

Kemper County Messenger

Established 1934 – DeKalb, Mississippi

Thursday, April 1, 2021

87th Year – 1934-2021

No. 13** 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:

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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.

OURTHOUSE 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 teleservice 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

No primaries set for Tuesday

By STEVE SWOGETINSKY
The Kemper County Messenger

There will be no municipal primary elections in Kemper County next week.

All contested races in the towns of DeKalb and Scooba will be settled in the General Election on

June 8.

In DeKalb, there are two contested races, Mayor Clark Adams, a Democrat, is being challenged by former mayor Homer Hall who is running as an independent.

In Ward 3, incumbent Tracey Naylor, an independent, is being challenged by Democrat Sampson

Scott. Those running unopposed are: Bessie Gale, Ward 1; Mamie Alexander, Ward 2; Mary Donald, Ward 4; and, Keith Barnes, Ward 5.

All candidates in Scooba are running as independents.

Mayor Craig N. Nave is unopposed and will go in for his first full term.

Incumbent Ward 3 alderman Margaret Ann Jackson is being challenged by Sarah A. Buie.

Those running unopposed in the other alderman races are: Kelvin Brown, Ward 1, Kenneth E. Sparks, Ward 2; Chris Collins, Ward 4 and Rodney Woodard, Ward 5.

honoring health care heroes

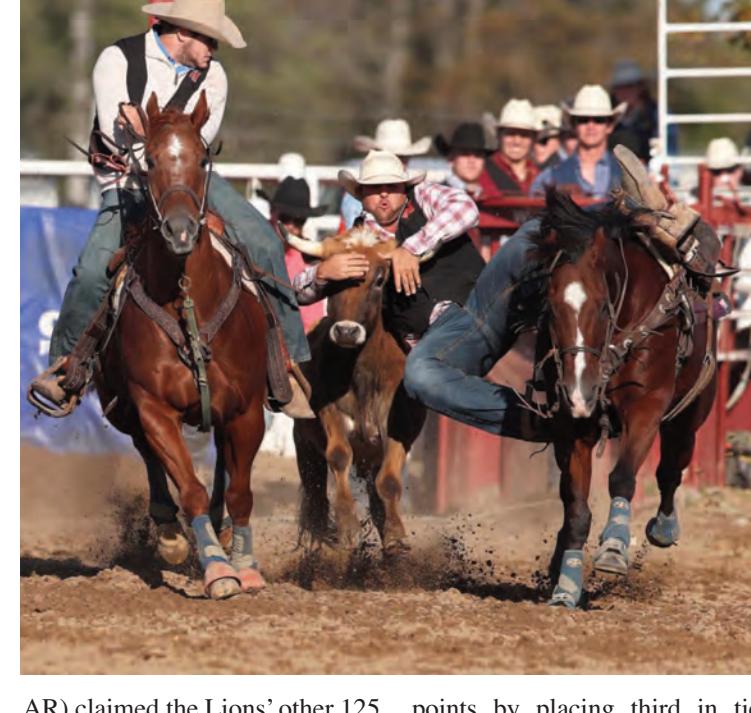


Submitted photos

Kemper County Homemakers Honor Health Care Heroes

Kemper County MHV Council provided "Thank You" meals to honor local healthcare workers. "We wanted to let our doctors, nurses and health care staff know that their hard work has not gone unnoticed", said Kemper County Extension Coordinator, Malikah Jones. This project was supported by the Partners for Kemper County Advisory Council.

EMCC earns pair of runner-up finishes at rodeo



AR) claimed the Lions' other 125 points by placing third in tie-

down roping behind Smith and also scoring in the steer wrestling event.

In women's competition, Blair Bryant (Hatchetubee, AL) led the way for EMCC by garnering women's all-around honors with 195 individual points earned in two events. In addition to finishing second (125 points) in breakaway roping with efforts of 2.8 and 3.0 seconds, Bryant earned 70 more points while teaming with Kody Boatright of Arkansas-Monticello in team roping.

EMCC's team points on the women's side were earned by Mikayla Joh Almond (Olin, NC) and Jaylie Matthews (Wynne, AR) in breakaway roping and barrel racing, respectively.

In their third straight week of NIRA Ozark Region competition, Coach Morgan Goodrich's East Mississippi's rodeo teams will compete in this week's (April 1-3) event hosted by the University of Arkansas at Monticello.

