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THE GROUNDHOG

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

Volume 37, No. 5

"Neighborly News from the Heart of Lookout Mountain"

May 2018

Rhododendron Festival May 19 & 20 in Mentone

by Sharon Habin

*"The process of life is change;
the tool is practice."*

I remember receiving that saying on a slip of paper in a gift I had received back in the mid-70s. Others had gotten really cool sayings which I can't remember. At the time I didn't find it particularly inspiring. Whether it is supposed to inspire or comfort is open to interpretation. It does, however, appear to be true.

From the sweet and humble beginnings 36 years ago when Mentone Area Preservation Association was formed and the first Rhododendron Festival (and later Colorfest) came into being, many businesses, people, landmarks, and visitors have come and gone (and some have come back again). One thing that has not changed is change itself. Each festival has sometimes clear and sometimes subtle changes, growing and evolving into festivals with our own Mentone niche of only handmade items by the artists and craft makers, along with only street festival-type food vendors. Our biggest challenge now is parking and traffic, which are being addressed for this festival. There will be bus shuttles from parking areas just outside of town. See details on page 15.

This is our largest Rhododendron Festival ever. It will be held on Saturday and Sunday, May 19 and 20. Saturday's hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sunday's hours are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. There is no charge for admission, however there is a charge for some of the activities. Brow Park and the old Mentone Springs Hotel site



will host over 80 artists, craft makers, food vendors, and organizations. A look at our list of vendors on page 16 will reveal the wide variety of arts, crafts, and foods that will be available.

The old Mentone Springs Hotel site will offer a

"Relaxation Station," where you can relax in a sitting area under the big tent. This area was a success at Colorfest. Pony and carriage rides have been a Mentone festival tradition for over 20 years. Dog training demonstrations will be held under the tent throughout the day and weekend. Watch Cody Works demonstrate blacksmithing skills at the old hotel site.

The schedule of live music at Brow Park, sponsored by Wildflower Cafe and First Fidelity Bank, will be available on May 7 at MapaMentone.com. Musicians will perform on Saturday at 10, 11:15, 12:30, 1:45, 3, and 4:15, and on Sunday at 11:15, 12:30, 1:45, and 3. Also at Brow Park, pet adoptions will be available through Safe Haven Pet Rescue.

The always-popular pontoon boat rides on beautiful Little River will depart from DeSoto Falls beginning on Friday and continuing through Sunday.

The Miss Rhododendron Pageant will be held Friday, May 11 at 6 p.m. at Mentone Community Church. The entry deadline is Friday, May 4,

(continued on page 14)

Music Under the Stars

A long-standing tradition on the Friday evening before the Rhododendron festival is live music in downtown Mentone. This year, the Little River Arts Council is hosting a concert by the Charles Lester Thomas Trio (also known as Tony Brook, Will Dooley, and Evan Maddox) with special guest Elisha Tatum. This free concert is made possible by a grant from the Mentone Area Preservation Association. It will be held at the pavilion behind the Mentone Inn.

A fish fry will be served by Fontana & Nolan near the pavilion beginning at 5 p.m. until people stop eating. Fried fish, cole slaw, hush puppies, dessert and a drink will be sold for \$10. A vegetarian option will also be offered with vegetable fritters, slaw, hush puppies, dessert and a drink for the same price.

Bring your family, friends and neighbors (and your chair or blanket) and enjoy an evening under the stars listening to some great music and enjoying a fine Mentone tradition. The music begins at 7 p.m.



A Personal Perspective on Charles Lester Thomas Trio by Steve Lockhart

Tony Brook is one of those guys. You know, somebody that's just done that thing he loves for a long time, having achieved a quiet confidence about what that is and what it can mean. He's been writing and playing and singing songs in all kinds of situations, with all kinds of people, some famous, some not so famous, for a long time. Some folks are rightly proud of him, he's from Waverly and his songs are often about Alabama, living in the south. He's come up to Mentone off and on over the years, in between gigs in Nashville, England, the Gulf coast and all over the southeast, probably other places too. But you know, like a lot of really good

(continued on page 12)

TIMES-JOURNAL

Proudly Sponsors
Rhododendron Festival 2018



what's happening may 19 & 20?

Do your best to find and circle the words listed in this fun Word Search puzzle.
(Hint: You'll have to look forwards, backwards, up and down!)

MAPA
RHODODENDRON
FESTIVAL
SCENIC
BROWPARK
MENTONE
ARTS
CRAFTS
LIVEMUSIC
FESTIVALFOOD
FUN
GAMES
PONYRIDES
RAFFLE
PAGEANT
LITTLERIVER
BOATRIDES
DESOTOFALLS
CANOES
KAYAKS
COMMUNITY
VOLUNTEERS

E R B N C V Q T A S D C E C H
N A U K F R N R E P A X F I E
O F S N R A A D C N A L E S C
T F T R E A I F O P I M S U O
N L R G E R P E T T G W T M S
E E A G Y E S W T S S L I E K
M P A N Y D T L O J H A V V C
R H O D O D E N D R O N A I O
P P E O J R J U U F B W L L M
O L A V I T S E F L I L F E M
B V F V S C E N I C O I O P U
Q U E S K A Y A K N H V O V N
K R S L L A F O T O S E D G I
B O A T R I D E S P W B O A T
L R T S Z N A S V W S V B T Y

6th Annual
Rhododendron Festival
Sacred Harp Singing



Saturday, May 19

Experience an age-old tradition! Sacred Harp singing will begin at 9:30 a.m. at St. Joseph's on-the-Mountain Episcopal Church. It will run until about 2 p.m., with an hour break between 12 and 1 p.m. The public is invited to stop in to listen or to grab a loaner book and sing along. For more information, call Susan at 706-859-1124.



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THE GROUNDHOG

P. O. Box 387
Mentone, AL 35984

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



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Contact The Groundhog

P.O. Box 387 256-465-1107
groundhognews@yahoo.com

Contact MAPA

P.O. Box 50
www.MAPAMENTONE.com
mapamentone@gmail.com

MENTONE MATTERS



According to the Wright Brothers Construction Company, Inc. Project Schedule for the Mentone Bridge, the new bridge should be in use by the summer of 2019. Actual bridge construction is scheduled to begin this October. Utilities are being moved now.

The Town of Mentone has applied for a Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) grant through ALDOT to build an ADA-compliant sidewalk on the north side of Alabama 117 from Town Hall to Dempsey Avenue. Included in the project would be a crosswalk (with flashing lights activated by a button) somewhere near the fire hall. This is an 80% – 20% matching grant. The total project cost is estimated to be \$478,000. Federal funding would be \$382,400 and local funding (Mentone) would be \$95,600. The goal is to eventually connect to the old bridge, which will become a walking bridge after the new bridge is completed. In a second phase, the town would like to have a sidewalk connecting from the

by Mayor Rob Hammond

bridge to Moon Lake School, Moon Lake Church, the community library, the MERF house and the proposed Mentone Arts and Cultural Center. In a questionnaire for the Mentone Comprehensive Plan, citizens expressed a desire to make Mentone a more pedestrian-friendly place.

Gene McKee graduated from the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office Law Enforcement Academy on April 22, 2018. Gene commuted to Birmingham every other weekend for 13 months to complete the course. He is now a sworn officer. He will work with both the Mentone and Valley Head police departments.



Gene McGee and Brad Gregg

Valley Head Mayor Lamar Bray, Valley Head Chief Nick Welden, Mentone Chief Brad Gregg, and I joined Gene and his wife, Angela, for the graduation ceremonies.

Letter From The Editor

Trees are budding, pollen is blowing on the air, migrating birds have returned, and kayaks are returning to Little River. It's spring! This month, we celebrate Mother's Day, Memorial Day, and Decoration Days, as well as an old Mentone tradition — the Rhododendron Festival. This year marks the 36th anniversary of this family festival, which honors the beautiful native rhododendrons which grace our area. I have heard that at one time there were 77 rhododendrons lining Highway 117 between downtown Mentone and the bridge at Camp Skyline. What a sight that must have been! Many of these gorgeous native plants took a hard hit during the drought of 2016. Some, including some of my own, died from the stress. This makes the beauty of those that survived even more spectacular, doesn't it? On behalf of MAPA, I hope you all will enjoy some of the festivities planned for this spring's festival — a true community event.

In this issue, Lyle Nicely writes a heartfelt Thank You to the volunteers who helped clean Mentone's roadways of winter's debris during the annual community clean-up in early April. I want to take this opportunity to thank Lyle himself. It's largely because of his tireless efforts that this tradition has ensued over the last 17 years. Often, when things look easy, they're actually quite difficult behind the scenes, with all the planning and organizing and rallying of volunteers. This is a sign of a job well done, and Lyle

has done this "job" extremely well over the years. Thank you, Lyle.

Sharon Habin, this year's Rhododendron Festival chair, deserves deep appreciation, as well. She has done a great job of making sure the tradition of this festival carries on. I dropped by her house yesterday and noticed her "office" space she'd set up by her front window. Two computers, a phone, and piles of files marked the hard work she's been doing for many weeks now. Please give her your heartfelt thanks when you see her out and about. (I happen to know she's a big fan of hugs!)

My personal thanks, and the thanks of the MAPA board, also go to Beverly Bates, who has served as Design Manager of *The Groundhog* for the last five years. Each editor who has worked with Beverly can attest to her talent, grace, and patience in laying out each month's issue (especially in that critical stretch the day before the paper goes to press). Beverly recently resigned her position to pursue exciting new adventures in her life. I have enjoyed both working with and developing a friendship with her. Thank you, Bev.

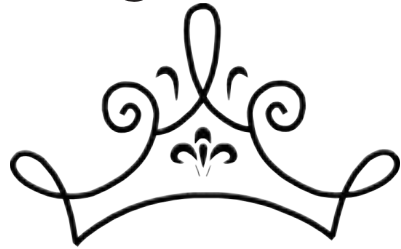
Kelly

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

Come be part of the audience at the 2018 Miss Rhododendron Pageant. Konar, Miss Rhododendron 2017, will be crowning the winners. You may have seen her last year at the Rhododendron Festival along with Miss Teen Rhododendron. The Miss Rhododendron 12th grade winner will receive a one-year scholarship to Northeast Alabama Community College. The pageant will take place the week before the Rhododendron Festival on Friday, May 11, at 6 p.m. CDT at the Family Life Center at Mentone Community Church. ***Audience admission is \$5. (corrected from print version)**

There is also still time to enter. Entries are due on Friday, May 4, at 5 p.m. Email RhododendronFestival@gmail.com for more information.

Miss Rhododendron



Presented by
Mentone Area Preservation Association

Friday, May 11, 2018 at 6 p.m. CDT

Mentone Community Church, Family Life Center
90 Summerville Road, Mentone

Miss Rhododendron is part of the annual
Rhododendron Festival, May 19 & 20

Six Age Divisions for Girls Ages 0 – 18

Miss Rhododendron (Senior Division) will win a One-year Scholarship
to Northeast Alabama Community College
(NACC admission requirements apply)

For more information and entry packets,
please email rhododendronfestival@gmail.com

• Entries are due by May 4 •

The Rhododendron Festival has come
With Sharon Habin at the helm

As thousands pass through our small,
quaint town
We will have visitors about and all around

There are plans in place
To keep the traffic at a steady pace

Not an easy task I may say
The plan is to lessen the fray

Busses will move people from convenient
parking locations
to festival sites as their destination

Shuttling people to and fro
Should keep all safe, with a steady flow

Many thanks to Mentone Arts & Cultural
Center and Mentone Community Church
For elevating us with the parking search

We are selecting vendors with discrimination
Handmade goods from artists and artisans
are some I can mention.

Many of the Mentone shop owners are
friends we all cherish
The Mentone community wants them
to flourish.

If you have read this far with this silly rhyme,
Come with your family and friends and have
a grand time.

—Joe Piscatelli

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MAPA: Mentone Area Preservation Association

Cares and Shares • by L. C. Moon

The Mentone area is in the midst of a beautiful, awe-inspiring spring. Mentonians are welcoming the warmer temperatures after the cold winter that kept us bundled up and often inside close by our fires. This year's serene spring has been enticing me to get out in the peaceful nature of Lookout Mountain to enjoy the sun and the new growth bursting from the ground to the trees.

Mentone attracts folks who admire the peaceful beauty and quaintness of the area. This season, the area has welcomed many new home buyers and travelers seeking respite from the hustle and bustle of the city. The Mentone Area Preservation Association (MAPA) exists to help protect and preserve this amazing quality of life that is quite unique to our area.

The new MAPA board is passionate about supporting its mission. The board had a special meeting with a non-profit consultant, who is also a Mentonian, Cathy Haven Howard. She donated her time to help the board determine how to work most efficiently together to support the mission and discover what the board collectively agrees upon as their greatest goals in supporting the community.

One of the reasons the organization felt it pertinent to enlist a consultant was to help our mission be more succinct and progressive toward community support. MAPA got a reputation over the years as an exclusive organization only open to certain people and raising money yet not putting it back into the community. Since the new board was elected, we have donated monies to DeKalb Rescue Squad, St. Joseph's Food Bank, North Lookout Mountain Fire Protection District, Boy Scout Troop 106, and Mentone Educational Resources Foundation (MERF). In April, we voted to donate \$1,500 to Moon Lake Community Library.

MAPA wants feedback with any ideas you may have! You can email me at Moonmapa@gmail.com with ideas that are most important to you. We would love to move forward with projects that are most important to the community as a whole.

Some of the big topics that have come up as possible projects for MAPA in Mentone proper are beautification projects throughout town, public restrooms, dog park and playground, walking trails through town and hiking trails that link together. Partnering with and supporting the other non-profits in town is one of our greatest goals. If your organization has a project idea that may fit into MAPA's mission, please submit a grant form which can be found at MapaMentone.com.

MAPA raises funds by selling the book, *Mentone, Alabama: A History*, by Zora Shay Strayhorn. It is an entertaining, interesting, and informative book that tells folk stories and facts about the Mentone area. You can find it at many of the shops around Mentone. The cost is \$15.

MAPA also raises funds by membership dues, as well as hosting the Rhododendron Festival and Colorfest. These festivals are opportunities for local artists to show their talent. They give local businesses exposure and a boost in sales, and they introduce folks to the area who can appreciate the

charm of our small mountain town. The festivals provide fundraising and exposure opportunities for a number of local non-profits, such as our volunteer fire department and MERF, which provides an Art, Music and Spanish teacher for local students at Moon Lake School, as well as lunches for our seniors.

MAPA is asking you or anyone you know who may be interested in being on the board to please reach out. We welcome you to help MAPA be the best it can be for the community.

The board is currently required to hold new elections for officers, and we are in need of community folks who want to help nurture the mission

of MAPA. If you have a passion for supporting the Mentone community and want to participate in protecting the quality of life and preserving the heritage for current and future generations of Mentone as a MAPA board member, then please send an email to Moonmapa@gmail.com. If you would like to be a general member, which also helps support MAPA, we invite you to go to our website (MapaMentone.com) to join, or you may join by mail by sending your dues to the address in the box at the right. By joining and becoming a MAPA member, you will receive a free subscription to *The Groundhog* in the mail for the first year.

