Harvest Festival This Weekend
By Anna Mae Horn

Moon Lake PTO has once again planned a terrific Harvest Festival; a day filled with family fun to support the school. It is a time of community spirit, food, fun, and competition. The Cake Walk and Bingo will return as favorites for the adults, and the Jail and Balloon Pop will be there as a favorite of the students. Plinko was a new hit last year, and returns along with the Duck Pond, Bowling, Lollipop Tree, Face Painting, and several games for tossing--Basketball, Rings, Toilet Tissue, Bean Bags and Scooby Snacks. There will be snacks at the concession stand, food in the cafeteria, and, weather permitting, a hay ride outside!

The cafeteria will be open an hour before the games start, so your stomach isn't growling while you are competing. There will be barbecue (sandwiches, plates, or nachos), hot dogs, chips, and drinks beginning at 11am until they are sold out. Everyone is invited to come in and eat lunch. There is plenty of parking near the MERF house if you only come for the food.

Games will start up at noon and be open for play until 4pm. That's when the raffle prize winners will be announced, including the winner of a $1,000 chance drawing. Local artists and businesses have donated tons of great things to be raffled off to support our school and students including a fire pit, local pottery, spa treatments, and a quilt--just to name a few.

Don't miss your chance to see our beautiful campus, especially the inviting area between the cafeteria and gymnasium where you can eat your lunch on a picnic table. Everyone is welcome to come out on November 5th and join in the long lasting tradition of Harvest Festival. If you would like to volunteer for about half an hour at the event, just let one of the workers know. All help and item donations are appreciated. Proceeds from this Harvest Festival will be used to benefit the students, teachers, and staff at Moon Lake.

Eye-Catching Sign Marks Site and Tracks Funding of the Mentone Arts & Cultural Center
By Bill Berry

Rising alongside Alabama Highway 117, just east of Mentone, is a masterful and monumental new sign announcing the future home of the Mentone Arts & Cultural Center (MACC).

Located in the spot where an entrance will someday usher visitors onto the MACC grounds, the sign presents a colorful rendering of the structure and its surroundings along with vital information regarding progress toward the site's ongoing development.

The unique sign reflects MACC’s artistic endeavors with panels facing in three directions, designed by architects Don David and Clay Birchfield to enhance viewing by people driving past along the highway.

Landscaping will eventually surround the sign, and flags will adorn the tops of the structural poles.

(continues on page 3)
Steve Livingston each contributed $1500 to equip the vehicle with radio, lights, and siren. I attended a press conference at DeSoto State Park hosted by Senator Livingston, Representative Ledbetter, and park superintendent Ken Thomas. All urged support and a “yes” vote on Amendment 2. If the amendment is approved, revenue generated by the state parks will remain with the state parks. This is crucial to the future of our state park system. Please vote YES on Amendment 2.

Pictured with Representative Ledbetter is Mayor Rob Hammond and Police Chief Brad Gregg.

**Truly Thankful**

I hope that everyone enjoyed this year’s Colorfest as well as the annual Home Tour. Also, I hope everyone was treated instead of tricked on Halloween! Moon Lake Harvest Festival is coming up this weekend, then some Veteran Day celebrations not too long before the Thanksgiving holiday. It all makes for a pretty busy season. Add to all those things the fact that it is an election year and many lives get even more hectic. Personally, I think all the “hustle and bustle” during this time of year prepares our bodies to tolerate the slow times of winter. By then, we are thankful for the rest.

I want to send a personal note of thanks to the Colorfest committee and Little River Arts Council for working so hard to make their respective events a success that brings resources into the community. The Colorfest brings immediate results with visitors to the area shops, restaurants, and lodging facilities. The home tour funds are little less visible. LRAC will use their funds to provide artistic experiences for all to enjoy and be inspired by—perhaps continuing the cycle in some way by sharing music with others.

So is the cycle of life. We open our arms and our hearts to others. When we need it most, someone will be there with open arms or a generous heart in our time of need. Our community works well with each other and for each other. As we approach the holiday, give it true meaning by giving thanks for this wonderful part of the world that we call Mentone.

Anna Mae Horn
**Colorfest: A Celebration!**

People came from all across the South—rooms were full and restaurants were busy. Colorfest 2016 was not just a Mentone, DeKalb County, or even Alabama celebration. After 35 years and thousands of community volunteer hours and dedicated sponsors, it is now a Southern tradition. Once again, we had record crowds (many from other states), great weather for our fantastic performers and vendors. Colorfest is indeed a celebration of the changing seasons and a welcome break from the oppressive summer heat.

Music, art, and food have been the mainstay of our community for generations and they were the highlight of Colorfest 2016. The Taste of Mentone and our festival food vendors delighted and satisfied old and young alike. Painted faces, woven fabric, jewelry, crafts, and artwork were splashed across Brow Park like a coat of many colors; while the sounds of festival music were brighter and more alive and in-tune than ever before. It was as if everyone tried to make up for this year’s lackluster colors provided by nature.

Seventeen different musical performances displayed the immense talent of Mentone area musicians. The Saturday night performance by Will Dooley and Friends under the Big Tent and under the stars brought in record numbers of music lovers and fans. Music played all over Mentone to lift the spirits and add to the festivities.

As always, volunteers make it work--festival committee volunteers, Boy Scouts and others who worked to get ready and then to help during the festival. The committee began meeting in July and met every week thru the festival and a wrap-up immediately after the festival. They do it for the love of their community--Mentone.

Last year DeKalb Tourism’s Director, John Dersham, estimated that more than 15,000 visitors descended on Mentone at Colorfest time. We believe more came this year. Yet, our efforts in cooperation with the Town of Mentone police greatly improved both vehicle and pedestrian traffic flow. Colorfest is not only a celebration, but also both a short term and long term financial boon to our vendors and to the greater Mentone area.

By Ray Padgett

MAPA would like to pay tribute to and thank David Gilbreath for his long-term commitment and support of Mentone festivals. David is local Boy Scout Troop 106 Scout Master and has led his troop in the mundane, critical and sometimes trying tasks of parking visitor’s cars and cleaning up festival grounds for the past 24 years. He is retiring as Scout Master and will be sorely missed. MAPA and the entire Mentone community thank David, not only for his contribution to the Boy Scouts, but to our Mentone festivals. Thank you David.

Colorfest is a celebration of change and all the joys that life and Mother Nature have to offer. Thanks to all who volunteered and all who attended—we had fun!

Eye-Catching Sign (cont’d from page 1)

Capped by the slogan “Be a Part of Something Amazing,” the sign recognizes support from the Alabama State Council on the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts by featuring the two organizations’ logos in the lower right corner of the photograph.

Eric Smith, founder of Atlanta-based Ironspirits, was the creative force behind the sign’s design and craftsmanship. It was installed on the Saturday morning of last month’s Colorfest. According to MACC board chairman Ray Padgett, the sign is the result of a community-wide effort, with donations of lumber by Dixie Salvage and Daniel Millican, hardware by Lowe’s, poles and installation by Kevin Worthey, and mowing by Bobby Browder. It was all put together by Jonathan Glenn and Mario Garcia.

Mentone traditions are preserved by families, community organizations and, to a small degree, by the Mentone Area Preservation Association (MAPA). Mentone heritage and culture are engrained into folks who grew up here and adopted by those who move to Mentone. It is passed on to next generations by teachings as well as deeds.

An excellent example of passing on a Mentone tradition is witnessed in Mentone's local Boy Scout Troop 106 with David Gilbreath’s retirement from Scout Master responsibilities. David has led Troop 106 for twenty-four years and guided, by both word and example, dozens of boys into manhood. Graduates of his tutelage are now productive men that their families and community can be proud of.

The new Scout Master for Boy Scout Troop 106 is David Killian, a former Eagle Scout, in Boy Scout Troop 63 in Fort Payne. We know that Mentone’s Boy Scout Troop will be in good hands under the watchful eye of David Killian; however, he will have some mighty big shoes to fill. Good luck to David Gilbreath and David Killian in their new roles in the Mentone community. We look forward to their continued contributions. Thanks to both of you.
Colorfest Winners

Many thanks to our two Colorfest judges—Susan Locklear, Director of Summerville Better Home Town for 3 years, and David Ford, a Summerville City Councilman and self-made artist. They are devoted cheerleaders for their own community, supporting businesses and visitors to their area. Susan and David thoroughly enjoyed getting to know Mentone better and supporting our arts and business community via their roles as judges for the Scarecrow Holler and Pumpkin Patch Jubilee contests.

