

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Arts Council Schedules Monthly Meeting

The Water Valley Arts Council will be holding its monthly meeting on Tuesday, May 14th, 6:30 p.m. at the Water Valley Main St Assn. office, 207 N Main Street. You don't have to be a member to come to the meetings. Artists, musicians, crafters and all lovers of the arts are welcome. For more information call 318-655-2623.

Scholarship Fund Committee Hosts Gospel Fest, Political Rally

The Jeffery Clay Horton Scholarship Fund Committee will be hosting their annual gospel fest and political rally on Saturday, May 11, in downtown Coffeeville at the band stand beside the fire station. The festivities will begin at 10 a.m. and the political rally starts at 2 p.m. All choirs, groups, soloists, praise/drama teams as well as all candidates are invited to participate. All proceeds will go to the JCH Scholarship fund. For more information please call Clayton Horton at 662-675-8730 or Ralph Horton at 662-417-7590.

Friday Bingo, Saturday Dance Scheduled At The VFW

Bingo will be played at VFW Post 4100 on Friday night, May 10. Doors will open at 5 p.m. and play will begin at 7. The Bobby Hood Band will play for the Saturday night dance. The music begins at 8 p.m. and ends at midnight. The post is located at 11535 Highway 315.

Yalobusha Patriots Will Honor Veterans Will Meal, Entertainment

The Yalobusha Patriots will honor all veterans with an All-American hot dog and hamburger buffet, with all the trimmings, at the Lion's Club Railroad Park Museum on Armed Forces Day, May 18.

All veterans and their spouses, veteran's widows, or veteran's widowers are invited to join the Patriots for this event. There will be door prizes and live entertainment with Danny Bishop. The Patriots encourage the public and all businesses of Yalobusha County to proudly display our American Flag on May 18, in honor of our veterans and our country.

Gospel Bands Will Perform At Gore Springs Community Center

A gospel singing is scheduled in the Gore Spring Community Center on May 11, beginning at 6 p.m. Admission is \$5. On the program will be The Slaton Family, Canaan Way and Fishers of Men. There will be a concession with hamburgers, sausage and hot dogs, chips, desserts and drinks. Everyone is invited to come out for this fellowship.

Support Needed To Maintain Area Cemeteries

Memorial Day is coming and the grass and trees need cutting and grave sites need maintenance in the cemeteries at Antioch, Muddy Creek/Elm Grove and United Baptist Churches. If you have loved ones buried at any of these locations, your help is needed to provide funds for the upkeep of these burial grounds.

You may bring your memorial donations in remembrance of your loved ones to the annual Memorial Day Program May 19, beginning at 11 a.m., or mail to United M.B. Church, P. O. Box 641, Coffeeville, MS 38922. If you have questions contact Nellie Foxx Logan at (662) 688-0685, Clayton Horton at (662) 675-8730, or any church member.

Steens Of Calhoun County Is Topic At YHS Meeting

The Yalobusha County Historical Society will meet Thursday, May 16, at 2 p.m. in its headquarters, the former Coffeeville Presbyterian Church. Marvin Horton will speak about the Steens of Calhoun County. Refreshments are served and visitors are welcome.

Deadline To Register For ServSafe Food Certification Class Is May 28

A ServSafe Food Certification Class will be taught June 27, beginning at 7:30 a.m. The certification exam will begin around 4 p.m. and should be completed by 6 p.m. The class will be held in the Yalobusha County Extension Office at Coffeeville. Cost of the course is \$140 and the deadline to register is May 28. Call Pamela Redwine at the Extension Office, (662) 675-2730, for additional details and to register.

County's Executive Democratic Party Will Host Political Rally

Everyone is invited to a political rally hosted by the Executive Democratic Party of Yalobusha County for all the candidates who are seeking office in the upcoming election. The Rally will be held Saturday, June 1, beginning at 11 a.m. in the Masonic Lodge, 121 Cherry St., Oakland.

"Looking forward to seeing you there and good luck to all the candidates," stated Carolyn Lear.

Eastern Star Meets May 14

Water Valley Chapter No. 5, Order of the Eastern Star, will have their regular monthly meeting Tuesday, May 14, beginning with a pot luck supper in the Masonic Temple on Champion Circle at 6:30 p.m. The meeting will follow at 7:30 p.m. All members are urged to attend.

Mable Jenkins Lewis – A Portrait Of A Mother Comes Full Circle

In honor of all mothers and women who have mothered or continue to do so today, Happy Mother's Day. This portrait comes from Linda Lewis Jamison, a retired librarian and educator from Kosciusko, Miss.



By Dottie Chapman Reed

Dear Dottie,

My mother was not a native of Yalobusha County. However, she was a strong black woman who impacted the lives of many. Several years ago, I wrote a narrative in her memory, and I would like to share it with you. I thought you might be able to use it in your column. First, I would like to tell you something about her, and the narrative will follow.