As of now, our board meetings are closed to the public as a result of our by-laws. The current board is hoping to restructure soon so we can have board meetings as well as open general membership meetings in order to have an even closer connection to the community. MAPA will continue to keep the membership informed through *The Groundhog* until the general membership meetings begin.

(continued on page 13)



Become a MAPA Member Today!

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

Individuals \$20/year
Couples \$30/year

(includes a subscription
to *The Groundhog*)

MAPA
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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.

Oh, what a night! My boards are creaky and I'm a bit flaky because the Taste of the Mountain and Art Auction on April 7 was fantastic and our most successful yet, due to the community supporting MERF in so many ways. There was an abundance of delicious food, fabulous artwork, active bidding arms and fun socializing.

MERF is so thankful for the decorating committee (Kat Griffith, Vicky Patrick, Gail Jones, Bill Berry, Mitch Gregory, Carl Ferguson, Carol Hazell, Paula Easter, Amanda Shirey and Ken Trowbridge), the set-up and clean-up crew (Marsha and Ron Merrell, Brenda and Leland Cox, Jim and Joan Byrum, Walt Pullen, Tom and Kristen Emory, Roland and Carolyn Hendon, Mary Lance, Josh Lance) and the transporters of tables and chairs (McMunns, DeSoto Rescue Squad and friends).

We couldn't have had such a great event without the artistry from Scott Thomas, Lydia Randolph, Tim Smith, Emily Neel Guin, Phil Faircloth, Rita Winters, Dowe and John Foreman, Brad Lackey, Jim Marbut, Barbara Umland, Linda Munoz, Betsy Scott, Guy Barnes, Chuck Peters, Moon Lake Trading, Cathy Kerby Stephenson, Frank Ucciferri, Mary McLellan, Neal and Melinda Whitt, Brandy Pecault, Cheryl Wilborn, and all the students from Moon Lake. And boy, were we fed well by the culinary artists from Mildred's Meadows, Green Leaf Grill, Plowshares Bistro, Chick-fil-A, JoeJohn's Catering, McMunn Pickles, Valley Head Culinary team, Fontana's Catering, Mentone Inn, Wildflower Café, the Willow Tree Grill, Paula's Biscuits and Mentone

Market. Please continue to support these artists by purchasing their artwork and their food!

Gratitude goes also to Mike Keracher, Jan Newhoff, Mentone Community Church, Moon Lake Baptist Church, Camp DeSoto, Robert Moehr, Charlie Stone and Riverview Camp for Girls for providing services and tablecloths. Great job greeting and being "Vanna" by Brooke Moore and Carol Rosales. Thanks to Moon Lake Elementary School for working with MERF and for allowing Paula Easter to bring out the talents of all the students. Final thanks go to our great community for supporting MERF and enjoying the evening! Great pics from Charlie Stone at Blue Sky photography can be seen on MERF's youtube channel found on www.merfhouse.org

The end of April brought a close to our weekly senior lunches for the spring with the grilling of burgers and hot dogs by the Boy Scouts. Thank you to those who provided a meal this spring for the seniors: Camp Laney, Alpine Camp for Boys, Skyline Camp for Girls, Rhododendron Garden Club, Mentone Community Church, St. Joseph's Episcopal Church, Moon Lake Baptist Church, Hazel Bickerstaff, DeeDee Dunkerley, Vicky Patrick, Pat Peterson, Paula Tally, Carolyn Nail, and Kathy McMunn. Stay tuned as the seniors will gather for food and fun throughout the summer. After-school tutoring will end the first week of May. Terrific tutors this school year have been: Carl Ferguson, Vicky Patrick, Ken Trowbridge, Bill Rutledge, Saddler Emory, Meg Richardson, and Rebecca Henderson.

Did you love the book that Moon Lake students wrote two years ago? If so, wait until you see the book written this year by the kindergarten through 3rd grade students. Thanks to a matching grant from Alabama Council on the Arts, each student will receive a copy of their creation, "The ABCs of Alabama"! Also, on Wednesday, May 16, MERF will host another "Afternoon with the Artists" at Moon Lake School. For the third year, local artists will meet in groups with the students to talk about and demonstrate their creative expressions of art. The students will be able to ask questions and learn about different artistic styles. And don't forget to stop by MERF's booth at MAPA's Rhododendron Festival on



Moon Lake students made this cheerful and artistic quilt for the auction with the assistance of Paula Easter and MLS nurse Cheryl Wilborn.

May 20 and 21. "Leave Me in Mentone" shirts, mugs, caps, aprons, and ornaments will be for sale. The kid's book should also be available. Stop by and say hello! All proceeds enable MERF to continue its work with the community.

Woohoo! Many will be happy to know that MERF has begun work on fixing the foundation of the MERF house by hiring Kevin Cash. Hopes continue for adding an office and expanding the main room for lunches and meetings.

MERF: Mentone Educational Resources Foundation is a local non-profit with the mission "To enrich the learning and living of the community by identifying needs and coordinating resources." If you would like to support our programs, tax-deductible donations can be mailed to POB107 Mentone, AL 35984 or contribute online at www.crowdrise.com/MERF. Contact us at merf.mentone@gmail.com or 256-634-4673



Mentone Wedding Chapel



*Candle Lite Ceremonies
Music · Photographs
Flowers · Receptions
Lodging
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*

Dear Groundhog,

Over 30 years ago, we made our first trip from DeSoto State Park across the “brow” into Mentone. We fell in love. The hotel was in disrepair, yet still fascinating. We walked through St. Joseph’s and the Hitching Post with our family and knew we had discovered a place that would continue to draw us back. Yet, our visits were few and far between for years as we reared our children and ran our photography and wedding business in Columbus, Mississippi.

Now in our retirement years, we have returned to vacation in Mentone for the last seven years. We are in love again. There is something soothing and relaxing about this place. The tranquil setting calms the soul and mind. There is a mystique that cannot be explained but must be experienced.

We plan to experience Mentone many more times in the future.

—Linda Nail

Mentone Is:

- A place on the mountain top
A place that time forgot
- A place of beauty and mystique
A place so very unique
- A place I love to be
A place of serenity
- A place of tall green trees
A place of golden leaves
- A place of a river flowing
A place of breezes blowing
- A place of waterfalls
A place of sweet bird calls
- A place for skiing in the snow
A place of hidden bungalows
- A place of “brow” sunsets
A place of no regrets
- A place of summer camps and more
A place that’s fun to explore
- Yes, Mentone Is all of this to me.

BY LINDA NAIL

Thank you! • by Lyle Nicely

The highway looks FABULOUS!! The Annual Mentone Clean Up is a great way to see big impact in just 3 hours of focused trash pickup a year. Thank you to all the hard working volunteers that picked up trash along the road side on Saturday April 7, 2018. YOU make our community great! We could not have had such a successful cleanup without YOUR generous help.

Special thanks to David Mays for smoking the meat for the picnic, and Larry Joe Hall for the wonderful music while we ate, and Mentone Inn for the use of their beautiful facilities.

THANK YOU to everyone who picks up trash all during the year! Take Pride & Take Part!



Chuck Eaves, Mark Hoffman & Bill Horne teamed up.



The potluck picnic was wholesome & delicious.

Many thanks to our great Sponsors...

- Camp Laney • Boy Scout Troop 106
- Town of Mentone • BJ Foodmart
- Wildflower Café • Mountain Top Store
- Mentone Inn • Little River Hardware
- Rhododendron Garden Club • Lowes
- Mentone Market • Ecological Designs
- Plowshares Bistro • Mentone House Concerts
- Mentone Police for blue light assistance
- DeKalb Co. Sheriff for cleaning 117 up the mountain

Thank you to all the wonderful folks who brought food and helped set up for the picnic...

- Cynthia Stinson • Hannah Stinson
- Fontana Stinson • Nolan Stinson
- Michelle & Monte Baird • Jim Byrum
- Donna Hedgepeth • Jerry Justice
- Mary Alice Stout • Heather Nicely

This really has become a community event. Thank you!



Merrick Arnold gave his dad, Christopher, a helping hand.

The Lookout
Restaurant and Tea Room

The Lookout welcomes Spring with open arms!

Try our
Low Country Boil and Peel & Eat Shrimp

“Comfort Food”
A special dish is prepared each Thursday.

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MBA Elections
Monday, May 14
6 p.m.
Green Leaf Grill

Progressive Women of Northeast Alabama Awards Scholarships • by Toni McGriff

Progressive Women of Northeast Alabama (PWNA) recently announced their 2018 scholarship recipients. Nine young women from schools across DeKalb, Jackson, and Marshall Counties will be receiving scholarships valued from \$500 to \$1,000 for use at Northeast Alabama Community College. One scholarship is also offered at Snead State Community College.

The scholarships go to young women who are just beginning their college careers and also to women who are returning to school after years in the work place or at home. They can be used for tuition, fees, books, or supplies necessary for the furtherance of their college courses.

PWNA has gained a reputation for the sale of outstanding native plants, homegrown plants, and unusual pass-along plants at Mentone's Rhododendron Festival. Please stop by our booth at the corner of Cool and South Streets and say hello.

We're always happy to make plant suggestions and answer any plant-related questions you might have. In the fall, PWNA sells apple butter at ColorFest in Mentone. Proceeds from these sales, plus the sale of t-shirts and the sale of over 500 cookbooks, are used to fund the scholarships. Anyone who buys a plant, a jar of apple butter, or any other item sold by PWNA is helping women in our area.

PWNA is made up of women from DeKalb, Jackson, and Marshall



counties who work to improve the lives of women and children in our area. The scholarship effort is the biggest project of the group. Since 2013, PWNA has awarded over \$32,000 in scholarships to over 40 women to assist them in their educations.

Toni McGriff is the PWNA Scholarship Committee Chair.

Here KITTY, KITTY!

by deJoly LaBrier

One sunny day in January 2015, a red fox settled into a cozy spot on the rocks outside of Debra and Rick Fey's bedroom double glass doors. After a few minutes of looking around, the fox was warm and sleepy, and laid its head down for a sweet nap, feeling safe enough to rest there nearly the entire day.

"Rick (Debra's husband who died shortly after this experience) was so sick at the time, but he had just laid in bed and watched it." It was a very special moment for both of us," commented Debra, remembering the loving days of relaxing with Rick in bed. It became a ritual for them to cozy up together and watch the wildlife in the rocks.

A little over a month after Rick passed in July of 2017, Debra saw movement again out in the rocks that loom high into the sky next to the house. At first, she couldn't figure out what she was seeing. She was

in awe.

"I only had my phone with me, so I quickly reached for it and began filming the animal that appeared to be a bobcat. It was the most gorgeous creature." Debra apologized for the grainy look of the video, as she pulled some stills for this article.

"My first thought was, Rick would have loved seeing this beautiful creature."

Since Debra, owner of The Graceful Giraffe, a boutique in downtown Mentone, was unfamiliar with what kind of cat this was, she immediately sent her video to DeSoto State Park Superintendent Ken Thomas. "That is one beautiful bobcat! You are

lucky. I only see them on rare occasions. You just made my Monday!"

Bobcats, he said, have a large range in which they travel and forage for their survival and the survival of their families. They travel five or more miles in a day. So, the one Debra saw may never show up at her home again.

Not normally dangerous to humans, bobcats often disappear quickly if they detect any human in the vicinity. However, they are predators, living mostly on mice, wood rats, pocket gophers and rabbits. They are also known to hunt and kill animals as large as deer.

"Foremost, the Bobcat animal totem is a sign of patience. Bobcats are superior hunters, and they incorporate stealth, strategy and wield a great deal of patience in their hunting excursions. In this way, the Bobcat sends us a clear message that in order for us to get what we want, we must be willing to plan, adapt,



and above all, have the patience to see our ideals manifest. Bobcat animal totems encourage us to be more playful in our lives and more flexible. As they are very opportunistic themselves, the Bobcat asks us to reach out for more opportunities, and to break out of our molds and routines. The Bobcat animal totem is also about creation, and developing our abilities into a higher level of value. Additionally, the Bobcat is also about the unseen and silent aspects of our inner selves." (whats-your-sign.com/bobcat-animal-totem.html).

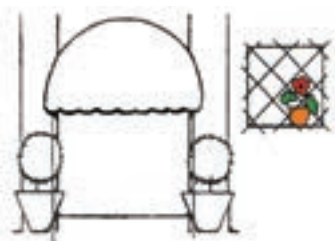
"I knew at the time there had to be some kind of special meaning," said Debra. "My time spent with Rick watching the wildlife on our rocks was so important to us. He was my first thought when I saw this beautiful cat. I've spent a lot of time in nature since Rick's passing, and the bobcat seemed to be a way our worlds bridged — both mine and the cat's, and mine and Rick's."

Bobcats love to travel and sleep mostly in mountainous areas and find caves or thick areas of trees to rest up. Debra said the bobcat came from near her front door and moved stealthily up the rocks, moving in and out of the small bushes that spot the area.

"It wasn't there long, and then it disappeared into what seemed to be thin air," said Debra. "It was so smooth; one minute it was laying on the rocks resting, and the next it was gone."



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Rhododendron Garden Club • by Mellanie Tuttle

Trail on April 9. Several visitors joined the hike and all agreed that the flowers were amazing. Jay Clark's book, *Wildflowers of Pigeon Mountain*, was a great help in figuring out what we were seeing. Not saying that age, memory or focus was faulty, but plants would be identified and then ten feet along the boardwalk would have to be identified again! Sue Schwarz offered excuses and her expertise on the matter of identification (apologies for paraphrasing): "Well, that one was something; or, That one will be something and finally, There are many varieties of that plant."

The Pocket has never failed and this year was exceptional. Along the boardwalk, Solomon's seal, Star Chickweed, Violets, Rue Anemone, Foam Flower, Trailing Trillium, Bellwort, Sweet Betsy, Ragwort, Squawroot, Baneberry Jack-in-the-pulpit, wild hyacinth, Sweet Anise and Columbine were spotted. Looking at the foliage which lacked flower,

The Rhododendron Garden Club walked the Shirley Miller Wildflower

several "somethings" (bloodroot, Virginia Bluebells, Dutchman's Breeches) and varieties were noted. The highlight of the trip was looking up to see the quantity of Bent White Trilliums, Celandine poppies, and Purple Phacelia that quilted the hillside with their beauty! The group was so focused on the ground that the breathtaking view was almost missed! The

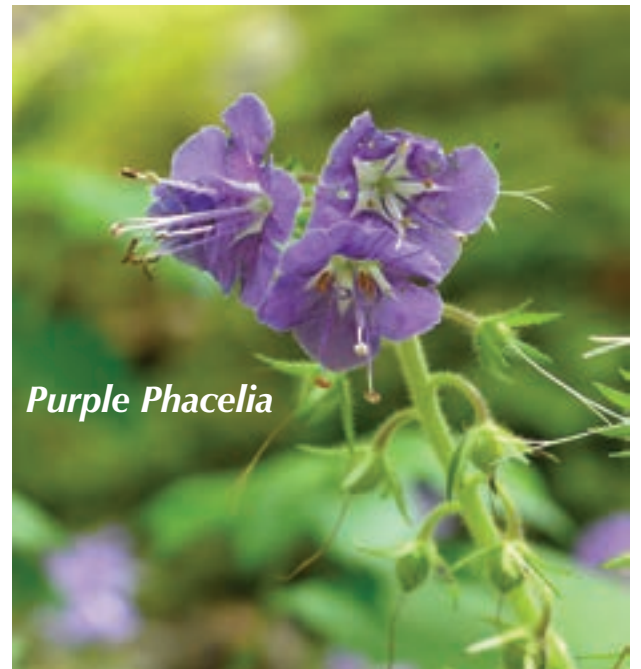
outing ended with a delicious meal at the Pigeon Mountain Grill.