Scarecrow Holler was a fabulous success. Thank you to all participants for your creative entries. We had 11 scarecrows along the path through the woods from the old hotel site to the Brow Park and Colorfest vendor area. Folks seemed to really enjoy the new venue, which means our creations were seen and enjoyed by more attendees this year. Coveted first place goes to Fontana Stinson of the Wolves Den inside Kamama for “Mother Mountain”. The judges enjoyed the “creative use of natural mountain elements combined with delicate lace. This scarecrow displays true originality and craftsmanship.” Second place was awarded to Gail Chambers with “Larry the Lineman”, lighting up Colorfest. The judges thought this scarecrow featured “excellent attention to detail, combined with a creative theme. Nice detail taken in homemade scarecrow. It can be used as an educational tool for youth.” Third place was earned by Krissy Harris for her entry “Tackling Fall for Colorfest”. “Football is so much a part of our communities this time of year,” and the judges were glad to see it represented in the contest. A Team Player award to Amanda Pilotte for her great entries, but alas, too late for the judging.

Pumpkin Patch Jubilee transformed local businesses of Mentone into a living gallery of festive decorations coordinated with the Fall Colorfest theme. Much appreciation sent to business owners who took time out of their busy festival schedules to decorate. Mentone Realty, owned by Charlotte Gentry, received first place honors. It made a great impression on the judges. “Nice application of hand designed and play on words in display. Very creative and fun! Display represented the expression of their business in a fun way.” Cynthia Stinson’s Mentone Inn won second place with her “tasteful southern traditional fall decorations.” Catherina from Artisan and Becky at Rocky Top Pottery tied for third place prize. “Nice traditional feel to display incorporating wagon and cornstalks. Very festive. Total display invites public celebration of Fall in Mentone.” Also, an Honorable Mention Ribbon was awarded to Lookout Mountain Outpost (formerly Helena’s). “Welcome to our Patch—very neat display, incorporating all elements.”

The judges awarded a Most Valuable Player Ribbon to Moon Lake Trading Post for all the “beautiful fall items” on display.

The Scavenger Hunt GO had fifteen eligible game cards to enter the raffle for the prize money. The randomly drawn winner was Trevor Crawford of Tuscaloosa, AL.

Congratulations to all the winners! We hope you had fun participating in the activities. We certainly enjoyed viewing all the fall displays and scarecrows.

St. Joseph’s-On-The-Mountain Episcopal Church Continues its Renewal

A few weeks back some of you may have noticed the land work we were doing in back of St. Joseph’s church. After a 20 year delay, and many revisions, we have begun the development of our Memorial Prayer Garden. The garden will be a dedicated place of silence and peace for our entire community and beyond. The Memorial Garden when complete will include three entrance gates (handicapped accessible), a large gazebo, paths to stroll, benches, Stations of the Cross, Labyrinth, and a wall which will include a columbarium (a place to intern the remains of our loved ones). We are not exactly sure how long this renewal project will take us, but with God’s help, everyone’s prayers, and the entire Mentone community behind us, the Memorial Prayer Garden will be another gift from the St. Joseph’s parish to all. It is hoped that our parish building and grounds will become a spiritual pilgrimage place that welcomes all.

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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.

Gracias, merci, danke mahalo and ta. Thank you is not enough to express MERF’s gratefulness for all of the support this fall from our community and those that believe in the efforts of MERF. Thanks to MAPA for another wonderful Colorfest and for those that stopped by our booth to pick up a great “Leave Me in Mentone” item. Thanks to our tutors that spend an afternoon each week working with a student on their math, reading and study skills. Thank you to the lunch bunch crew for joining us each week for a wonderful meal at the MERF house. Thank you to those that have and will provide food this fall and for the volunteers that help serve the meal each week. Thank you to our entertainers that play the piano or recite a poem. Thank you to the Rhododendron Garden club and Walt for keeping the grounds at the MERF house beautiful. Thank you to those that use and appreciate the MERF house for family reunions, showers, meetings, and Moon Lake fundraisers. Let’s all enjoy this season of Thanksgiving in our great Mentone community.

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

VETERAN’S DAY CELEBRATIONS

Moon Lake School - Veteran’s program is Wednesday, November 9, 9am in the Moon Lake Gym. We would love to invite all veterans, brunch follows program.

Valley Head High School - Thursday, November 10, at 9:30 in the new gym. All Veteran’s are invited to attend. Reception to follow. Both hosted by the Student Council.

Town of Mentone - Friday, November 11th, at 11:00 A.M. Veteran’s program at the gazebo in Mason Park. Refreshments will be served after the program in the Town Council Room.
By Barb Stoll

Ahh...beautiful fall!

Ah yes folks, the beautiful fall season is upon us and the air is crisp and brisk. This is a great time for walks in the woods, then coming home to a cup of hot chocolate and a good book or movie. Of course, your local Community Library has just the thing for an enjoyable afternoon or evening, so why not come down and check out our selection of new books and movies. Also, remember we have a wonderful section of classic books for your reading pleasure.

Downton Abbey

This month, just arrived, is the complete 6 season Downton Abbey collection plus a bonus DVD of The Manners of Downton Abbey. This series was requested by you, our readers, and we heard you. This British drama is about a fictional aristocratic family, the Crawleys, their fictional estate of Downton Abbey, and their servants in Edwardian England in the early 20th century. The series begins in 1912 with the sinking of the Titanic and loss of the heir to Downton. The first five seasons take us through the next dozen years of life at the estate. Season five ends in 1924.

The series truly is one of a kind. The writing, sets, costumes, and acting are all first rate. The creator of the series, Julian Fellowes has truly created a masterpiece. Having the historical advisor Alastair Bruce on board makes the show authentic and an accurate portrayal of life at the time. The actors are, of course, excellent, all giving tremendous, believable performances and bringing their characters to life. Dame Maggie Smith repeatedly gives a knock out performance with laser precision of her character, the irascible Dowager Countess of Downton.

The final season, six, brings it all together, giving you one final glimpse of the trials and tribulations of these fine characters. I will not tell more as I would risk spoiling the end for you. Let's just say you will not be disappointed. The bonus DVD is a wonderful treat. The historical advisor takes you on a tour of the rules of etiquette of the time and what life was really like for people at this level of society, from what fork to use or what way to behave, to what fabulous clothing to change into. Apparently, they did that a lot in those days! It is all fascinating and fun.

Definitely treat yourself to the amazing series. It will keep you coming back again and again.

Now You See Me 2

If you enjoyed the first Now You See Me, you will definitely like this one. The Horsemen are back. It picks up where the first film left off with the Horsemen in hiding but emerging with a plan. Of course, nothing is as it seems and things begin moving quickly. There is a new male lead with a new personality which fits in well with the other characters. The cast of Jesse Eisenberg, Woody Harrelson, Mark Ruffalo, Morgan Freeman, and a new character, Daniel Radcliffe, make for some well done acting. The magic is back and as interesting as ever. This is a fun movie that everyone will enjoy.

Well, folks hope you enjoy our latest movies. We certainly enjoyed seeing everyone at Colorfest and appreciate the support of everyone who stopped by our tent, shopped at the book sale, or made a donation.

Please remember if there are books or movies you wish to see at your local Community Library, please stop in and let us know. We are here for you. Happy Thanksgiving wishes to you and yours.

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LET ME MANAGE YOUR CABIN FOR YOU - Ron Waits
On a warm, almost-autumn evening, over forty neighbors gathered at "Papa Joe's" (St. Joseph's on-the-Mountain) for a very enjoyable evening of music, life stories, and poetry readings at the Coffee House Event. The evening was as varied and unique as the visitors that gathered. From the tale of a lifetime of Star Trek and its 'trek' through the life of Jane Faile to the mischievous youthful behavior of the Black Hat Poet (aka Doug Kiker) to the delightful music of Tena Cryer and Brenda Johnson, there was something for everyone. Susan Cherones read one of her uniquely captivating stories, and Bill Schwarz shared an attention-grabbing life story as well. Liz Baker's musical accompaniment emphasized the stirring poetry of Sandra Comley. Before the night was over, Liz shared her own story of how she “murdered” her little brother—oh, the thoughts of a child! Rita Winters sang and picked a song that brought back memories for many and had the entire audience singing along. I was honored to read a story from the late Elvira Fitzgerald that her son heard for the first time; some things mothers just can't bring themselves to share with their children. It was a night of laughter and camaraderie, of sharing and opening up in a uniquely artistic way. Everyone seemed to have a marvelous time.

The next Papa Joe's Coffee House at St. Joseph's on-the-Mountain will be hosted early in December as a Christmas Open House and Coffee House Evening. Bring your Christmas readings, stories and music! If you don't have a Christmas story or song, that's okay too. We welcome your talents and your thoughts. There will be time for Open Mic, as well as holiday goodies, coffee and more! The church is pleased to offer this FREE event for the Mentone community. Come on down to Papa's and bring a few friends! Watch for more information on St. Joseph's website, Facebook page, The Groundhog Calendar and flyers around town.

