listening to him pray; but most of all, listening to him tell stories.

He was part of a confederation of storytellers that I fear is swiftly dying out—men and women who understood and employed the long pause for effect. When Granddaddy told a story to a group of people, everyone in the room leaned in. He took his time. He spoke slowly and quietly. Some stories made him laugh as he recounted them. Some took him far away from us. Some made him cry.

I had the good fortune of living ten minutes away from Granddaddy and Grandmother most of my childhood and early adult life. Because of this, I was privy to his stories often—while eating lunch around the kitchen table; driving around Mentone in the front cab of his truck; lying in the swing across from his rocking chair on their front porch. Later, I began to cherish time with just him, when the stories would flow easily: driving him to and from doctors’ appointments; playing dominoes after dinner; over breakfast at the Waffle House. No matter how mundane the narrative, when Granddaddy told it, the characters and their surroundings came alive.

As someone who now makes a living writing, editing and telling others’ stories, the rapt attention of his audience, the gentle assuredness of his demeanor and the gift for imagery which he possessed are all qualities I admire and hope to master myself. A mentor once told me that writing is like a muscle—to be a good writer, you must practice often and flex that muscle. Granddaddy’s knack for storytelling was so natural and fluid the muscle seemed always at work, but never fatigued.

The greatest story of his life, though, was written in partnership with someone else. And, in my humble opinion, the very beginning of that story is one of the sweetest tales ever told.

— Elizabeth Manning



Of Passion and Bridges

by Sharon Jones Harris

For the last year or so, there has been some controversy on the mountain concerning the date the old covered bridge fell. I know when the bridge fell! The story twines through my childhood memories the way the river shimmers and winds through the old rhododendron and mountain laurel thickets on its way to the falls. In all likelihood I knew the story before I could talk well enough to tell it, even though it happened while I was yet a gleam in my Daddy’s blue eyes.

As most folks know, Daddy grew up on Lookout Mountain about a mile from where the bridge spanned Little River. He learned to swim not far above the bridge, depending on a tow sack suspended between two empty syrup buckets to keep him afloat. And though he was only sixteen the day the bridge collapsed, that event was subsequent to one a few months earlier that had forever changed his life.

Now I may not have all the facts perfectly straight, but when the main characters tell the story, they don’t always agree either. Besides, my love for the tale and for the people far outweighs any small error in the telling. So, that said, let’s begin with love before first sight — this is the part hardest for me to believe!

As high school boys are wont to do, Norman McCord and Earl (Buddy) Huron were discussing girls with young Jim Jones (Jones was still in junior high at Moon Lake) one day and a picture was shown of one Dallyne Tilley. The report was that not only was this young woman pleasant to behold, in the way of Monroes and Mansfields, but she was also a woman of great virtue. The impetuous Mr. Jones, who was probably only fifteen at the time, was so impressed that he stated bluntly that he would marry the girl.

By the way, while we are on the subject of Miss

(continued on page 12)

Of Passion and Bridges

(continued from page 11)

Tilley's virtues, I don't know what those boys said, but I am certain they didn't exaggerate. The woman raised me, and virtues abounded along with the worthy woman bit, too. I think she was always up before dawn trying to hammer character into us from birth to marriage and beyond — by today's theories on child rearing, we should all have rebelled, but believe me, we didn't dare. Miss Tilley was always ahead of us.

When Jim went to Valley Head to school the next fall, he met Dallyne and, through Norman, Earl, and Fuzzy Spears, developed enough of an acquaintance that he decided to invite her to the football banquet. He and Fuzzy knocked on the classroom door (in those days the football players went to the classrooms to invite the girls to the banquet) and Mr. P.W. Roberts sent Dallyne out to talk with them. Fuzzy said to my mother, "Do you want to go to the football banquet?"

She said, "Who with?"

"Jimmy, of course!"

Now Dallyne was scared to death, because she didn't think her parents would let her go, but she said she would ask them. She did and they did and the rest is history.

Certainly there was a good bit of parental disapproval a few months later when the young people began to appear serious about each other. Remember, James T. was only sixteen and Mary Dallyne was seventeen. I used to watch my own children at those ages and try to imagine how my Grandmother Tilley and Grandmother Jones felt during that courtship. But the young folks' main defense of their relationship was that they were both Baptists, Democrats, and had grown up drying on sack towels. I wonder they didn't throw in things about hand-cranked well buckets, communal water dippers and outdoor toilets — all things I remember from my grandparents' houses.

The date of the elopement was set for Saturday, June 23, 1945. Jim had gone to Fort Payne the Saturday before to buy a brown woolen suit and that suit was secreted away at Aunt Almeda Blevins' house. He was going to walk up to Floyd Bailey's store on the appointed afternoon to borrow Luther Kirby's 1940 Chevrolet (all these folks are cousins, in-laws and out-laws for those of you new to Mentone). Then he would drive the car down Highway 117 (thus avoiding the curious eyes of Aunt Juanita and Aunt Marjorie, who

kept constant vigil from Papa's front porch), turn by Moon Lake Church, cross the covered bridge to the old road and Aunt Almeda's, change clothes, proceed back across the bridge and on to Sand Mountain to pick up Mama. But lo! On Wednesday, June 20, a state truck was crossing the bridge and down came bridge, truck, men and all. I still see weathered planks splintering and falling with sprays of water creating millions of tiny rainbows shining against the old rock pilings. The men walked away and up to Papa Jones' to call for help. Only, the elopement plans were foiled.

Having little choice in the matter, on Saturday following, young Jim (as a child, when I pictured this,



Jim and Dallyne Jones the month before they married

my Daddy was grown up — now, at forty-eight, I see him as half child, half young adult) donned his white shirt, put his tie in his back pocket and proceeded on foot to Floyd Bailey's. After securing said automobile, he had to drive past the house on the old road on the way to Almeda's and again after putting on his suit. At which point, Aunt Juanita commented that Jim must be going to get married, because he left with his tie in his hip pocket and came up the road from Almeda's in Luther Kirby's car in a new suit! My how much a suit and tie signified in those days!

Mama and Daddy were married in Rising Fawn, Georgia, by Justice of the Peace Hale with Mrs. Hale and my Aunt Ruth as witnesses. My greatest concern about this event is that of course they lied about their ages; does that make their marriage illegal and are we all illegitimate offspring? Oh well, I reckon we won't worry about things we can't change!

At any rate other folks are currently making lots of money on books and movies about bridges and passion, and the passion is something I know about, too! There were seven of us (six living) and neither Mama nor Daddy was Roman Catholic — to borrow a Manning expression, they are passionate Baptists!

Daddy would come home from work and it didn't matter how many of us were around (and we weren't quiet children, our presence was always felt or heard) — if Mama wasn't there, nobody was. He always kissed her on coming in the door as if nobody else was in the whole world. We were shut out, but there was security in that shutting out! And if he wanted her to go somewhere with him, she always had the good sense to put down whatever she was doing, leave the dishes on the table or in the sink and go. Now that I'm old enough to have grandchildren of my own (my children take note of this fact) and I've heard it said that the secret to raising children right is for their Daddy to love their Mother, I realize what that relationship we saw daily meant to us.

So while others write of bridges and forbidden love, the Jones children have been blessed to see the real thing up close: love that survived and built on the impetuous fires of youth, spanned the loss of a child, pulled through recessions, endured church splits, tamed head-strong teenagers, and withstood other things I don't even know about. Their marriage stands, a monument to all that is real and permanent, a symbol to me and my brother and sisters and to our children that there are things that stand and last in this throw-away world — as surely as the old rock pilings stand in Little

River to remind us of that week fifty years ago when we all began.

A good marriage is a strong cord that binds up the lives of its offspring, that holds them in the tempests and lends strength to all those who know it. So when you have occasion to round the big curve going down to Aunt Marjorie Berry's house, look down at the river, and know that as long as those pilings stand, they represent things that are more permanent than almost anything else in the world.

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Congratulations to the Recipients of the Van McCary Scholarship

by Kat Griffith

A big congratulations goes out to all the hard working high school graduates and to their families for completing a very important phase of their education. St. Joseph's on-the-Mountain Episcopal Church is honored and grateful to have the privilege of awarding eleven students, who have shown both exceptional scholarship ability and the willingness to work hard, our **Vann McCary Scholarship**. This scholarship was begun some 30 years prior by two families who had a deep respect for the community of Mentone and for education. It is available for four years, subject to application and adherence to the guidelines and is available to any post high school student providing they live in the near vicinity of Mentone.

This group of recipients has shown dedication to scholarship and to leadership skills in order to improve themselves and to serve their local communities.

The 2018 Vann McCary Scholarship from St. Joseph's on-the-Mountain are: Josie Marie Crider; Ronald Zachary Devin Leps; Brooke Lynn Moore; Elizabeth Diana Meadows; Angela Marie Hadley; Carol Sthefany Rodriguez Rosales; Breanna Rae Blalock; Caitlyn Christine Collins; Saddler Grace Emory; Megan Taylor Foshee; Brianna Danae Powell.

St. Joseph's pledges prayers and support to each of them and prays God's blessings on their futures.

Josie Marie Crider

We have watched Josie's career goals refine and her grades edge upward each year with her scholarship applications. This is her fourth year to receive the Vann McCary Scholarship and she is pursuing a BS in Secondary Education for English Language Arts at Jacksonville State University. She plans to teach English and pursue a master's degree.

Ronald Zachary Devin Leps

Devin continues his studies toward a career in nursing at the University of North Alabama, where he has completed his sophomore year. His grades in college are even more stellar than his HS grades and we have seen perseverance and competence in his determination to reach his goal. Devin plans to receive a BS in Nursing, work, then return to school to earn his Nurse Practitioner's licensure.

Brooke Lynn Moore

Brooke was the Valley Head High School valedictorian in 2017, while a busy person with an impressive list of extracurricular activities. She has completed her second year at the University of North



First-time recipients of the Van McCary Scholarship
L to R: Breanna Blalock, Megan Foshee, Brianna Powell, Caitlin Collins
Far right: Saddler Emory



Alabama in Finance and Accounting. She continues to receive honors on the college level equal to those she received in high school. Brooke hopes to be a Budget Analyst with the high hopes of helping in a government capacity.

