



KCHS WINS
Sports page > A10

FIRST THINGS FIRST

Some things just feel right

As you read this column you are holding in your hands a dream that seemed as though it would never become reality.

As of last Friday, my wife Barbara and I became owners of the Kemper County Messenger. Over my 45 years of journalism I had toyed with the idea of owning a paper, but it seemed like it was a thought that would never be birthed into fact.

A few months ago when Jim Prince, the longtime owner and publisher of the Messenger, and a man this community owes much to for keeping this paper alive during bleak times, approached me about the possibility of purchasing the paper.

I thought that ship had sailed. Just a few months earlier I had publicly announced that at the end of 2021 I was retiring from the journalism business. Then I got the call.

Barb and I prayed about this opportunity and felt like it was truly what the Lord wanted us to do. So here we are, owners, publishers, and editors of the Kemper County Messenger.

See First, page 2



Employment growth on tap for Emelia

By Austin Bishop
Kemper County Messenger

There were two presentations with very positive news for Kemper County made to the Kemper County Board of Supervisors during its regular meeting on Monday morning.

Representatives from

Emelia Resources LLC, which employees just under 100 people, told the board that they had just landed a new contract that could eventually lead to them making 30 new hires and possibly being in operation 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The volume of work will also require them to need extra warehousing space.

The supervisors were informed that this new line they would be producing and packaging would be on a "permanent" basis, instead of a temporary one.

There was also discussion of needed repairs to the current county-owned facilities the company operates from.

In another matter Dr. Scott Alsobrooks, presi-

dent of East Mississippi Community College, gave a report on the two-year school's connection with Kemper County.

EMCC currently has 106 full-time students from Kemper County with 43 of the school's 275 full-time faculty and staff members currently residing in the county. Every student from Kemper County received

some kind of financial aid, totaling \$624,268.93 for the 2020-21 academic year.

In another matter County Road Manager Glenn Williams shared a concern that the employees he supervises have with the county's newly mandated direct deposit policy. Williams said he just

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Crowning moment



Avery Luke (left) is crowned 2021 Kemper Academy Homecoming Queen by last year's Homecoming Queen Katlynn Holley (right).
JASON DYESS/Messenger



ANicaya Baylor crowns Kayla Hearn as the 2021 Kemper County Homecoming Queen.
JASON DYESS/Messenger

SEE PAGES 10 -13 FOR MORE OF THE CROWNING MOMENTS FROM FRIDAY NIGHT.

Retired State Sen. Sampson Jackson II reflects on legislative career

by Monique Harrison
Henderson
Kemper County Messenger

Longtime local State Senator Sampson Jackson II says that he looks back on his years representing Dis-

trict 32 with a sense of both pride and peace.

"I look back at some of the things that we did – some of the accomplishments – and I have to say, I think we did really good," he said. "I feel good about the time I spent there and

the work I did for the people. That was always it for me – doing what I could to actually help people."

Jackson represented District 32, which includes parts of Kemper, Lauderdale, Noxubee and Winston counties, since 1992.

At the time of his resignation, he was the chair of the Senate Forestry Committee. He had previously served on a number of legislative committees, including appropriations,

corrections, energy and education.

The 68-year-old



Jackson

See Retire, page 3



2021

HOME COMING

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 9

11:30 a.m.
Alumni Luncheon and Awards

2 p.m.
EMCC vs. Northeast Mississippi

Woman faces multiple charges in weekend shooting

By Austin Bishop
Kemper County Messenger

A Meridian woman has been charged with two felonies in the aftermath of a Saturday morning shooting that left her husband in stable condition in a Jackson hospital. Kemper County Sheriff

James Moore said that Dorthea Crowe, 32, is currently in the Kemper County Jail under a \$50,000 bond on a charge of aggravated assault/domestic violence and a \$25,000 bond on a charge of felony possession of a firearm. Moore said his department's investigation following the

shooting revealed that Crowe, whose address is listed as 107 71st place Apt. A117 in Meridian, had a previous felony conviction.

