

Looking Back

For our readers who like to reminisce on news as recorded in The Coffeeville Courier of the years gone by

85 YEARS AGO February 21, 1941

Ike Rasberry, Jr., 11-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. I. P. Rasberry of Tillatoba, died in the Grenada Hospital Wednesday after a month's illness.

Miss Virginia Riddick became the bride of Fred McCormack Saturday evening, February 15, in Oxford.

Just as we were predicting Spring was here, snow came Thursday morning.

Pete Adams, Clide Landreth, Jr., L. A. Jones, and Fran Hughes all of Oakland, spent last Friday night with friends at Northwest Junior College and attended the Valentine's dance there.

80 YEARS AGO February 15, 1946

Rev. N. B. Saucier left Monday for Bi-Loxi, where he will serve as chaplain in the Veteran's Hospital. His family will join him there later.

The Coffeeville Hatchery, which has been owned and operated for 14 years, changed hands this week. The new owners are Mr. Cecil Barnett of Winona and Mr. Luther England of Memphis.

Pine Valley is one of the 28 post offices recently abolished by the U. S. Post Office Department.

Miss Virginia J. McCullar, who recently accepted a position as secretary to Dr. Mitchell at Whitehaven, spent the weekend with her parents in Oakland.

70 YEARS AGO February 16, 1956

Funeral services for Mrs. Norma Coleman, who died of a heart attack Sunday, were held at Goshen Methodist Church Tuesday.

Hilliard E. Griffin has been awarded the appointment as Postmaster at Coffeeville.

Both the boys' and girls' basketball teams will advance to the District Tournaments this week, having won in the quarter finals.

65 YEARS AGO February 16, 1961

Leffeger Goodson, aged 36, died at his home in the Mt. Nebo Community Monday, February 13.

Next Sunday, February 19, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Harrison of Coffeeville will celebrate their Golden Wedding Anniversary.

The whole town was altered last Thursday afternoon and most of the citizens were congregated on the hill in west Coffeeville where the large home of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Peebles burned between 6:00 and 7:00 o'clock.

60 YEARS AGO February 17, 1966

Nancy Gail George, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Morris George, is among the 15 students at Mississippi State College for Women pledged by Theatre Guild on the campus there.

James Hamilton Denley is among the University of Mississippi students listed on the honor roll for the first semester of the 1965-66 session.

Miss Margie Bailey, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. P. S. Bailey, of Oakland, is among the students at Wood Junior College who have been named to the Dean's List for the fall semester, 1965.

Mrs. Mary Evans Smith, widow of the late Francis Smith, died at her home in the Hopewell Community, Sunday afternoon, February 13.

50 YEARS AGO February 19, 1976

Lula Mae Hardiman has been named Coffeeville High School 1975-76 Betty Crocker Family of Tomorrow. She won the honor by competing against 18 other seniors in a written knowledge and aptitude test on December 2.

Mr. and Mrs. Leslie Gruber of Memphis announce the engagement and forth coming marriage of their daughter, Sheryl Ann, to Morton C. Gorden, of Coffeeville.

The wedding of Miss Sherry Joy Coleman and Billy Fred Little, Jr., was solemnized December 21, 1975, at 2:30 in the Shiloh Baptist Church.

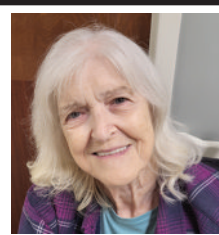
45 YEARS AGO February 19, 1981

George Blakely, Jr. and Carolyn Williamson have been selected as Mr. and Miss Yalobusha Academy.

Haley Hope Hall, 3-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. David Hall, was selected as one of the top ten in the Tiny Mississippi Miss Sweetheart Pageant.

Betty Neal was promoted to vice-president — investments of the Grenada Banking System.

Mrs. Larry Montgomery, Cancer Crusade Chairman for Coffeeville, Melodye Purdy and Milton Harris, will be appearing on the Morning Show on WTVA, Channel 9, Thursday morning.



Coffee Time

By Sarah H. Williams

Last week on Wednesday afternoon Tammy called and asked if I had eaten lunch. I told her no. I had started to the dining room and got about half way and got a call from Tammy and she wanted to know if I wanted a chicken strip and a glass of sweet tea, I told her yes and she brought it to me.

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The Coffeeville Women's Progressive Club meeting was held at the beautiful home of Ellen and Paul Harper Thursday afternoon. It was the first time I had ever been in the home. I completely enjoyed the music room. Also enjoyed the review given by Queda Denley on Vicksburg. It was so very informative.