Elizabeth Diana Meadows

Liz is continuing her college career at Wallace State Community College as she works to obtain her goal as a Physical Therapist's Assistant. She will be working this summer to help defray the cost of her tuition. This is Liz's second year to receive our Vann McCary Scholarship.

Angela Marie Hadley

Angela continues her perfect grade point average in the School of Nursing at Northeast Alabama Community College (NACC), where she has been a diligent and independent student. St. Joseph's has benefited from Angela's desire for compassion and service as she worked to improve a knowledge base of health for both clients and volunteers in our Food Pantry Program.

Caitlyn Christine Collins

Caitlyn received top honors as a scholar at Valley Head High School and active leader in school and community organizations. She has earned a spot in the One Life Institute at Southern Wesleyan University to receive her freshman credits as she travels, studies, and works in service to the community and, ultimately to the well-being of people worldwide.

Carol Sthefany Rodriguez Rosales

Carol was the Valedictorian of Valley Head High School in 2017 and on NACC's President's List of Scholars in 2018. She has chosen the challenging field of Mechanical Engineering as her major and hopes to obtain her degree, then to pursue further education to concentrate on either aerospace engineering or marine engineering. We hope we will be connected to watch her refine her goals over the next few years.

Saddler Grace Tarva Emory

We are thrilled to be able

to present the Vann McCary Scholarship to one of our own! Saddler Emory is a graduate of Fort Payne High School where she was in student government and the National Honor Society, among other activities. In Mentone, she has given to the community as an avid supporter of MERF and to our church by serving as the Communications Chairperson for ECW, 2018 and as our devoted Nursery Attendant. Saddler will be headed to the University of North Alabama to major in multimedia journalism.

Breanna Rae Blalock

Breanna was the 2018 Valedictorian at Valley Head High School, where she was also involved in numerous extracurricular activities. She graduated with top honors and hopes to continue her educational endeavors toward medical school. She was accepted into the One Life Scholarship Program of Southern Wesleyan University, through which she will travel, study and work both all over the U.S. and abroad.

Megan Taylor Foshee

Megan is a recent Valley Head High School honor graduate who will be heading to NACC in the fall. She hopes to help children as a Physical Therapist's Assistant and is dedicated to obtaining a degree in the face of life challenges. We look forward to hearing more from her in the future.

Brianna Danae Powell

Brianna was among the top 10 of her graduating class at Valley Head High School in 2018. Besides being a scholar at her high school, she is also a third-degree Black Belt. She plans to begin her college education at NACC and hopes to work toward a degree in Nursing.



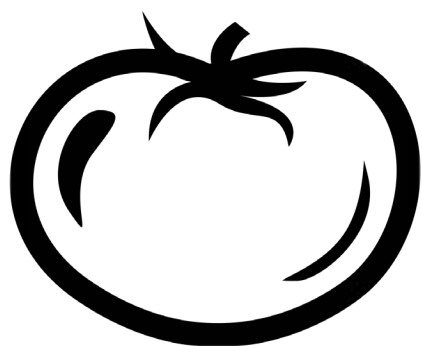
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DeKalb County Farmers' Markets

Mentone Farmers Market is a year-round market offering fresh produce, baked goods, fresh eggs, various meats, jelly, handmade items and more, all produced by our vendors. The market is open every Saturday 10am–1pm and Wednesday 4–6pm. It is located at 6139 Al Highway 117 (at County Road 89) in Mentone. 256-845-1213.

Windy Hill Farmers Market is open during the summer on Fridays from 3–7:30pm and offers fresh produce, eggs, and meat from the Farm, which is located at 445 County Rd 942 in Mentone (just off Hwy. 117). thefarmatwindyhill.com.

DeKalb County Farmers Market is open mid-June through mid-September on Tuesdays and Fridays from 3–6pm at the VFW Fairgrounds, 18th Street North, Fort Payne. Call the DeKalb County Cooperative Extension for more information at 256-845-8595.

Fort Payne Main Street Farmers Market is open every Saturday from 7am–12pm and Tuesday from 5–8pm through October across from Fort Payne City Park (the Market is held at Gault Ave. No. and 4th St. NE, between the Southern Properties parking lot and City Park. 256-996-2131.

Henagar Farmers Market provides a place for local farmers, gardeners, and vendors to sell fresh produce, other agricultural products, homemade food items, and live plants to the public. The market is open on Mondays from 2–5 p.m. at Henagar Park.

Rainsville Farmers Market is open mid-June through mid-September (weather permitting) every Thursday from 4–7pm at the location behind the Agribusiness Center at the Field of Dreams complex, 100 Rodeo Lane, Rainsville, AL 35986. 256-638-6331.

Rhododendron Festival Shuttles and Paid Parking

by Sharon Habin

The Rhododendron Festival was lovely and low-key. Sales were modest, however that has not stopped vendors from inquiring about applications for Colorfest. Applications for Colorfest will be available in July.

MAPA would like to thank the Mentone Arts & Cultural Center board for allowing us to use the future site of the Cultural Center for parking, as well as Mentone Community Church for being a back-up parking location.

Rhododendron Festival attendance is typically smaller than Colorfest and it may have been lower than usual this year. If so, I believe it was due to worrying about the weather forecast. Some vendors did not come because of the forecast. The shuttles were extremely timely, with little traffic. Less than 40 cars parked in the out-of-town festival parking. This meant people were parking as usual, often in places that are not useful to traffic flow or private property. This was an excellent trial run to see what worked and what needs improvement, as well as unforeseen difficulties.

The health and safety of everyone in town is important. Plans will be discussed to improve signage, communication, and distribution of information. This involves the mayor, police chief, MAPA, festival chair, and volunteers.

If you have thoughts or ideas you would like considered, please email mapamentone@gmail.com or write MAPA, PO Box 50, Mentone, AL 35984.



*The Rhododendron Garden Club
meets each month on the
2nd Tuesday at 10am
at the Boy Scout House.
'Green thumbs' and
'brown thumbs' welcome!
Call 256-634-4403 to learn more.*



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Clothing closet offering men's, women's and children's clothes and show free of charge for those in need

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If you know of a family who is in need but cannot get to our clothes closet, call 256-634-4210 and arrangements will be made to provide for them.

Donations of shoes and clothing are welcome. Contact Gwen Stone for details. Mentone Community Church Life Center is located at 90 Summerville Road. They can be reached at 256-634-4210 or mentonecc.org.



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Miss Rhododendron 2018,
Cydnee Jaiden Thorseon

Miss Rhododendron Pageant 2018

by Sharon Habin

Congratulations to our 2018 Miss Rhododendron — Miss Cydnee Jaiden Thorseon of Summerville, GA! Cydnee recently graduated as an honor student from Trion High School in Trion, Ga. She was a member of the Beta Club, Club DCP, Cross Country Team, and is part of the Helping Hands Ending Hunger program.

Cydnee enjoys her church family, her many pets, the outdoors, hiking, and photography. Her future plans are to enlist in the Air Force as a meteorologist after graduation from college. We would like to also congratulate:

- **Miss Rhododendron 1st Alternate**—**Hannah Malcaylah Slaton**
- **Teen Miss**—**Isabella Arrie Cooper**
1st Alternate—**Candace Wells**
- **Pre-Teen Miss**—**Emma Campbell Crawford**
1st Alternate—**Karolina Mann**
2nd Alternate—**Marissa Blevins**
- **Mini Miss**—**Laura Beth Farmer**
1st Alternate—**Brooklyn Slaton**
2nd Alternate—**Sydney Blake Crane**
- **Baby Miss**—**Gracie Rose Shepherd**



Cydnee Thorseon, Isabella Cooper, Gracie Shepherd, Emma Crawford, Laura Framer



The Teen Miss contestants



The Miss Rhododendron contestants



The Pre-teen Miss contestants



The Mini Miss contestants

Our winners and alternates came from Albertville, Fort Payne, Rainsville, and Ider in Alabama, and from Menlo, Summerville, and Trion in Georgia.

MAPA would like to thank our judges. A return judge, Bethany Hancock, traveled here from Rome, GA. Bethany has been involved with pageants for over 15 years. She has held at least 4 titles and also is a freelance makeup artist for weddings and events. Local Lisa Shad of Tohi Massage was also a judge. Teresa Little from Rome also returned to judge this year. She is the co-owner of Glitz and Glamour Consignment Prom and Pageant Dresses in Rome, GA. Over the past 25 years, Teresa has directed, co-directed, and judged pageants. She has offered to co-direct the Miss Rhododendron Pageant next year. We are grateful and plan to take her up on her offer.

Another important Thank You goes to our pageant sponsor, Skelton Orthodontics, and to Mentone Community Church for hosting the pageant.

2017 Miss Rhododendron, Konar Bell, crowned the winners and was an enormous help with the pageant, as was Lisa Schad, who helped set up and take down everything.

And as always, we are truly grateful for Northeast Alabama Community College providing the one-year scholarship.

Baby Miss



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Miss Rhododendron Pageant





Where Your Appalachian Adventure Begins

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TIMES-JOURNAL

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Joe Smith (left) of Mentone's Village Ice Cream Shop was the happy raffle winner of Chuck Peter's (right) stained glass art piece.



Local artist Willow Flowers invited festival-goers to express themselves on chalkboards.



Rhododend
2018 was

Thanks to all the volunteers



Kelley Clinton of Stardust Mama's Handmade Bazaar shows her hula hoop skills.



Anne and Don Highfield displayed Don's wood carvings. The couple is moving to Mentone from Athens, GA, in June.



Hula dancing in Mentone, courtesy of



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Wildflower
Music



ron Festival
great fun!
ers who made it possible!

A crowd favorite is always the BBQ sold by
Mentone's local heroes — our volunteer firefighters.