Moore said the victim, 41-year-old Kenneth Donell Crowe, suffered multiple gunshot wounds and was treated by emergency personnel at the

scene before being transferred to Jackson.

The shooting took place at 4:30 a.m. Saturday at a home at 386 Rosie Coats Road, according to the Sheriff's office. Moore said that both the alleged shooter and the victim are residents of Meridian. He said that the shooting took place at the unoccu-

pied dwelling of the victim's relatives.

According to the investigation Dorthea Crowe, along with one of her relatives, drove to the house that morning where a confrontation took place between the alleged shooter and the victim. According to an eye witness Dorthea Crowe put

the gun into her mouth and threatened to kill herself. At that point the witness left the room in order to go outside to get a cell signal to call law enforcement.

After hearing gunshots the witness returned inside the building to find Kenneth Donell Crowe had been shot.

Local team works to educate about vaccines

By Mike Robertson
Kemper County Messenger

During the pandemic, which began in the spring of 2020, some areas of the state have been more heavily affected than others, with Kemper County being one of those areas.

In fact, DeKalb Alderman Tracy Naylor stated he believes the community has been one of the hardest-hit in the state. For this reason, Delta Health Alliance is working with a local team to help educate residents about the COVID vaccines and the impor-

ance of being vaccinated, with Naylor heading up that group.

Delta Health Alliance is a non-profit organization that seeks to understand the fundamental causes of poor health in the region through comprehensive research programs and statistical analysis of relevant data, and based on the research results will fund programs to increase access to health care and education for residents.

Naylor and team members Wallace Grady, Rontal Jenkins, and Margaret Jackson are part of that education process as they engage local residents wherever

they possibly can. The team goes to churches, schools, parking lots or wherever people might be found to present true and accurate information about the vaccines.

Naylor stated that only about 40 percent of Kemper County residents have received the COVID vaccinations, but in the three months the team has been working they have seen an increase in the numbers, so it appears that their efforts are working.

Vaccinations are available at the Health Department, and periodically there are other locations

such as the Farmers Market, Kemper County High School, and on certain days at EMCC. Those times and locations are advertised on social media, television, radio, and the newspaper. Churches also alert their members. These vaccine drives are held every couple of weeks, and it should be noted that the vaccines are free of charge.

Naylor added, "I would just like to tell the people that the vaccines work. I have gotten vaccinated myself. I have seen that the



vaccines help save lives." He also noted that most of those who die from the virus are mostly the unvaccinated.

First

Continued from page 1

ger. It just felt right.

As I moved into my 50s (I'm now 63), I began to realize that if I ever owned a paper it would be the one in DeKalb. I live 17.1 miles from the doorsteps of the Kemper County Courthouse and over my many years working for the Messenger off and on and for The Meridian Star for what seemed like an eternity I got to know the people of Kemper County. And more importantly, they got to know me.

I remember shaking the hand of coach Billy Brown following a West Kemper football game in the late 1970s. Most of you who know coach Brown recognize that you never forget that handshake.

Honestly, over time, despite graduating from Louisville High School in 1976 and living near the Daleville community in Daleville since 1987, I have become to feel like a Kemper Countian. What happens here matters to me and more importantly what the future holds for this county has a place in both my heart and dreams.

So, what kind of newspaper will the Messenger become? Well, that's really pretty simple. If it's local and matters to you, we are interested in it getting in the paper.

Of course we will cover the local governmental

bodies and the schools, but it must go much deeper than that.

On the Community page of this week's paper you will find the return of the "Looking Back" feature. That has always been one of my favorites. Another thing I would love to see return is the local community columns. If you are interested in writing about your community, let us know. I want to see columns about communities, churches, and local organizations. Tell us, and the readers of this newspaper, what is happening with you!