**GRAPES**

By Doug Kiker

In my young days, before “clear cut” time,
The woods were filled with tall trees and long vines.
There were fox grapes, possum grapes and muscadine.
Me - I just like to eat ‘em. Some folks wanted their wines.
In these tall trees amongst the vines,
I spent many hours picking, swinging and falling, sometimes.
There wasn't much money to be sure,
but back then, a dime was a dime...
this ain't no joke. Just pure facts.
If you eat possum grapes you won't have a need for EX-LAX!!
COMMUNITY LANDSCAPING PROJECT

On Saturday October 1st, Pastor Tim Miller and members of Mentone Community Church cleaned up and landscaped six areas for our community: the three “MENTONE” entrance rocks, the fire station, post office, and library. This is one of MCC’s many ministries to bless our community. Also, we want to thank Harriett O’Rear, Stan at Little River Hardware, Lowe’s, several Master Gardeners, and Extension Agents, all of whom were in on the planning.

Valley Head Teen in Miss Alabama USA Pageant

Preslie Gifford is a 19 year old who has a dream--a dream to walk across the Miss USA stage one day to represent Alabama. On November 5th, that dream could become a reality as she takes the stage to compete for Miss Alabama USA 2017. The two-day event starts with preliminaries this Friday night, and the top 15 will be picked Saturday night to compete for the title. Miss Gifford was 1st runner up in the Miss Alabama Teen United States in 2015 and crowned Miss Teen Motor Speedway in 2014.

Preslie grew up in Valley Head, Alabama and graduated from Fort Payne High School. She is now attending the University of South Alabama where she is a sophomore pursuing a hospitality and tourism degree. Miss Gifford’s hobbies include various activities with her AOII sorority sisters, modeling, snorkeling, and traveling. She is the daughter of Scott and Suzan Gifford. The pageant will be streaming live on the internet at pageantslive.com. Good Luck Preslie!

Little River Arts Council Wraps Up Another Home Tour

By Rhea Pirch

A gorgeous weekend in Mentone welcomed nearly 200 visitors for the Little River Arts Council’s Ninth Annual Home Tour and Silent Auction. This year’s home tour included six beautiful homes and two businesses, The Farm at Windy Hill and Camp Juliette Lowe. Forty-five items were on display for the silent auction, where participants were able to write in bids on art pieces by local artists, gift certificates, plants, and other gift items. The auction ended at 3:00 on Sunday. Bid winners present picked up their items, and those not claimed were brought to Kamama Gallery for winners to be contacted by phone or e-mail to arrange pick-up. Proceeds from the Home Tour and Silent Auction go towards promoting and supporting art in the Mentone area.
Spiced Pear Galette

Gallettes are beautiful, rustic free-form tarts (think pies unencumbered by their pans). To make them, you just roll out pie dough, top it like a pizza, and fold the edges up over the filling to keep the juices from escaping. I love galettes as much for their ease and simplicity as for their high crust-to-filling ratio, and you can make them with just about any savory or sweet topping you can imagine. This recipe was created for the ultra-crisp pears that grow on an old tree in the front pasture at The Farm at Windy Hill in Mentone. You can use grocery store varieties, too; just make sure the pears are very crisp so they don’t fall apart in poaching.

Start by poaching the pears. Combine the 6 cups water, 2 cups sugar, 4 tablespoons good-quality bourbon, 2 teaspoons vanilla extract, 1 vanilla bean (split), and one 2-inch knob of ginger root (peeled and coarsely chopped) in a pan. Bring the mixture to a boil, and add 9 large, crisp pears (such as Bosc), peeled, halved, and cored. Bring the mixture back to a boil, and then reduce to a simmer. Simmer the pears 20-30 minutes, or until they are just tender. Remove the pan from the heat, and allow the pears to soak in the mixture at room temperature until you are ready to prepare the filling.

While the pears are poaching, prepare the dough for the crust. Combine 2 cups all-purpose flour and 2 teaspoons sugar in a mixing bowl. Using a sharp knife, cut ½ sticks (12 tablespoons) very cold, salted butter into ½-inch cubes. Toss the cubes into the flour mixture. Using either flour-dusted fingers, a pastry cutter, or a knife, cut the butter into smaller pieces, so that the smallest pieces are the size of a pea and the largest pieces are the size of walnut halves. Work quickly so that the butter doesn’t melt into the flour. If the butter does start to melt, simply place the bowl in the freezer or refrigerator until the butter is firm again and continue with the recipe.

Pour one egg, whisked and chilled, into a half-cup measure and add ice water to make a full half-cup, mixing to combine the egg and water. Sprinkle the egg-water mixture over the flour mixture, and stir it with a fork until the mixture forms loose clumps.

Turn the dough out onto a clean work surface and pat it into a single lump, kneading once or twice just so that the dough sticks together; it may still be a bit shaggy. Form a disk with the dough, wrap it in plastic wrap, and place it in the refrigerator to chill for at least 30 minutes, or until firm.

While the dough is chilling, remove the pears from the poaching liquid and slice them into ¼-inch-thick slices. Place them in a mixing bowl and toss with ½ cup sugar, 2 tablespoons all-purpose flour, 1-2 teaspoons lemon juice, ¼ teaspoon ginger, ¼ teaspoon cinnamon, and ¼ teaspoon salt. Preheat the oven to 425°F.

On a lightly floured surface, roll the chilled dough into a large circle or rectangle, until the dough is about 1/8-inch thick. Transfer the rolled dough to a baking sheet lined with parchment paper. Arrange the fruit over the dough, leaving a 2-inch border around the edges; if the fruit has produced a lot of extra juice in macerating, use a slotted spoon to remove it from the bowl. WORKING YOUR WAY AROUND THE TART, fold the 2-inch border of dough over the fruit in the center, creating overlapping folds and exposed filling in the center. Place the tart in the oven to bake for 30-40 minutes, or until the crust is golden-brown and the fruit is bubbling. Serve warm or at room temperature with vanilla ice cream.

November Birthdays

Nov 1 – Easton Bain
Nov 2 – Michael Potts
Nov 2 – Triston Goss
Nov 2 – J.R. Hurst
Nov 2 – Larry O’Tinger
Nov 2 – Gequetta Darwin
Nov 2 – Taylor Brown
Nov 3 – Aubrey Shields
Nov 3 – Sandy Hulgan
Nov 3 – Hudson Brownfield
Nov 4 – Barrett Wilkinson
Nov 4 – Rita Chapman
Nov 5 – Gail Chambers
Nov 5 – Luke Wright
Nov 6 – Tommy Harrison
Nov 6 – Duane Blalock
Nov 6 – Mike Smith
Nov 6 – Jeffrey Manning
Nov 7 – Melissa Bain
Nov 7 – Brooklyn Powell
Nov 8 – Michael Harrison
Nov 8 – Toby Crider
Nov 8 – Mary Beasley
Nov 8 – Gibson Roberts
Nov 8 – Bob Tate
Nov 9 – Kowen Worthey
Nov 9 – Laura McKenzie
Nov 9 – Bonnie Easley
Nov 9 – Emily Hodge

November Anniversaries

Nov 1 – George & Kim Raley
Nov 1 – Matt & Jana Sharp
Nov 8 – Andrew & Penny Herbert
Nov 12 – Brittany & Adam Wooten
Nov 14 – Ronnie & Sandy Hulgan
Nov 14 – Matthew & Lily Patterson
Nov 16 – Dewayne & Melanie Grisham
Nov 16 – Dallas & Morgan Gregory
Nov 21 – Mark & Deedra Battles
Nov 21 – John & Michele Kincer
Nov 23 – Kenneth & Carol Busby
Nov 25 – David & Barbara Raper
Nov 27 – Loy & Beck Langston
What To Do Around Here! November 2016 Community Calendar

Nov. 5 - Night Zip Line & Sky Swing Adventure. All our zip lines and sky swings are set up just before the adventure to ford a gorge or cross from one high point to another. Pre-registration required at True Adventure Sports by 6 p.m. the day before the adventure. 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. 256-997-9577.

Nov. 5 - The Civilian Conservation Corps in Alabama. Join Bob Pasquill, author of 'The Civilian Conservation Corps in Alabama, 1933-1942' and DeSoto State Park Naturalist Brittnie Hughes on a moderate to mildly-strenuous hike to the CCC Quarry. Learn how the Civilian Conservation Corps constructed the original structures that you can still see in the park today. Moderate hike along mountainous terrain, mildly strenuous due to rocky terrain. Roughly 2 miles round trip. DeSoto State Park, Country Store on County 10. a.m. to Noon. Free and open to everyone. No pre-registration required. Ages 8 to adult. 256-997-5025.

