

Kemper County Messenger

Established 1934 – DeKalb, Mississippi

Thursday, March 25, 2021

87th Year – 1934-2021

No. 12** 50¢

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Editor's note: The Kemper County Messenger publishes the Community Calendar weekly in this space. It covers events, announcements and happenings in Kemper County. We welcome your news and comments. If you would like to have something placed in the Kemper Messenger, contact the office at 601-743-5760 during business hours; or mail it to Kemper Messenger, P.O. 546, DeKalb, MS, 39328. The Messenger's writer, Steve Swogetinsky, may be reached at 601-776-6102.

MSU EXTENSION NEW CLASS OF MASTER GARDENERS

Registration opens March 1 for the newest class of Master Gardeners, who will receive their training online this year. This year, all Master Gardener instruction is online and self-paced. The class begins May 1 and closes June 30. The cost is \$125 for those who want to become certified Master Gardener volunteers and provide 40 hours of service. For \$200, a home-gardening course is available for those not interested in the volunteer service. Non-volunteer participants can pay \$25 per class for select classes if they prefer. These individual classes are available year-round. Registration is open from March 1 until April 15. Register for the training and learn more about the Master Gardener program at <http://msuext.ms/mg>.

MEETING OF KEMPER COUNTY WOMEN'S CIVIC LEAGUE

The Kemper County Women's Civic League plans to hold their first meeting of the year on Tuesday, May 11 at 12:00 in the DeKalb Library.

GARBAGE BILL PAYMENTS

Attention: ALL KEMPER COUNTY LANDOWNERS effective January 1, 2021 all garbage bill payments must be taken at the Commercial Bank located in DeKalb, MS (in-person) please have account number.

The Kemper County Courthouse will no longer be accepting garbage payments. Payments can be mailed to:
K. C. Garbage & Solid Waste
P.O. Box 39
DeKalb, MS 39328
Or call 1-800-253-0831 for questions regarding your account

JRMWV PROGRAM

Junior Master Wellness Volunteer Training Recruitment going on now. We are looking for youth 14-18 years old to join us for an exciting volunteer program.

The JrMWV Program is a community health education and volunteer leader training program. Youth will learn about improving health literacy and healthy lifestyle choices and will then go out into their community and become an advocate for a healthier Mississippi! Participants will be expected to give back by completing 24 hours of community service.

Come learn, share, and inspire others to lead a healthy lifestyle. For more information or to sign up call the Kemper County Extension office at 601-743-2837 or send an email to malikah.jones@msstate.edu.

COALITION FOR A HEALTHY KEMPER COUNTY

The Coalition for a Healthy Kemper County was organized to provide educational outreach. The goal is to bring educational awareness of health issues and unhealthy lifestyles that accompany diseases such as diabetes, hypertension, high cholesterol, etc. We solicit the help of area leaders, organizations and individuals working together to make a positive impact on the lives of our community members. If you are interested in helping us carry out our mission, contact Malikah Jones at the Kemper County Extension office at 601-743-2837 for more information.

COURTHOUSE MASK REQUIREMENT

Due to COVID-19 and Governor Reeves adding Kemper County on December 1, 2020 to the mask mandate list that requires residents to wear masks in certain circumstances, entrance to the Kemper County Courthouse will be through the East door (side facing Hwy 39) until further notice. Please note that your temperature will be checked before entering the building and wearing a face mask is required.

THE CHURCH OF CHRIST

The Church of Christ meets for worship every Sunday at 11 a.m. at 14678 Hwy 16.

MULTI-COUNTY CSA TEMPORARY OFFICE PROCEDURES KEMPER COUNTY

Due to COVID-19 we are providing tele-service only. Face-to-face, in-house appointments are temporary suspended. Please call our office to schedule a telephone appointment.

If you are a senior citizen or receive disability income AND have been assisted this year, you DO NOT need an appointment. Please submit your bill (for which assistance is needed) by mail, email, fax or drop box. If you are a senior citizen or receive disability income and HAVE NOT been assisted, please call for a telephone appointment.

To receive services, the following are needed: Bill (for which assistance is needed), Photo Identification, Social Security Cards, Proof of income, Unemployment/Child Support/SNAPS, Documents may be submitted by mail, email, fax or drop box.

Your application will NOT be processed unless ALL documents are submitted. Phone (601) 743-5752, Fax (601) 743-2506, Email

See **CALENDAR**, page 2

Residents urged to get vaccine

Compiled by STEVE SWOGETINSKY
The Kemper Messenger

State health officials continue to urge all Mississippians to get their appointments for the COVID-19 vaccine shot.

Gov. Tate Reeves made the announcement week that everyone in Mississippi may now call and make an appointment to take the vaccination shot.

To register for an appointment at a Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH) drive-through site, visit <https://covidvaccine.unc.edu> or

call the MSDH COVID-19 Hotline at 1-877-978-6453 for additional assistance.

Follow MSDH by e-mail and social media at HealthyMS.com/connect.

As of Monday, the Mississippi Health Department reported that Kemper County has had 937 reported cases of COVID-19 since March 2020, an increase of 10 cases since last Monday.

There have now been 25 COVID-19 related deaths in Kemper County, an increase by one since last week.

Statewide, the rate of the number of new reported cases

increased across the state this past week by 2,051. There have been 302,932 cases reported in Mississippi since March 2020, and 6,956 reported deaths, an increase of 53 since last week.

The governor has rescinded his mask ordinance. However, the Kemper County board of supervisors still have its county-wide mask ordinance in place until April 5.

It is strongly advised by health officials that people wear masks when they are out in public and social distancing is strongly urged.