Dill, basil, kale and onions continue to grow in the raised beds that the Moon Lake after-school gardeners are maintaining. Beds were weeded, empty hummingbird feeders filled and students made bird feeders. Master Gardener Lynn Evans supplied bread circles with a

hole so students could attach a yarn string. Then the circles were smeared with Crisco and slices dipped into birdseed. Those feeders were almost all successfully made. When students chose cookie cutters to make a second feeder, several lessons were learned during the process. Putting the hole too close to the edge caused the feeder to fall apart, stale bread was better



Canada violet



Purple Phacelia

than fresh, the dinosaur cutter was too flimsy and the Crisco had to be carefully applied! Still, the process was fun and birds aren't choosy about the neatness of the delivery.

The next meeting will be at 10 a.m. on May 8 and will be a work day at the MERF House. Guests are especially welcome if they bring shovels, rakes, trowels and a willingness to get down and dirty!

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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MACC Update • by Randy Grider

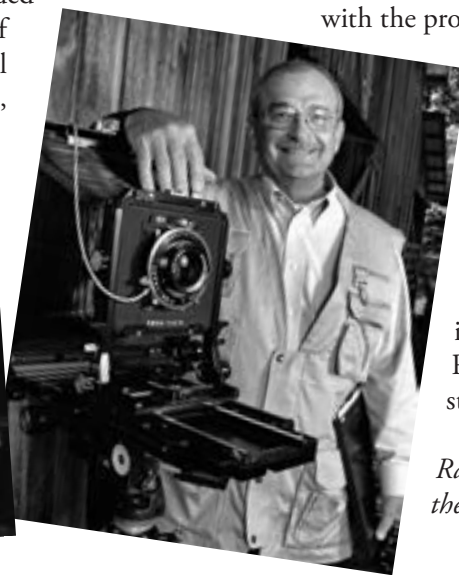
The Board of Directors for the Mentone Arts & Cultural Center (MACC) held its annual meeting on April 13. Among the items of the agenda were officer elections and a brief update on Phase 1 of construction. Serving one-year terms as officers are: President Ray Padgett, Vice-President Meg Richardson, Secretary Olivia Dodd and Treasurer Hank Willett.

Padgett showed board members the latest architectural drawings of Phase 1 of construction of the facility, which will include the multi-purpose room and one-wing that will include a catering kitchen, restrooms, electrical infrastructure and sculpture garden. The drawings were done by award-winning Birmingham architect Clay Birchfield. A date for groundbreaking is yet to be determined.

Nationally acclaimed actress Sandra Lafferty spoke to the board about her role as MACC's artist-in-residence for theatre and film. Lafferty has been working with area students from the DeKalb County Fine Arts Academy and Fort Payne High School Drama Department. The Alabama State Council on the Arts recently awarded MACC a small grant for this outreach program. Lafferty stressed the importance of having a venue for performing arts, as well as arts education as a whole. Lafferty has more than 60 movie and television roles to her credit including *The Hunger Games*, *Walk the Line*, *Prisoners*, *Self/less* and *A Walk in the Woods*. (See new video of Lafferty by searching her name at thisisalabama.org.)



MACC has two big events coming up in May. The first is a two-day black-and-white film/darkroom workshop, May 12-13. Master photographer John Dersham will guide the class through a two-day workshop that includes shooting around Mentone, processing film and developing your own work in the darkroom. Participants will be provided with a 35-mm camera to use, a roll of black-and-white film and professional instruction throughout the fun-filled, hands-on experience.



The cost for the workshop is \$125. Class size is limited to five persons, so reserve today (256-674-3366 or mentoneartscenter@gmail.com). Any travel or overnight stay is not included in price. Proceeds will benefit the Mentone Arts & Cultural Center.

On Tuesday, May 15, singer/songwriter, Chuck Brodsky will be performing in Mentone. Following a successful show here in 2017, Brodsky decided to make a return to the mountains. Come out and enjoy Brodsky's blend of quirky, rootsy storytelling through his music. The New York Times says Brodsky offers "old-fashioned story songs brimming with wit and compassion...off center, off the wall and incisively funny." The venue is MACC's temporary home (the former Kamama Gallery) at 5951 Alabama Hwy 117 in Mentone. Admission is a suggested \$15 donation, with the proceeds benefiting the Mentone Arts & Cultural Center.

Please remember donations made to MACC are tax deductible. There are naming opportunities for memorializing distinguished citizens, family members and loved ones.

MACC will have an informational tent during the Rhododendron Festival. Be sure to stop by and say hello.

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

Moon Lake Community Library News • by Kelly Leavitt

Our gratitude goes to the Mentone Area Preservation Association for their generous grant of \$1,500. These funds will pay for one year of wireless internet, as well as two laptop computers which will soon be available for public use.

Please make plans to visit our Rhododendron Festival booth for our traditional book sale. This is one of our main ways of raising funds for the library, which is funded entirely through donations and book sales. We have a large variety of books in both fiction and non-fiction. Hardbacks cost \$2, large paperbacks cost \$1, and small paperbacks cost \$.25 (or 5/\$1).

If you have three (or four) hours free each month, please consider volunteering. Our volunteer team assists the librarian by checking books and movies in and out, and by reshelving. Many thanks to our current volunteers: Brandy Barrett, Marie DePaul, Jane Faile, Dianne Gilbreath, Dianne Kuehl, Pat Peterson, Mickey Luck, Rhea Pirch, Peggy Pullen, Gretchen Rustenholtz, Pat Scheon, Rita Shirley, and Dianne Tindol.

The library has been active with patron use, book buyers, the group of knitters, the writers' club, chess players, and community meetings. Thursdays are our

"quiet" days, so if you want a quiet place to read or study, or to browse the internet, come by on a Thursday afternoon.

Our current hours are: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 3-6 p.m., and Saturdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. (Coffee and games begin at 9!) Visit moonlakecommunitylibrary.org for an online catalog and our latest news.

Kelly Leavitt is the community librarian for Moon Lake Community Library.





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Time Really Does Fly When You're Having Fun! • by Paula Easter



Hunter Gill thinks milk jug masks are fun.

April has been such an amazing month. First, thank you so very much to everyone for making this year's "Taste of the Mountain" art auction the best ever. I loved all the wonderful comments about my incredible Moon Lake students' art work. (I feel like a proud Mama Hen with her chicks.) I enjoy seeing everyone and have a lot of fun handing out my baskets of biscuits! How lucky to have such incredible professional artists donate artwork to this event.



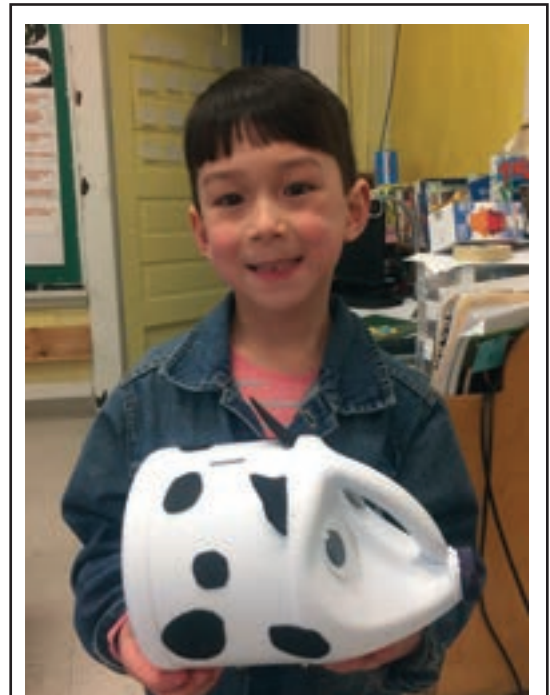
Cathie Crawford loves recycled magazine bead necklaces.

Even though the end of school is approaching, we have several fun things still happening at Moon Lake Elementary. On Thursday, April 19, we celebrated "Earth Day" at Moon Lake. A BIG thank you to Carolyn Hendon for once again being our Earth Day coordinator. The Moon Lake grounds have never

looked more lovely, and Mrs. Hendon had a place for everyone to work. Brittney Hughes from DeSoto State Park, Angie Shugart from One World Adventure Company, and the Rhododendron Garden Club also provided wonderful learning stations for our Moon Lake Earth Day. You know you can't have Earth Day without a little recycled art, which we had fun making in the Fine Arts classroom.

As I think about the end of school with sixth grade graduation, kindergarten graduation, Awards Day, Field Day, and summer approaching, another saying comes to mind: "Time please slow down."

Paula Easter is the Fine Arts, Music and Spanish teacher at Moon Lake School.



Ian DePaul wants to fill up his recycled piggy bank with quarters!

Wow! It seems like only yesterday I began writing my monthly article for *The Groundhog*, and now it is May and school is almost over for the year. I want to thank everyone for their kind comments, and for their encouragement as I have endeavored to step out of my comfort zone and write these articles.

As I get older, I realize more and more the truth of the statement that, "Time flies when you are having fun!" I know I am a lucky person because I love what I do and have so much fun doing it — working for a wonderful organization (Thank you, MERF), in a wonderful school (Thank you, Moon Lake Elementary), with wonderful friends and students (Thank you, Moon Lake staff, Mentone friends, and students).

National Association of Letter Carriers STAMP OUT HUNGER Food Drive

Help these local heroes stamp out hunger! Our local food bank is located at St. Joseph's Episcopal Church. They will receive all food collected on the Mentone routes to address hunger in our area.

The Mentone Post Office will collect non-perishable food the entire month of May. Food can be brought to the Mentone Post Office or left in your mailbox and picked up by local carriers.

The National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC) is the chief organizer of the nation's largest food drive. The NALC effort is held annually every May in 10,000 cities and towns in every part of the country. Residents put out non-perishable food donations during the month, which letter carriers collect as they deliver mail along their postal routes. The food drive has collected more than 1.3 billion pounds of food since the national drive began in 1992.



SAT., MAY 12, 2018

New Neighbors • by Mary Alice Stout

During April’s community clean-up, I met two new Mentone neighbors, Michele and Monte Baird. They both talked about the importance of community and family. Picking up trash and sharing a potluck is how they chose to spend a Saturday, connecting with the Mentone family.

Michele and Monte grew up in Aransas Pass, Texas, near the Gulf. They moved here from Slidell, Louisiana, where Monte was stationed with the Marines. Michele telecommuted from home as a data analyst or a scout for the gas and oil industry.

They have two grown boys and the Marines moved the family to numerous locations, which gave them all an expanded education. Two of the family’s favorite activities were tent camping and motorcycles.



Their sons were each recipients of the Marine Corps General James Amos Scholarship.

When retirement arrived, they wanted to be their own boss and own a business. They chose something they could build — rebuild —for others to share and enjoy. They bought the Mentone Campground, which will soon be the Bairdsnest Campground.

They began work in March and have been remodeling, replacing boards, sinks, painting, cutting brush and vines, and renovating the RV area. And they’re dreaming of clearing the overgrown tent area with the singing brook and shady trees.

Both the Bairds are “people-people.” Stop by and welcome them to the area. They’re giving affection to the Bairdsnest Campground and to the people living in or visiting Mentone.

Charles Lester Thomas Trio
(continued from page 1)

music, Tony’s music seems to me to be more about life. You don’t have to know about black-eyed peas and rice on New Year’s to get it.

Will Dooley is another one of those guys, and he really is from around here! He writes songs about here and sings them from the heart. He lives down the road a ways, raising a family, does carpentry work in between gigs. He told me once he loved working with wood, making things for his family and friends, but he didn’t really care so much about doing that for a living. What he’d rather share with strangers was

music. I thought that was interesting, cause when he told me that I’d seen him play a few times. After listening to him for a spell with other people, I didn’t get the feeling anybody listening felt like a stranger anymore.

Evan Maddox is a long-time friend of Tony and Will, and he’s one of those guys too. He plays bass guitar. If you know about bass players, they are about support, foundation, rhythm. And that’s what he does. He went to school and learned how to be a recording engineer. That’s kind of the same thing as playing bass as far as support, foundation. There was a day a few months ago I was driving through Mentone listening to Will’s CD that came out last year. Evan engineered that CD. Anyway, I made one stop and as I got out of the car someone drove by me, and they were listening to Will’s CD too. Then I go down the road and see a friend of mine in a parking lot, and they were listening to it too. I was thinking about Evan that day, I thought that was a moment of trickle-down support. That CD wouldn’t have

sounded near so good without that willingness to serve the song that Evan has, whether he’s playing or mixing.

Elisha Tatum, he’s one of those guys too. He plays a bunch of instruments, I’m not sure how many. The first time I heard him he was playing with Will at the Wildflower. I was eating and talking and at some point I was hearing the spookiest music, very spare. I had to get up and go look at them. I don’t know what song it was, but it was sad, dark. Will was singing about some love gone awry and Elisha was just picking away, but real quiet, and on top of that he was singing this real high quiet wailing that just made my neck hair correct its posture. I can’t hardly look away when Elisha is on the stage.

So here’s the thing about being one of these guys: guys like these don’t take gigs where they don’t like to play.

You gotta love Mentone for being a place guys like these will want to come play for you.

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River Voice • by Bill Shugart

May is a beautiful month on Lookout Mountain, bringing an abundance of Rhododendron to the banks of Little River, with swim season not too far behind!

The Little River Waterkeeper will resume weekly water quality sampling in eight popular swimming locations and provide users with information about water quality conditions on Little River. Results are posted on SwimGuide each Thursday, a website and mobile app that gives real time water quality information for thousands of beaches and swimming holes all over the world. Water quality data is uploaded by fellow Waterkeepers and conservation groups with a shared desire for swimmable, fishable and drinkable water. What a network of good-doers! The incredible program allows LRW to share water quality data with our community and its visitors, highlight our clean swimming areas and raise awareness about water quality issues on Little River. If you are interested

in following the status of Little River, beginning May 24, you can log on to theswimguide.org and search the following beaches in Mentone: Lake Lahusage; DeSoto Falls; Indian Falls; Yellow Creek; Blue Hole; Martha's Falls; Johnnie's Creek; and Little River Mouth Park.

Other Waterkeeper news!

- A Guided Moonlight Kayak Adventure will launch at DeSoto Falls on Tuesday, May 29 at 6:30 p.m., during the sunset until the full moon rises over the treetops. It is an amazing experience on Little River, taking 2–2½ hours. An easy-to-paddle, sit-on-top kayak is provided



and a donation of \$20 per person is appreciated. Reservations and payment must be made in advance.

- The LRW is planning its 1st Annual Gear Sale fundraiser, during the World's Longest Yardsale on August 2–5. We are taking donations for outdoor clothing and gear that is still in good shape. All donations are tax-deductible and will go towards our water sampling program.
- Beginning May 24, Little River Waterkeeper T-shirts and hats can be purchased at Magnolia Rose Company in the Hitching Post. All proceeds will go towards educational programs.
- Little River Stakeholder Meetings will take place bi-monthly on the 1st Thursday, in the Moon Lake Library at 6 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday June 7.