Miss Rhododendron 2018, Cydnee Jaiden
Thoreson, enjoyed some cotton candy at
DeSoto Rescue Squad's booth.



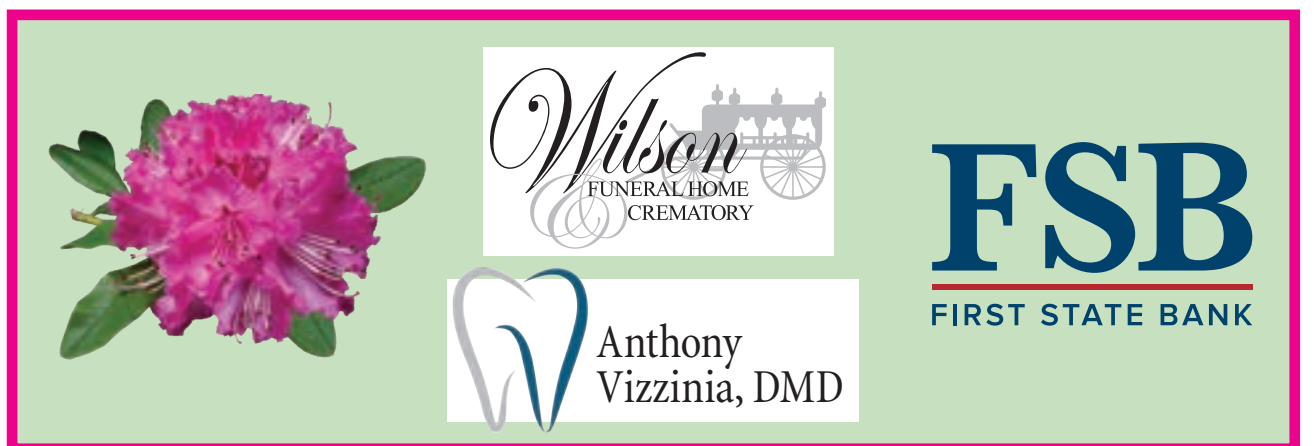
The Island Brothers!



This couple found the perfect spot at Brow Park
to enjoy their lunch and listen to live music!



Artist Donna Godwin invited passers-by to
add their own touch to a painting she'd started.



Enjoy a Swim at DeSoto State Park



DeSoto State Park boasts an Olympic-size swimming pool, complete with a diving board and ADA-lift. The pool is located near the park's picnic area and playground, within 1/2 mile of the Country Store & Information Center.

The pool opens daily at 11 a.m. and closes at 6 p.m. Lifeguards are on duty. Children under 14 must be accompanied by an adult. The entrance fee is \$4 per swimmer. Season passes are available (individuals \$88; family of 2–6 \$198). Swimming is free each day from 5 until 6 p.m. Access is complementary for guests of DeSoto Lodge and the Improved Campground. Call 256-845-0051 for additional information.

The pool can be rented for after-hours pool parties. Party hours are 6:30–9 p.m. The fee is \$137.50. One lifeguard is provided for up to 25 people; additional lifeguards are available for a fee of \$27.50 each. To reserve a party, call 256-845-0051.

Swimming and wading are allowed in the West Fork of Little River, which runs through DeSoto State Park and is accessed by the yellow trail (the DeSoto Scout Trail). The water level varies. No lifeguards are present on Little River; swim at your own risk.

Enjoy a Walk on the MERF Trail



Two young families recently enjoyed a walk along the MERF trail.

The quarter-mile walking track in front of MERF house is a great place for friends to walk and talk! In 1997, Jake Pinholster created the walking track on the MERF grounds as his Eagle Scout project. It has been an excellent addition to the Mentone community and is available for all to use. The trail is located on Hwy. 117, next to Moon Lake Library.

River Voice • by Bill Shugart



As summer is trying its best to hurry spring-time out of the way, our children have finished out the school year. Counselors, campers, and visitors are beginning to arrive on the mountain and it seems everyone is making plans to visit their favorite swimming hole.

I hear folks talk about going to the Hippy Hole, High Rock, Canyon Mouth Park, Taylor's Ford, the Pot Hole, Slant Rock, or DeSoto Falls. Some folks are even lucky enough to have a spot all of their own. One thing all river people hold in common is their love of the water. And this time of year, the water is clear and clean. It's perfect for swimming and fishing.

In years past, I've gone swimming before the daffodils even popped out. But this year I've been a little reserved about jumping in. I've waited long enough. It's May 24 and it's time for me to take the plunge.

I tested the water with my foot as I stood on a rock near the AA Miller Dam and looked at the red boathouse. My 11-year-old daughter, El, and I counted to three. "Come on, Dad, let's jump!" she said.

As I set my mind as to how I was going to make my grand entrance, I had a side-thought. I looked out at swollen bunches of Mountain Laurel drooping towards the water and said to myself, "Man, the spring flowers put on such a great show this year." A towering black cumulous cloud was looming over the hill. No thunder or lightening. "One!" I said. "...Two!!" The sound of the water rushing over the dam near me was mesmerizing. "...Three!!! JUMP!" we shouted.

I went full on. No holding back. I hit the water with a stride jump. It was a little brisk at first.

As I cleared the water from my face, I felt a whole lot better. I felt renewed in a sense. And I realized that this swim confirmed that the summer is here. Swim Season is ON!

We went back and jumped again. We got lost watching bluegill on their beds chase away the smaller fish. It was a good day.

So, river people, hear me when I say this. If you haven't jumped in the river yet this year, I would like to encourage you to use any and all means at your disposal. Pry your keister out of your comfy spot and get yourself to the river! As you know, it's good for the soul.

Now, if you are one of the early birds who's been swimming since before the last frost, send us some of your favorite pictures and tell us your favorite way to enjoy Little River. We'll share them on the Little River Waterkeeper site and our Facebook page and give you @ #shoutout!

As the summer moves along, you may find yourself wondering, "Is my swimming hole getting funky?" Maybe the water seems a little less attractive or it has a funny smell. Well, you're in luck. You can see the results of our weekly water test results on our website at littleriverwaterkeeper.org.

If you want the Red Light / Green Light version of the test results, go to theswimguide.org. You can also download the free Swim Guide app, which is easy to use.

So, we want you to "know before you go". Get the low-down before you go down. Get the skinny before you dip. Ya hip? None of us wants our babies to be swimming in stuff they shouldn't.

If you spot pollution on the river, report it. Call 256-516-2877 and ask for the Little River Waterkeeper. As always, don't ever litter! If you see litter, pick it up and carry it out. It's important that our river stay clean.

In closing, I want to extend a very warm welcome to all of you who are passing through. Whether you might be working here for the summer or are only here for a minute, you are a part of this magical place. We hope you fall in love with Mentone, Little River, and Lookout Mountain. Help us make a difference while you're here. Strike up friendly conversations. Wave at random people. Drive slowly. Watch out for dogs, bikes and kids. Pick up trash if you see it. Do nice things for no apparent reason. Reduce, Recycle and Reuse. These things are also good for the soul.

Little River Stakeholder Meeting
Thursday, June 7 • 6 pm • Moon Lake Library
Everyone is invited!



Jason's Pie Crust

Submitted by Jason Druebert

In a mixing bowl combine the following dry ingredients:
 1/2 heaping cup of all purpose flour (such as Gold Medal)
 1/2 heaping cup of White Lily flour
 1 Tbs sugar
 1 tsp salt (more if using kosher)

Cube one stick of high quality (organic, or with higher fat content) cold butter and cut it into the dry mixture with a pastry blender, food processor, or even your hands. Mix until the pieces of butter are mostly pea-sized & coated with the dry mix. Add 1/3 cup of good water, preferably very cold. Gently fold the mixture several times in the bowl using a rubber spatula or your hands until barely combined. Dump contents onto a clean workspace. It will be loose. Use your hands to gently combine & knead the dough until it is consistent enough to shape into a ball & flatten into a disc (about 2" thick). Wrap disc with cling wrap & refrigerate for about an hour. Unwrap the disc & lightly flour each side before returning it to the work surface. Use a rolling pin to roll uniformly flat & large enough for a 9" pie pan. Should be about the thickness of two stacked quarters. Place in the pan, press dough into the bottom of the pan, and trim corners. Cover & place into the fridge for at least an hour, overnight if possible. This rest will help it keep its shape.

Bake per your pie recipe.



*The most
important
ingredient
is always love.*

Recipe correction—May issue

The recipe for **Healthy Alfredo Sauce** in the May 2018 issue was short one key ingredient! The first ingredient should read "Head of cauliflower".



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Welcome To Mentone



Stop in and see us at our log cabin office in the heart of Mentone. Porch sitters welcome!