Nov. 5 - 8th Annual Canyon Fest. A Celebration of Arts and Nature Little River Canyon Field School and Interpretive Center want you to come and enjoy live music, nature and arts activities, arts demonstrations and sales, great food, vendors, children's activities and more. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. 256-782-5697.

Nov. 5 - Make an Ornament with Santa. Each child or adult will make their own ornament, which will be fired and glazed for you. It will be ready just in time to add to your Christmas tree this year! They will have a special snack with Santa, talk to him about their wish list and have an opportunity to have their picture made with him while they work! $20 Must pre-purchase tickets online macleopotteryincw.com. Each ticket is for one person making one ornament. Once you purchase your ticket you may come any time between 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. 256-635-6863.

Nov. 5 - Dogtown Fire 3rd Annual Harvest Festival. There will be lots of fun, food and games for all ages. Also we will have DeKalb County’s Fire Prevention Trailer. Dogtown Fire Department. 5 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Nov. 6 - The 10th annual Chicken and Dressing Dinner. Please come out and support the Boy Scouts to help with the insurance and up keep for their van. Eat as much as you want, for whatever donation you’d like to give. It will be at Jim Berry Hall (scout building) in Mentone. 11:30 to 2 p.m.

Nov. 7, 18, 22 - Rappelling Adventure. Come experience the thrill of rappelling down the sheer sandstone gems of NE AL. Each trip includes all the gear plus basic instruction. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. 256-997-9577.

Nov. 8 - Election Day

Nov. 8 - Atop the Mountain Book Club. Retired teachers, avid readers, anyone desiring to know more about novels, join us for our monthly book club. Our novel is Pat Cunningham Devoto’s ‘Out of the Night That Covers Me’, a delightful, soul-searching, realistic yet fictional story set in southeast Alabama, in the Alabama Black Belt of Gees Bend during the 1950s. Devoto’s novel rivals that of Harper Lee’s ‘To Kill a Mockingbird’ in that social mores, prejudice, civil rights, local color, and touching characters come to life. There’s no Boo Radley, but there is John McMillan, an eight-year-old who parallels Scout, and Mama Tuway who may remind David readers, ‘To Kill a Mockingbird’ fans of Scout, and Mama Tuway who may remind David readers, ‘To Kill a Mockingbird’ fans of Atticus Finch. In addition, there is hope. Grab some tissues, read the novel, and join us on the Mentone Reality Porch at 2 p.m. 6:30 p.m. and on Saturday 10 a.m. For more information please call 423-765-8169.

Nov. 11 - The Winter Excursion. The Winter Excursion is a mystery trip that includes hiking, bouldering, sightseeing, navigation, survival, team building, waterfalls, and just plain fun. You will need to bring a small backpack, compass, flash light, change of socks, warm clothes, camera, trail mix, water, small first aid kit, emergency blanket and emergency poncho. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. 256-997-9577.

Nov. 11 - Veterans Day

Nov. 11 - Veterans Day Parade. Fort Payne Veteran’s Day Parade - Details to Come!

Nov. 11 & 12 - Alabama State Gospel Singing Convention for 2016. The Alabama State Gospel Singing Convention will be coming to DeKalb County. The convention will take place at Chestnut Grove Baptist Church in Ider. Friday night signing starts at 6:30 p.m. and on Saturday 10 a.m. For more information please call 423-765-8169.

Nov. 11 - Veterans Day

Nov. 11 & 12 - Alabama State Gospel Singing Convention for 2016. The Alabama State Gospel Singing Convention will be coming to DeKalb County. The convention will take place at Chestnut Grove Baptist Church in Ider. Friday night signing starts at 6:30 p.m. and on Saturday 10 a.m. For more information please call 423-765-8169.

Nov. 12 & 13 - Creative Spirit Market. Open air showcase, with artist demonstrations, locally & regionally created fine & folk art, premium hand-crafted goods, live acoustic music, as well as interactive kid’s art area. Shoppers can browse and watch artists in their creative process, listen to music, plus purchase goods from a wide range of local & regional artists such as painters, potters, quilters, weavers & basket makers, fabric spinners, culinary artists and craftsmen. Entry form for Creative Spirit Market can be found at littleriverarts council.org. Hosted by Little River Arts Council & DeSoto State Park. Event is free & open to everyone. Rain or shine. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. DeSoto State Park Country Store and Picnic Area. 256-997-5025.

Nov. 12 - Collinsville Historic Turkey Trot. Join us for food, fun and games. An antique car and tractor show, turkey shoot, cake walk, and historic “turkey toss” from the roof of a building make this an event fun for all ages. Sponsored in part by the Collinsville Historic Association. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. 256-524-2788.

Nov. 12 - The DeKalb County Genealogical Society. The program, ‘Flags and Uniforms of The Confederate States of America, The Museum of the Confederacy and the...
Ongoing Calendar

The Little River group of Alcoholics Anonymous is adding another meeting. They will meet every Saturday and every Tuesday night at 6pm at St. Joseph’s on the Mountain Episcopal Church, Mentone, AL. Both meetings are Open AA Discussion Meetings. Anyone who thinks they might have a problem with alcohol is welcome. The meetings are also open to members of Al Anon. Questions? call 256-634-3060.

AL-ANON family and friends support group. Meets every Tuesday at 6:00 pm at St. Joseph’s on the Mountain Church in Mentone, AL. Same time and location as the AA Meeting. Come join us and help us grow!

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

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

Mentone Town Council meets the 2nd Tuesday every month at 6pm in the town council room. Everyone is welcome.

MAPA Board meets on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 6:00pm at Kamama Gallery. gluten Free/Diabetic All Natural Cooking classes with Brenda Trace will be held at Little River Hardware at 6pm on Wednesdays. Classes $10.

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

DeKalb Quilters meet every 4th Tuesday, 9:30am, Second Baptist Church in Fort Payne. DeSoto Rescue Squad meets the 1st Saturday of the month at 9am at the MRF house in Mentone.

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

FREE FOOD for eligible persons and families. Hours: Wednesdays, 9 AM to noon. New applicants 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.

Mentone Fire Department meets the 3rd Monday of every month at 7pm. Mentone Town Council meets every 2nd Tuesday at 6pm.

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

Farms Market Hosts the public and will also feature pow wow dancing. Festival and pow wow admission: $5 for adults, $2 for seniors, military, and children under 12. No charge for children under 6 or for dancers in regalia. 256-782-8010.

The DeKalb County Genealogical Society meets the second Saturday of every month in the DeKalb County Public Library, 10 AM.

Health Insurance. Free assistance with the Affordable Care Act is available every Tuesday 9-11 at the Scottsboro Library and every Thursday 2-4 at the Fort Payne Library through January 31, 2017. For more information call 256-254-0668.
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

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.

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To arrange your wedding or renewing of your wedding vows, call 256-634-4181
Pumpkin Patch Jubilee

1st Place - Mentone Realty; 2nd Place - Mentone Inn; 3rd Place - Artisans & Rocky Top Pottery; MVP - Moon Lake Trading; and Honorable Mention - Lookout Mountain Outpost

And Scarecrow Holler

1st Place - Fontana Stinson for “Mother Mountain”; 2nd Place - Gail Chambers for “Larry the Lineman”; 3rd Place - Krissy Harris for “Tackling Fall for Colorfest”; Team Player - Amanda Pilotte
Worship
The Sunday morning services at Winston Memorial Presbyterian Church are held at 9AM each Sunday, except no services on 5th Sunday. Rev. Jerry Davis is our minister for these services.

The Valley Head Baptist Church invites you to attend Sunday School at 10AM; Worship Service at 11AM; Sunday Evening Worship at 6PM; Midweek Service (Wednesday) at 6PM; Women on Mission meets at 1PM the second Tuesday of each month at different homes. Everyone is welcome to come.

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

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

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

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

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 1519 Smith Gap Road (County Road 83), Fort Payne. Regular Worship Services are at 10AM Sunday. Bible class or Lent/Advent services every Wednesday at 6:30PM. Steve Schrader, Pastor - 845-4314. Everyone welcome.

Wheat Grove Baptist Church on Highway 11 North of Fort Payne, welcomes everyone at Sunday School 10AM, Worship Service at 11AM, Wednesday night youth meeting at 6PM, and Wednesday night Prayer Meeting at 6:30PM.

The Fort Payne Christian Center and Pastors Ken and Elaine Hollman invite everyone to join in Worship on Sunday at 10AM, Wednesday evening at 6PM. God Bless You.