Bill Shugart is Little River Waterkeeper.



N • E • W • S

• by Kelly Leavitt

Our plans for April's community meeting to discuss Creative Placemaking were dashed due to a faulty alarm in the library building. We rescheduled the meeting, but, plans were dashed again, as the alarm continued to cause problems. We decided to wait until May to reschedule, so we could get the word out further in this month's Groundhog, and also to assure the alarm would be fixed!

Please join us if you're interested in discussing how to impact our community using the arts and culture as a foundation. We will meet on Wednesday, May 9, at 7 p.m. at Moon Lake Community Library. Interest has been high for this event, so mark your calendar now. In mid-March, board members Rhea Pirch and Bill Rutledge and I travelled to Chattanooga to attend the regional Creative Placemaking Leadership Summit, a conference presented by the National Consortium for Creative Placemaking with support from the National Endowment for the Arts. Creative Placemaking is an integrative approach to planning and community building. Case studies and data are proving the economic and social value of the active use of culture and the arts in communities.

We will share what we learned about Creative Placemaking and some of the Council's ideas for enhancing the Mentone area, and attendees will have the opportunity to be part of the creative process and help us brainstorm further possibilities. We'll enjoy a dessert potluck; coffee and hot tea will be provided.

Kelly Leavitt is president of Little River Arts Council.

MAPA (continued from page 5)

Thank you for taking the time to read and we hope you will thoroughly enjoy *The Groundhog* this month. Beverly Bates, our design manager for five years has resigned to pursue new adventures. We are SO grateful for all she has done for Mentone — as a volunteer and as *Groundhog* designer. Her talents and friendly nature have been priceless in keeping the *Groundhog* alive and well. Beverly is now helping Kelly Leavitt (current *Groundhog* editor) transition into the role of editor and designer. The board approves *The Groundhog* content each month before the paper is published, although design and editing are a major part of where the magic happens. Beverly and the board have a lot of confidence in Kelly's talent, experience and vision to continue a wonderful small town publication. As an organization, we are excited about the direction of *The Groundhog* and the opportunity we have to support the community through its publication. Blessings again to you, Beverly Bates!

Many Blessings and Mountain Love,
L.C.Moon, Parliamentarian and Past-President

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SAGE ADVICE: IN THE BEGINNING ...

• by Susan Seago

Everything has a beginning, or starting point, and so do gardens. They may begin in our minds as we look at plant catalogs or watch gardening programs on TV or maybe visit gardens. One of my goals is to visit Gibbs Gardens in Ball Ground, Georgia. In the spring, there are thousands of daffodils and other bulbs blooming for several weeks. In fact, there are 16 gardens over 220 acres. I can only imagine the beauty there. After the spring bulbs come Japanese maples and many flowering shrubs and perennial flowers. What a delight! But, you don't have to travel far to enjoy such beauty; you can have lovely gardens in your own yard.

I know many of my readers are long-time gardeners, but we all like to plant a new tree, shrub, or perennial every year to add to the landscape. That's just the nature of gardeners. We are like kids with new toys. As a landscape designer, I always say to have a plan in mind before you buy or plant anything. Well, let me tell you, I don't always stick to that idea. When I stroll through big box garden centers, I usually see that one new plant that I just have to get. Then I have to find a place to plant it. Sometimes it takes me awhile to get the plant in the ground because I want it to be just the right spot.

I would like to give you some guidelines to beginning your own landscaping. There are many books on garden design but I thought a few general ideas would help.

Most landscapes include trees, shrubs, flowers, and grass. Let's start with trees and shrubs. I call these the bones of any garden. Trees provide structure, like a frame to a picture. They also give cooling shade in the heat of summer. There are BIG trees such as oaks and maples that can cover a 50' x 50' area with their shade. Always check on the mature size of any plant. One tree in a three-gallon pot could grow to 60' or 100' tall and 50' wide. So, in a small to medium yard, only one or two big trees are sufficient. Smaller shade and flowering trees may be preferable for your area. All plants grow at different rates; some such as oaks grow very slowly over many years. Others grow much quicker. It's good to ask a professional or research the

plants you want. I like a mixture of big, little, and medium size trees. Flowering trees such as dogwood, serviceberry, redbud, or golden rain tree are great. Most flowering trees are smaller and really give substance to the landscape. Some of these are known as "understory" trees because they can thrive close to a larger shade tree. This creates layers as the eye sweeps around the landscape.

One point to consider in planting trees is that most of their roots grow less than 18" underground and many grow outward for many feet, meaning you will have roots with which to contend when planting under the trees. We just finished a landscape renovation that has many large trees in the yard. It took quite a while to dig those holes, cutting roots and removing big mountain rocks. And, it meant moving some bushes from their original positions because the roots were just too big. Also, remember that large trees are well established so they are greedy and will absorb most of the water. Keep a close eye on new plantings under trees as they will probably need extra water.

Moving on to shrubs, the same principle of size, color, sun or shade, and texture apply. Even azaleas come in different sizes. The old fashioned azaleas can grow quite tall, while the newer varieties are much smaller. Doing your research before you buy and plant will save many hours of replacing or removing plants that are doing well but have outgrown their space. I once saw a very small front yard that had several Leyland Cyprus planted about three feet apart in a short row on both sides of the walk, maybe 30' long. Leylands grow to 60' tall and 10' wide in just a few years. Well, we watched them get cut down over

those years because they were simply too big for their space. So, always check the mature size and allow enough space for growth.

There are so many flowering shrubs, but some of my favorites are azalea, forsythia, rose, viburnum, hydrangea, camellia, lilac, and weigela. You can have different varieties of these few shrubs with many colors and textures. Evergreen shrubs such as

holly, juniper, and arborvitae can provide framing and foundational support to the landscape. It all has to do with the amount of sun a particular shrub needs to thrive. Match the plant needs with the right amount of sun and you will have a happy plant!

Next come the flowers. There are two kinds of flowers — perennials that come back every year and annuals which usually last for one growing season. I prefer a mix of perennials and annuals. Perennials only need planting once, and are usually low maintenance. Many of them will bloom off and on during the season while others will bloom once in the spring or summer or fall or winter. Yes, there are perennials for every season. Some perennials, like the hosta, are grown mostly for their foliage. Ferns are wonderful and come in both evergreen and herbaceous varieties. Herbaceous means they die back in the fall and return in the spring. My favorite, hellebore, blooms after Christmas through early spring and is evergreen! A mixture of evergreens and deciduous are suggested for a year-round garden.

Annuals are great for adding color to the landscape. We all enjoy the reds of the salvia along the drive or edge of beds, or the vibrant colors of petunias or pansies in their season. They will provide pods of constant color from late spring through early fall. Choices of color and size are unlimited.

Are you feeling overwhelmed by now? It's easier than you think. But, if you need help, there are books, magazines, TV show, and design specialists who can guide you. It's time to get in the dirt...You can do it!



Rhododendron Festival

(continued from page 1)

at 5 p.m. Miss Rhododendron 2017 will be crowning this year's winner. If you spot our new Miss Rhododendron at the festival, be sure to say, "Hello!"

The festival will kick off with a concert presented by Little River Arts Council at the Mentone Inn Pavilion, where you can also enjoy a Fish Fry.

Watch for signs as you approach Mentone, including where shuttle parking is located.

Be sure to see the pull-out section for more details including a map of town. Pick up a full brochure available around town the week before Rhododendron Festival. Visit MapaMentone.com or our Facebook page (Mentone Alabama Festivals) for updated information.

The Lookout Mountain Knitters



The Lookout Mountain Knitters meets on Tuesday afternoons at 3 p.m. at Moon Lake Community Library. You don't need to be a knitter to join, but if you enjoy any kind of needlecraft, feel free to bring your yarn and needles and enjoy time socializing while doing handwork.

Welcome to Rhododendron Festival 2018

Shuttles and Paid Parking Coming this Rhododendron Festival • by Sharon Habin

The success of our Colorfest 2017 was felt throughout Mentone and the surrounding areas, even more so than Colorfest 2015, which was over-the-top in attendance for our small town. The traffic and lack of public parking made it potentially dangerous to pedestrians as well as vehicles. Within a few weeks after 2017 Colorfest, Mentone Area Preservation Association (MAPA) board members and the festival chair met with the mayor and police to develop a plan. Since then, discussions have been ongoing and everyone feels that the best plan seems to be to provide paid public parking and free shuttles to alleviate as much

vehicle traffic as possible. Full-size shuttle buses with qualified, insured drivers will better assure the safety of our community and visitors. Parking will be \$5 per vehicle to offset the cost of the shuttles. Shuttles will be free to ride.

To reduce turning and traffic at the flashing light at the top of the mountain by the Mentone Inn, parking at Brow Park will be for vendors and musicians only and parking at County Road 89 and South Street will be only for handicapped and volunteers.

Sharon Habin is the Rhododendron Festival Chair.

Paid Parking Areas

Watch for signs as you approach Mentone, including where shuttle parking is located.

Saturday 8:30am – 6pm—continuous

- Mentone Community Church Life Center
90 Summerville Road, Mentone (Saturday only)
- Mentone Arts & Cultural Center building site
(.3 mile past the intersection of AL Hwy. 117 and East River Rd.)

Sunday 8:30am–5pm—continuous

- Mentone Arts & Cultural Center building site
(NO parking at Mentone Community Church)

Shuttle Stops

- Brow Park—County Road 89 at N. Cool St.
- County Road 89 at South St.
- County Road 89 at Mentone Springs Hotel driveway.
- Sidewalk across from the Mentone Market, west of Douglas St.



Rhododendron Festival Raffle

A beautiful stained-glass piece of art has been donated by local artist Chuck Peters for the Rhododendron Festival's traditional raffle. Proceeds will benefit the Mentone Area Preservation Association. Tickets cost \$2 each, or 3 for \$5, and are available in Mentone at The Graceful Giraffe, Green Leaf Grill, Moon Lake Community Library, Wildflower Café, Mentone Market, and Plowshares Bistro, Triple G Trading Post, and in Valley Head at Bell Battelle.

The stained-glass piece measures 21" wide by 27" high and is valued at \$500. Central to the piece are two plates of depression-era glass which Chuck bought at the World's Longest Yard Sale. (Depression-era laundry soap manufacturers used to put glass plates in their boxes to stimulate sales.) This stunning work of art is sure to add a touch of elegance and color to your home. It is currently on display at Mentone Market.

An artist, designer, and craftsman throughout his life, Chuck has been creating stained glass windows and sculptures since the early 1970s. Chuck's ongoing passion for stained glass has led him to offer his talents professionally. Residences, governments, commercial businesses and numerous galleries now display his work. His studio, Cloudland Stained Glass, is located on his 40-acre organic farm north of Mentone. He has lived in the area for the past 28 years. Chuck can be contacted at 706-859-8211, by email at cloudland@mindspring.com, or on Facebook at 'Cloudland Stained Glass.'



We appreciate
our
Rhododendron
Festival Sponsors!



Stop by MAPA's information booths at Brow Park and the MSH site for schedules, maps, shuttle bus information, vendor names with space numbers, as well as Raffle tickets.



Welcomes You to Rhododendron Festival!



Rustic Rice

Woodwork crafts

Saylor Circle Pottery

Wheel-thrown pottery, canvas/wood oil paintings

Soap Alchemy

Boutique soaps, bath bombs, scrub, lotion, beard oil

Food

Apison Creek

Coffee, iced tea, iced coffee

Coty Still

Old-fashioned fudge and brittle

Crit's Pucks

Tater & chick sticks, pork rinds, fried pies

DeSoto Rescue Squad

Cotton candy, popcorn, soda

Granny's Pies

Fried pies

Kudzu Café

Chicken salad, pimento cheese, cheese BLT,

The Last Straw

Cheese straws

Lil' Donut Factory

Donuts, lemonade

McIlwain Kettle Corn

Kettle and caramel corn

North Lookout Mountain Fire Protection District BBQ

Plowshares Bistro

Grilled cheese sandwiches

Polar Express

Shaved ice

Pritchard Farm

Grill & chili, funnel cakes, Philly cheese steak

Ronnie Beard

Roasted corn, lemonade

Smokin BBQ

Sandwiches, hot dogs, boiled peanuts, ice cream, soda

Summertime Snow

Funnel cakes, fried Oreos, snow cones

Sweet Crumb Company

Decorated cookies & gourmet marshmallows

Wildflower Café

Tomato pie, white bean chili, nachos, crêpes

Arts & Crafts

3rd Generation Creation

String art, wall hangings, crochet

Alana Ozment

Jewelry

Artifacts of Athens

Woodcarving, Santas, signs, sticks, etc.

Atlanta Art Glass

Hand-blown glass — bottles, bowls, ornaments, vases, sculptures

Burnt Stomp Forge

Hand-forged items

Cabin Fever Crafts

Wood & fabric animals, aprons, necklaces, and stuffed animals

Chicken & Sweets

Southern Yard Bird

Jams, pepper jellies, chowchow

Daniel Kandasammy

Wooden chairs, wind chimes, canned goods

Denise Works

Children's books

Designs by

Dawn Smitherman

Chalk-painted items

Dianna Cantrell

Leather & freshwater pearl jewelry

Donna Godwin Art Studio

Ink, pencil, pen, colored pencil, acrylic

Dreamers Jewelry Art

Leather, stone jewelry, watercolors

Eastaboga Bee Company

Lip balm, honey, leather cream, etc.

Expressions for Your Home

Wood frames, boxes, candle holders

Faith and Mustard Seed

Bath bombs, crosses

Happy Campers Crafts & Creations

Driftwood art, wood bowls, beaded purses/animals

Heartstrings & Stitches

Dolls, folk art

Glenda Jones

Books, oil paintings, ornaments

Gypsyrose Leather

Leather earrings, bracelets, clutches and goods

J & R Originals

Pine needle baskets, jewelry, wood crafts

JCM Candles

Candles, melt, warmers

JW Jewelry

Silver & natural stone wire-wrapped jewelry, chain mail, coin rings, cabochons

Knotholes and Notions

Rustic bird houses, wood signs

Lickskillet Creations

Glow-in-the-dark hand-made picture pendants

Lookout Mountain Photography

Matted original photography

Lori Rhodes Jewelry

Pearl Jewelry

Lynn Lusty

Hand-built pottery and macramé

Mama Kat's Country Store

Hand-crafted herbal products teas, soaps, bath salts

Mary Mc's Jewelry ETC

Concrete sand castings, silverware

Mountain Mosaics

Hand-crafted mosaics

Mrs. Rushton's Cottage Kitchen

Homemade jellies, jams

Nightingale Pottery/Reiko Rhymer Pottery

Hand-crafted pottery

Oden Knives

Custom-made knives

Over the Rainbow

Baby knitted, BBQ racks, child boxes, fabric kit items

Personalized Wooden Trains

Photography by Jim and Frieda

Nature & wildlife photos

Rezin Kreation

Handmade jewelry, paper weights

Roadside Recyclers

Handmade home/garden decor items

Slightly Different Jewelry

Handmade jewelry

Stardust Mama's

Hula Hoops, tie dye, upcycled clothing

Sticks and Stitches

Game calls, crochet, tie dye, upcycled clothing

Sweet Tea Pottery

Pottery

Taylor Blake

Blacksmithing

& Destin Padgett Art

Blacksmithing & mixed media painting

The Rustic Pallet

Hand-crafted wood pallets

The Lightning Fast Sketch Artist

Portraits, oil paints, prints

The Vintage Clover

Handmade, vintage-themed jewelry and original artwork

Truth Soap Co.