.....
LOTS and LAND

EASTERN LOOKOUT MTN'S EDGE, expansive views, gorgeous sunrises. 1-acre lot w/approx 120' brow frontage; paved road; public water. Driveway tile already in place. Just right for your mountain home or getaway. Lake on the Brow Subdivision allows for use of lakes in common areas. Only a mile or so from famed Little River Canyon Nat'l Preserve, Jacksonville Center & favorite swimming holes of Little River. Less than 15 minutes to Ft Payne. \$59,900 (1088539)

READY FOR YOUR DREAM HOME! 2.75 unrestricted acres less than 3 miles from the town of Mentone. Power, water, septic, all in place! Just what you need for a dream home. Nestled quietly into the woods away from it all as well! \$23,500 (1086608)

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)

JUST ENOUGH IS JUST RIGHT. And we think you'll find this 11.9 acres to offer just enough land, privacy and elbow room. Public water is right there at the road, so is electricity. If you're resourceful enough, you might even find there's plenty of timber on the property to have milled into the lumber you'll need to build. Not too much, not too little, & at a perfect price. \$41,900 (1087348)

SOUTH COOL STREET brow-front property w/beautiful old stone chimney, part of the foundation, plus a small garage. New survey. An original Mentone summer home once stood here; owned by the same family since early 1920s. Approx 0.45 acre lot in an area where properties are seldom available. Build your own memories! \$125,000 (1070474)

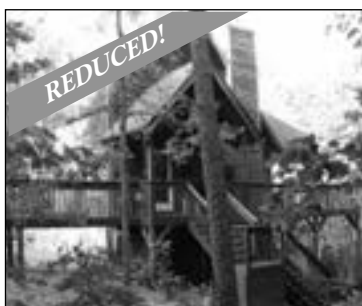
30 ACRES (+/-) IN MENTONE of mostly hardwood forest, some pasture land. Slight slope to offer a great elevation for future cabins, a farm, hunting cabin or whatever your Mentone dream dictates. \$105,000 (\$3,500 per acre)

DESOTO FALLS AREA LAKEFRONT 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)

Happy Father's Day



THE CONTRACT FELL THROUGH! So, here's your chance to own this sweet little 2BR/1BA cottage sitting on over an acre right in the heart of Mentone. New CH/A, insulation & light fixtures. Vintage pine cabinets; laminate floors; wood interior walls; lots of windows for natural light. Mountain stonework inside & out. Wet-weather stream, garden spot & outbuilding add to the charm. This one is a must see! Their loss is your gain. Only \$90,000 (1086304)



SPACIOUS, IMMACULATE & BEAUTIFUL CABIN on 3.81 acres on Middle Fork, Little River. Custom-built 2640 sq ft home w/WB Fplce; pine floors; high-end windows & doors; pro-quality gas range w/elec convection oven; on-demand hot H2O; custom cellular window shades; 3BR/3BA+loft 4thBR. Main-level Master suite. Move-in ready! Screened porch, covered & open decks on two sides. All appliances, incl W/D remain. A great buy at only \$219,900. (1019875)



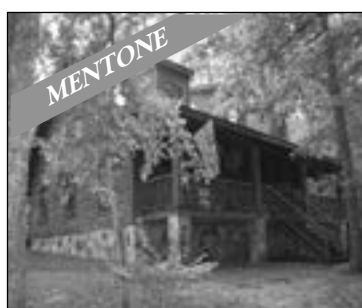
CLASSIC BUNGALOW-STYLE COTTAGE in the heart of Mentone, built in 1910. Fully restored & updated in 2003, new CH/A May 2018. Light & airy spaces, lots of windows. Open living with library area & adjacent sunroom; two large bedrooms; one bath. Kitchen w/b'fast bar & pantry. Sep DR. Wood floors & area-made terra cotta tiles. Front sun porch, back screen porch. Approx 2 acres with mature shade trees & wet-weather stream. Now \$174,900 (1086659)



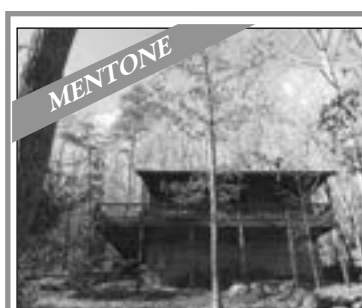
RELAX, IT'S "MOUNTAIN TIME" NOW. You've worked hard for it, you're ready to unwind. Here's that cabin filled with rustic flavor & mountain charm. All-wood interior; vaulted, open LR/DR/KIT. Spacious, main-level MABR & bath. Large loft BR w/bright shower bath. Front porch & big screened back porch for just kicking back with no worries. Laurel Creek offers 3 lakes and well-kept walking trails to explore wildflowers & native plant life. A sweet package, a sweet price. \$173,900 (1089804)



GET AWAY TO YOUR OWN CABIN IN THE WOODS! 2BR/2BA; on 3 wooded acres; away from it all, but within minutes of downtown Mentone. All wood interior w/vaulted ceilings; wood-burning Fplce; master suite w/jetted tub & sep shower. Great outdoor places, too, including a large screened porch on the side, covered front porch & sweeping open decks. There's also a 10x20 detached building for storage or a workshop for the tinkerer. New siding 2018. Priced well at only \$170,000. (1083660).



BEAUTIFUL CEDAR CABIN on 2.91 wooded acres with small, wet-weather stream. Picturesque setting with winding drive. The 8x42 front porch is great, but wait till you see the 12x42 back porch! 2 or 3BR/2.5 BA. Great kitchen with Kohler fixtures, Corian counters, lotsa cabinets. Spacious LR w/19' vault. Main-level MABR. Wide, pine-plank floors. Huge laundry! On-demand hot H2O. 10x12 shop. Recently reduced to \$198,500 (749941)



CABIN ON 5 ACRES WITH OVER 300' ON W FORK LITTLE RIVER with a nice launch site for kayaks; river-side deck; and level areas for picnicking, camping, outdoor adventures of all sorts. One-owner cabin has 3BR/2BA, approx 1800 sq ft; wood-burning masonry fireplace with stone hearth; open living/dining; spacious kitchen with lots of cabinets & counter space. Beautifully furnished, including locally-crafted dining table & benches. Full front porch and side deck. Land is covered with gorgeous native holly trees, huge boulders, large hardwoods. A place to use as a cozy mountain retreat or a family gathering spot. What are you waiting for? \$248,500 (1086017)



OH MY! THE POSSIBILITIES! What could one do with this marvelous old Mentone heritage property, with approx 210' of brow frontage and spacious gardens & walkways?! At one time, this was a tea house where Mentone society reportedly gathered on the porches or inside to catch up on all the news. Currently 3BR/2BA, with formal dining room, sitting room, den & sun porches. Unfinished "grandma's attic" area with intriguing angles and nooks. Wood floors throughout. Mostly wood walls & ceilings, some sheetrock. Situated on 2.66 ac (+/-), with plenty of room for an additional cottage to be built. Wildlife love the natural setting. \$235,000 (1074930)



SIMPLE OUTSIDE, SIMPLY CHARMING INSIDE. Filled with all the mountain features: stone, wood-burning fplce; vaulted living/dining; all wood interior; 4BR/2BA (including a "tree-house" 3rd level bedroom). Well-kept, move-in ready w/b'fast bar & pantry. Full front porch & big screened back porch. A sweet package, a sweet price. \$189,900 (1089528)



CUTE LITTLE LOG CABIN, on a little over an acre. Small in size, big on what you'll want in a retreat or in a place to live life more simply. Wood interior; new kitchen; 1BR/1BA (new tile shower); rocking chairs on the front porch (it's being sold fully furnished); metal roof; wooded backyard; lovely front yard w/fruit trees & garden areas; flower beds; quaint "outhouse-look" well house. (Public water avail.) Great rental possibilities, too! Fantastic price of only \$79,900 (1053288).

VOLUNTEER

at Little River Canyon National Preserve

by Larry Beane

Little River Canyon National Preserve depends heavily on volunteers to serve the quarter- to half-million visitors who visit the park every year. The volunteers provide information to visitors in the beautiful eco-friendly Little River Canyon Center and at Little River Falls. Working positions added throughout the park this year are for maintenance, visitor safety, trail monitoring, litter pickup and educational assistants. This includes staffing new locations such as Canyon Mouth and overlooks on busy days and holidays. Training begins soon for these volunteer positions. For more information, call Larry Beane at Little River Canyon National Preserve, 256-845-9605.

There are different types of volunteers. Our greatest needs are for volunteers to greet visitors both at the front desk and at Little River Falls. Other locations in the park are important, but not as critical. People call and visit the Canyon Center front desk asking for directions, information, and to see the movie. If you like interacting with people, this is one of the more rewarding volunteer positions you can take on.



For those who would rather be outside and do physical labor, the park needs maintenance assistance all year. The park does not have a trails crew. We need people to hike or walk our trails to report downed trees, spot hazards, and help keep the litter picked up. Resources management is able to train people in special habitat restoration and resources monitoring. Retired teachers who miss the teachable moments

work well as educational assistants for school group educational field trips.

The park provides free uniforms to identify people as volunteers, as well as specific safety equipment and other materials, as needed. Experienced volunteers and staff train and mentor new volunteers. Our volunteers are extremely important members of the park family, and for their safety, volunteers cannot participate in dangerous situations such as fire, rope rescue and law enforcement. It is an enjoyable way to gain experience, meet visitors from all over the world, and improve the visitor experience for everyone.

Park Superintendent Steve Black invites you to come enjoy the park, and consider volunteering. Check out our webpage at nps.gov/liri. You can follow our updates and find park pictures on Facebook at LIRINPS.

Larry Beane is the Interpretive Park Ranger/Volunteer Coordinator at Little River Canyon National Preserve.



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YOUNG CHEROKEE IS RUNNING BENGE TRAIL OF TEARS ROUTE

by Larry Smith



Kallup McCoy offers a prayer at the fireplace of Spirit the Preacher in Fort Payne.

Kallup McCoy II, a young member of the Eastern Band of Cherokees, is running the entire length of the route taken by the John Benge Detachment that began in DeKalb County during the removal of the Cherokees in 1838 — an event also known as the "Trail of Tears".

His mother, Ruth, is following him and coordinating his run, which he is undertaking to both honor his ancestors and to draw attention to opioid addiction among the Cherokees. Kallup is in long-

term recovery after more than 14 years of addiction. He experienced six overdoses and was saved from the brink of death three times with naloxene, which is used for the emergency treatment of opioid overdose.

Kallup actually began his run from the Kituwah Mound near Cherokee, NC, and arrived in Fort Payne on May 21, where he was met by Olivia Baxter Cox and Randy Cochran of Landmarks of DeKalb County.

Fort Payne is significant to the Trail of Tears. The town is named after the fort where the Cherokees were held in advance of their forced exile westward. It is thought that Captain John Payne was the U.S. Army officer who was in command of the fort.

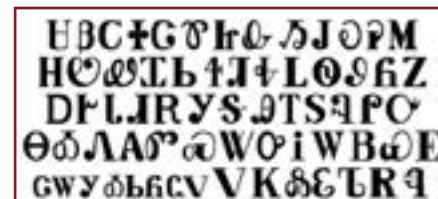
Kallup visited the site of a cabin that was enclosed within the stockade. At the time of the removal, the cabin was owned by Spirit the Preacher, a Cherokee also known as John Huss. All that remains is a solitary stone chimney.