I have talked to the top administrators at both the Kemper County School District and Kemper Academy and have let them know if it is happening on their campuses we are interested. I have also reached out to the media relations people at East Mississippi Community College and let them know the same thing.

For the most part myself, and others on staff, will cover the news and politics, but the community is welcome to submit local interest items for publication.

The paper you hold in your hand is 16 pages. That's the smallest it will be. If our ad revenue picks up we may go up to 24. It would make me happy if it had to be 32 pages. The size of your local newspaper is driven by revenue.

While we will do our best to run every local item that is submitted, we also want to balance our coverage

with statewide and perhaps even nationwide news that has an impact on Kemper County.

When local photos and news items are submitted we will do our best to get them in the very next paper. If not that one, then the next. It is our goal that if you send us something to run we will never take longer than 17 days for us to get it in for you.

My heart's desire is that each week you are eager to get a Kemper County Messenger so that you can read about people you know, as well as about things you need to know.

You can look for this column on the front page of the paper each week. Sometimes it will be about particular subjects; sometimes it may be about the newspaper itself; sometimes it may be somewhat whimsical; and often it will touch on multiple topics and subjects that I hope will both interest and inform you.

I would like to submit items to the paper you can e-mail them to office@kempercounnymessenger.com or to my personal e-mail address at starsportsboss@yahoo.com

You are also free to text or call me at 601-938-2471.

We ask you to be patient during our growing pains as we strive to bring Kemper County the local newspaper it so richly deserves.

Be blessed!

Austin Bishop is editor and publisher of the Kemper County Messenger.

Bishop, who has worked in the journalism field for 45 years, is also pastor of

Great Commission Assembly of God in Philadelphia. He can be reached by e-

mail at starsportsboss@yahoo.com.

W.J Coleman for MS State Senate District 32



I, W.J Coleman was born and reared in Louisville, MS. I'm married to Jacqueline V Coleman and blessed with 7 children.

Some of my educational endeavors include Mary Holmes College, where I obtained an A.A in Theology and Charisma University a B.A in Education and a M.A in Divinity as well as a Doctorate in Theology. I have been in the Ministry for 30+ years.

I'm the Founder and CEO of Coleman & Coleman Associates, LLC. and Kingdom Foundation Ministries.

We need responsibility and accountability in our educational system. First by having quality assessments for the different styles of learning per child. Visual, Auditory, Tactile and Kinesthetic.

Crime and Violence reduction in our neighborhoods by introducing The Joshua Transformation Project Inc. that provides training and community organizing to work with law enforcement to minimize the violence in our surrounding areas.

Improvement of our State and Governmental agencies where they can provide better services for those that are falling through the cracks. Wasteful spending and fraudulent claims taking away from those who are in need of these services.

My stand is Pro-God, Pro-Life and Pro-traditional Family/Marriage.

I support law enforcement and all first responders.

Fiscal responsibility, limited Government, and the protection of our religious and civil liberties.

Paid for by the Friends to Elect W.J. Coleman to State Senate

ARRESTS

KNRCF Jail Docket
September 19 - Oct. 2
9-22
Brittany Marie Griffin, 34,
5444 Kilpatrick St
Louisville, MS, Charge:
Conspiracy to Introduce
Contraband into Correc-
tion Facility
Zydaron Hughes, 20, 15

Hillcrest Louisville, MS,
Charge: Conspiracy to in-
troduce Contraband into
Correctional Facility
9-24
Henry Tyler Brown
Palmer, 23, 202 Hwy 498
Porterville, MS, Charge:
Simple Assault-Domestic
Violence

Candice Robinson, 35,
208 Poplar St Kosciusko,
MS, Charge: Prohibitions
Generally (introduction)
Conspiracy to Commit a
Crime
Johnny Lucas, 32, 4282
New Hope Rd De Kalb,
MS, Charge: Driving w Li-
cense Suspended
9-25
Jaycee A Houston, 46,
2167 Knox Rd Meridian,