Kemper Academy STAR Student and Teacher for 2020-2021



Dylan Williamson



Iva Lou Cumberland

tional level of achievement," said Vickie Powell, Senior Vice President of Foundations. Each STAR Student is asked to designate a STAR Teacher, the teacher who has made the greatest contribution to the student's scholastic achievement.

Mrs. Iva Lou Cumberland was designated as STAR Teacher.

Over 600 STAR Students and STAR Teachers will be recognized for their exceptional achievement by MEC's M.B. Swayze Foundation with medallions, certificates and lapel pins. The top 20 STAR Students –The ALL-STAR Scholars – will receive scholarships and their STAR Teachers will receive awards provided by the Kelly Gene Cook, Sr. Charitable Foundation. The highlight of STAR is the naming of the Mississippi ALL-STAR Scholar for 2020–2021 school year and winner of the coveted \$24,000 Cook Foundation Scholarship.

gratulate all of our STAR Students

and STAR Teachers for their excep-

Sweets that maintain health, low carb diet

Compiled by DENISE SWOGETINSKY
Kemper Messenger

We're beginning to get out and socialize again.

This usually will mean covered dishes. If there is never a sweet option there that will stay with your healthy lifestyle, then

bring one. These are mouth-watering crowd pleasers that are sure to turn heads.

BOSTON CREAM PIE CAKE

1 package sugar-free white cake mix, batter prepared according to package directions 1 (4-serving size) package

sugar free instant vanilla pudding
2 cups milk

CHOCOLATE GLAZE

1/2 cup Splenda
4 teaspoons cornstarch
2/3 cup water
1 ounce (1 square) unsweetened chocolate

1 teaspoon vanilla extract

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. Coat a 9- x 13-inch baking dish with cooking spray. Add batter and bake according to package directions; let cool. Using the end of a wooden spoon, poke holes about 1-inch apart all over top of cake. In a

medium bowl, whisk pudding mix and milk until slightly thickened. Pour mixture into holes and spread evenly over top of cake. Chill 1 hour.

To make Chocolate Glaze, in a medium saucepan over low heat, combine sugar, cornstarch, water, and chocolate; cook until chocolate is melted

and mixture is thick and smooth, stirring constantly.

Remove from heat and stir in vanilla. Allow to cool, then spread gently over top of cake. Chill 2 hours or until ready to serve.

See COOK, page 4

Kemper County Devotional Page

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"This devotional page and directory is made possible by these businesses who encourage each and everyone of us to attend worship service."

GETTING THE MESSAGE/Rev. Chris Shelton

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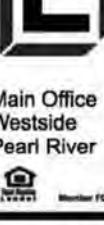
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— John 3:16 (NIV)

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Easter 2021

In Colossians 3:1-3, the apostle Paul writes: "If you then have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God."

The apostle infers that Christ has been raised, and that all who belong to him by faith have been raised spiritually with him. Christ's bodily resurrection from death and ascension into heaven is an article of the Christian faith. The power of a holy Christian life lies here.

Christ's resurrection is an evidence of his conquest. If he had not conquered he could not have risen. When he rose from the dead, he encouraged his disciples not to fear (Matthew 28:10). We hold on to all by the resurrection of Christ.

When Christ tells his people not to fear, there is solid ground for the encouragement. Fear not death, for I have overcome death; and the evidence is in my resurrection. Fear not sin, because I have made satisfaction for it on the cross. Fear not the devil: I, by my resurrection, have crushed his head; nor the world for I have overcome the world.

Christ has trod upon the necks of all our spiritual enemies and conquered them all. Paul is instructing Christians that once you are raised with Christ, you are born into a living hope. With spiritual resurrection there is life, so the apostle directs us to have our hearts set on the life in Christ. Therefore, whatever we do is to be by faith, bearing witness to Christ, who is seated above in glory.

Christians in this world meet with many troubles and temptations, so we need to remind ourselves that we are raised with Christ. The same Spirit is promised to us that raised Christ from the dead. We are seekers. We seek that which is above, the honor of Christ, so we must make use of the means the Lord provides: prayer, his word, assurance in the sacraments, worshipping with other Christians.

Paul says, "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly."

Paul equates the power of Christ's resurrection with the spiritual resurrection God works in those who believe in Christ. The work of grace in a Christian is not a small work, but a powerful work. It was a powerful work that raised Christ from the dead, and so it must be to raise a man dead in sin to faith and life in Christ.