The detachment that began its journey in Fort Payne did not travel with a military escort. This detachment was placed under the leadership of John Benge, a Cherokee leader called a "conductor". The Benge Detachment traveled a different route from any of the other detachments. You can learn more at nationaltota.com/alabama.

Once in Fort Payne, Kallup resumed his run starting at the historical cabin site on Gault Avenue.

Kallup then ran to the Lebanon community, and on to the top of Sand Mountain. His final destination is the Cherokee capital in Tahlequah, Oklahoma. That's about 900 miles.

Larry Smith is the vice president of the Alabama Trail of Tears Association.



The Cherokee syllabary was invented by Sequoyah in the area of Fort Payne in the early 19th century.



Kallup and his mother, Ruth, at one of the historic sites in Fort Payne.

Mentone Wedding Chapel



Candle Lite Ceremonies
Music • Photographs
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Limousine

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

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Tony Garner | 15 Campbell Smit
Brad Wright
Barnabas Bettis |
| 2 Skylar Venable
Steve Tate
Glen Black | 8 Ethan Harrison
Gail Smalley
Rachel Lusk
David Dean
Vince Wright | 16 Sara Langston
Kayla Crow
Mason Vest
Emily Hulkan |
| 3 Brittney Coleman
Donald Stephens
Byron Haynes
Jack Johnston, Jr. | 9 Sydney Vest
Denita Manifold
Brandon Collins | 17 Hope Turner
Andy Beason
Megan Gilreath |
| 4 Lisa Crowder
Cecily Goza | 10 Amanda Gray
Michelle Chappell
Patty Tucker
Joyce Wright
Rebekah Weldon
Lisa Black Smith
Caitie Belle Jennings | 18 Ashley Ingram
Ozell Thornberry
Josh Smith
Carlotta McGee |
| 5 Doris Chamlee
Hannah Filmore
Hadley Gregory
Haley Hilliard | 11 Andrea Woods | 19 Sierra Chambers
Ashley Wooten |
| 6 Angela Valentine
Keegan Johnson
Christy Harrison
Brayden Harrison
Kenneth Busby
Caitlyn Collins
Nick Brown
David Dean
Mike Campbell | 12 Jim Connor | 20 Keri Miller
Brandy Rosson
Wendy Holloway |
| | 13 Kristi Chambers
Taylor Gardner | 21 Katherine McDorman
Nick Langston
Nancy W. Smith
Hannah Stinson
Betty S Morrison
Trey Kincer |
| | 14 Luke Harrison
Jerry Stokes | 22 Judy Smith
Zachary Potts
Nathan Keith |

Anniversaries

- | |
|--|
| 1 Wink & Stacie Painter |
| 2 Lawrence & Felicia Harrison |
| 5 Alfie & Kristi Chambers |
| 6 Tom & Joyce Tate |
| 8 Wayne & Angie Miller |
| 11 Ralph & Carolyn Baine |
| 12 Tom & Jacqueline Tipton |
| 14 Josh & Angel Baggett |
| 15 Michael & Jennifer Owen |
| 18 Chad & Amber Smith |
| 19 Josh & Emmy Smith
John & Trish Sprague
Matt & Traci Hulkan |
| 20 Brandon & Sherinda Hawkins |
| 22 Andy & Jimmie Sue Beason |
| 23 Rusty & Angela Chambers |
| 26 Jim & Darlene Rotch |
| 30 Dwight & Jean Powell
Michael & Patty Tucker
Donald & Margie Daniel |

Ongoing Calendar

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

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

Mentone Farmers' Market is open year-round on Saturdays from 10am–1pm and Wednesdays from 4–6pm in the Town Square.

The Farm Market at Windy Hill sells fresh produce, eggs, beef, and pork every Friday from 3–7:30pm Central. 445 Road 942, Mentone.

Fort Payne Main Street Fresh Farmers Market is open Tuesdays 5–8pm and Saturdays 7am–Noon. Locally grown fruits and vegetables. For more information or to get involved, call Main Street Director Tim Harris at 256-996-2131.

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

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

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

The Mentone Business Association (MBA) meets the 2nd Monday of each month.

Moon Lake Community Library is open on Saturdays from 9am–1pm, and Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3–6pm. Enjoy complimentary coffee, chess and other games of strategy on Saturday mornings at 9am. Visit moonlakecommunitylibrary.org.

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

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!

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 Moon Lake Community Library on the 1st Thursday of each month at 3:15pm. Call 256-635-8775 for details.

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

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

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

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

The Little River group of Alcoholics Anonymous meets every Saturday & every Tuesday night at 6pm at St. Joseph's-on-the-Mountain Episcopal Church in Mentone. 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!

Hope AA/NA, a Christian-based support group, meets each Friday at 6pm at Church of God of Prophecy on Hwy. 117 in Mentone.

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.

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.

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



Calendar entries are subject to change.

June 2018 Community Calendar

All Times are Central. This calendar is subject to change.

June 1–4–Kayak Rentals @ the Boat Shack. Rentals @ Desoto Falls. Unguided 3-hour rental on scenic flatwater section above AA Miller Dam on Little River. Thursday–Monday 7am–7pm, with a launch every 3 hours. Call One World Adventure for reservations 256-634-8370.

June 2–Yoga on the Mountain.

Interested in starting your day in a positive way? Enjoy a yoga class in a beautiful place! These yoga classes with Dee Brown are alignment-based, which makes the class perfect for those beginning their yoga practice or for those wanting to try something new. 8–9am. DeSoto State Park. \$5. 256-634-8370.



June 2–2nd Annual Scale Fun Fly. Any size and power. Must be a replica of an actual airplane and must fly to win. Pilots Choice awards for best built-up and best ARF. Pilots prizes. Flying, Fellowship, Fun and Food. 8am–4pm. Presented by DeKalb RC Flyers.

June 2–Healthy Families, Healthy Future: Mountain Biking. A program funded by the Stringfellow Health Institute and in partnership with the Community Foundation of NE Alabama. We will meet at the Family Loop Trailhead at Desoto State Park and explore an easy 3.5-mile loop trail. 9–11am. Free. Call One World Adventure for reservations 256-634-8370.

June 2–Memories of Mayberry. Join the Valley Head Volunteer Fire Department for a great day for the whole family! There will be a cruise in, food, fun, entertainment and more in the downtown square of Valley Head. Special guest is Barney Fife. All proceeds go to the Fire Department. 9am. 256-899-3776 or 256-635-6814.

June 2–Alabama State Park's Great Outdoors Day at DeSoto State Park. Join Alabama State Parks staff, volunteers & guest speakers for this great event showcasing all the many ways that adventures can be had in the Great Outdoors! Come out to enjoy the park with demonstrations, live animal education programs, info tables, guided fitness, nature hikes, and much more! 10am–3pm. DeSoto State Park. Picnic Area across from DeSoto's Country Store on DeKalb County Road 89. Free event. \$2/vehicle for parking. Great for all ages! For more details on activities, email or call 256.997.5025. alapark.com/great-outdoors-day.

June 4–Tiny Tots: Adventures in Nature. Hosted by JSU Field Schools. Fun-filled classes just for little kids. Your kids (ages 3–5 years) will learn about animals, plants, bugs, and more all while having fun! 9–10am (CDT) JSU's Little River Canyon Center. \$5/child. Limit 10 children. Parents remain with children for this program. Pre-registration required by 6/1. 256-845-3548.

June 6–Canyon Center Creative Kids Days: Adventures in Nature. Hosted by JSU Field Schools. Bring your children, grandchildren,

nieces, nephews and neighbors to creatively learn about animals, plants, bugs, and more with JSU Field Schools. Ages 5–10. 10am–Noon. JSU's Little River Canyon Center. \$5/child; pre-registration required. Limit 15 children. Parents remain with children for this program. 256-845-3548.

June 6–Youth DayTrip: Water Wednesday.

One World Adventure has the hookup on all the best kayaking spots and swimming holes to beat the heat. We will paddle & swim the flatwater section of Little River! Meet in Fort Payne. 8am–4pm. \$45. Call One World Adventure for reservations 256-634-8370.

June 7–Art in the Alley. Bring your friends and let's have some fun! Join us after work for Art in the Alley, and enjoy local food, music, and art in Fort Payne's Entertainment District - and Boom Town Makers Market. Look for the festival lights in the Alley behind the theater; visit Boom Town Makers Market for our Spring 2018 Art Opening. 5–8pm.

June 7–RadioVizions Presents Matty Croxton—Matty Croxton takes the RadioVisions stage in our "Homegrown Music Series". Matty has worked hard to establish himself regionally and this show will show how far he has progressed to become a consummate showman. Artist Reception 6pm. Concert 7–9pm. Admission \$10/advance, \$15/door. Coal & Iron Building, Fort Payne. 256-979-1910. Tickets online @ radiovizionshomegrownmusicseries.eventbrite.com

June 7–11–Kayak Rentals @ the Boat Shack. Rentals @ Desoto Falls. Unguided 3-hour rental on scenic flatwater section above AA Miller Dam on Little River. Thursday–Monday 7am–7pm, with a launch every 3 hours. Call One World Adventure for reservations 256-634-8370.

June 8–Family Adventure Friday: Mountain Biking! Mountain Biking is a great way for the family to spend time together. We will meet at the Family Loop Trailhead at Desoto State Park and explore an easy, 3.5-mile loop trail. \$30 per person. Includes bike and helmet. To register, contact One World Adventure at 256-634-8370 or email angie@oneworldadventureco.org.

June 8–Annual Farm-to-Table BBQ. We want to welcome friends and neighbors to The Farm at Windy Hill for our Farm-to-Table BBQ. We will be serving BBQ plates featuring our own pastured pork, fresh-picked-vegetable sides, and homemade pound cake. The Farm Market will be open the entire day and we will also have great local musicians as well as lawn games for all! We will be selling plates of food (BBQ plates and sandwiches, varying between \$8 and \$14, with a discount offered to seniors), and the event is free for all to attend. 10am–7pm. 445 County Road 942, Mentone. thefarmatwindyhill.com

June 8–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. Orbix Hot Glass. 1pm. Reservations are required. 256-523-3188.