MS, Charge: DUI 1st
Albert Daniels, 47, 234
Perry Rd Louisville, MS,
Charge: DUI 2nd
Billy Joe Eades, 52, 2491
Firetower Rd De Kalb, MS,
Charge: DUI 2nd ; No In-
surance, Suspended Li-
cense
9-26
Jonathan Lefonzo Pol-
lock, 23, 3193 Hopewell Rd
De Kalb, MS, Charge:

Reckless Driving-DUI.
9-29
Diedrich Miller, 18, 8447
North East Pine Dr Merid-
ian, MS, Charge: Posses-
sion of Marijuana
Terinarda Naylor, 38,
7659 Kemper Springs Rd
Lauderdale, MS, Charge:
Simple Assault
Marquis Hopkins, 23,
7659 Kemper Springs Rd
Lauderdale, MS, Charge:

Simple Assault
10-2
Dorthea Davis Crowe, 32,
107 71st Pl Apt A 117
Meridian, MS, Charge: Ag-
gravated Assault Domestic
Violence, Felon in Posses-
sion Firearm
Micheal Coleman Jr, 23,
931 Frank McDaniel Rd De
Kalb, MS, Charge: Public
Drunk

Board

Continued from page 1

learned of the policy late last week and that it was to be implemented on Wednesday of this week.

He noted that only 19 of the 42 employees under his direct supervision had signed up for direct deposit of their payroll check and that the other 23 had indicated that they did not plan to.

He told the supervisors that most of those not signing up didn't have checking accounts and a handful of them would not be able to get one.

There was no discussion among the board members during the meeting about potentially chaining the policy. When asked after the meeting what would happen if his employees didn't sign up, Williams re-

sponded "I guess we will see."

In Other Action the Kemper County Board of Supervisors:

— Amended the agenda to add three items. (4-0, District 2 Supervisor Johnny Whitsett abetted)

— Approved the agenda. (4-0)

— Heard report from EMCC President Dr. Scott Alsobrook

— Approved residential 16th section land leases agreement for Walter McDaniel, Sr. and Samantha McDaniel. (4-0)

— Approved Ad Valorem Tax Exemption application from Emilia Resources (4-0)

— Order approving payment to Ergon Asphalt and Emulsion, Inc. for Demurrage charges in the amount of \$360 for purchase order #194734 closed. (4-0)

— Order approving payment to Ergon Asphalt and Emulsion, Inc. for Demurrage charges in the amount

of \$270 and return freight in the amount of \$618.64 total payment for \$888.64 for purchase order #194733 closed.(4-0)

— Order approving payment to Ergon Asphalt and Emulsion, Inc. for Demurrage charges in the amount of \$135 for purchase order #194760 closed.(4-0)

— Order approving payments to Engineering Plus in the amounts of \$4,984.57, \$17,036.16, and \$16,208.65 for Project No. ERBR-BR-0035 (22)B Neelytown Road . (4-0)

— Order approving payment to Engineering Plus for Project No. ERBR-BR-35(01) Sunflower Road for \$16,099.01. (4-0)

— Approved order approving payment to G.R. Joyner Building for new concession building for DeKalb Park payment No. 2 — final retainage only in the amount of \$4,100. (3-1) (District 5 Supervisor Chris Cole opposed)

— Order approving payment to Engineering Plus for providing Financial Services and administrative assistance to gas District assistance and Kemper Economic Development in the amount of \$5,293.23. (4-0)

— Order approving payment to D&E Construction for Kemper County Courthouse Annex final payment in the amount of \$33,700. (4-0)

— Order approving payment to Norman Roofing for furnished material for re-roofing project installed insulation and membrane on building in the amount of \$36,622.50. (4-0)

— Order approving payment to Norman Roofing for furnished material for draw on completed work minus gutters in the amount of \$19,655.(4-0)

— Order approving mail log for Kemper-Neshoba Regional Correctional Facility for the month of September 2021. (4-0)

— Order approving all expenses incurred for sheriff department for the month of September 2021. (4-0)