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Two afternoons a week Marie (Ree-Ree) keeps two children, Cora and Jay Hall while their mother Maddy Brewer Hall teaches third grade here and her husband Quin also works for the school. They are precious children. Their grand-parents are Eddie and Dianne Brewer. Their great grand-parents were the late Mr. and Mrs. Berkely Brewer.

Mrs. Brewer told me to make sure I spelled his name correctly back when I was selling Christmas ads around 40 years ago.

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Please remember all of our first responders as they work to restore our power and other services.

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2026 WINTER READING CHALLENGE

Kick off 2026 by reading great books!

Register to participate in the WINTER READING CHALLENGE

Jan. 2, 2026 - Feb. 28, 2026

at Coffeeville Public Library

or Oakland Public Library

• Register at your library.

• Must be a registered library user with a valid library card and no fines or overdue items.

• Must check out and read at least six (6) print library books between 1/2/2026—2/28/2026.

• All participants will be entered in a drawing for exciting prizes!

COME READ & WIN WITH US!

Library News

By Patty Bailey

Coffeeville Friends Book Sale Begins Jan. 27

Following our book purge, Coffeeville Friends of the Library will hold a big Book Sale at Coffeeville Public Library beginning Tuesday, Jan. 27. Hundreds of discarded library books will be for sale by donation to Friends of the Library.

We will also take donated used books in good condition to add to the sale. If you love great books and bargains, plan to shop with us!

Oakland Friends Meet Jan. 28

The Oakland Friends of the Library will have their first quarter meeting Wednesday, January 28, 2026, at 1:00 p.m. This meeting is open to the public.

Winter Reading Challenge Jan. 2 – Feb. 27

Yalobusha County Public Library System is sponsoring a Winter Reading Challenge Jan. 2 – Feb. 27 which is open to all ages. The grand prize at both libraries will be a \$50 gift card provided by Friends of the Library. Other prizes will be awarded to runners up.

To participate, check out and read at least 6 library books by Feb. 27 to be entered in the prize drawing. Participants must be registered library users with a valid library card, no unpaid fines, and no unreturned materials. All Winter Reading Challenge participants who qualify will be entered in a drawing for great prizes to be awarded in both libraries.

February Is Library Lovers Month

National Library Lovers Month celebrates all things libraries. From showing appreciation for your favorite local library to sharing favorite books and love of reading. In addition to providing free access to books

and other materials, libraries serve as community centers and offer programs and services for all ages. This special month-long event is a great way to get back into reading and enjoy the simple things in life.

Library Lovers Month is the perfect time for you to share what you love about your local library. We will have posters to be filled in sharing why you love your library, and we can't wait to hear from you.

Drop-In Valentine Crafts Feb. 9 – 13

Drop-In Valentines crafts will be available in both libraries Feb. 9-13. Bring the family to make fun Valentines at the library Monday, Feb. 9 – Friday, Feb. 13.

Libraries Closed Presidents' Day Feb. 16

Coffeeville and Oakland Public Libraries will be closed Monday, Feb. 16, in observance of Presidents' Day, a federal holiday.

Homeschool Hangout Feb. 18 at Coffeeville

Homeschool Hangout is a time for homeschool students and families to use library services, play board games, put together puzzles, or use our interactive STEM kits. All homeschool families are invited to Coffeeville Public Library Thursday, Feb. 18, at 4:30 PM to hang out at the library.

Winter Grab & Go Bags

Yalobusha County Public Library System has Winter Grab & Go bags for elementary age children available free. These bags contain lots of activities and crafts for kids to enjoy during the winter months.



Living Well

In Yalobusha County By Pamela Redwine
MSU-ES Extension County Coordinator - Yalobusha County

Upcoming Activities:
January 28th - Healthy You Exercise class will meet at 9 a.m. at the Extension office. Wear cool, comfortable clothes, supportive shoes and bring water to drink.

January 30th - Healthy You Exercise class will meet at 9 a.m. at the Extension office. Wear cool, comfortable clothes, supportive shoes and bring water to drink.

February 2 – Sewing for Service - Sewing for Service will meet at 9 a.m. We will be starting on Fleece blankets for Blair Batson Children's hospital in Jackson. Each blanket takes about 4 yards of fleece fabric. If you would like to help and can not make it to sew you can purchase 4 continuous yards of a kid friendly fleece for us to use to make the blankets. Or make a monetary donation to Yalobusha county MHV.