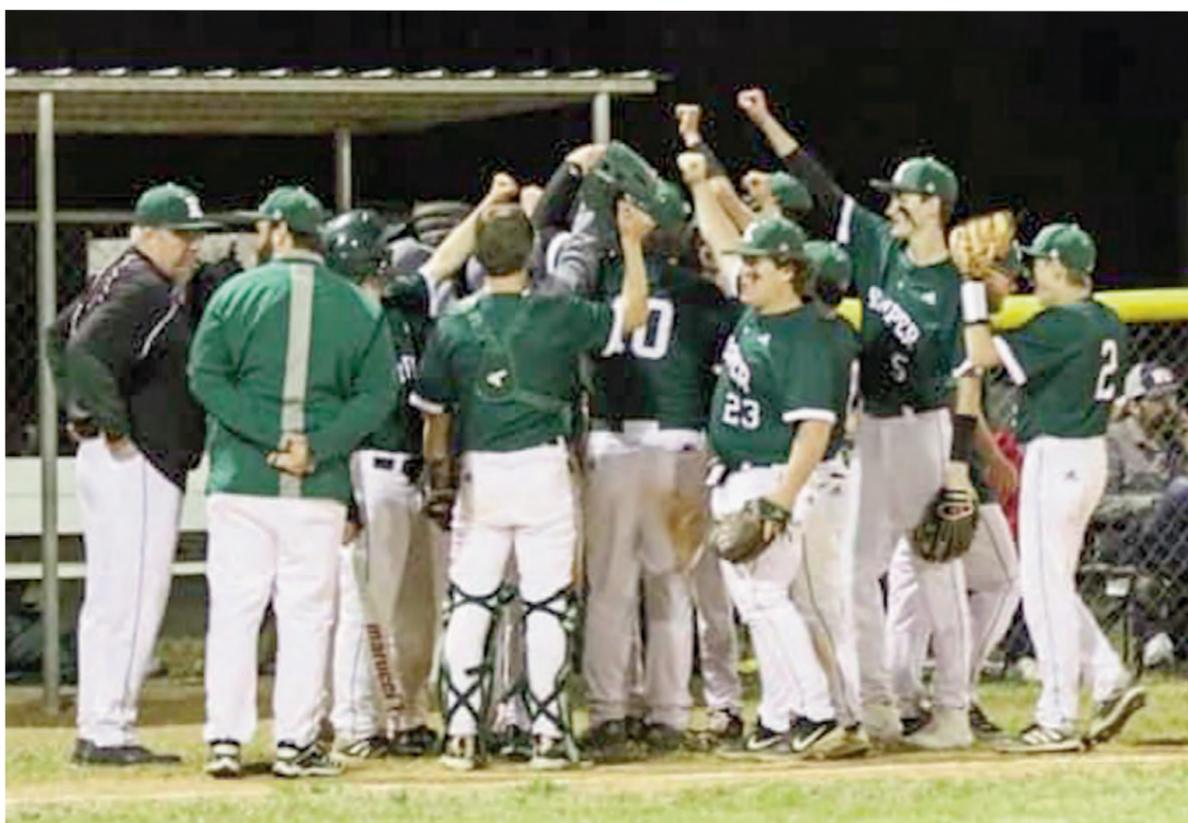
The Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH) advises

Mississippians to please be patient when visiting the drive-through vaccination sites. Please arrive for your vaccination appointment 15 minutes early, and please keep your assigned appointment time.

The Mississippi State Department of Health has announced that a new variant strain of COVID-19 has been identified in Mississippi. State health leaders announced Friday that the more infectious South African strain of COVID-19 has been discovered in a person in Harrison County, according to state news reports.

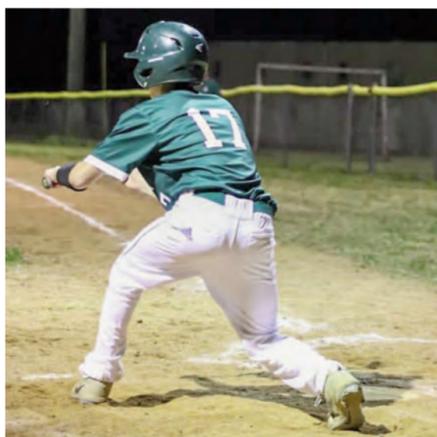
See **COVID-19**, page 2

kemper academy baseball



The Kemper Academy baseball team is off to a 4-6 start. Dylan Williamson is on first base tagging player out while Kix Wilson plays catcher. Landon Dickson (17) is batting. The Rams dropped a 7-6 decision to Newton Academy Monday night. They were to visit Columbus Christian on Thursday and Calhoun Academy on Saturday

Photos by
Cindy Bobo



Ashford-Ashworth tapped for new role at EMCC

From school reports

East Mississippi Community College is pleased to announce that Dr. Nikita L. Ashford-Ashworth is joining the college as the district director of advising, retention and student success.

Ashford-Ashworth's primary responsibilities will be to direct and coordinate academic advising for students across all campuses while promoting student success and enhancing institutional retention efforts. She will work with the enrollment management, student affairs and instructional departments to review and grow retention and student success initiatives with the goal of improving student experiences and outcomes.

"I am excited about the transition," Ashford-Ashworth said. "My first priority will be to get

an understanding of how everything works at EMCC and see where we can make improvements. We want to go from being transactional to relational and proactive in our advising. We also want to develop a college-wide retention strategy that promotes student success."

Her first day of work on campus will be April 6. She will divide her time between the college's Golden Triangle and Scooba campuses.