Naturally-made bath products

Unique Lamps & Lighting

Eclectic custom lamps/lighting, jewelry

Wood & Bean

Pyrography, wood burning

The Wood Shop

Laser-engraved items, woodcrafts

Zandra Shaver and Vickie Chaney

Acrylics, paintings on wood



PRESENTS

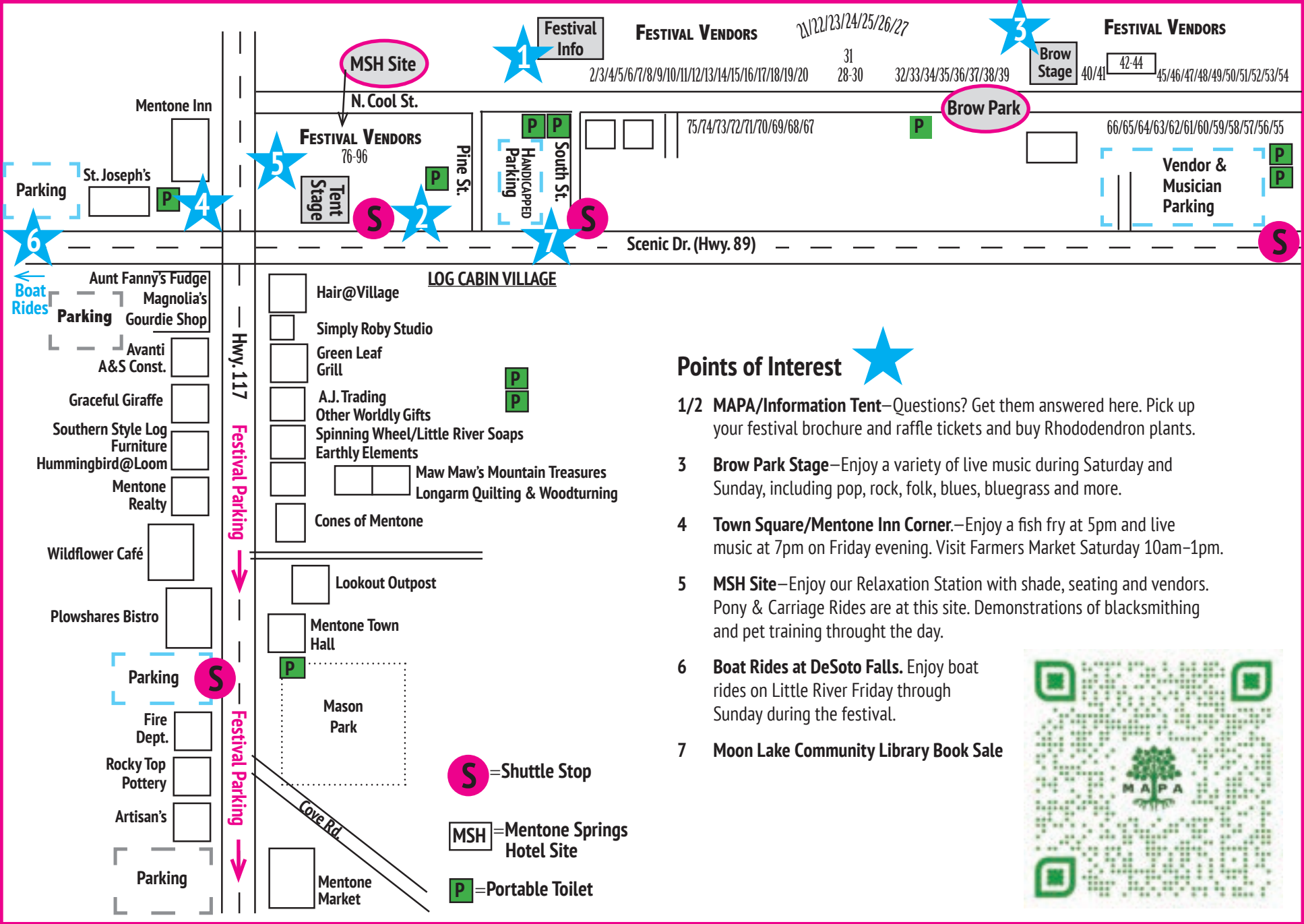
Miss Rhododendron Pageant!



Live Music Schedule

will be posted to
MapaMentone.com
on May 7!

Map of Mentone Town Center & Festival Vendors



NOTE: This is not intended to be a complete map of the Town of Mentone. It only highlights venues for activities, events, food, music, and arts/crafts vendors during the festival.

Organizations

American Red Cross DeKalb Chapter
Little River Arts Council
Mentone Area Preservation Association
Mentone Arts and Cultural Center
Mentone Educational Resources Foundation
Moon Lake Community Library
Safe Haven Pet Rescue



Supports Rhododendron Festival!



Boat Rides
Canoe & Kayak Rentals
@ DeSoto Falls

Pony & Carriage Rides
@ Mentone Springs Hotel site



Wildflower Cafe



Remembering a Mentone Veteran

In recognition of Memorial Day
Monday, May 28, 2018



Ernest Harold Smith was a child of Mentone who served his country on the global stage and then returned to Mentone after an exemplary military career. He was buried at Arlington National Cemetery on August 19, 2015.

Mentone Mayor Rob Hammond was in Washington, D.C. this past Easter, and took a trip to Arlington to visit Ernest's grave.

In recognition of Memorial Day, we honor U.S. Navy Master Chief Ernest Smith and his service to the United States of America. His obituary, which appeared in Fort Payne's *Times-Journal* on February 23, 2015, follows.

ERNEST SMITH, of Mentone, passed away Sunday, Feb. 15, 2015.

Ernest was born May 6, 1925, to John Paul and Nettie Crow Smith. Growing up during the Great Depression, he attended school at Moon Lake Elementary and later at Valley Head High School. As a young man, Ernest attended Edmundson College in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

Ernest volunteered for the United States Navy during World War II and faithfully sent part of his monthly wage home to his parents to help pay for the family farm. His memorable military career spanned the world with service on a total of nine ships. His historical participation includes the occupation of Japan and China Fleet (Shanghai). During the Korean War, he served on the USS Mispillion that received three Battle Stars. Ernest served as Navy ROTC instructor at Princeton University for several years. During the Vietnam War, where he was involved in the security of Chu Lai and Tet Offensive in Da Nang, he received Commendation for Outstanding Service three times and was chosen from 8,000 men as Outstanding Sailor. Ernest retired from the Navy with 30 years of service at the rank of Master Chief and a total of 14 awarded medals. Shortly following the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, he eagerly, at age 76, contacted the Department of the Navy to offer himself for service to his country. At that time, he was told he had done his part.

At retirement, Ernest returned home to his beloved Mentone, where he became known as "Mentone's Historian." He studied Mentone, giving him great knowledge of the surrounding areas, its events, history, and the role his family played. He enjoyed a variety of hobbies, which included writing. Several of his items have been published. Ernest spent years researching family ancestry that led him to Massachusetts. He found his heritage to include several Revolutionary War soldiers and to 1620s Plymouth. Ultimately, he discovered his family had descendants from two voyagers of the Mayflower that signed the Mayflower Compact. This ancestry has been validated and recorded with the General Society of Mayflower Descendants in Plymouth, Massachusetts.

Ernest was a well-spoken, humble man who was a great conversationalist. He will be missed greatly by those who knew him well.



Have you ever stopped in Mentone and read the historical marker in Mason Park, next to Town Hall? It was written by Ernest Harold Smith.

The first Lookout Mountain settlers arrived shortly after the Cherokee Indian removal of 1838-1839. These pioneers had been too late for homesteading the good farmland in northwest Georgia. They now turned their attention to Lookout Mountain. With stubborn determination they put their axes to the grindstone and with a keen edge hacked their way through the mountain wilderness. They chopped logs and built primitive houses, cleared land for patch farming, and hunted the abundant wildlife for food. Among these early settlers were the families of Force, O'Rear, Crow, Jones, Smith, and Hammit. For years, not much changed in their lives. Times were hard. During the Civil War Federal troops were on the mountain. They dealt severely with the settlers taking their animals and meager stores of food. Still these hearty souls managed to survive and remain on their homesteads.

In the post-Civil War era more affluent settlers arrived. Among these was the Mason family from Bellefontaine, Iowa. They were great community workers and

generous with their resources. John Mason and his son Edward were the founders of Mentone. John was instrumental in the opening of the Vernon Gap and the new road from Valley Head to Menlo, Georgia in 1882. John and Edward bought the hardware for the covered bridge and the community did the work. Edward gave money for a church and a school. They shared Moon Lake for community activities. Alice, daughter of John, named the town Mentone and gave the land for Bankhead Cemetery.

Mentone eventually became incorporated in 1936. Those opposed to incorporation feared losing their independence and higher taxes. The threat of becoming part of nearby towns convinced a majority to support incorporation.

Despite great progress in Mentone since its founding, the advice of John Mason still has a ring of truth. "Don't come here expecting to make a fortune, but if your fortune is made, Mentone offers the good life."

—Ernest H. Smith



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Wilbur Robert “Colonel” Lee, Jr.

March 9, 1950 — April 15, 2018

Mr. Wilbur Robert Lee, Jr., also known as “Colonel”, passed away in the early morning on Sunday, April 15, 2018. He was 68 years old. Funeral services with Military Honors were officiated by Bro. Ron Reynolds, Bro. Shannon Spillman, and State Representative Nathaniel Ledbetter.

Mr. Lee is survived by a daughter, Jessica Bowns (Tim); a son, Joseph Lee (Crystal); sisters Cindy Wilks and Sheila Saffels; and brothers David Lee and Roger Lee. He especially enjoyed his six grandchildren: Nick Bowns; Doug Bowns; Destiny Watters; Dylan Lee; Kansas Lee; and Dallas Lee. He is also survived by his mother, Virginia Scott Lee. He was preceded in death by his father, Wilbur Robert Lee, Sr.



Originally from Indiana, Mr. Lee’s family moved to Flat Rock and then to Fischer when he was very young. His son, Joseph, who is the Fire Chief of the North Lookout Mountain Fire Protection District, recalls his childhood fondly, especially helping his father build the family’s impressive farm. Mr. Lee was a horseman, and around the turn of the 21st century, he created a horse trail that extended from County Road 165 near Crystal Lake all the way to the bridge at Little Rivers Falls on Highway 35. He enjoyed leading pack trips along this trail, as well as in the Smoky Mountains.

Mr. Lee was a lineman for Sand Mountain Electric Cooperative for 40 years. “He helped keep the lights on for the people of Mentone,” said Joseph. “One time in the ‘93 blizzard, he walked all the way to DeSoto Falls to see if the lines were down and crossing the river.” Joseph laughed and said, “Stuff like that was all the time for him.”

In his earlier years, Mr. Lee was a member of Fischer Rescue Squad and was also involved with Boy Scout Troop 75. He was a blacksmith for 40 years and used to give demonstrations at the festivals in Mentone. He taught his grandson, Dylan, much about blacksmithing. He also, at one time, had a sawmill on his farm, and would cut lumber for the public. Mr. Lee was a veteran who served in the United States Marines.

I happened to be on County Road 106 when traffic was stopped by one of Mentone’s bright red fire trucks at the intersection of County Road 630. Mr. Lee’s funeral procession soon passed by on its way to Holly Springs Cemetery, where he is now buried. This simple act was deeply respectful for a gentleman who served his community well over the span of his lifetime. — *Kelly Leavitt*



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Mentone Area Church Directory

Mentone, Alabama

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

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

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

Mentone Community Church invites you to Crosswalk Sunday School (K through Adult) 9:15am, Adult Worship Service 10:30am, JC Kids Worship Service 10:30am. Pastor 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.



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.

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.

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

Ryleigh's Closet

Mentone Community Church now has a clothes closet which provides men's, women's and children's clothing and shoes free of charge for those in need. "It is called Ryleigh's Closet in memory of Ryleigh Whittle, the daughter of one of the Church members, who passed away at 18 months on Feb 24, 2018," explained church member Mike

Stone. "The family is still dealing with the painful loss."

Ryleigh's Closet is open the second and fourth Mondays of each month between 4 and 6 p.m. The dates for this month are May 14 and 28. It is requested that recipients take only what they and their family need.

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.



Decoration Day

A Southern Appalachian Tradition • by Kelly Leavitt

A common perception people have when they hear the phrase "Decoration Day" is that it's simply a day when graves are decorated with flowers. That part is right, but there's also much more to the story of this old Southern Appalachian tradition. Decoration Day (also called "Decoration" or "Decorations") is an annual observance held in the late spring that honors traditional customs in southern community graveyards.

Each cemetery holds Decoration Day on a variety of traditional calendar days, so people are able to attend different Decorations. In the weeks or days prior to Decoration Day, people focus on cleaning, repairing, mowing, and weeding. People typically dress for Sunday church and gather with family and friends at a cemetery where loved ones are buried for a family and community reunion.

After decorating the graves of their loved ones, most often with flowers, families attend a service and hear a sermon, and they enjoy gospel singing and socializing with others in the community. This is a time for them to reflect on their loved ones who are buried there, and to show them respect and recognition. Traditions vary among cemeteries, but overall the patterns are fairly consistent. One thing that's consistent is the food. Decorations always include a picnic supper on the grounds.

Several local cemeteries observe Decoration Day. Little River Cemetery observes the day on the second Sunday of May, as do Head Springs and Sulphur Springs Cemeteries. Bankhead and Valley Head Cemeteries hold their Decorations on the fourth Sunday of May.

Dowe Foreman grew up going to Decoration at Bankhead Cemetery in Mentone. "Decoration was a big social event," she recalled. "We made sure our family graves were tended to and we'd bring food for after church. I have a memory of being just tall enough to peek over the long row of concrete tables loaded with all sorts of goodies," she continued. "My grandmother always made strawberry shortcake from scratch, layered in a huge punch bowl. My

grandfather, George Smith, aka 'Daddy Joe,' would fill a basket with roses, fresh from his garden, and lay one on each grave throughout the cemetery. All while dressed to the nines."

Walt Pullen is a trustee for Bankhead Cemetery, which was founded in the mid-to-late-1800s, when Alice Mason, daughter of Mentone's founder, John Mason, donated the land for a community cemetery. Walt "inherited" his position; his main responsibility is upkeep and maintenance of the cemetery. "My mama's daddy was trustee, and my daddy was a trustee, so after he died, the board asked me to take his position." Walt said he finds it relaxing to drop by the grounds and pick up fallen limbs or straighten leaning headstones.



When asked about his favorite childhood memories of Decorations, he immediately grinned and said, "Well, the food!" When asked what he enjoys about it now, he grinned again and said, "Still, the food! I also like seeing people that day since that's the only time I ever see them — some family, people who used to be neighbors, and friends from way back."

The deep history of decoration commemorations in the south is now hidden from us, but they seem to predate the Civil War. It is thought they may have influenced the origin of our national holiday, Memorial Day, which honors our fallen military. Historically, late spring was probably chosen because flowers were available and because people had time to tend to the graveyards in the months between planting and harvesting.