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

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

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

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

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


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

Moon Lake Baptist Church invites you to worship with us. Sunday School begins at 9:45AM, with classes for all ages. Morning Worship is at 11AM. The Lord’s Supper is observed on the first Sunday of September, December, March and June at the morning worship hour. Discipleship Training is at 5PM and Sunday Evening Worship at 6PM. On Wednesdays, Team Kids, Youth Bible Study, Adult Bible Study and Prayer Meeting are all at 6:30PM. Rev. John Inman is the pastor.

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

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

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

Mentone Church of God of Prophecy - regular service times are Sunday School at 10AM, with Worship at 11AM. Evening services begin at 5:30PM on Sunday and 6PM on Wednesday. Bro. Whitney Smith invites everyone to attend.

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

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

Since 1889 worshippers have gathered at the Historic First Presbyterian Church PC (USA) at 300 Grand Avenue North in downtown Fort Payne. We invite you to join us for worship this Sunday at 10:05AM. 256-845-2915.

New Oregon United Methodist Church: Located just off Desoto Parkway 1/4 mile south of Fischer Crossroads. We would like to invite you to worship with us on Sundays. Sunday School for all ages 9:45am, Traditional Worship 11am, and Sunday Evening Service 6pm. Sunday Evening youth meet at 5:30pm. We have Wonderful Wednesdays during the school year with Bible studies for all ages, meal at 5:30pm and classes at 6:15pm. We also have Wednesday morning Bible study at 8:45am, and knitting every Tuesday at 9am. Pastor Ian Conery. Address 1204 New Oregon Drive NE, Fort Payne, AL 35967. phone 256-845-7446.

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

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


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

Send any changes to The Groundhog at groundhognews@aol.com or P. O. Box 387, Mentone, AL 35984.
Valley Head High School’s Barbara Neel is Teacher of the Year

By Anna Mae Horn

Mrs. Barbara Neel, Family and Consumer Science teacher at Valley Head High School, was surprised and very honored to be recognized as the 2016 Teacher of the Year for DeKalb County. Others were not surprised, especially her students. She has inspired many of them to go after their dreams and given them the confidence to stretch their wings. Raven Robertson thinks Mrs. Neel is “awesome” because she “teaches new things every day.” She is “hilarious” and makes learning fun. She holds a special place in the heart of many of her students; some drop by just to see her at the end of the day.

Students hold a special place in Mrs. Neel’s heart as well. She chooses to teach and touch the children, possibly at the moment when they only need a small word of encouragement or positivity. Each day she teaches, she prays that she might “reach just one child today.” Mrs. Neel encourages the kids to do their best, but that perfection isn’t necessary. She doesn’t want students to be yoked with that burden and discouraged by the unique results of their individual talent.

As a teacher in what was previously labeled home economics, Mrs. Neel strives to teach students how to live on their own and care for themselves and their home. But she incorporates so much more! She takes a basic skill like cooking and extends it to “Cupcake Wars” and “Continental Cuisine” or to helping in the MERF auction by cooking and serving. As a Certified ServSafe instructor, she can teach and test students to keep their kitchen up to restaurant quality safety standards. She teaches college material and students who pass the exam are qualified to start work in a kitchen at a restaurant or camp. Her finance class is aimed at equipping the students with the knowledge of how to balance a checkbook and save money, not only balancing a check book but also saving for a rainy day. These are real life skills that help these students become better citizens in our community.

Recently, Barbara has been approved to offer an education career to raise her two daughters, Emily and Hannah.

Besides spending treasured time with her family, Barbara enjoys reading, walks in the woods, playing the piano, and traveling. She has explored Italy with her mother, spent two weeks in Jamaica on a mission trip, taken several trips to New York City, and loves to explore Williamsburg because of her love of history. She has lived in eleven different places and enjoys catching up with all the friends she has made at each stage of her life.

Using skills from each aspect of her life as well as the several degrees she has earned, Barbara Neel reaches students on a professional and personal level. She teaches them to mature, to manage household finances, cook for themselves, and design their own homes. She encourages them to do their best and to accept that and nothing less, imperfections and all. Why does she choose to teach? “Kids give excitement and encouragement and hope for the future.” Her love for students shows in her words and actions and makes her very deserving of this award.

Mrs. Neel is obviously recognized as being a jewel by her coworkers and peers as well. The process for Teacher of the Year award begins with nominations from other teachers across the county. Administration then looks at the candidates and their character before choosing a winner. Interestingly, she was at an Alabama Association for Career and Technical Education convention when she received the call. There, she was placed among the top three in the state for a separate award. Barbara also received nomination during her first year of teaching as New Teacher of the Year. Barbara Neel is a fine example of the many terrific teachers in DeKalb County. It is an honor to have her teaching and encouraging our students. Thank you for all your heartfelt efforts, Mrs. Neel, and congratulations on being announced as the 2016 DeKalb County Teacher of the Year!

Great Things at Moon Lake School

Moon Lake Elementary School has always been a source of pride for the community. This year is no different. The school year was kicked off with a great start. Both open house and parent involvement nights were a success with good attendance. The staff vs. student basketball was a big success as well; even though the score was a tie, everyone came out a winner. Results from last year’s ACT Aspire testing were discussed at open house and showed much improvement overall. Sixth grade math scores were the highest in the county. The school’s Math average doubled from the previous year’s scores, and was more than twice the county average. Reading scores were up 16 points from the previous year and 23 points over the county average. New approaches to individualized teaching last year proved successful. Also, our latest lunchroom inspection was given a perfect score of 100, and the buses have zero incidents.

During this calendar year, many physical improvements have been made as well. Landscaping has been accomplished outside, and on the inside, many rooms have a new coat of paint. Basketball goals have been installed and a team started. A new lighted handrail was built near the gym and steps installed at the fine arts building. Plans for continuing improvements are in place.

Recently, the school board announced a grant awarded to MLES for $100,000 for each of 3 years for the 21st Century After School program.
Perhaps this column might be better placed in the classified section of The Groundhog. I don’t know if there’s a limit on the number of words for a classified want ad or if there’s a section for this particular type of ad. If there is such a section, I’ll ask the editor to place it under “Want Ad for Friends.”

“Newly retired couple has recently made Mentone their fulltime home and are looking for friends. All are welcome to apply and applicants of all ages are accepted without references. While we (my Mary and I) are staunch Alabama fans and alumni, we welcome all who have a favorite school to apply for friendship. “While I wouldn’t say we love long walks on the beach – Mary would disagree here – we love spirited conversations with open-minded people, dinners with new and old friends, have a preference for red wines and are good listeners, or so I think. We like spontaneous adventures but don’t ask us to hang glide from atop Lookout Mountain. “We’re both in our 60s so an adventure for us would be coming out of our driveway on Scenic Highway without a real destination and end up having lunch on the campus of The University of the South in Sewanee, Tenn. If you want to learn more, call our home at 256-634-2051.”

Seriously, give us a call and let’s get together. If you do, be prepared to answer some questions. I was in the newspaper business for more than 30 years and the best part of that, to steal a quote from Kathryn Tucker Windom, is that I actually got paid to ask questions that are none of my business. I won’t pry, I promise, but I love to find out where people grew up, whom we might know in common and what fun we might have together.

Stretch your memory and you might recall I was publisher of the Times-Journal in Fort Payne from 1995-2006. Mary excelled as a fourth-grade teacher at Williams Avenue Elementary School. Truth be told, my Mary has always been much better at her job than I ever was.

She is a native of Fort Payne and some of you will remember her parents, Dr. R.A. and Arlene Igou. Both were DeKalb County natives who were much loved before their passing in the last several years.

I grew up in Tuscaloosa and frankly, we always assumed we’d retire there. That was before I fell in love with Mentone. Mary has always adored Mentone, and my roots are pretty deep as well. I am a Camp Laney boy, back when Malcolm Laney first opened it. We bought a small cabin here in 2005, not far from the four-way stop that turns to DeSoto Falls.

Those who spend a little time here are likely to “get it.” Not everyone does, of course, and for that I’m grateful. Some have said we’ll be bored living here, but that’s nonsense. There are way too many fascinating people here to ever be bored and, as Mary’s mother used to say, “Only boring people get bored.” We are not boring, I promise.

Mentone isn’t for everyone, but it’s for us. We are glad to be your neighbors and, while we’ve been here almost a year and have many new friends, we have room for one more.

Always one more. Give us a call.

Ben Shurett was publisher of five different newspapers in his 34-year career and served as president of the Alabama Press Association in 2004-5.
Grandparent Visitation

Among the most heartbreaking cases I've handled during my career as a family lawyer are those in which a grandparent wants to visit with their grandchild but are not permitted to do so by the parent(s). One of those comes to mind involved a child whose natural mother, divorced from the father of her child, died of anorexia. She and the child had lived with her mother for a substantial period of time before her death. The father of the child, who had shown very little interest in the child showed up at the funeral and took the boy with him. Thereafter, he refused to let the grandmother see the child or even to talk with him on the phone. At that time, there was no law giving the grandmother the right to ask a court for visitation rights with the child.