"We are excited to have someone of Dr. Ashford-Ashworth's caliber join our EMCC family," Vice President of Instruction Dr. James Rush said. "We believe her experience and active involvement with national academic advising and retention associations is invaluable and she will be transformational in leading EMCC in approving academic advising practices, cultivating student success and growing

retention efforts."

Among other things, Ashford-Ashworth is a member of the Global Community for Academic Advising, the National Academic Advising Association and the Association for Student Conduct Administration.

She has a long history in higher education, most recently serving as the director of advising and academic support at Southwest Tennessee Community College in Memphis. There she worked in various roles, including that of interim vice president of student affairs and enrollment management and director of student activities, to name a couple.

Ashford-Ashworth earned a bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Mississippi State University; a Master of Business

See **RETENTION**, page 4

Rodeo team enjoys successful spring season opener

From school reports

MERIDIAN — East Mississippi Community College successfully opened the spring portion of the 2020-21 collegiate rodeo season this past weekend by winning the women's team competition and finishing as men's runners-up while hosting the school's 9th Annual Intercollegiate Rodeo.

The three-day Ozark Region event concluded with Saturday night's championship round held at the Lauderdale County Agri-Center.

The EMCC women set a pro-

gram record by scoring 480 team points in securing their eighth region event team title (second this season) since the school's inaugural rodeo season in 2010-11. This past October, EMCC claimed women's first-place honors at the Southern Arkansas rodeo with 475 team points.

While the EMCC men's team totaled 710 points in placing second behind Missouri Valley College's 1,025 points this past weekend, East Mississippi's teams also set a new school standard for one rodeo by combining for 1,190 total points between them.

EMCC's women out-distanced

West Alabama (255 points) and Missouri Valley (205) during the spring opener in Meridian, while UT Martin and West Alabama placed third (550 points) and fourth (515), respectively, on the men's side.

EMCC's talented sister tandem of Jaylie and Taycie Matthews (Wynne, AR) combined to collect 280 points between them while finishing first and third, respectively, in the barrel racing competition. Jaylie, the National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association's top-ranked barrel racer during the COVID-shortened 2019-20 season, earned the maximum 180

points this past weekend with winning runs of 15.01 and 15.04 seconds to claim her fifth region event title. Her younger sister, Taycie, grabbed 100 points after entering spring competition as the NIRA's second-ranked collegiate barrel racer.

Mikayla Joh Almond (Olin, NC) recorded EMCC's other 200 women's team points by winning the breakaway roping event with times of 2.2 and 2.7 seconds along with scoring in goat tying.

In addition for the EMCC women, Blair Bryant (Hatch-

See **RODEO**, page 4

Hot-shooting EMCC Lady Lions win handily

From school reports

SCOOPA — With 16 made three-pointers and five players scoring in double figures, the Lady Lions of East Mississippi Community College claimed their fourth consecutive victory with a convincing 105-45 win over Northeast Mississippi during Thursday's MACCC North Division women's basketball.

In shooting 47 percent from beyond the three-point arc on the night, the 16 made treys (in 34 attempts) are believed to be a single-game school record for the Lady Lions. The 105-point

outing marks the first time an EMCC women's team has reached the century mark for points scored in a game since claiming a 102-58 home win over Coahoma during the 2015-16 season.

EMCC's commanding 60-point triumph over Northeast sets up a crucial Saturday afternoon home meeting with division-leading Itawamba. Tip-off is set for 2 p.m. at Currie Coliseum on the Scooba campus. The ICC Lady Indians currently sit atop the MACCC North Division's women's standings with a 9-2 record, but Coahoma

and EMCC both follow close behind with division marks of 9-3 and 8-3, respectively.

Taking on the Northeast women for the third time during an 18-day span, Thursday's offensive explosion for EMCC appropriately started with a made three-pointer by sophomore transfer guard Jenessa Souza.

After scoring the last seven points of the opening quarter to double up the Lady Tigers, 24-12, by the first break, the home-standing Lady Lions proceeded to score the first 24 points of the second quarter before the visi-

tors could manage a made free throw by Dekenzie Sharp at the 2:54 mark.

EMCC's 31 unanswered points helped secure an insurmountable 53-16 halftime advantage.

Following intermission, Souza's sixth three-pointer of the game stretched the margin to 50 points (82-32) early in the fourth quarter. Having reached the 90-point mark with six minutes still remaining in the contest on Shakira Wilson's fifth triple of the night, the Lady Lions eclipsed the century mark when Markiema Lancaster

converted a layup after making a steal with 1:34 left on the game clock.

Along with shooting 49 percent (38-77 FGs) overall from the field for the game, the Lady Lions held Northeast to just 28 percent (16-58 FGs) field-goal shooting while also holding a 51-36 rebounding advantage.

Souza and Wilson each finished with a season-high 20 points on 11 made three-pointers between them (on 19 combined attempts). Kyunna Thomas chipped in with a season-most 13 points, while Lancaster and Ja'Mia Hollings fol-

lowed with 10 points apiece. Point guard DenAsia Mitchell added nine points and a season-high 11 assists for the winners.

Brittney Oswalt and Calysia Phillips led Northeast with 14 and 13 points, respectively.

Following Saturday's key home matchup against Itawamba, EMCC head coach Sharon Thompson's reigning conference champions are scheduled to close out the regular season next week with a Monday road contest at Holmes and Wednesday's home meeting with Northwest Mississippi.

OBITUARIES

EUNICE LEE ROBERTS - ELEBY

Funeral services for Eunice Eleby were February 6, 2021. Graveside service was at Forest Lawn Memorial Garden Meridian, MS. EE McDonald Funeral Home officiated.