Mable Jenkins Lewis was born in 1923 in the Zemuly community in Attala County to a Baptist minister and his wife. She latched onto the basic tenets of Christianity that her parents taught and modeled for her in the home. Mable sought to live according to these tenets throughout her life.

She worked on the family farm and attended grammar school in community one-room schools until she finished eighth grade. Then, she transferred to



Mable Jenkins Lewis

Attala Training School in Kosciusko to complete her high school education. In Kosciusko, she and her sister, Ruth, roomed, or as she called it, "light house kept," with her family friends, Reverend and Mrs. John Hollinsworth.

After graduating, Mable began teaching in community one-room schools. During the summer, when school was out, she attended what is now Jackson State University in pursuit of a bachelor's degree.

In December, 1944, Mable married Jerry C. Lewis, who was serving in the United States Army. They immediately began a family, but Mable continued to teach and attend college. After Jerry finished his stint in the Army, they both enrolled at Alcorn A&M State College. After graduating, just as Mississippi started consolidating one-room schools, Mable continued to teach, helped

work the Lewis family farm, and care for her children.

She was gifted with a beautiful coloratura soprano voice and sang often at church and for community functions. Through her teaching and singing, and with a gentle spirit, she influenced the lives of many children as well as adults.

FULL CIRCLE

Death came to my mother in March 1980. She had been ill for three months, and we had been warned about the dangers of her operation. Still, we were not prepared.

For the next five or six months my sister and I walked around in a daze. We worked, talked to our husbands and, to the out-



Linda Lewis Jamison and her mom, Mable Jenkins Lewis at her wedding reception.

side world, seemed normal. In our hearts we were not. We really could not believe that Mom was dead.

Mom was my best friend. Though we often disagreed, in her stately, graceful manner she always let me know that she understood and accepted me.

While growing up, many times I wanted to assume a superior air toward children of different races, religions, and socio-economic backgrounds. Mom always brought me to reality with one of her favorite quotes from James Truslow Adams, "There is so much good in the worst of us and so much bad in the best of us that it ill behooves any of us to talk about the rest of us."

When I graduated from high school in the turbu-

lent 60s and announced my desire to attend Ole Miss, Mom did not try to discourage me. She simply stated, "We will send you anywhere in Mississippi that you want to go." This was no easy task on my parents' salaries.

When it seemed as though I would lose my identity and character at Ole Miss while falling in love for the first time and experimenting with the previously forbidden pleasures of adulthood, Mom asked, "Do you want to go somewhere else and start over?"

The day that I graduated was probably one of the happiest in her life. I remember how happy Mom was when Gordon and I got married. She insisted that we have a wedding. We would have been

happy to elope. I remember her encouraging words as I changed during the reception. "You were a beautiful bride," she whispered. I had never thought of myself as beautiful.

Our weekly routine was

Saturday morning breakfast. I would call her and request fried eggs, and the two would be ready when I got there. I have not had eggs like that in a long time.

Mom often joked that she would be too old to take care of her grandchildren if my husband and I didn't soon give her some. I don't think she ever accepted the wonderful idea of planned parenthood.

Perhaps the best memory I have of Mom is one of our conversations during her hospitalization. An unexpected group had come to the library where I worked, so I had to stay longer than usual. This meant that I was late getting to visit her. Angrily, I related the incident, and then I said, "of course, every child thinks his mother is special."

"No," Mom replied. "Every child does not think his mother is special. I want you to know, that I'm proud of each of you."

A few weeks later Mom died.

Now, I am in a different phase of my being. Mom is no longer physically with me. I have become the mother. Often times, I hear her voice within me as I

seek to nurture and guide the growth and development of my two sons. I hear her saying to me, "You will later thank me for this," and I silently repeat these words to my sons while trying to instill in them my moral and spiritual values. I translate my mother's feelings to them by saying, "I want you to be men of character and integrity. I want you to be men of success and self-discipline."

No, Mom did not see her grandchildren, but they will know her through me.

The giant oak has fallen. Now the sapling is mature, and the little acorns have taken root.

My mother and I have come full circle.....



Mother's Day

GIFT SALE

Let us help you find that perfect gift for the most important woman in your life, Mama!

Air Conditioners,
Deep Freezers,
Glider Rockers,
& Much More!



NEW SHIPMENTS ARRIVING WEEKLY!
HUGE SELECTION TO CHOOSE FROM!

12 MONTHS SAME AS CASH

We Will Meet or Beat Any Competitors Price!

Before you buy, give us a try! You'll be glad you did!

Stop in and see Russel or Ann!

FINANCING AVAILABLE LEASE TO OWN



HOURS
Mon. - Fri. 8am - 5pm
Sat. 9-3

426 N. Main St.
Water Valley, MS
(662) 473-3332



North Yalobusha

Hospice & Palliative Care, Inc.
Caring With Compassion

We are seeking Volunteers to join our team. If interested please call our office at (662) 623-9084