The heritage of Southern Appalachia is alive and well on parts of Lookout Mountain, as well as neighboring Sand Mountain, where Decoration Days are also observed. As a native of Los Angeles, I somewhat envy those who grew up following this annual tradition, with its deep roots in family and community, honoring those who are no longer with us. It provides a kind of constancy to life, and it's thanks to folks following the old traditions that the richness of the culture of Southern Appalachia lives on.

Medicare's Preventive and Screening Services

by Lynn Hixon

For those new to Medicare, Medicare covers a one-time Welcome to Medicare visit within the first 12 months you have Part B. You are also eligible for an Annual Wellness Visit to manage your health care. Medicare's more specific preventive services that help detect potentially serious conditions include exams, shots (such as flu shots), lab tests, and screenings (such as HIV screenings). To help you take care of your own health, it also covers programs for health counseling (such as nutrition and smoking cessation counseling), and education (such as diabetes self-management training).

Some preventive care services are covered once every few years, while others may be covered more frequently if they are needed to diagnose an illness or condition. Speak to your provider about scheduling times to receive preventive services. It is important to know that Medicare covers preventive care services only if they are truly preventive in nature. If your doctor identifies a health issue during your preventive care visit and needs to provide care to address it, you may be responsible for certain costs, such as the Part B deductible and coinsurance. For more information on Medicare's preventive care services, contact your State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) counselor, Lynn Hixon, at the DeKalb County Council on Aging at 256-845-8590.

a kind word
is like a
spring day.

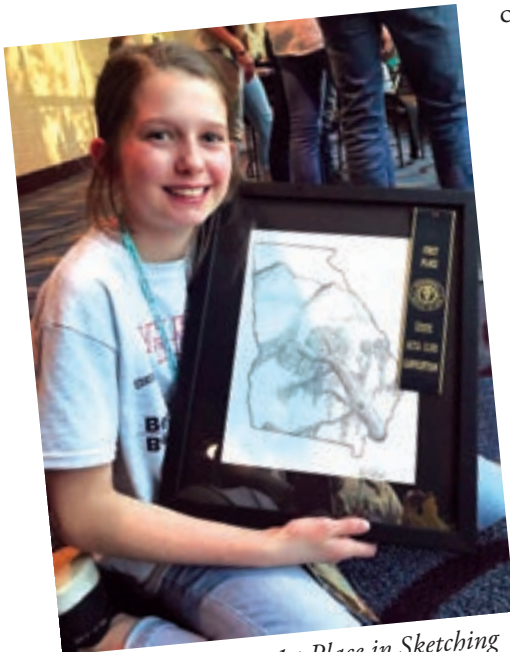
Valley Head Junior Beta Club is Heading to the Nationals

• by Tara Kirby •

The Valley Head Junior Beta Club recently attended the Alabama Junior Beta Convention in Birmingham, AL. The students competed in many categories including songfest, academics, visual arts and many team building competitions. Valley Head Junior Betas are exceptional students. They work hard and each year they outperform their goals met the previous year. The following students will be attending and competing at the National Beta Club Convention. The convention will be held June 12–16 in historical Savannah, GA. The Betas are excited about seeing new places while enjoying time spent with each other. The club sponsors are Tara Kirby and Christi Black.



Cooper Kirby won 3rd Place
in Sculpture



Abbi Gifford won 1st Place in Sketching
(and Essay)



Ellie Cox won 2nd Place in Painting.



Chance Pearson won 3rd Place
in Woodworking

2018 Junior Beta State Convention Awards

Abbi Gifford | *Essay* — 1st Place
Abbi Gifford | *Sketching* — 1st Place
Cooper Kirby | *Recyclable Art* — 1st Place
Cooper Kirby | *Wreath (Division 1)* — 1st Place
Allie Pritchett | *Handmade Jewelry* — 2nd Place
Ella Holloway | *Wreath (Division 2)* — 2nd Place
Ellie Cox | *Painting* — 2nd Place
Cooper Kirby | *Sculpture* — 3rd Place
Chance Pearson | *Woodworking* — 3rd Place
Lane Ingram | *Technology* — 3rd Place
Finley Darwin | *Spotlight Your Club* — 3rd Place
Chandler Johnson • Roger McMahan
Mason Vest • Cooper Kirby • Cayson McElrath
Marco Mendoza • Ethan Smith • Kowen Worthey

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May 2018

Birthdays

- | | | | | | |
|---|--|----|--|----|---|
| 1 | Junior Bell
Kathleen Johnson
Jennifer Owen
Michael Stone
Sue Anderson | 7 | John Johnson
Tracy Coots
Jessie Baggett
Carl Griffith
Kelly Blansit
Tony Garner | 15 | Shirley Zange |
| 2 | Morgan Blalock
Ella Voils
Cory Dobbins
Isaac Vaughan | 8 | Connie Clark
Ella Kate Wagner
Sherry Durham
Camdyn Goza | 16 | Amy Kirby
Riley Mae Owen
Kaylynn Hulgan
Harli Burton |
| 3 | Abel James Baggett
Paula Coots
Steven Barkley
Annabelle Gifford | 9 | Shaunathan Bell
Megan Miller
Ryker Shankles | 17 | Shuan Flannigan
Melinda Miller
Owen Crouse |
| 4 | Kathy Clure
Cathy White
Jody Nance | 10 | Gail Jones
Angela Flanagan
Jacob Hawkins | 18 | Chad Smith
Nelson Kerby
Traci Hulgan |
| 5 | Alex Dupree
Bobby Browder
Emily Hilliard
Jessie Baggett
Jeffrey Bain
Kathy Clure | 11 | Jessie Coots
Ricky Barkley
Merle Stokes | 19 | Dillon Brown
LeAnn Underwood |
| 6 | LA Smith
Lee Worthey
Phil Harris
Carlie Kirby
Cody Hodge
Taylor Williams
Dewayne Grisham
Avaleigh Hawkins | 12 | Hubert Blalock
Allison Kirby
Chris Davis
Alyssa Cooper | 20 | Alexis Manifold
Jessica McKenzie
Susan Elliott
Elli Stone
Joyce Tate
Kenzlee Callahan |
| | | 13 | Andrea O'Tinger
Hayden Kirby | 21 | Lisa Crow
Katie Villarreal
Desiree Cash
Jackson Mann |
| | | 14 | Ann Nelson
Madi Gregory
Logan McGee
Raymond Evans
Christy Miller Evans | 22 | Sandy Blalock
Caitlin Kirby |
| | | | | 23 | Terry Pangle
Adrienne Guice
Nathan Baggett
Ronald "Cotton" Baggett
Jackson Mann
Amelia Stott |

Anniversaries

- | | |
|----|--|
| 1 | Chris & LeAnn Underwood |
| 3 | Corey & Amanda Blalock
Thomas & Ginger Kearney |
| 4 | Donnie & Carlotta Sharpton |
| 5 | Charlie & Pam Harwell |
| 6 | Craig & Katie Smith |
| 8 | Wayne & Angie Miller |
| 10 | Alan & Beth Hawkins |
| 14 | Luke & Kaysie Black |
| 15 | Doug & Karen Powell
Keith & Dawn Langston
Shane & Valerie Burt |
| 16 | Preston & Amy Kirby |
| 17 | Casey & Jessica Battles |
| 18 | Chad & Amber Smith |
| 20 | Jeremy & Lindsay Webb
Doug & Judy McMahan
Kurt & Staci Winn |
| 24 | Wesley & Tammy Frost |
| 26 | Soni & Sheila Larock
Ray & Bobbie Zachary |
| 28 | Adam & Wendy Haynes
Easton & Anna Bailey |
| 29 | Alfred & Eddie Langston
Johnny & JoAnn Bain |
| 30 | Tommy & Cindy Harrison |
| 31 | Jimmy & Adele Phillips |

Ongoing Calendar

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

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 in the Town Square (Al Hwy. 117 & CR 89).

The Farm Market at Windy Hill sells fresh produce, eggs, beef, and pork every Friday from 3–6pm 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!

Yoga classes at Moon Lake School are held every Wednesday afternoon from 4–5pm in the school gym. There is no charge. This class is taught by video. Call 256-634-4113 for more information.

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 Bevill Center in Rainsville by Duos and Solos Dance Club. 256-638-2780.
- Calendar entries are subject to change.

May 2018 Community Calendar

May 3—RadioVizions. Stuart Douglas will be live at the historic Iron and Coal Building in Fort Payne Alabama at 6pm. Tickets are \$15 at the door. For reservations call 256-979-1910 or for more information contact Russell Gulley 256-845-0203.

May 4 & 5—Vintage Pickin Barn Sale. Shop from some of the best vendors from around the South! Vintage marketplace featuring: Farmhouse • Primitives • Rustic Junk • Industrial • Shabby & French Country • Repurposed goods and more. There will be live music and local food vendors! Priority Pickin’ Passes for both days are \$15 for private 3-hour shopping day of the event from 9am–Noon. General admission tickets are \$6 per day and sale runs from Noon–5pm.

May 4 & 5—Wildflower Saturday. Springtime at DeSoto State Park is truly beautiful, with wildflowers & trees blooming around every corner. Join DeSoto State Park staff & guest speakers for a wonderful weekend of learning about the many species of blooming plants found on Lookout Mountain. DeSoto State Park. Free & open to everyone, no pre-registration required. Tours at 9am, 1pm, 3pm. For any information needed, call 256-997-5025.

May 4—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. 1pm. Reservations are required. 256-523-3188.

May 5—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 your own design. Join us for some in-depth discovery at Orbix Hot Glass. Reservations required. \$145 per person. 9am–1pm. 256-523-3188.

May 5 & 6—Mosaic Workshop with Linda Munoz. In this 2-session class, participants will create a mosaic stepping stone for their garden this summer or as a great gift for the art lover! In the Saturday session, students will learn design techniques, glass cutting and gluing of glass to precast stepping stones. Special attention will be given to safety procedures when handling glass and tools. In Sunday’s session, students will learn to grout their stepping stones. There is a maximum of 8 students and a minimum of 4 for the class to make. No children younger than 15 will be allowed unless accompanied by a parent or guardian. Linda will provide all supplies. Boom Town Makers Market 324 Gault Avenue, Fort Payne. Each person will take home their Stepping Stone Mosaic on Sunday. \$45 includes brown bag lunch sandwich, pickle, chips, and a beverage. 10am–2pm. 205- 531-5181.

May 5—Henagar Spring Festival. Co-ed Softball Tournament, 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament, Car Show, Bingo, Corn Hole Tournament, Food, crafts, pony rides, and inflatables for the kids!!! Please come support the growth of Henagar Park and enjoy lots of fun!

May 5—“The Sharps”. The Fort Payne Marine League presents “The Sharps” in concert. DeKalb Theater, downtown Fort Payne. 6 p.m.

May 5—Friends of the Depot Silent Auction & Gala. Hosted by Fort Payne Depot Museum & Altrusa of Fort Payne/DeKalb. Proceeds from this event go towards our Little Red Caboose Educational Express and towards our “Depot Traveling History Trunks Program” project. Fort Payne Coal and Iron Building. Tickets can be purchased at Depot Museum, Brown’s Cleaners, or Pat’s Salon for \$25 per ticket. 6–10pm.

May 5—Wildwood at Vintage 1889. Popular 80s Country Band from DeKalb County, AL. is reuniting in Celebration of their new single release, Crazy Me, available on iTunes. Proceeds benefit Big Wills Arts Council. Admission in advance \$20. At the door (if any are left) admission is \$25. 7:30–10:30pm. 256-979-1910 or email bwac@russellgulley.com.

May 9—Creative Placemaking Discussion & Idea Session. Presented by Little River Arts Council. Learn about what creative placemaking is all about and how you can impact your community using the culture and the arts. Dessert potluck. 7pm. Moon Lake Community Library. littleriverartscouncil.org.

May 11—Miss Rhododendron Pageant. Presented by MAPA. 6pm. ***\$5 audience admission (corrected from print version).** Mentone Community Church, Family Life Center, 90 Summerville Road, Mentone. mapamentone.com.

May 12—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. 10:30am & 12:30pm. Reservations are required. 256-523-3188.

May 12 & 13—Master photographer John Dersham will guide the class through a 2-day black-and-white film/darkroom workshop that includes shooting around Mentone,

processing film and developing your own work in the darkroom. Participants will be provided with a 35-mm camera to use, a roll of black-and-white film and professional instruction throughout the fun-filled, hands-on experience. \$125. Class size is limited to five persons, so reserve today (256-674-3366 or mentoneartscenter@gmail.com). Proceeds benefit the Mentone Arts & Cultural Center.

May 13—Happy Mother’s Day

May 15—Chuck Brodsky Returns to Mentone. Chuck Brodsky is making a return to the mountains. Come out and enjoy Brodsky’s blend of quirky, rootsy storytelling through his music. The venue is the MACC’s temporary home (the former Kamama Gallery) at 5951 Alabama Hwy 117, Mentone. Admission is a suggested \$15 donation with the proceeds benefiting the Mentone Arts & Cultural Center. Call 256-674-3366 or email mentoneartscenter@gmail.com.

May 17–20—US 11 Antique Alley Yard Sale. Follow the scenic U.S. Highway 11 from Meridian, MS to Bristol, VA for more than 500 miles of yard sales! Explore charming historic communities and downtown districts like the 1889 Boom Town district of Fort Payne. 888-805-4740 & 877-871-1386. visitlookoutmountain.com.

May 18—“Music under the Stars” with the Charles Lester Thomas Trio. Will Dooley, Tony Brook, Evan Maddox, and special guest Elisha Tatum perform at the Mentone Inn Pavilion to kick off Rhododendron Festival weekend. Presented by Little River Arts Council. 7pm. Free. Fish fry begins at 5pm (\$10).

May 18, 19 & 20—Little River Canyon National Preserve Annual Bioblitz. Help us document the flora and fauna of the park. This service-wide initiative is a chance to inspire and engage a new generation of stewards of our fantastic natural resources, all while taking a vast snapshot

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May 2018 Community Calendar

of the biodiversity that is protected by our nation's parks. You can choose an easy area or challenge yourself on a canyon trail. Specialists will help discover fish, amphibians and reptiles, birds or any creature or plant that call this place home. Learn and become Citizen Scientists by helping to record the presence and distribution of our species. So come out, get involved, and help us to document the richness of Little River Canyon National Preserve! 10am. Call Ranger Larry Beane at 256-845-3548.

May 19 & 20—Mentone Rhododendron Festival. Hand-made arts & crafts, live music, festival-food vendors, pony rides, Little River boat rides, and much more. Sat 9am–5pm, Sun 9am–4pm. No admission charge for festival. Paid parking with shuttle bus to event. mapamentone.com.

May 19—Hammondville Fire BBQ Fundraiser. BBQ sandwich, chips, drink and desert for \$7 a plate or whole butts sold in advance for \$35. 10am–4pm.