Mrs. Eunice Roberts Eleby is survived by her siblings: Mary E. Roberts Listenbee, Lonnie J. Roberts Oliver, Lodia W. Roberts, Della M



Eunice Lee Roberts-Eleby

Roberts Eddington, Arlies Roberts (Marie), Leonard V Roberts, Ualla M. Roberts

Carter, Mildred J Roberts Carter, her children: Dorothy Faye Eleby Holmes, Peggie Lee Eleby, James Curtis

Eleby (Belinda), Virgil Jean Eleby, AL Larry Eleby, also seventeen grandchildren, seventeen great-grandchildren, and fifteen great-great-grandchildren, with a host of nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Mother Eleby was preceded in death by her husband of 61 years Curtis Eleby, her parents James Alonzie Roberts and Lucy Mae Roberts, siblings Ruby J Roberts Alexander, Othella Roberts Kirk, Loreen Roberts

Holdfield, AL Lemar Roberts, and Alonzie Roberts, Jr and great-granddaughter MicKay-Lee A. Smith

MAE WRIGHT BREWER

A private family graveside service was held for Mae Wright Brewer on Friday, March 19, 2021, at Coy Community Cemetery. McClain-Hays Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

Mrs. Brewer, 68, of Pheba, MS, died Monday, March 15, 2021.

A native of Kemper County, she was a graduate of Kemper County High School. After graduation she attended EMCC and Mississippi State University where she received her Master of Education degree. She served as the Superintendent of Education for West Clay Elementary School for 28 years until she retired. She was currently

serving as an Election Commissioner for Clay County.

Survivors include two grandchildren; twin sister, Faye Wilson of DeKalb; sister, Jo Pigott of Meridian; and brother, Dee Luke Wright of Louisville.

Mrs. Brewer was preceded in death by husband, Walker Gene Brewer; stepson, Dean Brewer; parents, Virgil and Eccelle Wright; and sister, June Wright.

Legals and Classifieds

LEGALS

LEGALS

IN THE CHANCERY COURT OF KEMPER COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF LEVI C. GLISPIE, DECEASED CAUSE NO.: 20-75 NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Letters Testamentary having been granted on March 3, 2021, by the Chancery Court of Kemper County, to BENJAMIN A. GLISPIE, Executor of the Estate of LEVI C. GLISPIE, Deceased. Notice is hereby given to all persons having claims against said Estate to present the same to the Clerk of this Court for probate and registration according to law within ninety (90) days from the first publication of this notice, or they will be forever barred. DATED this 10th day of March, 2021. BENJAMIN A. GLISPIE, Executor of the Estate of LEVI C. GLISPIE, Deceased By: R. Kelly Kyle, MSB No. 09392 Kyle Wynn & Associates, PLLC Post Office Box 1578 Madison, Mississippi

pi 39110(601) 978-1700 FAX (601) 978-1770 Publication Dates: March 18, March 25, April 1, 2021

OFFICE OF STATE AID ROAD CONSTRUCTION MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND KEMPER COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

SECTION 900 NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS

Sealed bids will be received by the Board of Supervisors of Kemper County, Mississippi at the Kemper County Courthouse, DeKalb, Mississippi, until 10:00 am on the 6th day of May, 2021 and shortly thereafter publicly opened for the construction of 0.046 miles of PRECAST CONCRETE SPANS WITH PAVED APPROACHES on the BETHEL CHURCH ROAD being known as Project No. LSBP-35(22) in Kemper County, Mississippi. PRINCIPAL ITEMS OF WORK ARE APPROXIMATELY AS FOLLOWS: ITEM QUANTITY UNIT

ROADWAY ITEMS: MOBILIZATION LUMP SUM LS CLEARING AND GRUBBING LUMP SUM LS REMOVAL OF BRIDGE AT STA. 14+62.73 1.000 UN CLASSIFIED EXCAVATION (F.M.) 421.000 CY EXCESS EXCAVATION (F.M.) 235.000 CY GRANULAR MATERIAL (L.V.M.), 174.000 CY (CLASS 9, GROUP B) SIZE 1 STABILIZER AGGREGATE, 41.000 CY COARSE MIXING, SHAPING AND COMPACTION 349.000 SY 15" REINFORCED CONCRETE PIPE, 64.000 LF CLASS III RIGHT-OF-WAY MARKERS (TYPE II) 8.000 EA MAINTENANCE OF TRAFFIC LUMP SUM LS ADDITIONAL CONSTRUCTION SIGNS 0.000 SF REFLECTORIZED TRAFFIC OBJECT MARKER 4.000 EA (ENCAPSULATED LENS) (TYPE 3 EROSION CONTROL ITEMS: AGRICULTURAL LIMESTONE 0.540 TON COMMERCIAL FERTILIZER (13-13-13) 0.270 TON SEEDING 0.270 AC VEGETATIVE MATERIALS FOR MULCH 0.810 TON SOLID SODDING 200.000 SY TEMPORARY SILT FENCE 500.000 LF (TYPE II) (AOS