June 9–5th Annual Bluegrass on the Rim.

This year's line-up includes Phoebe Grace with Blackrock Station; Foggy Hollow; The Yellow Dandies; and Valley Road. Little River Canyon Center. Advance tickets \$15; day of show \$20; kids 12 & under FREE. Doors open at 5pm & show begins at 6pm. canyonconcerts.com.

June 9–Yoga on the Mountain. Interested in starting your day in a positive way? Enjoy a yoga class in a beautiful place! These yoga classes with Dee Brown are alignment-based, which makes the class perfect for those beginning their yoga practice or for those wanting to try something new. 8–9am. DeSoto State Park. \$5. 256-634-8370.



June 9–Mountain Biking for Beginners.

Geared towards people who want to learn the basics on their mountain bikes. DeSoto State Park. 8:30–11:30am. \$35 per person. Call One World Adventure for reservations 256-634-8370.

June 9–Blow an Ornament. Come design and blow your own ornament with the help of one of our glass artists. No reservations are needed, it is on a first-come, first-served basis. 9am–4pm. Orbix Hot Glass. \$38 per ornament blown. 256-523-3188.

June 9–I Love Yarn Day Celebration. Join us in celebrating yarn! We will have a blast as we yarn bomb around Boom Town Makers Market & downtown Fort Payne. What You'll Need to bring: Step ladder, if you have one, Scissors, Crochet hook, Knitting needles and/or tapestry needles. *We will provide the yarn. Contact Katelyn Worley **with the Boom Town Makers Market.** 1–4pm.

June 11–14–Adventure Day Camp. This fun and active camp builds self-esteem and skills in all things adventurous. Activities range from rock climbing and kayaking to thrill-seeking hikes. Campers gain valuable knowledge about the importance of preserving our abundant recreational opportunities. Led by trained and certified Outdoor Instructors. One World Adventure, Mentone. 8am–3pm. Ages 7-13 (Boys & Girls). To register, contact Angie Shugart at angie@oneworldadventureco.org or 256-634-8370.

June 14–Family Adventure Friday: Mountain Biking! Mountain Biking is a great way for the family to spend time together.

We will meet at the Family Loop Trailhead at Desoto State Park and explore an easy, 3.5-mile loop trail. \$30 per person. Includes bike and helmet. To register, contact One World Adventure at 256-634-8370 or email angie@oneworldadventureco.org.

June 14–15–Camping 101 for Kids. Kids ages 7–9 will learn the basics of camping with One World Naturalist Robert Wilson of Seven Pines Survival. Participants explore the trails, learning native plants and trees and wildlife along the way. They will cook over an open fire and sleep under the stars in the primitive campsite at DeSoto State Park. Kids will come away with knowledge to pitch a tent, hang a hammock, and start a campfire, learn Leave No Trace ethics and more. \$125. To register, call Angie Shugart at angie@oneworldadventureco.org or 256-634-8370.

June 14–17–Alabama Band Fan Appreciation Weekend. Fort Payne's own Country music group ALABAMA invite you to their Fan Club & Museum and weekend activities throughout DeKalb County. Tour the Fan Club, attend an autograph session, enjoy concerts, and much more. 800-557-8223.

June 14–18–Kayak Rentals @ the Boat Shack. Rentals @ Desoto Falls. Unguided 3-hour rental on scenic flatwater section above AA Miller Dam on Little River. Thursday–Monday 7am–7pm, with a launch every 3 hours. Call One World Adventure for reservations 256-634-8370.

June 15–Paperweight Class. This class is designed for those who really just want see what molten glass is all about. Feel the heat, gather from the furnace, sculpt the glass into you own design. Please join us for some in-depth discovery at Orbix Hot Glass. Reservations Required \$145 per person. 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. 256-523-3188.

June 15–Jeff Cook Fan Appreciation Daze Show. Come enjoy Jeff Cook and the All Star Goodtime Band for their annual fan appreciation concert. DeKalb Theatre in downtown Fort Payne. Doors open at 5pm. Show starts at 7pm. Tickets are \$25 per person and are ONLY available at JeffCook-AGB.com. 256-845-2286 ext. 7.

June 15–17–Top Rope Rock Climbing Excursion for Young Teens. A perfect weekend excursion for your rock-climbing teen ages 13–15. We will set up camp at Cherokee Rock Village and climb beginner level top-rope climbs and bouldering problems all weekend long. \$175. To register, contact Angie Shugart at angie@oneworldadventureco.org or 256-634-8370.

June 15–Alabama Fan Daze After Party. Come and enjoy some time in the Courtyard of the DeKalb Theatre right after the Fan Daze concert. Band autograph session. Drinks will be available for purchase. Celebrity auction items will be available to bid on, with proceeds benefiting Ken Randolph. Donations will also be accepted for Ken and his family.

June 2018 Community Calendar

All Times are Central. This calendar is subject to change.

June 16—10th Annual Freedom Fest 5K & 10K. Don't miss the area's largest fun run/walk. Registration and start of race is at Broadway Baptist Church in Rainsville. This year we will close registration at 1,000 runners/walkers. Proceeds go to local charities. Race begins at 8 a.m. For online registration, contact info and more, visit rainsvillefreedomfest.racesonline.com.

June 16—Yoga on the Mountain. Interested in starting your day in a positive way? Enjoy a yoga class in a beautiful place! These yoga classes with Dee Brown are alignment-based, which makes the class perfect for those beginning their yoga practice or for those wanting to try something new. 8–9am. DeSoto State Park. \$5. 256-634-8370.

June 16—Mountain Biking for Beginners. Geared towards people who want to learn the basics on their mountain bikes. DeSoto State Park. 8:30–11:30am. \$35. Call One World Adventure for reservations 256-634-8370.

June 16—Rappelling Adventure with One World Adventure. Explore scenic rock outcroppings along Lookout Mountain-Alabama! No previous experience is necessary to go deeper into nature in this exciting activity. 9am–11am or 1–4pm. Meet at DeSoto Falls. \$40/person. Ages 10 and up. To register, contact Angie Shugart at angie@oneworldadventureco.org.

June 16—Third Saturday Sunset Cruise-In. A family fun event featuring a cruise-in, children activities, food, art show, and live entertainment! Gault Avenue in Downtown Fort Payne is closed from 1st–5th Streets for the event. A car cruise-in, music and other entertainment will take place throughout the event as well. 5–9pm. Contact Amelia 256-996-3857 or Terry 256-996-2668.

June 17—Happy Father's Day

June 17—Fandemonium on The Farm. Join Country singer Randy Owen for a fan day concert on his farm. You must be a member of the fan club to attend. Autograph session after the concert. Seating is on a first-come first-served basis. Gates open at 7am and concert is at Noon. 4518 County Road 255, Fort Payne.

June 18—Tiny Tots: Adventures in Nature. Hosted by JSU Field Schools. Fun-filled classes just for little kids. Your kids (ages 3–5) will learn about animals, plants, bugs, and more all while having fun! 9–10am. JSU's Little River Canyon Center. \$5/child. Limit 10 children. Parents remain with children for this program. Pre-registration required. 256-845-3548.

June 18–21—Adventure Day Camp. This fun and active camp builds self-esteem and skills in all things adventurous. Activities range from rock climbing, kayaking and thrill-seeking hikes. Campers gain valuable knowledge about the importance of preserving our abundant recreational opportunities. Led by trained and certified Outdoor Instructors. One World Adventure, Mentone. 8am–3pm. Ages 7–13

(Boys & Girls). To register, contact Angie Shugart at angie@oneworldadventureco.org or 256-634-8370.

June 18—Poisonous Plants of Alabama. This class is a brief overview of many poisonous plants in Alabama. There are many types of poisonous plants, learn how to spot them and what to do if you are affected by them. True Adventure Sports Training Center. 2–4pm. 256-997-9577.



June 19—Star Party. NASA Educator John Weis is back for a star party night! We will be discussing common local constellations seen this time of year and then heading outside with the telescopes to see what is on the big screen. Join us for this family friendly free event. JSU's Little River Canyon Center. 7:45pm. Info @ jsu.edu/epic/canyoncenter.

June 20—Canyon Center Creative Kids Days: Adventures in Nature. Hosted by JSU Field Schools. Bring your children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews and neighbors to creatively learn about animals, plants, bugs, and more with JSU Field Schools. Ages 5–10. 10am–Noon. JSU's Little River Canyon Center. \$5/child; pre-registration required. Limit 15 kids. Parents remain with children for this program. Call 256-845-3548.

June 21–25—Kayak Rentals @ the Boat Shack. Rentals @ Desoto Falls. Unguided 3-hour rental on scenic flatwater section above AA Miller Dam on Little River. Thursday–Monday 7am–7pm, with a launch every 3 hours. Reservations can be made by calling One World Adventure at 256-634-8370

June 21—RadioVisions presents Homegrown Music Series Part 6: Mike McClung. RadioVisions is a series of musical "House Concerts" that are produced before a live audience for syndication to radio networks. Coal and Iron Building will open the doors at 6pm. and the concert will begin at 7pm. \$10 donation, includes an artist reception at 6pm. For info: 256-979-1910 or 256-845-0203.

June 23—Summer Music Series: 'Lost in Tyme'. Free bluegrass concert presented by Little River Arts Council. Art activities for all ages. 7–10pm. Mentone Inn Pavilion. littleriverartscouncil.org.

June 23—Yoga on the Mountain. Interested in starting your day in a positive way? Enjoy a yoga class in a beautiful place! These yoga classes with Dee Brown are alignment-based, which makes the class perfect for those beginning their yoga practice or for those wanting to try something new. 8–9am. DeSoto

State Park. \$5. 256-634-8370.

