

LIKE A PHOENIX: REBORN



AUTUMN ANNOUNCEMENTS

JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY 4-H MICHAEL ANTHONY-AGENT

Sometimes, the expression that is trite and worn proves itself true. Despite its ubiquity, “something will happen when least expected,” lives in the vernacular because, despite its overuse, it continues to hold great truth. In accordance with this well known axiom, the Jefferson Davis County 4-H Riding Club was reborn with little warning and almost no preplanning. Like the blossoms of the mysterious Cahaba Lily, the Riding Club snuck into 4-H silently, bringing an exciting new opportunity for young men and ladies in Jefferson Davis County interested in all things equine.

Over the previous few years, the Riding Club went dormant due to lack of participant interest and an absence of adult volunteer leadership. At the beginning of the summer, two existing young 4-H members began taking riding and roping lessons from adult volunteer Mister Rip Rippy, leader of the 4-H Shooting Sports Club. Mister Rippy put his fifty odd

years of experience in the saddle to work, instructing the young men about riding and roping. Through positive word-of-mouth, other young people recently joined 4-H to become part of the Riding Club, increasing the Club’s



membership from the original two to the present eight.

Working with young people and horses at the same time takes a lot of skill and patience. When asked to give of their time, three generous men stepped forth to help Mister Rippy and contribute their knowledge and love of horses to the young men and ladies of the Riding Club. Mister Buddy Steverson, Mister Albert May, and Mister Jeff McDonald are donating their time, knowledge, and practice facilities to the Riding Club.

Working together, the volunteer leaders and Club members will bring Jefferson Davis County back to the District and State Horse Shows.

The unexpected rebirth of the 4-H Riding Club is a wonderful example of caring adults willing to give their time and talents to a group of young people looking for learning and guidance. Too often, adults will complain about a dearth of positive opportunities for their children, but are unwilling to do anything to change the situation that involves work on their part. Misters Rippy, Steverson, May, and McDonald are the opposite of the aforementioned adults; these men are leaders of the Jefferson Davis County community, and should be lauded for their efforts to serve young people by imparting knowledge, guidance, spirituality, and direction to a group of impressionable people who will become the leaders of tomorrow. The example set for them will be the example they set for others.

Super State Fair Festivities & Fun

“Like sands through the hourglass, so are the days of our lives”. This well known slogan taken from the beginning of the eponymous television show, aptly describes the rapid movement of time and how much faster time seems to move as more sands fall to the bottom of the hourglass. Although it seems spring and summer activities only just concluded, school has been in session almost one month, the football season has started, and Major League baseball’s season is coming to a rapid conclusion. Pertaining to 4-H, this can only mean the Mississippi State Fair is coming soon.

The State Fair is ten days of 4-H fun. Members of Jefferson Davis County 4-H have a wonderful opportunity to get involved with the State Fair through construction of projects, assembly of collections, or the making of baked goods for submission to the 4-H Village. There exists over fifty different categories in which to enter an exhibit, so there really is something for everybody. Jefferson Davis County 4-H was very well represented at the 4-H Village last year, and it would be very nice for 4-H members to again make Jefferson Davis County’s presence known. If you have not already decided

upon your project to submit to the 4-H Village, please come to the Extension Office and ask for your State Fair Projects information packet.

In the State Fair Livestock Show, Jefferson Davis County will be represented by Livestock Club members Jay Slater and Justin Mishlan. Jay will show an Angus cross steer while Justin will show a Brahman influenced commercial heifer. Both Jay and Justin are accomplished livestock showmen who will serve as excellent ambassadors for Jefferson Davis County.

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Coming Soon. .

MISSISSIPPI STATE FAIR
STATE FAIR GROUNDS: JACKSON
OCTOBER 8-18



4-H: Serving a Different Kind of Community

“4-H is a community of young people coming together to learn citizenship, leadership, and life skills”, goes the motto of the 4-H program. 4-H was started over a century ago to serve children and adolescents and continues to primarily focus on this very important constituency. Over the past several decades, an awareness grew among 4-H leaders and mental health providers that 4-H programs would work well with adults with mental disabilities, even though this group of people are physically over the age of eighteen. While most 4-H leaders work hard to involve children with mental disabilities in their county programs, too often these children are left behind or inadvertently excluded from the myriad of program available through 4-H. Consequently, these people grow up with no expose to, or knowledge of, 4-H. Thanks to a modern awareness that people of all ages with mental disabilities are capable of successfully completing projects of all types, there are

more young people and adults with mental disabilities now enrolled in 4-H than ever before.