0.15-0.84) WATTLES, 20" 150.000 LF LOOSE RIPRAP, 200 LB. 40.000 TON BRIDGE ITEMS: TEST PILE 2.000 EA CONVENTIONAL STATIC PILE LOAD TEST 0.000 EA SECTION 900 PROJECT NO. LSBP-35(22) KEMPER COUNTY 14" PRESTRESSED CONCRETE PILING 450.000 LF 18" PRE-FORMED PILE HOLES 40.000 LF 31" PRECAST CONCRETE SLAB UNIT, 18.000 EA 3.5' INTERIOR 31" PRECAST CONCRETE SLAB UNIT, 6.000 EA 3.5' EXTERIOR PRECAST CONCRETE BARRIER RAIL 186.000 LF 31.0' PRECAST CONCRETE CAP, 2.000 EA INTERMEDIATE UNIT, CONCRETE PILE 31.0' PRECAST CONCRETE CAP, 2.000 EA END UNIT, CONCRETE PILE 9.25' PRECAST CONCRETE WING 4.000 EA LOOSE RIPRAP, 300 LB. 51.000 TON GEOTEXTILE UNDER RIPRAP, 157.000 SY (TYPE V), (AOS. 21.-43) PROJECT NO. LSBP-35(22) KEMPER COUNTY NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS: CONTRACT TIME: 50 Working Days

BASIS OF AWARD The award, if made, will be made to the lowest qualified bidder on the basis of published quantities. The Board of Supervisors hereby notifies all bidders that it will affirmatively insure that in any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, minority business enterprise will be afforded full opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, or national origin in consideration for an award. PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS are on file in the Office of the Chancery Clerk of Kemper County, the LSBP Engineer's office and the Office of the State Aid Engineer, 412 E. Woodrow Wilson Avenue, Jackson, Mississippi. This project shall be constructed in accordance with the latest edition of the Mississippi Standard Specifications for State Aid Road and Bridge Construction. PLANS AND PROPOSALS may be secured from Terrell W. Temple, LSBP Engineer for Kemper County, Mississippi, 1724B 23RD Avenue,

Meridian. The Cost is twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) for plans and twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) for the proposal, non-refundable Certified check or bid bond for five percent (5%) of the total bid, made payable to Kemper County and the State of Mississippi must accompany each proposal. Bidders are hereby notified that any proposal accompanied by letters qualifying in any manner the condition under which the proposal is tendered will be considered an irregular bid and such proposal will not be considered in making the award.

James "Pat" Granger, President Kemper County Board of Supervisors

HELP WANTED

Kipling Water Assn. will be taking applications through March 31st for a full time Maintenance Helper. Job description and applications available at the DeKalb office of EMEPA.

Calendar

Continued from page 1

lclark@multicountycsa.org, Mail/Drop Box- P.O. Box 126, 39 Bell Street, DeKalb, MS 39328.

ONLINE PRIVATE APPLICATOR CERTIFICATION NOW AVAILABLE

In response to limited face-to-face training caused by COVID-19, the Mississippi Department of Agriculture-Bureau of Plant Industry has approved an online private applicator certification program developed by the MSU Extension Service. Persons needing to obtain or renew their private applicator certification can complete the online training (two video training modules and a competency exam) by visiting the Online Private Applicator Certification Program on the Mississippi State University Extension's website at extension.msstate.edu. The fee for training and testing is \$20, payable online by credit card, debit card, or eCheck. Successful completion of the training will certify the private applicator to purchase and use restricted use pesticides (RUPs) in the State of Mississippi for a period of 5 years. For more information contact your local extension office at 601-743-2837 or Mississippi Pesticide Safety Education at 662-325-5829.

VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE HOURS

During the COVID-19 cycle, the Kemper County Veterans Service Office will be open normal hours, for appointment only. For those Veterans or surviving spouses, please call ahead for appointments. Walkins will be seen when time and space allows, and if unable to assist an individual, an appointment will be made. The Kemper County Veterans Service Office is located in the Courthouse Annex, 29 Bell Street, DeKalb, MS. Hours are Monday and Tuesday, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. To set up an appointment, or for further information, please call Marie Wilson, County Veteran Service Officer, 601-743-2247, or email kcvso@att.net.

FREE MATTER OF BALANCE CLASS

Matter of Balance Classes have been POSTPONED until further notice.

ADULT JIGSAW PUZZLE

Adult Jigsaw Puzzle meet-ups have been POSTPONED until further notice.

EARN YOUR HS DIPLOMA

Earn Your High School Diploma in just 22 weeks! Tuition, Room and Board is absolutely Free! Youth Challenge, located at Camp Shelby Mississippi, is the Premier Alternative Education Program for 16 to 18 year old youth, who are struggling in the traditional school environment and for those who are no longer attending. Challenge also offers nationally certified job skills and College classes through a

local University.

We accept both Male and Female Applicants, 16 to 18 years of age. For an Application or more information call: 1-800-507-6253 or visit our website: msyouthchallenge.org

KEMPER COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT ANNOUNCES BEAVER CONTROL COST-SHARE PROGRAM

Applications are now being accepted by Kemper County SWCD for the Kemper County Beaver Control Cost-Share Program. The Mississippi Soil and Water Conservation Commission and the Kemper County Board of Supervisors have funded the program to aid non-industrial private landowners in beaver control. For more information or to make application, contact the Kemper County SWCD located in the NRCS Office, USDA Service Center, Daws Building, 197 Hopper Avenue, DeKalb, MS or call 601-743-9588, extension 3.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED AT CIVIL AIR PATROL

Headquarters Mississippi Wing Civil Air Patrol United States Air Force Auxiliary 1635 Airport Dr. Jackson, Miss. Volunteers needed! G.V. "Sonny" Montgomery Squadron, CIVIL AIR PATROL, Meridian, is looking for new members. Meeting time is Monday nights (except holidays) at 5:30 p.m. in building 308 at Key Field Membership categories: Cadets (youth) ages 13 - 18 (but may

remain as a cadet until age 21.) Senior Members: age 18 and up. contact: Captain Carolyn Holiman 601-490-0206 ms102-cc@mswg.cap.gov.