June 23—Mountain Biking for Beginners. Geared towards people who want to learn the basics on their mountain bikes. DeSoto State Park. 8:30–11:30am. \$35/person. Call One World Adventure for reservations 256-634-8370.

June 23—Rappelling Adventure with One World Adventure. Explore scenic rock outcroppings along Lookout Mountain-Alabama! No previous experience is necessary to go deeper into nature in this exciting activity. 9–11am or 1–4pm. Meet at DeSoto Falls. \$40/person. Ages 10 and up. To register, contact Angie Shugart at angie@oneworldadventureco.org.

June 23—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. There is a minimum of 3 people and a maximum of 5 in each class. Orbix Hot Glass. 10:30am & 12:30pm. Reservations are required. 256-523-3188.

June 25–28—Adventure Day Camp. This fun and active camp builds self-esteem and skills in all things adventurous. Activities range from rock climbing, kayaking and thrill-seeking hikes. Campers gain valuable knowledge about the importance of preserving our abundant recreational opportunities. Led by trained and certified Outdoor Instructors. One World Adventure, Mentone. 8am–3 pm. Ages 7–13 (Boys & Girls). To register, contact Angie Shugart at angie@oneworldadventureco.org or 256-634-8370.



June 28–29—Camping 101 for Kids. Kids ages 7–9 will learn the basics of camping with One World Naturalist Robert Wilson of Seven Pines Survival. Participants explore the trails, learning native plants and trees and wildlife along the way. They will cook over an open fire and sleep under the stars in the primitive campsite at DeSoto State Park. Kids will come away with knowledge to pitch a tent, hang a hammock, and start a campfire, learn Leave No Trace ethics and more. \$125. To register, contact Angie Shugart at angie@oneworldadventureco.org or 256-634-8370.

June 28–July 2—Kayak Rentals @ the Boat Shack. Rentals @ Desoto Falls. Unguided 3-hour rental on scenic flatwater section above AA Miller Dam on Little River. Thursday–Monday 7am–7pm, with a launch every 3 hours. Call One World Adventure for reservations 256-634-8370.

June 28—Full Moon Kayak Adventure Experience. Come see Little River at dusk and

watch the full moon rise over the treeline and light up the water. \$20/person. 6:30–9pm. To register, call 256-634-8370.

June 29—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. Orbix Hot Glass. There is a minimum of 3 people and a maximum of 5 in each class. 1pm & 3pm. Reservations are required. 256-523-3188.

June 29–July 1—Top Rope Rock Climbing Excursion for Youth. A perfect weekend excursion for your rock-climber ages 10–13. We will set up camp at Cherokee Rock Village and climb beginner level top-rope climbs and bouldering problems all weekend long. \$175. To register, contact Angie Shugart at angie@oneworldadventureco.org or 256-634-8370.

June 30—Yoga on the Mountain. Interested in starting your day in a positive way? Enjoy a yoga class in a beautiful place! These yoga classes with Dee Brown are alignment-based, which makes the class perfect for those beginning their yoga practice or for those wanting to try something new. 8–9am DeSoto State Park. \$5. 256-634-8370.

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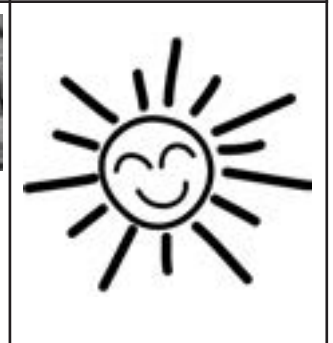
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311 Gault Ave. N., Fort Payne

 NEW YOU WILL LOVE COMING HOME to this unique and one-of-a-kind Log Home minutes from DeSoto State Park, Alpine Camp, and Mentone. Built in 2006 and constructed of 6x12 Pine Logs with Dovetail cornering, this home has over 2,000 sq. ft. and boasts tongue & groove ceilings, exposed beams and beautiful oak floors. \$199,900. MLS #1092849	 NEW CHARMING CABIN IN MENTONE - Tongue and groove vaulted ceilings, wood floors and exposed beams gives this custom log cabin that rustic feel. Peacefully situated among the large rock formations on the north brow with 110 feet of frontage overlooking the valley below. Selling furnished with all appliances, plus washer & dryer. \$265,500. MLS #1094088	 REDUCED FIRST TIME offered in forty years! Unbelievable brow frontage that includes two lots overlooking the valley below. Call for your private tour. \$325,000. MLS #1089656	 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! \$329,000. MLS #1076700	 REDUCED FARMHOUSE WITH LOTS OF CHARM AND CHARACTER! You'll love coming home to this 2BR/1.5BA home near Camp Desoto in Mentone. Situated on 2.7 acres with partially fenced pasture! \$152,000. MLS #1087613	 REDUCED COME HOME TO PEACEFUL SURROUNDINGS in this large brick ranch-style home. 3BR/2.5BA situated on 2 acres with 2-car garage. \$145,000. MLS #1087213
 A MUST SEE! Downtown Mentone 1BR/1BA fully furnished, redecorated log cabin! Walk to every event, festival, restaurant, then mosey to the front porch of your retreat and enjoy the music! \$159,000. MLS #1087805	 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	 REDUCED ENJOY SUNRISE & SUNSET VIEWS in this cozy Mentone home located on Scenic Hwy. Open family room, dining and kitchen. Call for appointment today! \$299,900. MLS #1069365	 LIVE & PLAY ON THE WATER! Enjoy 200 feet of frontage on the East Fork of Little River in this waterfront home. \$197,500. MLS #1090616	 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	 JUST MINUTES FROM MENTONE & 1.5 mi. from DeSoto State Park. "Stone's Throw" offers 3BR/2BA with tons of extras! \$189,000. MLS #1089979
 A WELCOMING ESCAPE from the city bustle! One bedroom, one bath cottage on 2.6 acres with BROW VIEW! \$195,000. MLS #1085360	 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.	 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	 REDUCED 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. \$699,000. MLS #1066488	 CRYSTAL LAKE LODGE in Mentone... Fifty breathtaking acres surround you in this one-of-a-kind property. Call today for your private tour! \$734,900. MLS #1070805
 REDUCED SWEET LII' MENTONE HOME! Life is sweet in this two bedroom, two bath home! \$104,900. MLS #1068148	 BEAUTIFUL MENTONE CABIN w/2BR, 2BA, oak flooring and woodburning fireplace. Extras include large screened porches, large walk-in closets, marble bathroom floors. \$189,900. MLS #1066473	 RELAX & ENJOY the ambiance of a true mountain home on the west brow of Lookout Mountain on 3.7 acres. \$275,000. MLS #1085355	 BEAUTIFUL COTTAGE with open floor plan. Fully remodeled spacious 2 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath. Comes completely furnished! \$199,900. MLS #1085122	 REDUCED THE VERY BEST of both worlds awaits you in this custom built home situated on beautiful Lake on the Brow. Breathtaking views of the valley below in sight from your front porch. \$324,500. MLS #1088251	

LOTS & LAND

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

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

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

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

#1038089 - 6 1/2 acres with approx. 250' of road frontage and 1-1/2 acres of level land for a secluded home site. \$138,000.

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

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

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

#1065504 - One acre on Co. Rd. 89 in Mentone. **REDUCED TO \$139,900.**

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

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

#1073864 - Brow Lot! .78 acres. \$104,000.

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

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

#1076577 - Lot 6, Hunter's Ridge. **REDUCED TO \$13,900.**

#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. \$15,000.

#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.

#1085244 - 1.5+/- acres in Mentone! Wooded tract with paved road frontage. \$19,000.

#1092235 - Building lot in Laurel Creek Lakes. \$24,500.

#1092172 - Spend your summertime on the LAKE... or spend forevermore! 1.70 acres with over 200' of waterfront at beautiful Lake on the Brow. \$49,000.

#1056358 - You'll enjoy gorgeous views of the valley as well as amazing sunsets from this 3.2 acre lot on the brow in Mentone near DeSoto State Park. \$269,500.

www.southernpropertiesagency.com

THE ADVENTURE OF FLYING • by Olivia Jade Burton

The Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) offered free flights for kids ages 8–17 at the Fort Payne airport on May 19, and I was one of the many people who got to fly that day (I'm 13). Pilot Charles Cole flew two other passengers and me on a Cessna T210 N732VP with retractable landing gear. This was the second time I had flown. The first time was last year; I had also become an EAA member. I've always wanted to become a pilot in the Air Force, and the EAA Young Eagles Program is helping me to achieve that dream.

There was enough room for all of us to have a window seat, and I got to sit up front. This time, only the pilot had headphones, but when I flew last year, both the pilot and I had headphones. I liked that because I was able to hear the people at the airport talking to the pilot. I felt like I was an adult who was part of the crew.

When I was in the air, it was like nothing else in the world. When I'm flying, it makes me feel like I can do anything — like I'm invincible. I can't explain how AWESOME it was being up there. It was more exciting than the rides at the fair, and the excitement lasted longer.

I didn't realize how cloudy it was until I was in the air and the clouds surrounded me. My parents and I wondered if they were going to cancel the flights because of the storm clouds. The EAA had already

postponed the original flights in April because of the rain, but luckily they didn't have to this time. We flew right in front of a semi-dark storm cloud. The clouds surprised me by being smaller in volume in the air compared to looking very big and fluffy from the ground.

I noticed that everything looks smaller and different in the air from on the ground. The Earth even looks smaller as a whole. I had noticed that from a ground view, small mountains look like they end in a point, but really, some have a flat top. We even had enough time to fly over my house this time! It looked totally different, so different that I could barely recognize it.

From the air, it's easier to tell which lakes and ponds might be connected by an underground stream. You can see small indentions from the air that you can't really see while on the ground. You can also tell from the placement of them and how close they are together, whether they may be connected. For example, there's a lake on the top of a mountain, and right at the base there is a small pond. It looked like they were connected by an underground stream.