May 19—Plant Discovery Walk. Hosted by DeSoto State Park. Led by Robert Wilson with Seven Pines Survival. This walk is designed around creating a materia medica, herbarium, and a plant press while learning about your local plants. The walk will last around 3 hours and will focus on select plants. Participants will identify the plant, draw the plant, take a small sample to press, and use the senses to discover the

properties of the plants. A Materia Medica Journal, Herbarium Journal, and a Flower Press kit is available for a small fee; the journals are designed as “workbooks” to fill in information. 9am–12pm. DeSoto State Park. Meet at the Country Store on County Road 89(Porch). \$10 for the family and \$10 for each journal kit, discounts for family on the journal kit. Ages 8–adult. Class size limited to 10. Pre-registration is required, see website for details.sevenpinessurvival.com.

May 19—Creature Feature: Frogs. Join the one-and-only “Dr. Frog” George Cline for an unforgettable evening of romance and songs from the first amphibian voices of the season. Learn to identify frog songs and possibly get a hands-on experience with these slippery creatures. Little River Canyon Center. 6–8pm. No fee. Call 256-845-3548 (Dr. Niki Wayner) for more details.

May 19—“Off to the Right Start” Seminar for Dog Owners. Fun and educational seminar for dog owners presented by Tina Herfurth. Many topics will be covered: training, toys, toxic foods, responsibility, breed temperaments, feeding schedules, discipline, crate training, socializing, and more. Q&A period. Early registration \$18 / day of seminar \$20. 10–11:30am. The Pet Depot, Fort Payne.

May 19—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.

May 19—Call for Talent: Hear Me Roar—The Mane Event. Presented by Trauma and Life Counseling, this charitable talent competition is for 14–21-year-olds. All proceeds will go towards opening and supplying a food pantry (Hope for Hunger) to service DeKalb County. All applicants will be selected on a first-come, first-served basis since there are a limited number of acts. Tickets are \$10 per seat. Please contact Ida Millican or Trauma and Life Counseling for application process and tickets. 6–9pm. 256-304-5755 or email idamillican.lifecoach@gmail.com.

May 26—Yoga on the Mountain. Start your morning off right with Dee Brown. Classes are held from 8–9am at DeSoto State Park. Cost is \$5. To register, contact 256-634-8370.

May 26—Alabama Forest Classroom. Hosted by DeSoto State Park. Led by Robert Wilson with Seven Pines Survival. If you are looking to get your child outside to play and help them to learn about the outdoors this is what this classroom is all about. SPS wants to get them outside in both an instructive educational setting and in a self-educational setting to learn

about the outdoors, giving them the chance to participate with nature and to explore, discover, and learn. 9am–3pm. DeSoto State Park. Pre-registration is required. sevenpinessurvival.com/alabama-forest-classroom.

May 27 & 27—Finster Fest at Paradise Garden. Enjoy more than 50 artists, live music, barbecue and other Southern fare, a children's art activity area, and the opportunity to tour Howard Finster's famous folk-art environment. Admission is \$5. Free parking at the Walmart on U.S. 27, with a complimentary shuttle provided. Handicap parking is available on site. paradisegardenfoundation.org. 706-808-0800. 200 N. Lewis St., Summerville.

May 26—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. Cost is \$38 per ornament blown. 256-523-3188.

May 28—Memorial Day

May 29—Guided Moonlight Kayak Adventure. Launch at DeSoto Falls at 6:30 p.m., during the sunset until the full moon rises over the treetops. It is an amazing experience on Little River, taking 2–2½ hours. An easy-to-paddle, sit-on-top kayak is provided and a donation of \$20 per person is appreciated. Reservations and payment in advance. Email angie@oneworldadventureco.org.

Faith and Healing Summit

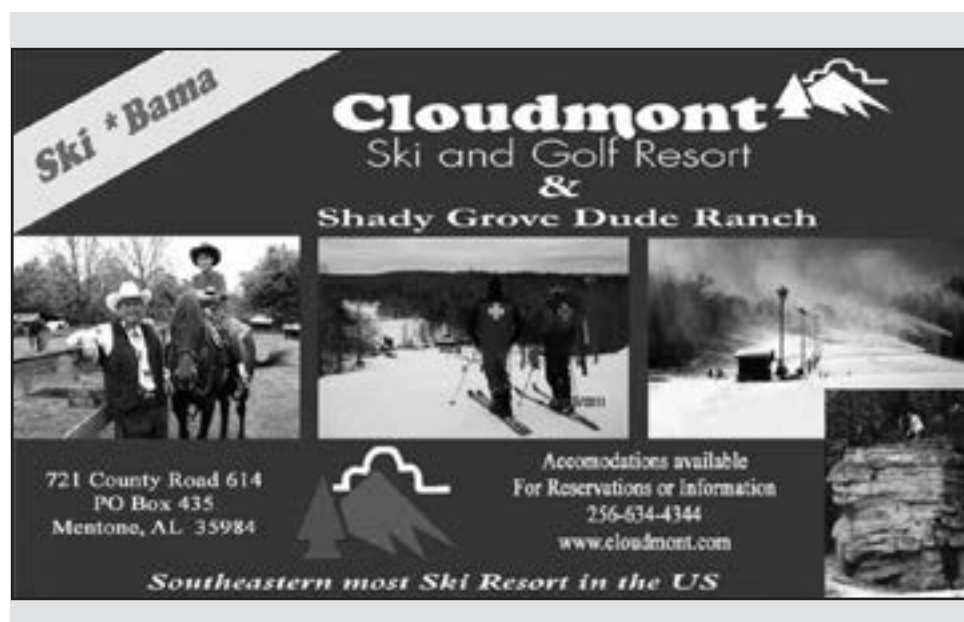
Hosted by DeKalb Chaplains Assn. • by Ian Conerly

The DeKalb Chaplains Association is sponsoring a Faith and Healing Summit on Saturday, May 5, from 8–11 a.m. at DeKalb Regional Medical Center in Fort Payne. The theme will focus on the continuing need for chaplaincy in the 21st century. All clergy, healthcare professionals, community leaders, first

responders, and interested parties are encouraged to attend. Breakfast will be provided. The Summit will take place in the overflow dining room at DeKalb Regional Medical Center. Speakers will include physicians, community leaders, and chaplains. This summit is a community service.



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LOTS and LAND

READY FOR YOUR DREAM HOME! 2.75 unrestricted acres less than 3 miles from the heart of Mentone. Power, water & septic already in place! Just waiting for you to build your dream home or pull in a camper of mobile home. Close to it all but nestled quietly into the woods away from it all as well! \$23,500 (1086608)

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)

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)

40 ACRES ON LOOKOUT MTN, with single-wide mobile home, a three-bay garage/barn/shop (with apartment & dog kennel); frontage on both sides of paved road. A nature lover's paradise with possibilities as a farm to boot! Located just a few miles from Little River Canyon National Preserve. Dogtown area. \$175,000 (1076802)

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)

Join Us For Rhododendron Festival

May 19th and 20th



HOW DOES ONE PUT A PRICE ON SOMETHING SO SPECIAL? To be right there at DeSoto Falls. To hear it, to see it, to be able to experience it from your private back deck. It's an amazing thing. To be able to fish most any time or put in a kayak most any time from the public launch at DeSoto Falls Lake. Nothing compares. Then there's the log cabin home with its heart pine floors; 3BR/3BA; library; wood-burning mtn stone fireplace; large kitchen; hand-made doors...the list goes on. Rock formations, woods and a fence separate the property from State Park-owned land. So much beauty! So rarely available for sale. Asking \$450,000 (1052152)



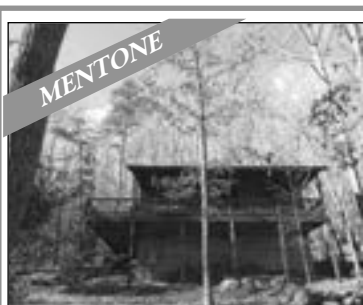
EXTRAORDINARY! From the moment you walk onto the spacious porch, you know you're in for something special. Your eye is immediately drawn to those two trees going all the way to the ceiling on either side of the kitchen work island. Wow! But, you're not done yet. The living area with its woodburning Fplce; massive poplar beams; wide plank floors & built-ins. The main-level Master suite w/whirlpool bath & sep shower. Peeled pine stair railings; loft and 2BR/1BA upstairs. Here is a true mountain cabin, crafted of local woods. \$199,900 (1090791)



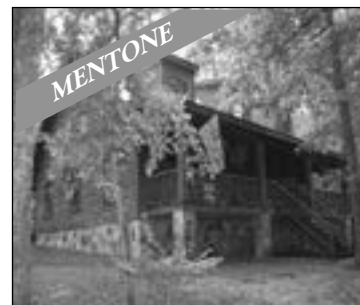
RELAX, IT'S "MOUNTAIN TIME" NOW. You've worked hard for it, you're ready to unwind. Here's that cabin filled with rustic flavor & mountain charm. All-wood interior; vaulted, open LR/DR/KIT. Spacious, main-level MABR & bath. Large loft BR w/bright shower bath. Front porch & big screened back porch for 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)



SIMPLE OUTSIDE, SIMPLY CHARMING INSIDE. 4BR/2BA (including a "tree-house" bunk room on 3rd level); woodburning Fplce; vaulted living/dining; all wood interior. Front porch & spacious screened back porch. Access to 3 lakes & well-maintained walking trails that meander through this wooded neighborhood. One-owner cabin, just right for a get-away, a rental, or a full-time residence. Laurel Creek SD. \$189,900 (1089528)



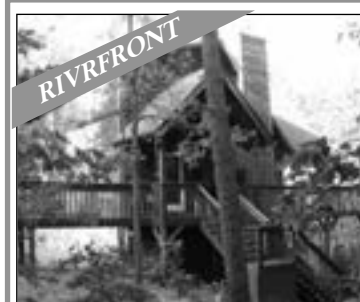
CABIN ON 5 ACRES WITH OVER 300' ON W FORK LITTLE RIVER with a nice launch site for kayaks; river-side deck; and level areas for picnicking, camping, outdoor adventures of all sorts. One-owner cabin has 3BR/2BA, approx 1800 sq ft; wood-burning masonry fireplace with stone hearth; open living/dining; spacious 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)



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)



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)



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. Three levels, incl finished, walkout basement guest suite w/den & bar; french doors leading outdoors where the pathway winds down to the bluff areas & wet-weather stream bed w/fabulous stones, ledges, & multiple falls; then on to beautiful Little River. \$229,900 (1019875)



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 Oakwood Subdivision - 6.1 acres. Wooded, level, lightly restricted. \$37,500 REDUCED (1057247)	 WOODED 3.4 ACRES located in established subdivision called Oakwood in nearby Mentone. Restrictive covenants. \$20,500. (1068304)	 LEVEL BUILDING LOT in downtown Menlo, GA. Great site for Residential or Commercial use. Non-restricted. Many possibilities! \$12,500 REDUCED (1062897)	 REDUCED LAKE WINDMILL ESTATE. 103 ft. on 13-acre lake on the brow. Wooded, sloped. Build your home here. Restricted. \$42,900. (1044127)	 3.89 ACRES at Mtn River Estates. Hwy 117 frontage. Wooded, Rock formations, level along the river. Over 200 ft on Middle Fork of Little River. \$38,000. (1060565)	 3.77 ACRES located at Canyon View Forest Subdivision. Wooded and joining the bluff of Little River National Preserve. \$60,000. (1013604)
 REDUCED 1.8 ACRES on East Fork of Little River. Easy access to river from common trail that runs along the banks of the river. Bluff views. County water available. Gated community. \$65,000 (1063624)	 LEVEL WOODED LOTS in Crestline Park Subdivision in Mentone. Lot 25. 1.31 acres. Great area to build that getaway cabin in the woods. \$25,000 (1032492)	 5 ACRES on the East Fork Little River. Driveway in place. Home-site cleared. Septic, power, well installed. 245ft on the water. Privacy a plus, lightly restricted. \$125,000 (1080261)	 REDUCED SECLUSION AND TRANQUILITY are nestled in this 2 story luxury 3BR/3BA Heritage Log Home. Located on 20 acres of breathtaking views & woods on the East Brow of Lookout Mountain, Cloudland, GA. This furnished home features vaulted ceilings in the great room and kitchen/dining room, both of which have hand-crafted rock fireplaces. Fully equipped kitchen with granite and concrete countertops, stainless steel appliances, and eat-in bar. Amenities include 4 CHA units, laundry room, and separate potting shed/workshop. The detached 2-car garage has a full upstairs 1BR/1BA and extra storage room. An ideal mountain escape! Craftsmanship and attention to detail makes this property one of a kind. Appointment only. \$699,000. (1046635)	 Happy Spring!	

Cloudland/Menlo News • by Pat Johnson



Brenda Shaw Woodard

Mrs. Brenda Shaw Woodard, age 65, a long-time resident of Menlo, Georgia, passed away on Wednesday, March 21, 2018, at Floyd Medical Center. Brenda was born April 5, 1952, in Trion, GA. She was the daughter of Leona Chitwood Shaw and the late Bernard Shaw. In addition to her father, her first husband, Charles Roy Wooten, and her second husband, Kenneth

Michael “Mike” Woodard, preceded her in death.

She was a lifelong resident of Chattooga County and lived in Cloudland from 1983-1988 and then in Menlo until her death. She and Mike purchased Lucky’s Supermarket in Menlo in 1989. Her children will now run the store. Brenda enjoyed working at the store and meeting new people. She also enjoyed traveling to new places. Brenda was happiest when she was spending time with her family and friends, as the Woodard home was always a favorite gathering place. She had a compassionate spirit and a desire to pay it forward. She and Mike provided a temporary

home, financial support, and guidance for several young people in need over the years.
She is survived by her son and daughter-in-law, Jacob and Vanessa Woodard; daughters and sons-in-law, Stephanie and Barry Bentley, Nikki and Scott Ballard, Sally and Larry Reynolds, Katie and Jay Bryan; mother, Leona Chitwood Shaw; brother and sister-in-law, Gary and Gay Shaw; grandchildren, Abbie Woodard, Mollie Woodard, Kambri Woodard, Madison Bentley, Grayson Bentley, McKenna Bentley, Braxton Ballard, Autumn Atkinson, Britney Cook, Candice Bryan; and 5 great grandchildren.

Cloudland 5K Fun Run • June 30, 2018

Cloudland’s Annual Fun Run will be held at Cloudland Community Park on Gadsden Ave. on June 30. The race will begin promptly at 9 a.m. EDT (All times are Eastern). Those wishing to register before the race must do so by 8 a.m. Those preregistered must be at the park by 8:45 a.m. Pre-registration cost \$15 and can be made thru our website: cloudlandcommunity.wixsite.com/park. Registration at 8 a.m. on the day of the race is \$20.
Beginning at 10 AM EDT, Bar-B-Q plates will be sold. They will cost \$8 and offer a pulled pork sandwich, pickle, potato chips and a drink. Also offered are preordered Bar-B-Q pork butts which cost \$30. Preregistration for the race and preorders for the butts can be made on our website at

cloudlandcommunity.wixsite.com/park, or by calling Maggie Johnson at 706-862-3040. There will be bingo and live music. All in all, it will be lots of fun, with good exercise, good food, and good fellowship. We hope to see you there.