TODAY'S MOM

A FREE educational program is being offered to help moms-to-be learn how to make healthier choices for themselves and their baby. Today's Mom, is comprised of a series of six free lessons that includes: Keep Baby Safe, Food Safety, Pregnancy Concerns, Healthy Choices, Physical Activity, Recipe Testing and Breastfeeding. If you are interested in this program. Please call Mary Bennamont at the Kemper County Extension office 601-743-2837 to find out about classes or if you have any questions. Email: mlb267@msstate.edu

FREE BOOKS TO CHILDREN UNDER 5 YEARS OLD

Kemper County is a participant in the Dolly Parton Imagination Library Program providing a free book mailed monthly to the child in the child's name from birth until the child reaches the age of five. This project is sponsored by the United Way of East Mississippi, the Strasser Family Foundation and the Partners for Kemper County, Community Foundation of East Mississippi. To enroll your child on the website enter uwem.org and click on Impact Programs Imagination Library or imaginationlibrary.com and select the "PAR-ENT" tab located at the top of the web page. Registration cards may also be picked up at the

Kemper County Library or the Kemper County Economic Development Authority office during normal business hours. Contact Loretta Hulin, Kemper County Imagination Library Coordinator on 601-416-8279 for additional details.

FREE & FREE EATING SMART BEING ACTIVE!

You're invited to a Eating Smart Being Active Class Being overweight or obese can lead to health problems like diabetes, high blood pressure, and heart disease. Southern cooking and our love of soul food might make you think healthy eating is difficult. Join us for a 9 session course where you will learn about healthy eating, cooking with new recipes, saving money at the grocery store, and getting physically active. You'll learn all these topics and MORE! There will be goodies given away, and you can taste a new recipe while discussing and sharing valuable information. Bring a friend and come expecting to have fun! Please call Mary Bennamont at the Kemper County Extension office 601-743-2837 to find out about classes or if you have any questions. Email: mlb267@msstate.edu

CUB SCOUTS SEEKING

SCOUTS

Pack #4 of Kemper County Cub Scouts is looking for interested individuals (boys and girls) from the ages of six year olds to twelve year olds that are interested in scouting. Meetings are held on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month at 5 p.m. at the Barney Brown Senior Citizen Building. Point of Contact: Billy J. Rush, Cub Master.

NEW LIFE RETREAT DRUG & ALCOHOL REHABILITATION & EDUCATION

Narconon New Life Retreat would like to remind families to stay educated on the signs and dangers of drug abuse. Methamphetamines and opioids are on the rise in both rural and city areas. Learn the signs and protect your loved ones from drug abuse and addiction.

The amount of deaths caused by Methamphetamines has almost tripled since 2014. To learn more, visit: <https://www.narcononnewliferetreat.org/blog/the-other-drug-epidemic.html>

FREE DRUG EDUCATION

Narconon provides free drug education materials covering a wide range of topics. Please call today for your free drug education materials at: 1 (800) 431-1754

COVID-19

Continued from page 1

B.1.351 is the official name of the strain and originated in South Africa. It was first detected in the United States back in January. Twenty-five other states have also reported cases of this new strain.

Another variant, the UK strain, was identified in Mississippi back in mid-February and has affected 10 patients so far in the state, according to Dr. Paul Byers.

Dr. Thomas Dobbs urges people to continue to seek vaccinations. He said the new strain will seriously impact the unvaccinated population.

LEGAL NOTICE

The Kemper County School District is soliciting competitive written proposals from qualified vendors for providing internal connections services. These services shall be provided to the Kemper County School District during the 2021-2022 school year contingent upon Erate funding. Vendors may elect to submit proposals for internal connections at specified locations in the district. Complete specifications may be obtained from the Kemper County School District Central Office at the address noted below, <https://www.kempercountyschools.org>, or by calling 601-743-2657. Proposals must be received on or before 12:00 p.m. on March 26, 2021. Proposals must be marked "2021-2022 Erate Internal Connections Bid." They must be mailed or delivered to

Kemper County School District
159 Main Avenue
P.O. Box 219
DeKalb, MS 39328

The Kemper County School District reserves the right to accept or reject any and all proposals.

(USPS 292280)

The Kemper County Messenger is published every Thursday in DeKalb, MS 39328. James E. Prince, III, President. Subscriptions are \$36 per year in Kemper County, \$40 per year outside of the county and \$43 a year outside of the state. Single Copy price is 50 cents. Periodical postage paid at DeKalb PO office. POSTMASTERS: send change of address to Kemper County Messenger, Box 546 DeKalb, MS 39328; 601-743-5760 Monday noon is the deadline for all news submissions, advertising, weddings and obituaries. The Kemper County Messenger reserves the right to reject or edit any or all advertising.

CHAPTER 7 BANKRUPTCY
\$545 + Costs
CHAPTER 13 BANKRUPTCY
Court Fees Up Front
Jim Arnold, Attorney
601-656-6914

Carb-friendly alternatives for tasty meals

Compiled by DENISE SWOGETINSKY
Kemper Messenger

Tired of the same old meals, day after day, after day? Try some carb friendly, delicious alternatives that will surely excite your taste buds.