After you fly, you get a certificate and logbook for keeping up with your flights. The EAA was giving out free T-shirts and caps. Several times a year, the EAA



offers these free flights for youth, and I would highly recommend that you take the opportunity to fly when you can. For more information on Fort Payne's EAA chapter, search EAA 890 on Facebook or go to 890.eaachapter.org. For information about the Young Eagles program, go to their website at YoungEagles.org.



Cloudland/Menlo News • by Pat Johnson

Cloudland Community Park 5K Fun Run and Barbecue Sale 2018

This year's 5K Fun Run and Barbecue sale will be held on June 30, 2018. The course will start at Cloudland Community Park on Gadsden Avenue in Cloudland, GA, and make a loop through Gadsden Avenue, Atlanta Avenue, Golf Course Road, County Road 103, and Cloudland Drive, which are all within the Cloudland community in both Georgia and Alabama. The course includes moderate to steep hills. We welcome runners and walkers of all ages and experience.

After the run, there will be activities at the park's pavilion, including bingo, live music, and barbecue plates for sale. The barbecue plates will cost \$5 and include a pulled pork sandwich, potato chips, a pickle, and a drink. Barbecue pork butts, pork loins and chickens will also be pre-sold at \$30 for butts and loins and \$10 for chickens on a preorder basis only. To pre-order pork and/or chickens see our contact list below. The deadline for orders is June 23. They can be paid for when you preorder or at pick up on the day of the run between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. EDT.

If you would like to participate in the Fun Run, you may register on our website (see below) or download the mail-in registration form. The form is available via JPEG on our Facebook page or can be requested by emailing us. The registration fee of \$15 is accepted by mail or PayPal and must be received with the application for the registration to be complete. The registration cut off date is June 23. The registration fee will be \$20.00 if you register on the day of the event or after June 23. Runners will receive a complimentary t-shirt.

The run will begin promptly at 9 a.m. EDT (remember all times are Eastern time!) and runners will need to arrive early enough to sign in and be ready to go by 8:30 a.m. If you are registering the day of the event, registration needs to be completed by 8 a.m.

If you are interested in becoming a sponsor, you may contact us by email for more information. Sponsors will have an advertisement on the back of the Fun Run t-shirt.

All proceeds go to Cloudland Community Park toward the upgrade of the toilet facilities, the kitchen, and the playground equipment. Anyone wishing to make a donation, please see contact list below.

Contact information:

Mail: P.O. Box 277, Menlo GA 30731 / Phone: Maggie Johnson at 706-862-3040 / Email: CloudlandCommunityPark@yahoo.com / Facebook: Cloudland Community Park / Fun Run Website: cloudlandcommunity.wix.com/park/fun-run

Menlo's Reading Buddies Program



Menlo Elementary School and Menlo Housing Authority support a reading program for the children of Menlo School. Glenda Hamilton of the Housing Authority finds adults to act as reading mentors for the children. Every child is paired with an adult at the beginning of the school year and they meet once every month at the Lawrence Center in Menlo. This year, the children were from the 4th and 5th grade gifted program. Mentor and child pick out a new book every month and both read it during the month. The school provides the books and transports the children to the Lawrence Center. The housing authority gives the school money to buy books, provides refreshments at the monthly meeting, and finds volunteers to mentor each child.



In April, reading mentors provided a hot dog & hamburger lunch to their buddies.

Glenda is always looking for mentors. The program starts again with the new school year in September 2018 and runs through April 2019. Anyone interested in mentoring a child can contact Glenda at menlohousing@windstream.net, 706-862-2240, or 706-862-2130. Both mentors and children love and gain so much from this program. Please join us.



Be Part of the Groundhog Team!

Do you enjoy writing? Proofreading? Talking with people? Learning about history? Are you a poet or a songwriter? An artist or a photographer? Do you have layout and design skills? Are you a helpful assistant who wants to contribute in a smaller but meaningful way? Join the Groundhog team and be part of a community newspaper that's been beloved for over three decades! Email Kelly at groundhognews@yahoo.com for more info!

Mentone Area Church Directory

Mentone, Alabama

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

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

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

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

Mentone United Methodist Church invites you to come and worship with us. Each Sunday, our Worship Service is 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. 415 Cutler Avenue. 256-634-8006.

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. 4671 AL Hwy. 117. 256-634-4568.

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

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

Hammondville, Alabama

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

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

Valley Head, Alabama

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

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

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

*Peace be
with you
John 14:27*

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

Fort Payne, Alabama

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

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

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

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

New Oregon United Methodist Church is located just off DeSoto Parkway, 1/4 mile south of Fischer Crossroads. We invite you to worship with us on Sundays. Sunday School for all ages 9:45am, Traditional Worship 11am, and Sunday Evening Service 6pm. Sunday Evening youth meet at 5:30pm. We have Wonderful Wednesdays during the school year with Bible studies for all ages, meal at 5:30pm and classes at 6:15pm.

We also have Wednesday morning Bible study at 8:45am, and knitting every Tuesday at 9am. Pastor Ian Conerly. 1204 New Oregon Drive NE. 256-845-7446.

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

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church holds regular Worship Services at 10am Sunday. Bible class or Lent/Advent services every Wednesday at 6:30pm. Steve Schrader, Pastor. Everyone welcome. 1519 Smith Gap Road (County Road 85). 256-845-4314.

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

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

Cloudland, Georgia

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

Menlo, Georgia

Alpine Community Church Pastor and Rev. Rodney Blaylock welcome each and every one to worship service Sunday morning at 11am GA time; Sunday School 10am GA time; Wednesday night Bible Study 7pm GA time. 115 Hwy. 337. 706-862-6641.

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

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

Summerville, Georgia

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

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Summertime often brings with it a feeling of freedom. School is out, vacations are taken, far-flung families visit together, and time is spent outdoors, free from the confines of walls. With this freedom, though, comes a responsibility to our health, particularly regarding ticks. These small creatures might be considered a nuisance but make no mistake about it — they can also be catastrophic to our health.

Ticks are not insects, like mosquitoes and fleas. They are arachnids, with two body segments, eight legs, no wings or antennae, and an inability to chew. They are external parasites which live by feeding on the blood of mammals, birds, and sometimes reptiles and amphibians. Ticks also carry a variety of pathogens, some of which can be devastating to our health — sometimes with a sudden reaction, and sometimes with a slow, insidious response.

Even though most ticks do not carry disease, the presence of tick-borne diseases has become so prevalent that it is now considered a year-round problem, and not just a spring and summer matter. Information about these diseases is abundant on the internet; it is wise to fully familiarize yourself.

The good news is that if you are bitten by a tick, if it is removed within 24 hours and does not become engorged, chances are extremely unlikely that a

Summertime Safety

(Don't let the ticks get you down)
by Kelly Leavitt

pathogen will be passed to you, according to the Alabama Department of Public Health. This is where our personal responsibility comes into play.

It's important to keep a vigilant check on ourselves, our children, and our pets whenever we spend time outdoors or come in contact with another person or animal who has been outdoors.

Ticks don't actually fall from trees, as is often thought, but rather they climb upwards from the ground. They'll often sit on blades of tall grasses and wait for the first passer-by to catch a ride (and a meal). They can move very quickly, so if, say, your dog picks one up and then rubs against your leg, a tick might easily crawl from his coat to your skin. From there, it will find a favorable place to, literally, dig in. They can attach anywhere, but prefer warm, moist areas, as well as hard-to-see areas like the underarms, groin and scalp.

The spirochete bacteria that cause Lyme disease become activated when a tick starts feeding. They need time, though, to make their way from the tick's body into ours. The whole process can take a couple of days. This is why a thorough daily tick check is important. The goal is to not wait until they detach.

Humans are most often infected with Lyme disease through the bites of immature deer ticks called nymphs, which are about the size of a poppy seed. Adult ticks are commonly compared to the size of a sesame seed.

According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the best way to remove a tick is with a pair of fine-tipped tweezers. Pull upward with steady, even pressure. Do not ever crush a tick with your fingers, as this might facilitate the injection of saliva. Do not twist the tick, as this might remove its body but leave the head embedded in your skin. (If the head does get detached, don't panic—disease is not transmitted in this way. Do your best to remove the head, but if you cannot, leave it alone and let your body heal.) After removing the tick, wash your hands and the bite area with soap and water or with alcohol.

The CDC recommends disposing of a live tick by putting it in alcohol, placing it in a sealed bag/container, wrapping it tightly in tape, or flushing it down the toilet. If you develop a rash or fever within several weeks of removing a tick, see your doctor. Be sure to tell the doctor about your recent tick bite, when the bite occurred, and where you most likely acquired the tick.

It is advisable to educate yourself beyond this article. Enjoy your summer and don't fret about being outdoors — but do be keenly observant.



This unusual white squirrel was spotted romping in yards along County Road 642. Out for a walk, Tim Henderson grabbed a photo with his phone.



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Mike Leath, Caleb Roberts, Amy Justice & Ronnie Highfield

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Victoria Brown	Wyatt McGee
Daxson Crow	Alexis Reed
Hannah Golden	Autumn Rhodes
Alexis Reed	Tucker Smith
John Tyler Lawton	Mariah Shannon

- Most Athletic
John Lawton
Hannah Golden
- Friendliest
Jesse Bone
Autumn Rhodes
- Most Likely to Succeed
Daxson Crow
Alexis Reed
- Best in Technology
Victoria Brown
Adam Longshore
Wyatt McGee
- Best Manners
Mariah Shannon
Tucker Smith

You're off to Great Places! Today is your day!
Your mountain is waiting, so...get on your way!
—DR. SEUSS

LAW OFFICES OF
THOMAS J. SKINNER, IV, LLC

Valley Head Office Now Open!



"For four generations, our family has been coming to our cabin on Lookout Mountain. It's always felt like home to me. I'm proud to open this office, and I look forward to being an active part of the community."

Jay Skinner

Open most Wednesdays
from 9am to 4pm, or by appointment.

No representation is made that the quality of the legal services to be performed is greater than the quality of legal services performed by other lawyers.