— Order approving to spread on the board minutes the scary increase for the following employees: Dylan Fulton, Robin Fulton and Eric Scott. (4-0)

— Approved the purchase of three trucks and one Durango for the sheriff's department. (4-0)

— Order approving overtime to be paid to Kemper County Clerk deputies for upcoming grand jury and special election for the following dates: Oct. 23, 8 a.m.-noon; Oct. 30, 8 a.m.-noon; Nov. 1, Election Day prep; and Nov. 2, Election, Day. (4-0)

— Order approving agreement with Mississippi Wireless Communications Commission. (4-0)

— Approved order approving Wes Kight & Associates appraisal report #1

in the amount of \$30,000. (4-0)

— Approved order approving Kimes & Stone Construction Company, Inc. for Project No. 35-20-01 Contract No. 1 for new pavement on the following roads: Huffmaster Road, Neal McClelland Road, and Williams Road in the amount of \$162,181.55. (4-0)

— Approver order approving payment to In Touch Psychological for examination on patient in the amount of \$300.

— Order approving Stephanie Green as Deputy Purchasing Clerk. (4-0).

— Approval of board minutes for the month of September, 2021. (4-0)

— Approval of current and end of month claims for September, 2021. (4-0)

— Approval of payroll. (4-0).

Retire

Continued from page 1

resigned with 2.5 years remaining in his term after he ran unopposed in 2019. The special election to fill his seat is set for November 2.

Candidates that have qualified to run for the seat include W.J. Coleman, a former counselor at Parchman; Stan Copeland, a member of the Northwest Water Association Board of Directors; James Creer, a member of the Kemper County Board of Education; Justin Curtis Creer, a former Kemper County supervisor; Minh Duong, a Meridian optometrist; Rod Hickman, a county prosecutor with Noxubee County Justice Court; Kim Houston, a former Meridian City Councilwoman; and Keith Jackson, who is the son of Sen. Sampson Jackson II.

Jackson said that he considered resigning a few

years back, when he was diagnosed with prostate cancer. Then, during the 2021 session, the longtime legislator said he started to realize he was ready for a change.

"I looked at my wife one day and said, 'I think I might be ready to retire,' he recalled. "I never really thought about how much time I had left. I just knew I liked my job. But I started to get tired of going back and forth (to Jackson) so much."

He said he also was motivated by learning that because he was eligible for retirement, he would make more retired than he did working.

"It just didn't make any sense any more for me to be doing it," he said.

Jackson said he believes he left the legislature on good terms with most, if not all, members.

"I was always someone who would work with the leadership," he said. "I don't disagree about something just to disagree — not if I believe that it will help

someone. You have to really think about people, not just about what party is behind things."

Jackson said he is proud of the way he consistently handled requests from voters.

"I always returned phone calls," he said. "It didn't matter if you voted for me or not — if you supported me or not. And doing that — returning calls and trying to help people get what they need — it led to a lot of support and a lot of confidence from people. I'm proud of that."

Jackson, who was in office for about 28 years, said despite his efforts to reach across the political aisle, he has been disappointed at times to see how the legislature has changed.

"It used to be a lot more like a fraternity," he said. "We might not agree and we might not be from the same party, but we looked out for each other — we talked to each other and we helped each other in any way we could. I don't think it's like that as much

anymore."

Jackson said social media also has changed things dramatically.

"It used to be, a vote would be made and people might not know about the vote for months," he said. "They wouldn't know how you voted and they wouldn't know exactly what the vote was for a long time. Now, they know immediately, and they expect you to be able to explain immediately. I think that's actually a really good thing for people."

Jackson said he is proud of a number of appropriations he was able to secure for local communities, including funding for the John C. Stennis Hospital and for the Kemper Neshoba Regional Jail.

"Those were good things for people," he said.

He also helped secure funding for a multi-purpose building used to house mental health offices in DeKalb.