GARLIC BUTTER SALMON IN FOIL
1/2 cup unsalted butter (melted)
1 tablespoon brown sugar
1 tablespoon lemon juice
3 cloves garlic (minced)
1/2 teaspoon dried oregano
1/2 teaspoon dried thyme
1/2 teaspoon dried rosemary

kosher salt
freshly ground black pepper
2 pounds salmon
2 tablespoons fresh parsley leaves (chopped)

Preheat oven to 375 degrees F. Line a baking sheet with foil. In a small bowl, whisk together butter, brown sugar, lemon

juice, garlic, oregano, thyme, rosemary, salt and pepper, to taste. Place salmon onto prepared baking sheet and fold up all 4 sides of the foil. Spoon the butter mixture over the salmon. Fold the sides of the foil over the salmon, covering completely and sealing the packet closed. Place into oven and

bake until cooked through, about 15-20 minutes. Serve immediately.

BACON WRAPPED CHICKEN ROLL
10-12 Piece Of Bacon
2 Chicken Breasts
Half a small onion Finely Diced

Half a cup of Grated Mozzarella Cheese
Half a cup of Diced Tomatoes
2oz Softened Cream Cheese
Good Handful of fresh Spinach
2 Tablespoons of Finely

See COOK, page 4

Kemper County Devotional Page

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Acts 5:12-16

The gospel is often set forth in that phrase, "the kingdom of God." The kingdom of God is set up in our hearts, the kingdom of the Spirit of grace where Christ prevails over us to set us free from the law of sin and death, the tyranny of the devil, and corruption of the world.

ertheless were impressed (verse 13).

There were various reasons why the people were afraid to join the believers. They knew of the sudden deaths of Ananias and Sapphira. They were also aware of the threats the rulers had made to the apostles. Their refusal to join was a fear of losing their lives, not just fear of death, but their way of life. They chose to stay as they were.

In this passage we see the blessedness of those who enter the kingdom of God. The power of the kingdom of God is displayed in the "signs and wonders" done by the hands of the apostles among the people (verse 12).

Peter and the other apostles taught very plainly. They proclaimed Jesus of Nazareth as the promised Christ of the Old Testament prophets. He had been crucified according to the set plan and will of God. He was raised from the dead. He ascended to the throne of God. There is forgiveness of sins in his name and eternal life. But there is no salvation possible in any other way or any other name.

People are being healed from all manner of sickness and those afflicted with unclean spirits (verse 16). These Acts of the Apostles are in the context of men in this world suffering bodily and spiritual afflictions due to sin. Men are in need of what only God can do. The kingdom of God comes to us in the midst of our misery.

Jesus had also taught very clearly what was at stake in responding to his appeal to come to him. He had said it does a man no good to gain the whole world and lose his soul. He also said you must lose your life for his sake, and that whoever believed in him would have everlasting life. Those who refused would die in their sin and perish.

The miracles are signs that instruct us and direct us. These signs are meant to point us to the power of God for salvation. God is able to deliver us from sickness and death. In Christ, God delivers us from the root of all our misery; our estrangement from God.

The apostles are doing the same miracles that the Lord Jesus did in his ministry. And the now exalted Lord Jesus is behind these miracles. He is doing them through his apostles. Jesus did miracles and told people, "Come unto me." The apostles are doing miracles but not saying, "Come unto me." Rather, they are preaching the gospel, and saying "Come unto the Lord Jesus Christ."

So it is obvious those who didn't come to him did not believe what he said or what his apostles said about him. They saw no worth in Christ or his words to come to him. They admired from a distance some of what he said, and the power of his miracles. They were almost Christians.

The miracles emphasize our need of bodily and spiritual healing. Only Christ can grant this salvation, and so we must listen to him. The apostles didn't point to the miracles as an end in themselves, but taught the truth of Christ, of his person and work; the good news of the kingdom of God in connection to these things.

You can't be double-minded and come to Christ. What we love carries the soul where it goes. It will carry us to earth if we are earthly and to heaven if we are heavenly. We have sin and corruption in our being. Only Christ can cure that; without him, there is coming destruction.

Miracles are not sufficient to prompt one to unite himself to Christ. We see some people were fearful of joining the believers, while others were being added to the church (verses 13-14). Those who dared not join the church nev-

He alone can give light to your soul, life from the dead, pardon of sin, peace with God, a robe of righteousness, joy of the Holy Spirit, adoption by God, a title to heaven, eternal life, and countless other riches of his grace. He came that we may have life. He is too good to refuse.

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'And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who[a] have been called according to his purpose.'
Romans 8:28

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"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!"
— 1 Corinthians 5:17 (NIV)

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In the Garden with Felder Rushing

It's legal to gamble in the garden, which is good because I just threw money, effort, and hope at some tomato plants.

Yeah, though the horticulturist in me said hold off, it's early and we have until August to plant for a full fall harvest, my inner gardener couldn't help getting started. But then for years I wore a lapel pin that only half-jokingly proclaimed "Take my advice - I'm not using it."

I tried avoidance techniques like taking long walks to admire spring flowering trees and watch neighbors mow their spring meadows. But I always back in my little raised bed garden, digging the dirt, savoring the petrichor - that sweet odor released from moist earth. I did whatever I could to put off actually planting summer vegs, herbs, and flowers.

Besides, I already have cool-season English peas climbing branchy bamboo stakes, and double rows of broccoli and cauliflower (the latter for roasting and dipping like chicken wings). But there's room between those plants, and the warm soil is so alluring...

Being more of a chilehead than 'mater-master, I usually plant eight or ten types of those colorful nutrient- and vitamin-dense berries, even the uber-hot Carolina Reaper, literally too

hot to handle, but growing them is such a macho thing. I try to harvest enough peppers to freeze for when they hit a buck and a half apiece in the store, or dry them into seasoning flakes.