When Christ was put to death, there was a stone rolled over his grave, and it was a work of God's power to remove it as it was to raise Christ. So whoever finds this work of grace in their hearts should be full of thanksgiving unto God for his inestimable favor, and especially this powerful work, which Paul likens to God's command in the beginning: "Let there be light." (2nd Cor. 4)

Paul is encouraging Christians to live out the spiritual life we have in Christ. We have an obligation to the Spirit that dwells in us. We were dead in trespasses and sin, but made alive in Christ. Lazarus was four days in the grave before Christ raised him. We can easily imagine how this miracle endeared his love to Christ exceedingly.

We would naturally love one who, through great hazard and danger to his own life, was instrumental in saving ours. Our lives in this world are numbered and short. How much more should you love Christ who has given you spiritual life and granted you escape from eternal death? A Christian's life is not his own but belongs to Christ. He has secured an inheritance that waits for us.

The apostle Peter writes: "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time (1st Peter 1:3-5)."



'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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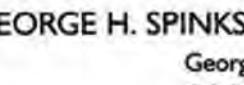
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"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!"

— 1 Corinthians 5:17 (NIV)





Leaving a clump is a start

In the Garden with Felder Rushing

My first strong memory of our childhood lawn was vowing to "not have any grass to mow when I grow up." And I didn't.

Even though I studied turf management at MSU and have had a career of lawn and golf course consulting, I don't have a personal lawn. My garden is small, plus I'm gone most of every summer, so I choose to not fuss with one at all.

Don't get me wrong, I love nice lawns. But in my lifetime I've participated in a couple of lawn revolutions, with the current one slowly getting us back to what's sensible and sustainable.

More gardeners are embracing the "meadow lawn" approach, a deliberate "mow what grows" lawn that is cut higher or less often than the manicured horticultural effort it takes for a perfect lawn. It usually includes low-growing wildflowers and the butterflies, bees, and other wildlife that depend on flowers to forage. This is how it's done in places where keeping big lawns looking perfect is impractical.

One way to pull it off is to have, closer to the house, a smaller, well-tended "throw rug" of a lawn, like a putting green on a golf fairway.

The smaller area can be mowed more often, and fertilized, watered and kept weed-free much more easily. It would be

both easier to tend and stand out like a jewel, a testament to your skills and pride in a job well done.

Just mow the larger area higher or less often, and allow the winter and spring wildflowers do their things before being mowed a bit later and be gone for the rest of the year.

This approach is being promoted in botanic gardens, and is now being studied by lawn, weed, and even pollinator researchers at MSU (more on this later), as a way to conserve resources and protect the environment yet still leave room for the hard-working lawn care industry to work its horticultural magic.

True, a simple "mow what grows" lawn may not look perfect, but we did it ever since the first mechanical mower was patented less than two centuries ago. And truthfully, most folks would just as soon get back to it without being shamed by neatnik neighbors.

By the way, I've compiled a list of socially-acceptable small or low-growing winter and spring bulbs that can be added to make it all look more gardenesque, including Tete a Tete daffodils, grape hyacinth, and the sweet blue starflower (Ipheion) that I got from my grandmother's lawn.

I've been advocating this for

decades. Now, to get going in earnest, I'm almost done with a placard, a virtue signal of sorts along the Yard of the Month lines: a pretty Meadow Lawn sign given to folks who do this well.

Meanwhile, if nothing else, deliberately mow around a few patches of clover, oxalis, or dandelions so the Easter bunny can find a place to hide eggs next spring. Just like we all did as kids

'Nuff of this rant. I'm not trying to change any minds, just giving a heads-up that there's a middle road between doing nothing and doing everything is here. Look around, there are spring meadow lawns everywhere, which when mowed will look just like regular lawns.

And take hope. This new gathering of MSU researchers taking up the mantle is looking for ways to give the meadow lawn more scientific credence. Those already on board are paving the way for neighbors - maybe even you - to feel more relaxed as well, at least in part of your yard.

Up to you to make it look good.

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

EMCC basketball set to host tournament games

SCOOBA — In securing No. 6 regional seeds with third-place MACCC North Division regular-season finishes, the East Mississippi Community College basketball teams are set to begin competition by hosting second-round games during this week's NJCAA Region 23 Basketball Tournament action.

Following first-round byes, the EMCC women will play host to 11th-seeded Copiah-Lincoln (5-8) on Wednesday (March 31), while the EMCC men will entertain No. 11 seed Southwest Mississippi (6-8, 7-9 overall) on Thursday (April 1). Both sec-

ond-round tournament contests are set to tip off at 6 p.m. at Keyes T. Currie Coliseum on the Scooba campus.