February 2 - The Home School 4-H Club – will meet at 1:30 p.m. at the Extension office. We will be making valentine cards for the Yalobusha General Nursing Home.

February 4th - Healthy You Exercise class will meet at 9 a.m. at the Extension office. Wear cool, comfortable clothes, supportive shoes and bring water to drink.

February 5th- Looped with Love Crochet MHV – will meet at 10 a.m. at the Extension office. Bring your choice of yarn and hook.

February 6th - Healthy You Exercise class – will meet at 9 a.m. at the Extension office. Wear cool, comfortable clothes, supportive shoes and bring water to drink.

February 6th – 4-H Registration Deadline to

sign up for Freezer Meals for Families- the February FCS After 5 Program. The cost is \$25 and the link to sign up is: https://reg.extension.msstate.edu/reg/event_page.aspx?ek=0081-0004-9225329a579e45a981f9093b4ce05dc0

February 11th -Healthy You Exercise class will meet at 9 a.m. at the Extension office. Wear cool, comfortable clothes, supportive shoes and bring water to drink.

February 11th – Create Club – February 12th – Freezer Meals: February FCS After 5

February 13th -Healthy You Exercise class will meet at 9 a.m. at the Extension office. Wear cool, comfortable clothes, supportive shoes and bring water to drink.

February 16th – Sewing For Service

February 16th - The Home School 4-H Club will meet at 1:30 p.m. at the Extension office. This will be our monthly social. Bring your favorite game and snack to share.

February 16th – Congressional Award Interest meeting. – 3 p.m. at the Extension office. For youth ages 14-18 interested in applying for a congressional award.

Sign up now!!!! Saturday, March 7th Community Wide Yard Sale – 4-H Fundraiser. 12x12 Booth Spaces will be available for rent for \$25.00.

We will also be accepting donations (no clothes please) for items for Yalobusha County 4-H to sale at their booth. Please contact the Extension office at 662.675.2730 or email me at p.redwine@msstate.edu for more information.

Mississippi State Univer-

sity is an equal opportunity institution. Discrimination is prohibited in university employment, programs, or activities based on race, color, ethnicity, sex, pregnancy, religion, national origin, disability, age, sexual orientation, genetic information, status as a U.S. veteran, or any other status to the extent protected by applicable law. Questions about equal opportunity programs or compliance should be directed to the Office of Civil Rights Compliance, 231 Famous Maroon Band Street, P.O. 6044, Mississippi State, MS 39762.

Unpredictable Winter Weather and Food Safety

The weather forecast for the next week could result in many of us seeing snow and ice accumulate. Winter storms can cause power outages that disable refrigerators and freezers just as much as summer storms do.

As with power outages in any season, keep the refrigerator and freezer doors closed as much as possible. A refrigerator will keep food cold for about 4 hours if the door is kept closed. A full freezer will hold its temperature for about 48 hours (24 hours if half-full). Ok key mistake to avoid is the power goes out in winter is to try to use the winter weather as an informal outdoor refrigerator or freezer. Even when there is still snow and ice, outside temperatures can vary, causing chilled food to enter the "danger zone" of warmer than 40F and cooler than 140F, and frozen food to begin thawing. Moreover, the food can be exposed to animals and unsanitary conditions.

However, there is one way the winter conditions can be helpful. Refrigerators and freezers that lack power can still function as old-fashioned "iceboxes" that use ice instead of electricity to keep food chilled. Coolers that always use ice can be useful when the power goes out as well. Use ice to help keep food cold in the freezer, refrigerator or coolers.

Remember to place meat and poultry to one side of the freezer or on a try to prevent cross contamination of thawing juices.

Once electric power returns, it's time to carefully examine everything and discard anything that is possibly unsafe.

First, check the temperature inside of the refrigerator and freezer. If any perishable food (such as meat, poultry, seafood, eggs or leftovers) has been above 40F for two hours or more, get rid of it.

Next, check each food item separately. If there is food in your freezer that is partially or completely thawed, it can be safely refrozen if still contains ice crystals or is 40F or below. But throw out any food that has an unusual odor, color or texture or feels warm to the touch, and never taste a food to decide if it's safe. When in doubt, throw it out.

Just because the weather outside is frightful, doesn't mean your family meals can't be delightful- or at least safe.

Article Source: Winter Weather Food Safety | FoodSafety.gov