But - dare I admit this - I fall short of the pinnacle of garden-dom; in spite of being raised by a dad who grew bushels of them in just plain Delta topsoil and decades of working professionally with tomato growers, I can't grow decent tomatoes.

Tried it all. Planted by the moon in good garden dirt, in raised bed blended dirt and compost, in big pots painted red for encouragement. Planted deep so they root along buried stems, staked and trussed-up vine-types and caged bush-types. Pinched out small suckers to leave just two or three strong stems, mulched with everything from bark to pine straw, watered deeply but not too often.

Fertilized with both commercial and organic nutrients and borderline-gimmicky Epsom salts, sprayed whiteflies and aphids, thumped big stinkbugs, plucked mini-dragon hornworms. Fought the various blights that cause plants to "fire up" with withered brown leaves, and prevented blossom-end rot with extra calcium.

Still, knowing I'll likely fail, I give it a go because they give



They all grow about the same



Felder's paint bucket Tomatoes

me hope. Occasionally I get a few fruits before they peter out or crack, or squirrels beat me to them, and I do surprisingly well with July transplants that produce better in Autumn's coolness.

I've even Sharpied smiley faces on green ones, in case that's as good as they ever get.

By the way, just as the "real mayo or Miracle Whip" debate

will never be settled satisfactorily, no two gardeners can agree on the best variety to grow. Some like 'em sweet, or with an acidic bite. We grow big juicy slicers, firm-fleshed soupers, and mouth-popping cheery types. There's a litany of favorite disease-resistant hybrids and exotic heirlooms; do an online search for Seed Savers Exchange or Baker

Creek, and you'll dehydrate from salivating over just the photos and descriptions of what's available from seed.

Or just set out whatever varieties your locally-owned garden center folks carry based on what your neighbors come back asking for year after year.

They all grow about the same, given decent soil, sunshine, nutrients, staking or

caging to keep them from sprawling, and water. And luck - all my horticulture knowledge, and for me it's still a gamble.

Felder Rushing is a Mississippi author, columnist, and host of the "Gestalt Gardener" on MPB Think Radio. Email gardening questions to rushingfelder@yahoo.com.

Rodeo

Continued from page 1

echubbee, AL) earned 85 individual points by tying for third place in breakaway roping.

Leading the EMCC men, former national collegiate all-

around champion Marcus Theriot earned men's all-around honors with 390 total points during the spring opener. Along with winning the tie-down roping event with a short-go effort of 8.1 seconds, the Poplarville product placed second in team roping with teammate Cole Curry (Liberty)

in addition to tying for third place in steer wrestling with teammate Myles Neighbors (Benton, AR).

Also in the team roping event for the Lions, Matt Watt (Scooba) teamed with his brother, Jacob from West Alabama' team, to score 85 points apiece for a third-place finish. West

Smith (Emmet, AR) paired with UWA's Cooper Malone to also score points in team roping to round out the team scoring for

the EMCC men.

Coach Morgan Goodrich's East Mississippi rodeo teams are scheduled to continue

NIRA Ozark Region competition this week (March 25-27) at Pearl River Community College in Poplarville.

Retention

Continued from page 1

Administration from Belhaven College; and a Doctor of Management in Organizational

Leadership at the University of Phoenix. She also completed 18 credit hours in education at the University of Memphis.

She and her husband, Edward M. Ashworth, enjoy traveling, sight-seeing and spending time with family.

Ashford-Ashworth, who is a graduate of Starkville High School, still has family in the area and her brother, nephews and uncle are graduates of EMCC.

"This will be like a homecoming for me," she said.

Cook

Continued from page 3

Chopped Cilantro
Salt and pepper to taste

Pre-heat oven to 450F. Pound out the chicken breasts until thin enough to roll. Lay out the bacon flat barely overlapping. Place the Chicken on top. Mix the spinach, cilantro, tomatoes, mozzarella and onion together in a bowl. Spread the cream cheese on the chicken breast and salt and pepper to taste. Place mixture from bowl onto middle of chicken breast. Careful roll up the chicken breast and use the bacon to secure in place (if you wish to secure in place with wooden skewers please do)

Carefully place completed roll into an cast iron skillet on a medium heat. Brown the bacon

on all sides being careful when turning to avoid roll falling apart. Place skillet in oven at 450F for 20 mins to complete cooking. Remove from oven and allow to rest for 5 minutes before slicing.

AIR FRY ROASTED TURKEY BREAST

3 to 5-pound bone-in, skin-on turkey breast, fully thawed
2 tablespoons mayonnaise
2 tablespoons unsalted butter, softened
1 teaspoon of salt
1/2 teaspoon black pepper
1 teaspoon fresh rosemary, finely chopped
1 teaspoon fresh oregano, finely chopped
1 teaspoon fresh sage, finely chopped
1 teaspoon fresh thyme leaves, finely chopped
1 teaspoon lemon zest

Preheat the air fryer to

350°F. In a small mixing bowl, combine the softened butter and mayonnaise. Then add the herbs, salt, pepper and lemon zest. Stir to combine. Using clean hands (or a brush), rub an even coating of the herb butter on all sides of the turkey breast. Place the turkey breast in the air fryer basket skin-side down so it comfortably fits inside the basket. Cook for 25 minutes. Then, flip and cook for an additional 25-35 minutes.

Remove from the air fryer when an internal temperature of 160°F has been reached and the skin is golden and crisp. Remove the turkey from the air fryer and set onto a carving board.

Cover with foil and let the breast rest for 10 minutes. Note that the turkey will continue to cook slightly as it rests and bring the internal temperature up to the USDA recommended 165°F.

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