In Alabama today, a grandparent, that is the parent of a parent of a child, may seek reasonable visitation rights with that child under certain circumstances. That may be done either by filing a new case in court or by intervening in an ongoing case concerning custody of the grandchild if one of these circumstances exists:

1. An action for divorce or legal separation of the parents has been filed, or the marital relationship between the parents has been severed by death or divorce.

2. The child was born out of wedlock and the individual seeking reasonable visitation rights is a maternal grandparent of the child.

3. The child was born out of wedlock and the person seeking visitation is a paternal grandparent of the child and the child's paternity has been legally established.

4. The parental rights of a parent or parents have been terminated or such an action has been filed. In the case of a child who has been adopted, the grandparent may only seek reasonable visitation rights if the person or persons adopting the child is one of certain biological relatives.

Alabama grandparents have not always had the right to seek visitation with a grandchild in Alabama over the objection of the parents of the child. The Alabama legislature first passed a law permitting it in 1980. Since that time, the law has been declared unconstitutional and rewritten several times.

As of August 1 of this year, grandparents again have an opportunity to seek reasonable visitation with their grandchild under certain circumstances. They must prove that despite the parents' objection, visitation is in the best interest of the child and that he or she has a significant and viable relationship with the child which can be proven by evidence that either the child has lived with that grandparent for at least six consecutive months within the last three years, the grandparent was the caregiver to the child on a regular basis for at least six months within the last three years, or that the grandparent had frequent or regular contact with the child for at least twelve consecutive months resulting in a strong and meaningful relationship with the child within the previous twelve months, or any other facts that establish that the loss of the grandparent-child relationship is likely to harm the child.

To prove that visitation is in the best interest of the child the grandparent must prove all of the following: That the grandparent has the capacity to give the child love, affection, and guidance; that the loss of that relationship has caused, or is reasonably likely to cause, harm to the child, and that the grandparent is willing to cooperate with the parent or parents if the visitation is allowed.

Thus, even though a grandparent now has the opportunity to get into court in an effort to set up visitation with their grandchild, the process itself continues to be difficult.

For additional information about the new law, Code of Alabama, 30-3-4.2, or how it may apply to you, please talk with your lawyer.

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

By Judith S. Crittenden, Attorney at Law

Medicare Fraud

Many people just aren't sure what Medicare fraud is. Medicare fraud is when someone intentionally falsifies information or deceives Medicare. Providers and their billing offices can make honest mistakes when billing, so the key word here is “intentionally.” Here are some examples of Medicare fraud: if your provider purposefully bills you and Medicare for care you never got, if someone else uses your Medicare number, if a supplier bills Medicare for a walker or other piece of equipment you already returned, or if someone claims to be a certified Medicare Specialist or Medicare Open Enrollment Dept.

You must be aware of Medicare fraud so that you cannot be at risk for Medical identity theft. Medical identity theft is when someone steals personal information like your name, Social Security number, or Medicare number and uses that information to get care or prescriptions, or to submit fake claims to Medicare in your name. If the wrong person gets ahold of your Medicare number, it can cause problems for you. For example, doctors could start billing you for care you never got, and it could hurt your credit rating. Please remember to not give your Medicare number out to people who call you and say they’ll give you free services if you give them your Medicare number. If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is. Please call the DeKalb County Council on Aging at 256-845-8590 if you have any questions. Your SHIP counselor is there to assist you.

By Lynn Hixson

Valley Head Drugs

114 Commerce Avenue
Valley Head, AL 35989

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Cynthia and Wayne Wooten, Owners

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LOTs AND LAND

#952849 - 4.4 acre tract on brow. $190,000.
#402264A - 500' of prime brow view. $150,000.
#656265 - 7 WOODDED ACRES in Mt. River Estates. $59,000.
#665963 - 1 ACRE LOT in Hidden Lake Sub. $40,000.
#781331 - 1.62 ACRE LOT in Hidden Lake Sub. $40,000.

#845943 - 200' of water frontage $42,000.
#945265 - 1 ACRE LOT in Hidden Lake Sub. $49,000.
#1011734 - 69 ACRES wooded lot on Brush Creek. $27,900.
#1024313 - 1.5 ACRES. Brew Lot on CR 19. $124,900.
#1021165 - 2 ACRE LOT offering lake and water frontage. $59,900.
#1052720 - 2.8 acres with travel trailer, water, & utilities. $82,500.
#1034997 - Approx. 6 ACRES on middle fork of Little River. $48,900.
#1038089 - 6.4 acres on Co. Rd. 89. Lot B in Mentone. $135,000.
#1037969 - 6.32 ACRE waterfront building lot in Mountain River Estates! $49,950.
#1045110 - 77 acres on brow. $169,000.
#1055367 - 9.93 acres in Mentone. $45,000.

www.southernpropertiesagency.com

Enjoy life uninterrupted in this custom build log get-a-way on 4 secluded acres. Lot B & 1A with a 2-car garage and a front rocking chair porch. Hurry before someone buys the cabin of your dreams for only $110,000. MLS #546370

3.3 ACRES of historic property in the heart of Mentone. Start living the "American Dream" for only $325,000. Call for details. MLS #1045206.

One of the most photographed landmarks in Mentone, the "Red Boathouse" sits on Little River less than 500 ft from Desoto Falls. One acre will sell on the north side of the river. Mid-century all-wood cabin w/living & dining area. Stainless steel kitchen, refrigerator, gas FP & screened porches. $58,000. MLS #105464.

RUSTIC CANN near Mentone. 3-1/2 story, 2BR/2.5BA home, open floor plan, large walled ceilings. 3 BR, 2 BA, 4 BR, 3 BA, 5 BR, 4 BA, 6 BR, 5 BA. $301,000.

Two Cabins from Desoto State Park and Mentone. Cabin 1 approx 640 sq ft, 2 BR, 1 BA, 840 sq ft, 2 BR, 2 BA. $103,000. MLS #1015681.

2 BR/2 BA, 4 BR/3 BA, 5 BR/4 BA, 6 BR/5 BA, 7 BR/6 BA, 8 BR/7 BA, 9 BR/8 BA. $301,000.

2 BR/2 BA, 3 BR/2 BA, 4 BR/3 BA, 5 BR/4 BA, 6 BR/5 BA, 7 BR/6 BA, 8 BR/7 BA. $301,000.

MINUTES FROM DESOTO STATE PARK & MENTONE! 3 BR/2 BA, wood floors, walls, ceilings; fireplace; being sold fully furnished–includes appliances, whirlpool tub & private hot tub on the back deck. Excellent rental potential for your own private retreat. $89,000 (104142).

Golden Opportunity! Let the tenants pay your mortgage! 19 apartments, large retail space and storage building located on Hwy 151 just minutes from downtown Mentone. Sitting on 5 acres, totally remodeled and fenced. $183,500. MLS #1011991.

Incredible View! In the heart of Mentone, this updated IRB/BA home features hardwood floors, center island, FP & storage space. New carpeting upstairs. Paint & workshop. $219,900. MLS #1051222.

Two Homes on 3 acres with a VIEW in Valley View Forest. 2BR/2BA, Den and Formal living area with lots of rustic features. Open kitchen and Den with exposed beams. Living area w/FP and built-ins. $179,900. MLS #1056109.

One Price! Minutes from DeSoto State Park and Downtown Mentone. Down Home offers Two Furnished Cabins. One 1 BR/1 BA, The other 2 BR/2 BA. Sleeps approx. 7 additional cabins. Space for approx. 12 additional cabins. $239,900. MLS #1051679.

Two furnished cabins on 0.4 ACRELIN. One cabin is 445 sq ft. The other is 82 sq ft. Both cabins have a private hot tub and a private hot tub on the back deck. Each w/access to porches & views. EX walking distance to town. 2 master suites, 2 BR, 3 BA, open living/dining/kitchen area with wall of windows, vaulted ceilings, wide plank floors & gas FP. $279,900. MLS #1052681.

CUSTOM CABIN w/wooded great room and kitchen, oak flooring, and wood burning fireplace in the 2BR/2 1/2BA home. Sleeping porch w/FP. SOLD. $279,900. MLS #1051679.

BEAUTIFUL Mtn Get-away w/gorgeous view year round. 3 bedrooms, 2 bath, ski lake, swimming pool, hot tubs & camp fire area. $239,900. MLS #1000691.