About two months ago, Mrs. Percilla Walker, Director of Adults with Developmental Disabilities at Pine Belt Mental Health Care Services, approached the 4-H Director and inquired about bringing 4-H programming to the adults in her charge. After some brief research on the part of the



The members of Pine Belt's 4-H Adult Learning Class proudly pose for a group picture.

4-H Director, 4-H programming came to Pine Belt. Beginning the first week of July, the adults in the developmental disabilities class work on a 4-H project on day every other week. Programming has focused on step-by-step hands on activities. Each participant creates a project he or she can take home at the end of the class. Beginning at the end of August, participants began working on projects for the 4-H Village at the Mississippi State Fair. Participants enjoy the classes and the opportunity to be a part of 4-H.

Working through 4-H with adults prevents different opportunities and challenges than does working with the typical 4-H constituency. It is an exciting and rewarding opportunity to bring the goals of 4-H: learning citizenship, leadership, and life skills, to a previously overlooked population.

MVLA: ADULTS IN SERVICE TO YOUTH

The Mississippi Volunteer Leaders Association, or MVLA, is an organization of caring adults who join together for the purpose of promoting and supporting youth activities through the Extension Service. Whether it is sponsoring 4-H activities, the Junior Master Gardeners Association, or sponsoring regional and state leadership and training activities, the statewide success of 4-H would not be possible without the support and work done behind the scenes by the members of the MVLA.

On Saturday, 15 August, the MVLA conducted a District Volunteer Leaders Training at the Coastal Research and Extension Center in Biloxi. Taking time out of their weekend to attend from Jefferson Davis County were adult volunteers Mrs. Cynthia White and Ms. Charlene Fairley. Both

ladies attended the State Volunteer Leaders Association Meeting at Mississippi State earlier in the year, so attending the District Training was something of a refresher course for them. At the District Training, both Mrs. White and Ms. Fairley attended three different workshops, ranging from learning about the State 4-H Leadership Team to learning about GIS systems and all “points” in between.

Mrs. White stated she learned a lot from attending the training and could use the information about State 4-H Leadership Team when the time comes for her children to apply for the prestigious program. Mrs. Fairley decided to further involve herself in the MVLA by running for Assistant District Coordinator for the Southeast

District. She won the election and will now work in concert with the District Coordinator to plan upcoming events designed to increase the exposure of the MVLA and allow its members to serve more of Mississippi's youth. If you are interested in learning more about MVLA or joining this great organization for adults, please contact Ms. Fairley, Mrs. White, or State MVLA President Mister Bert Sanders, 662-647-8746. Though MVLA you can serve the young people of



Mississippi, have the opportunity to travel to exciting workshops, and make new friends from across the State. Don't wait to get involved.

You can Fill the 4-H Rainbow

Jefferson Davis County 4-H offers many programs for people of diverse and varied interests. From livestock to cooking to leadership development, the 4-H program in the County has been established and has begun to grow. However, if Jefferson Davis County 4-H can be compared to a rainbow, then there are not yet all seven colors in the ribbon that streaks across the sky from New Hebron to Oakvale to Bassfield. There are programs missing from the

pantheon of diverse colors from Jefferson Davis County's 4-H rainbow, and it is up to the adults in the County to step forth and volunteer their time and talent to be a leader to the young men and ladies of the County. The young people are here, waiting for guidance and eager to learn. Like the four men who recognized a need and stepped forth to lead the Riding Club, it takes the will and effort of a caring adult to lead a 4-H club or program. If you are stumped for ideas, Jeffer-

son Davis County 4-H is in need of a performing arts, visual arts, creative arts, music, and horticulture program; among others. If you have a talent in one of these areas, or there is something else you would like to share with the young people of the County, please do not wait to come forward. Through your time and effort you can help fill the missing colors of the rainbow that makes up Jefferson Davis County 4-H, leading young people to the rainbow's pot of gold.