Coach Sharon Thompson's reigning conference champion EMCC Lady Lions enter post-season tournament competition with a 10-4 record both overall and in division play. They have won six of their last seven decisions, including a four-game winning streak before dropping a 51-50 home decision to MACCC North Division co-champion Itawamba back on March 20. The Lady Lions closed out the regular season

with a commanding 81-39 home triumph over Northwest Mississippi last Wednesday (March 24).

Coach Billy Begley's EMCC Lions posted an 11-5 overall record and 9-4 division mark during regular-season play. They will begin regional action having won eight of their last 10 contests, including a pair of four-game win streaks. The Lions concluded the regular season by dropping a 73-62 home decision to Holmes on March 22.

Because of their division-only schedule, the EMCC women did not meet the Co-Lin

Lady Wolves during the 2021 regular season.

Along with playing their MACCC North Division slate, the Lions split a pair of inter-division February decisions with Southwest Mississippi and posted an 87-70 road win over Meridian. During their regular-season split with Southwest, the EMCC men avenged a 90-83 home overtime loss to the Bears (Feb. 6) by claiming a narrow 76-75 road win over SMCC three weeks later (Feb. 27) in Summit.

Following this week's opening rounds, tournament action

will continue at on-campus sites of higher seeded teams with the Region 23 quarterfinals set for April 5-6 (women on Monday and men on Tuesday). The tournament semifinals (April 7-8) and championship contests (April 9) will then be played at Mississippi College in Clinton.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the MACCC is not playing its annual basketball conference tournaments this year. Instead, the MACCC North Division and MACCC South Division regular-season champions have been declared co-conference champions for 2021. In

response to the pandemic, divisional winners were named using a formula consisting of 80 percent of a team's winning percentage and 20 percent of a team's total number of games played.

In women's action, Coahoma and Itawamba shared the MACCC North Division title, while top-ranked Jones went undefeated in the MACCC South. In men's play, Northeast Mississippi edged Holmes to claim the MACCC North crown, while ninth-ranked Pearl River won the MACCC South title.

Cook

Continued from page 3

TRIPLE COCONUT POKE CAKE

1 box sugar free white cake mix
4 large egg whites
1/3 cup oil
1 cup milk
3 tsp Coconut extract
3/4 cup unsweetened coconut

FOR THE TOPPING
2 pkg sugar free instant coconut pudding (3.4oz)
4 cups Milk
2 cups Heavy whipping cream
1/4 cup Splenda Powdered sugar
3 tsp Coconut extract

mixed. Bake cake in 9x13" for 20-22 minutes. Check for doneness by inserting a toothpick into the middle of the cake. If the toothpick comes out clean, you cake is done. Allow to cool for 10 minutes. While the oven is still on, toast the coconut. Spread out on a baking sheet that is lined with parchment paper or baking mat. Bake until coconut starts to turn golden brown. Remove from oven and allow to cool. While the cake is still warm,

take the end of a wooden spoon or another round object and poke holes all over the top of your cake.

When the cake has cooled, prepare the pudding layer by mixing instant coconut pudding with 4 cups of cold milk. Before the pudding sets, pour it over the top of the cake slowly and put the cake in the fridge to let the pudding set, about 15 minutes. The longer it sets the better. Prepare the whipped cream. Put the bowl and whisk attachment in the freezer for 5-10 minutes to get them really cold (this step is optional, but a common practice I use.). In cold mixing bowl, pour in heavy whipping cream and beat on medium speed for about 3 minutes. Add powdered sugar and coconut extract. Mix and increase speed to medium high. Beat

until stiff peak form. Spread whipped cream over the top of cake. Sprinkle with toasted coconut. This cake must stay refrigerated.

ALL AMERICAN PUDDING CAKE

1 package sugar free white cake mix
25 drops red food coloring
25 drops blue food coloring

1 package sugar free instant vanilla pudding mix
1 1/2 cups milk
1 (12-ounce) container frozen sugar free whipped topping, thawed

Red, white, and blue sprinkles for garnish

Prepare cake mix according to package directions for 2 (8-inch) round cake pans. Divide batter evenly between 2 bowls. Stir red food coloring into one

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Calendar

Continued from page 2

ty 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 Benhamon 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.narcononnewlifetreat.org/blog/the-other-drug-epidemic.html>

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