The iconic “Red Boathouse” sits on Little River less than 500 ft from Desoto Falls. One acre will sell on the north side of the river. Mid-century all-wood cabin w/living & dining area. Stainless steel kitchen, refrigerator, gas FP & screened porches. $58,000. MLS #105464.
Rhododendron Garden Club
By Mellanie Tuttle

The Rhododendron Garden Club met on Tuesday, October 11 at the MERF House. Martha Wood served as hostess. The food was delicious but the floral arrangement featuring a Lion’s Tail (Leonotis leonurus) was spectacular. Lion’s Tail, indigenous to South Africa, is an evergreen shrub with fall blooming tubular orange flowers arranged in tiered whorls. It is deer and drought resistant and, being a member of the mint family, has the typical square stem. Each person was asked to bring a fall blooming plant from the yard so Hydrangea, Butterfly bush, Violet, Cosmos, Dahlia, and Beautyberry were admired as well as the Lion’s Tail.

Martha Wood called the meeting to order followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, the Meditation, Committee Reports, Old and New Business. Oops, Mary Shurett did not give last month’s meditation; apologies to Marsha Merrell who did. This month, Brenda Cox (HM), Dee Kelley (3rd) and Mary Shurett (HM) all entered designs for the first time. Dianne Kuehl (2nd) and Mellanie Tuttle (HM) both entered “Stretch” designs. Mellanie Tuttle and Martha Wood won blue ribbons with their “Petite” designs and Martha received the coveted Petite Award Ribbon (best petite design in the show). Mellanie received the Sweepstakes Award for the most blue ribbons in the Horticulture Division. The show went well. The judges were impressed with the number and quality of horticulture entries since the summer had been so hot and dry. Congrats to Mary for her Blue Ribbon winning chocolate chip cookies!

Dianne Kuehl presented the program “10 Plants You Can’t Kill.” Her clever presentation included a poster board with 10 rectangles. She gave clues describing a plant and after much guessing, when the correct answer was given, she lifted the first rectangular paper and voila – the first “unkillable” plant picture was revealed. This continued until all ten plants had been identified. For instance, this is a garden staple, likes well-drained, alkaline soil, grows 2-5 feet high, is a great cut bloom, butterflies and bees love it, and it comes in colors of purple, pink, white, yellow, orange, or green. Give up? Did you guess – Coneflower? Other “kill-proof” plants were: Cosmos, Day lilies, Hens and Chicks, Yarrow, Hosta, Sedum, Zinnias, Petunias and Yucca. The group definitely agreed that the Yucca was indestructible but some of the other choices were iffy for those “brown-thumb” folks. Thanks to Dianne for such an entertaining and interactive presentation.

Martha Wood gave TLC to the succulent wreaths made last month and returned them so the club could see their progress. Dee Kelley offered to deliver them to the Post Office and City Hall for display. The plants are anchored to the moss and look fabulous, so be sure to take a peak and maybe get inspired to make one.

The RGC meets at 10 am each second Tuesday of the month at the MERF House. The next meeting will be November 8th.

The Rhododendron Garden Club is a member of Northeast Alabama Federation of Garden Clubs, The Garden Club of Alabama, Inc., District ll, Deep South Region and National Garden Clubs.
**LOTS AND ACREAGE**

5.7 WOODED ACRES with a beautiful view across from Lake LAHUSAGE. The driveway has been started to build your Mentone getaway! Paved road frontage, city water available, perc tested. Lightly restricted. Seller is very motivated! REDUCED $49,900 (23185)

3.8 ACRES located in East Fork Little River Estates. Nicely wooded with a portion of the historic Dinky Line Railway. 175 ft. on river (Cherokee Co., Mentone). covenants & restrictions. county water and power available. $40,000

COTTAGE ON LITTLE RIVER CANYON. What a peaceful setting and private 2 bdrm with sleeping loft, 2 baths. Great room with Rock Fireplace. Covered front porch and grilling deck. Adjoins on the back side Wildlife management and in the front the canyon preserve. Private access. Appt Only. $169,000. (23143)

LAKE WINDMILL ESTATE... 103 ft. on 13 acre lake on the prowl. Wooded, sloped. Build your home here restricted. $45,000

SECLUSION AND TRANQUILITY are nestled in this 2 story luxury 1888/1984 Heritage Log Home. Located on 20 acres of breathtaking views and woods on the East Brow of Lookout Mountain, Cloudland, GA. This fully furnished home features vaulted ceilings in the great room and kitchen/dining room, both of which have handcrafted 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 1800/1984 and extra storage room. An ideal mountain escape! Craftsmanship and attention to detail makes this property one of a kind. Appompt only. $835,000. (23120)

NEW LISTING

**5 ACRES** on the East brow tract overlooking Pleasant Valley. Rock pallacades, wooded. See Weiss Lake in the distance. Private gated area. Joins National Preserve & Forever Wild protected property. $60,000. (22866)

**VALLEY VIEW FOREST** East brow view 6.7 acres $31,915
Open Enrollment for Affordable Care is Here

November 1 marks the beginning of Open Enrollment for Affordable Health Care for 2017. Open Enrollment ends January 31, 2017. For coverage to begin January 1, 2017, you must be enrolled by December 15. This year Blue Cross/Blue Shield will be the only company serving Alabama. Both United Healthcare and Humana have withdrawn from our state’s Marketplace. If you currently have insurance with United Healthcare or Humana, you will be able to visit the Marketplace to select a Blue Cross/Blue Shield plan to replace it. This should be done before December 15 for coverage to start January 1. If you do nothing, the Marketplace will automatically enroll you in a comparable plan from Blue Cross/Blue Shield with an effective date of January 1, 2017. The coverage with United Healthcare or Humana will end December 31, 2016.

The letters consumers will be receiving from their insurance providers in the next few weeks can be very confusing. Although an increase in healthcare costs is usual, these letters often quote huge increases in premiums. Consumers should always take the initiative to revisit their Marketplace applications. In most cases, there is another plan that has essentially the same coverage at a lower cost. Tax credits that reduce premium amounts also change and the result is often a very small increase in one’s premiums.

There are three ways to review/change one’s plan: (1) On one’s own by visiting their application account at health.gov. (2) On one’s own by calling the government at 1-800-318-2596. (3.) With Navigator Assistance Thursday afternoons, 2-4, at the Fort Payne Library, and Tuesday mornings, 9-11, at the Scottsboro library, starting November 1. There are no paid Navigators in most counties in Alabama. Three women from the Progressive Women of Northeast Alabama volunteer their time assisting people with their healthcare enrollment needs. They are federally trained and certified Navigators, and their services are free of charge. To speak with a local Navigator, call 256-254-0668.

Important dates:
November 1 Open Enrollment Begins
December 15 Last Day to Enroll for January 1, 2017 Coverage
January 14 Last Day to Enroll for February 1, 2017 Coverage
January 15-31 Enrollment for Coverage to Begin March 1, 2017
January 31 Open Enrollment Ends

In Memory of Family and Friends in the Mentone Area

Roger Dell Sharp

Mr. Roger Dell Sharp passed away on October 3, 2016. He served his country as a medic for the Navy and Marines during the Vietnam War. He served his community as Mayor of Valley Head and as a Mason—both at Valley Head Lodge No. 394 and Rainsville Lodge No. 911. Mr. Sharp was also a retired welder, coached Little League, loved music, and singing gospel music with his wife Deborah and daughter Amy. He was a former owner of the Tigers Inn. He enjoyed golfing, fishing, hunting and gardening. Roger was a good Christian man who loved his family, community and people. Roger is survived by his father James O’Dell Sharp, sons Steven W. Sharp and Roger Scot Sharp, daughters Sarah Sharp and Traci Westbrook, adopted daughters Angel Westbrook and Haley Westbrook, two sisters Ladayne Sharp & Anna (Ronnie) Payne, several grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Mr. Sharp was preceded in death by his wife of 21 years, Deborah Sharp, his beloved daughter Amy

Larry Lee Smith

Mr. Larry Lee Smith, 51, passed away on September 22, 2016, at UAB Hospital. Larry worked at Shaw Industries for 30 years and most currently worked for RTI. He was a member of Adamsburg Community Church. He is survived by his mother Nancy Smith, sons Josh Smith (Emerald) and Justin Smith (Lashaye), grandchildren Trent Ethan Blake Smith and Aimee Grace Elaine Smith, and his sister Edna Morgan (Donald). Pallbearers for Mr. Smith’s service were Josh Smith, Justin Smith, Dylan Newberry, Chris Henderson, Phillip McNutt and Kris Goodwin. He was laid to rest at Bankhead Cemetery.