New Board Members of Cloudland Community Park

Cloudland Community Park elected new board members and officers at their last meeting.
Burmah Green – President
Janice Tucker – Vice President
Pam Cavin – Treasurer
Maggie Johnson – Secretary
Dick Tanner
Norman Peay
Bobby Cavin



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706-676-0770 Dennis Hughes II-Owner

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 NEW 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.	 NEW 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.	 FIRST TIME offered in forty years! Unbelievable brow frontage that includes two lots overlooking the valley below. Call for your private tour. \$359,000. 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! \$339,000. MLS #1076700.	 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! \$159,000. MLS #1087613.	 COME HOME TO PEACEFUL SURROUNDINGS in this large brick ranch-style home. 3BR/2.5BA situated on 2 acres with 2-car garage. \$164,500. MLS #1087213.
 A MUST SEE! Downtown Mentone 1BR/1BA fully furnished, redeco-rated 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.	 ENJOY SUNRISE & SUNSET VIEWS in this cozy Mentone home located on Scenic Hwy. Open family room, dining and kitchen. Call for appointment today! \$319,000. MLS #1069365	 WHIPPOORWILL FARM. 2BR/2BA rock/log home w/sunroom, FP, updated kitchen. Historic barn, stable w/1BR/1BA apt. Screened sleeping cabin, garage, fenced pastures, trails, rock walls/patio, gazebo, outdoor shower, old spring house & fire pit. \$995,000. MLS#1042624	 BEAUTIFUL Mountain Get-Away with gorgeous view year round. 3 bedrooms, 2 bath, shake-sided outside w/low maintenance metal roof. Deck. \$235,000. MLS#1000691	 REDUCED LAKEFRONT LIVING! Custom decks & walkways to your dock on Lake Lahusage. 2BR/2BA, pine floors, gas or wood burning fp and screened porch, 2-story. 2-car garage w/apt. potential. \$227,500. MLS#654813.
 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.	 THE HISTORIC CRAGSMERE MANOR, on 5+ acres serves as rental lodging and/or event hosting. Perfect setting for large or small groups, 6BR/4BA, Large kitchen, dining, and living area, covered pavilion. \$749,000. MLS#1066488.	 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
 SWEET LII' MENTONE HOME! Life is sweet in this two bedroom, two bath home! \$109,900. MLS #1068148.	 TWO-STORY Mentone cabin w/2 BR/2BA,, loft, dining area & lge. living. Screened front porch, 9' ceilings, pine floors, & fresh paint! Sleeps 10 comfortably. Great rental investment. \$159,900. #1062659.	 Golden Opportunity! Let the tenants pay your mortgage. 5 apartments, large retail space and storage building located on Hwy 117 just minutes from downtown Mentone. Sitting on 1.5 acres, totally fenced. Appointment only! \$187,500. MLS #1013991.	 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.
 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. \$329,000. MLS #1088251. #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. #1039769 - 6.32+/- waterfront building lot in Mountain River Estates! \$49,950. #1057429 - 4 acres in Valley View Forest. \$79,900.	LOTS & LAND #1011734 - .69 ACRE wooded lot on Brush Creek. REDUCED TO \$24,900. #1014183 - 1.5 ACRES. Brow Lot on CR 89. \$124,900. #1027934 - Lot on River Lane. \$29,900.	#1061943 - 5 acres on Hwy 117 just before GA line. \$40,000. #1065542 - 90 acres on Co. Rd. 89 in Mentone. \$360,000. #1065504 - One acre on Co. Rd. 89 in Mentone. REDUCED TO \$139,900. #1069783 - Building lot with possible view. 2.11 acres. \$38,000. #1070628 - 3.01 acres. 152' on west Fork of Little River. \$49,700. #1070629 - 3.01 acres. 152' on West Fork of Little River. \$59,500. #1073864 - Brow Lot! .78 acres. \$104,000. #1076191 - 12.10 acres mostly wooded. \$38,720. #1076239 - Cleared & wooded 3.6 acres on Scenic Hwy. \$76,500. #1076286 - 1.75 acre building lot in West Fork Subdivision. \$42,000. #1076577 - Lot 6, Hunter's Ridge. \$16,900.	#1078002 - Brow view, 4.4 acres. REDUCED TO \$125,000. #1078140 - 18.3 acres, unrestricted, partially wooded! \$66,800. #1079713 - Gorgeous lot in Mentone with .81+/- acres in Hunter's Ridge Subdivision. #1080922 - .54 acres, Mentone Bluffs. \$59,999. #1081506 - 7 wooded acres within walking distance to DeSoto State Park. \$70,000. #1080381 - Lot 43, Hidden Lake Subdivision. \$35,000. #1080377 - Lot 42, Hidden Lake Subdivision. \$35,000. #1083789 - 2.11 acres with 300' of waterfront in beautiful West Fork Subdivision. \$44,900. #1085244 - 1.5+/- acres in Mentone! Wooded tract with paved road frontage. \$19,000. #1082245 - Two building lots totaling 10+ acres with fabulous view! \$109,900.		

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Healthy Alfredo Sauce

Submitted by Sarah Lockhart

Head of cauliflower (corrected from print version)

6-8 Cloves of Garlic, minced
6 cups of good vegetable broth
Olive oil
Nutmeg
Salt & pepper
Heavy cream
Grated Parmesan (optional)

Chop the cauliflower into chunks and add to the vegetable broth, along with the minced garlic, and boil over medium high heat until the cauliflower is soft, about 15 minutes. Transfer cauliflower to blender or food processor with about 2 cups of broth, and begin to puree. As the cauliflower is moving, slowly pour in about a tablespoon of olive oil. This will help smooth and emulsify the mixture. You may need to adjust the amount of broth if it is too thick or too thin. After it is very smooth, transfer the mixture back to the pot over low heat, and stir in salt, pepper, and nutmeg, to taste. Add cream as necessary for the proper Alfredo consistency, about a quarter cup. Stir in Parmesan for added depth of flavor. Serve with fettuccine noodles.

Mushroom & Onion Casserole

Submitted by Pat St. John

1 12-oz. package mushrooms, sliced
1 onion, sliced thin
8 oz. grated Sharp Cheddar cheese
2 Tbsp. oil
Salt and pepper to taste.

Sauté mushrooms and onion in oil until tender. Drain. Layer ingredients in deep casserole dish, ending with cheese on top. Bake at 350° for 20 minutes.

*Bon
Appetit!*



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Classified Ads

FOOD
COME TO THE BIG yard sale May 19–21 during the Rhododendron Festival for Mama Rita’s refreshing Italian Ice and delicious homemade pork skins. Located at 12333 Hwy. 48 across from the old Cloudland Trade Center, we’re just across the state line in Cloudland. 706-862-6178 to order pork skins ahead.

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

PROPERTY
CIRCA 1930 LOG CABIN – 5 acres, 1-acre pond, barn, huge trees. Tour the cabin and grounds at our big yard sale at 12333 Hwy. 48 near the state line in Cloudland, May 19–21. Residential or commercial, two fireplaces, bigger than it looks. Come see! 706-862-6178.

RECREATION
LIKE NEW 20’ Old Town Canoe XL Tripper – Canoe rated for 1,600 lbs. \$1200. Canoe or kayak trailer for 6 canoes or kayaks \$400. Good shape, new tires. Will sell both for \$1,400. Call 850-376-2841.

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FORT PAYNE Alabama Fan Club Big Mill & Vintage 1889 Blue Jug Brown’s Cleaners Bruce’s Foodland	VALLEY HEAD Alabama Organics Bell Battelle Burt Funeral Home Citizens Bank Dave’s Antiques Hammondville Quick Stop	GEORGIA BJ’s State Line Store Menlo Handi Mart Ingles Jim’s Family Restaurant Judy’s Herb Shop Little River Escape Tiny Homes Menlo Healthmart Menlo Lucky’s Menlo Town Hall Mountain Top Country Store Menlo Restaurant The Lookout Restaurant The Vineyard Cafe
		OTHER Alabama Welcome Center Little River Canyon Center Ralph’s Grocery

26th Annual Wildflower Saturday

• by **Brittney M. Hughes**



Springtime at DeSoto State Park is truly beautiful, with wildflowers and trees blooming around every corner. Join DeSoto State Park staff and guest speakers for a wonderful weekend of learning about the many species of blooming plants found on Lookout Mountain. Wildflower Saturday is an annual event hosted by DeSoto State Park that is traditionally held the first Saturday of May.

The weekend will begin on Friday, May 4, with a welcome social and guest speaker program from 6 until 7:15 p.m. On Saturday, you'll have the opportunity to explore three different trails, with hikes leaving for each one at 9 a.m., 1 p.m., and 3

p.m. A presentation by a guest speaker will bring the weekend to a close on Saturday night at 7:15 p.m. All times are Central.

Wildflower Saturday is free and open to everyone. No pre-registration is required. We do ask that groups over 10 please RSVP to help us make everyone's wildflower experience better.

Saturday Hikes

Over the course of the day, you will be able to go on three separate hikes. Each hike is led by a different leader who will teach about the wildflowers. DeSoto's trails can vary from fairly flat terrain to slightly steep inclines and rocky ground. Each hike is marked for its difficulty level. Be sure to wear appropriate footwear and bring along water and snacks. Trail Maps and Wildflower Checklists can be found at the Lodge, Country Store and Nature Center.

The Azalea Cascade Hike

9 a.m. / 1 p.m. / 3 p.m.

Easy to Moderate

Meet on the deck behind DeSoto's Country Store.

This hike has the easiest terrain and is suitable for people with limited mobility or younger children. Start out along the

Talmadge Butler ADA-Accessible Boardwalk Trail and continue along for both an elevated and ground-floor view of the hardwood forest. The hike ends at Azalea Cascade, with an option to venture off of the boardwalk on a trail that ends back at the Country Store.

Various plants to see: Pink Lady Slipper, Mountain Laurel, Wild Ginger, Catesby's Trillium, Galax, Trout Lilly, Sweet Shrub, Mountain Honeysuckle, Yellowroot, Dwarf Iris, New York Fern, Wild Geranium, Cucumber Magnolia, Wild Azalea, and much more.

The Rhododendron Trail Hike

9 a.m. / 1 p.m. / 3 p.m.

Moderate to mildly strenuous

Enjoy walking under the forest canopy and among flowing creeks, following the bluff line overlooking the West Fork of Little River and ending at scenic Indian Falls. Meet at DeSoto's Nature Center. The hike is classified as moderate to mildly strenuous because of the length and slightly rocky terrain.

Various plants to see: Catawba Rhododendron, Wild Camellia, Rosebay Rhododendron, Yellowstar Grass, Wild Huckleberry, Mountain Laurel, Trailing Arbutus, Bluets, Solomon's Seal, Catesby's Trillium, Galax, Sweet Shrub, Fringe Tree, Partridgeberry, and much more.

The Little River Hike

9 a.m. / 1 p.m. / 3 p.m.

Moderate to mildly strenuous

Meet on the grassy area outside DeSoto's Country Store

This hike starts at Indian Falls and goes down a slight incline to follow along the West Fork of Little River. The trail curves around and starts a gradual curve up to the bluff above Little River, ending back at Indian Falls. Also classified as moderate to mildly strenuous, the terrain is rocky, with some minor rock-hopping next to the river.

Various plants to see: Mountain Honeysuckle, Mountain Laurel, Catawba Rhododendron, Nuttall's Rayless Goldenrod, Yellowroot, Oakleaf Hydrangea, Indian Cucumber Root, Wood Sorrel, Tag Alder, Ashy Hydrangea, Oxeye Daisy, Coral Honeysuckle, Flatrock Onion, Neverwet, Royal Fern, Joe Pye Weed, Cinnamon Fern, Rattlesnake Plantain and much more.

For more information, call 256-997-5025 or visit alapark.com/dsp-wildflower-saturday.

Brittney M. Hughes is the Park Naturalist at DeSoto State Park.



Happy 100th Birthday!

OLIVE S. JONES,

matriarch of the Jack Jones Family and
Cloudmont Resort, celebrated her

100th birthday on April 25.

The family hosted a birthday party at
Oakview Nursing Home in Summerville, GA.

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Fínster Fest

at Paradise Garden May 26 & 27

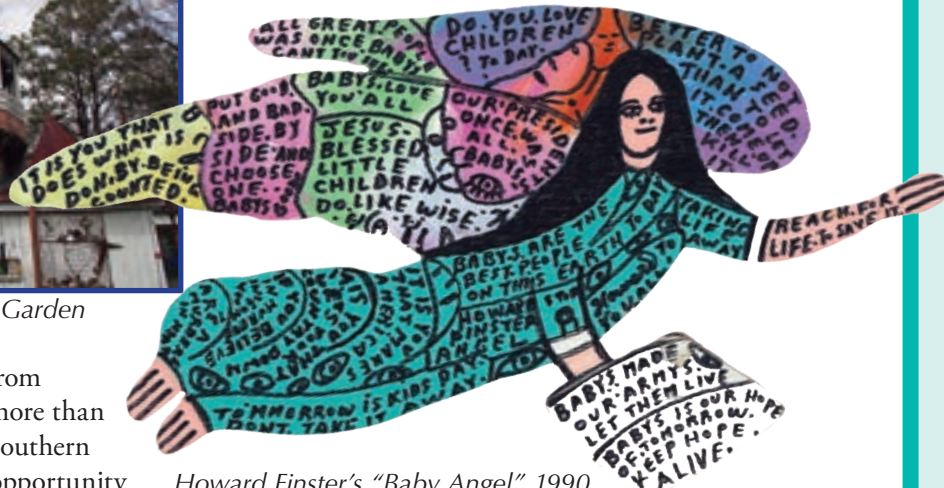
Since 1991, Paradise Garden in Summerville, GA, has opened its gates each spring for Finster Fest, an art festival that honors the life and legacy of self-taught environmental and visual artist Rev. Howard Finster. This year's event will be held on

Admission to Finster Fest is \$5. Free parking is available at the Walmart on U.S. 27 (½ mile north of the garden), with a complimentary shuttle provided. Handicap parking is available on the site. Proceeds from Finster Fest benefit Paradise Garden Foundation, a nonprofit organization which operates and continues restoration of Howard Finster's 2-acre plus attraction. Learn more online at paradisegardenfoundation.org, call 706-808-0800, or stop by 200 N. Lewis St., Summerville, GA 30747.



World's Folk Art Chapel at Paradise Garden

Memorial Day weekend, May 26 and 27, from 11am–5pm EDT each day. It will feature more than 50 artists, live music, barbecue and other Southern fare, a children's art activity area, and the opportunity to tour Howard Finster's famous folk-art environment.



Howard Finster's "Baby Angel" 1990
courtesy of Frederica Mathewes-Green • frederica.com

Howard Finster is considered to be one of the world's most notable folk artists. He was born in Valley Head, AL, in 1915 and moved to Chattooga County, GA, in 1937. Finster found great fame in his later years, in large part because of cover art that was commissioned by the bands R.E.M. and Talking Heads (whose cover for "Little Creatures" won Rolling Stone's 1985 *Album Cover of the Year* award). In 1961, Finster began building Paradise Garden, which contains more than 46,000 pieces of his work. It is a wonderland of fantasy, an homage to creativity, and a canvas for Finster's evangelical mission.

When Finster died in 2001, his body was interred at Silver Hills Cemetery in Summerville, GA. After his wife, Pauline, passed away in 2013, his body was moved to Head Springs Cemetery in Valley Head, where the two are buried side by side. Finster's parents and siblings are interred at Head Springs Cemetery, as well.

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