Jerry Blansit

Jerry Blansit, 63, of Valley Head, passed away Saturday, September 24, 2016, at the VA Hospital in Birmingham. Mr. Blansit served in the United States Army and retired from Heil Manufacturing. Funeral services were officiated by Rev. James Grindstaff at Wilson Funeral Home. Burial followed in Head Springs Cemetery with military honors. He is survived by his wife, Brenda Blansit; daughter Michelle Blansit; son Michael Blansit; grandchildren Tyler (Jessica) Blansit, Dakota Garner, Hailee Wells, Hunter Blansit, and Kelsey Blansit; great-grandchildren, Ryleigh and Brody Blansit; brother TC (Beth) Blansit, and sister Sue (Charlie) Brown. He was preceded in death by his parents Conley and Linnie Blansit and brothers Clinton Blansit and James Page.
We give God thanks for all His blessings. We are blessed to live and work in such a beautiful area. We also thank you, our families, our friends and our customers for making this year a successful one.

Happy Thanksgiving! from your
Mentone Realty family to yours

Charlotte Gentry
Broker/Owner
256-996-5995

Holly Watson-Houston
Assoc. BROKER®
256-996-5992

Ben Johnston
Assoc. REALTOR®
256-996-1774

Melody Sellers
Assoc. REALTOR®
256-996-9297

Stop in and see us at our log cabin office in the heart of Mentone. Beautiful views around.

WELCOME TO MENTONE

LOTS AND LAND

19 ACRES beautiful woodland with Laurel Creek running through it. Level to gently sloping. Perfect for someone seeking a true getaway. Wild turkey, deer, bobcat, foxes...just about any kind of mountain wildlife one could imagine has been spotted on this property by the owner. Mountain laurel, rhododendron, cucumber magnolia, wild azalea. Some restrictions. $60,000

ACREAGE WITH A SMALL LAKE HIDDEN IN THE WOODS. Lightly restricted. 4.33 wooded acres on Private Creek. Laurel Creek Lakes SD, that also features walking trails and 3 lakes. Two lots being sold as one. 45,000. (1048869)

2.2 UNRESTRICTED, WOODED ACRES Mentone. Corner property; excellent areas to walk, bicycle or keep a few chickens. Public water and power at the road. Great building site for one or a couple of cabins. $18,000 (1011111)

WOW! Build your dream home with a view! 3-acre building lot overlooking beautiful Weiss Lake. Already cleared & ready to build upon with mature trees left for shade, utilities at the road. $30,000 (1051832)

A PROPERTY RARE. Yes, you can buy wooded acreage. Yes, you can have a brook-side view. Yes, you can have abundant wildlife. BUT, where else will you find 44 acres of hardwood mountainside with forever views, several level building sites AND a registered cave? Tally Cave. Don’t let it get away. Priced at $119,000 (785767)

4.43 WOODED ACRES, unrestricted. Septic tank to accommodate a 3BR/2BA home, gravel drive, public water & power already in place! Great place for RV, ready to build. You won’t find a better price in Mentone. Now only $33,900. (311286)

VIEWS OF SUNRISES, SUNSETS, sparking water below from awesome vantage points. Approx. 106.5 acres & 1400’ frontage on Ft Payne Reservoir. Paved road frontage on Hwy 137 & Oakwood Ave. Join lots along Portabella Rd, Feathersound and the Highlands! This property has it all! Beautiful woodlands, beautiful views and beautiful potential. Roads already cut-in, public water on property. An estate in the making. $595,000 (1049845)

2 WOODED ACRES with a tiny little rustic cabin ‘no plumbing!’ Hardwoods, picturesque boulder, wild turkey, deer...most any kind of wildlife found in these hills. A quiet place to find yourself returning at the end of the day, or as a weekend getaway, $39,700. (1034503)

Carpenter Gothic-style cottage, sweetly-situated on a naturally-landscaped yard with wildflower gardens; a carpet of green moss for most of the year (no mowing!); wet-weather stream, peaceful woods. Built to be energy efficient. Screened back porch to enclose for add’l living area if you choose. Warm, comfortable, cozy & so, so cute! 2BR/1.5BA $119,000 (1006846)

Quality speaks for itself. Cedar-sided cabin on 2.91 nicely-wooded acres w/small, wet-weather stream & winding, private drive. 8x42 front porch, 12x42 back porch! Kohler fixtures & Corian solid-surface countertops throughout. Spacious LR w/19’ vault. Main-level MBR. Custom cabinet, wide, pine-plank floors. Huge laundry! On-demand water heater. 10x12 shop. $223,500. (749941)

Commercial/retail building, with new CHA, new paint, windows, flooring, fixtures in bathroom & kitchen area, much more! Drive-thru capability. Connected to Valley Head sewer system. 1.120 internet available. Large showroom, storage area, office space, kitchenette & bath. So much potential for any type business! Valley Head needs a florist shop, bakery, lots of things! Here’s an economical place to get going. $39,900. (562362)

Casual mountain elegance of an “old” downtown Mentone brow-front cottage, expanded and updated. Standingseam metal roof; vinyl “cedar shake” siding; composite deck; “smart” system to control utilities when you’re away; 3 spacious bedrooms; 2 baths. Gorgeous kitchen! Stone, masonry fireplace. Quaint white picket fence. Right at brow and so close to everything Mentone. Fantastic new price! $289,000 (1022983)

Brow views, spacious home with guest quarters & .77 acres. Adjacent to DeSoto State Park, just outside Mentone, in Rocky Top Estates. So much to see. Look out on which itch which...So much to do. The mountain retreat cabin, just off brow park and so close to everything Mentone. Fantastic new price! $349,500 (1052151)

THE BURDEN.” 3BR/2.5BA mountain retreat cabin, just off DeSoto Pkwy, nestled among intriguing rock formations, surrounded by woodland. Features you want such as metal roof, screened porch; wood-burning mtn stone fireplace; private back deck w/Hot tub; 2nd floor balconies; bunkbed closet; on 1.9 acres. Large screened porch offers expanded living area outdoors. Furnishings negotiable. Active rental. $199,900 (1052151)

Welcome to Mentone
www.mentonerealty.com
Office: (256) 634-4767

Charlotte Gentry
Broker/Owner

Holly Watson-Houston
Assoc. BROKER®

Ben Johnston
Assoc. REALTOR®

Melody Sellers
Assoc. REALTOR®

We thank you, our families, our friends and our customers for making this a successful year.

The Natural Choice

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ATTENTION GROUNDHOG READERS!
Copies of The Groundhog are available at the following locations:

FORT PAYNE
Alabama Fan Club
Big Mill & Vintage 1889
Brown's Cleaners
Bruce's Foodland
Chow King
Days Inn
DeKalb Library
DeKalb Tourism
First Federal
Ft. Payne Chamber of Commerce
Hampton Inn
Holiday Inn
Huddle House
Priceless IGA
Quality Inn
Southern Gold & Silver
Southern Properties
The Spot Coffee Shop
The Strand
The Wishing Well
Waffle House
Waffle King

VALLEY HEAD
I-59 Flea Market
Alabama Organics
Burt Funeral Home
Citizens Bank
Dave's Antiques
Hamondville Quick Stop
Headquarters Beauty Salon
Miracle Pottery
Tigers Inn
Valley Head Drug
Valley Head Food Mart
Valley Head Town Hall
Victory Fuel
Water Board

MENTONE
Body Maintenance
Clip Joint
Community Library
GracefulGiraffe
Gourdie Shop
Hair @ The Village
Kamama's
Little River Hardware
Lookout Mountain Realty

GEORGIA
Auto Parts (Menlo)
Menlo Healthmart
Menlo Lucky's
Mountain Top Country Store
Restaurant (Menlo)
State Line Store

OTHER
Alabama Welcome Center
DeSoto St. Park Lodge
DeSoto State Park Store
Fisher X-Roads Store
Little River Canyon Center
Ralph's Grocery

Autumn Air
By Anna Mae Horn
I crave the crunch beneath my feet,
The colors fall around me.
I love the trees in all their splendor
As the coolness surrounds me.
I give my arms a sleeve,
But short pants I still wear.
I breathe in the freshness
That blows through my hair.
I close my eyes to become one
With the autumn scene:
To become refreshed, alive,
Yet so silently serene.

Then I spy a little squirrel
Flittering to and fro-
Up the tree, along the branch
I secretly watch him go.
LAURA EASLER RECEIVES
$92,000 SCHOLARSHIP TO SPRING HILL COLLEGE

Valley Head Senior Laura Easler received a $92,000 scholarship to Spring Hill College, a private Roman Catholic Jesuit liberal arts college in Mobile, Alabama. Spring Hill, founded in 1830 by Michael Portier, was the first Catholic college in the Southeast, the third oldest Jesuit college in the country, and the fifth oldest Catholic college in America.

Laura is currently a senior at Valley Head High School enrolled in the Nursing program at the DeKalb County Technical School as part of a comprehensive approach to career education and training.

Congratulations Laura and best wishes in your nursing career!

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