He also said he is proud of his role in passing sweeping education legisla-

tion in the 1990s, when the Mississippi Adequate Education Program (MAEP), was funded. Additionally, he supported and helped to pass legislation that provided teachers with additional incremental pay increases as they gained more experience.

"We still have a long way to go in education," he said. "I wish that wasn't true. We aren't where we need to be, but I do believe that we have made some improvements."

Jackson said when he first ran for office, he knew almost nothing about campaigning. But he knew he needed to make personal connections with people, and he also needed a team of people in each county willing to also provide that personal touch to voters.

"Over the years, a lot of people came to support me," he said. "People of different backgrounds — and even people with different beliefs. They learned they could trust me and that I would do my best to do what was best for peo-

ple. I might not have gotten it all right — I know I didn't. But I am proud of what I did do.

"You have to be respectful to people — your colleagues and voters," he said. "You have to do your best every day and you have to put the people first. You have to return everyone's phone calls — really be there with them when they need something."

Jackson has other involvements beyond the legislature. He is a member of C Phi C Social Fellowship Club, NAACP, Kemper County Political Black Caucus and the Farm Bureau and the Mississippi Cattleman's Association.

He enjoys spending time with his sons — Keith, Kelvin and Sampson Jackson III. He has eight grandchildren, including six that live locally and two that live in Jackson. The family has several businesses.

"I say I am going to slow down," he said. "And I know I will but I don't think it's happened just yet."

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PACES Project strides into 13th Year

From special reports

Given the bright outlook for PACES in its 13th year, it is one of those times that 13 can be thought of as a "Lucky Number". The PACES Project is excited to announce that it will return to sponsoring college campus visits after a two year COVID induced delay, and PACES will be able to observe all Kemper County High School COVID19 requirements. Each year about 30 KCHS seniors and juniors participate in the PACES Project program.

Kemper County Economic Development Authority's PACES Project (Parents and Community Equals Educational Success) is an all-volunteer, self-supporting educational advocacy and mentoring program that help prepare KCHS students for life beyond high school by increasing community awareness of the value of higher education and increasing student access to information and resources about post-

high school education and career opportunities.

This year PACES members will visit several Mississippi colleges and one in Alabama: The first trip will be to visit the campuses of East Mississippi Community College and the University of West Alabama. During the tours the students will get insights into what it takes to get into these institutions and the efforts required to remain a student. An added benefit of being a member of PACES is that PACES Alumni that are currently enrolled at college being visited, come out and join the PACES members during lunch and share their college experiences with our seniors.

The seniors were elated to see the return of the college campus trips and set about quickly completing PACES Projects community service requirement for becoming a member of PACES. In less than a week 10 Seniors had completed the requirements. Those quick responding stu-



Shown are 5 of the first students that submitted completed PACES Applications and were recipients of Logan's Restaurant Gift Certificates. They are: Genesis White, Alfred Love, Kaylah Hearn, Kaylan Clayton, and Adriana McGraw.

Other students were: Kamyra Brown, Ashawna Grace, Kaylan Clayton, Kaylah Hearn, Alfred Love, Ilyana McClendon, Adriana McGraw, Santetia Triplet, and Genesis White.

Kemper Academy annual meeting set for Oct. 12

By Austin Bishop
Kemper County Messenger

The annual meeting of the Kemper Academy patrons is set for 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 12 in the assembly room at the school. All patrons are en-

couraged to attend. Among the top items on the agenda for the meeting will be the election of two members to the 10-member school board. The board is broken up into five "beats" built around the districts of the Kemper County Board of

Supervisors. Each district has two members on the board.

This year it is Beat 1 representation that will be voted on. The candidates must be from that beat and a beat meeting has already been held to come up with nominations, but

they can also be taken from the floor. The members are then voted on by the entire patron list in attendance, not just those living in that particular beat.

The board officers will then be selected by the 10-member school board.

The current board president is Scott Johnson.

Head of School Mary Ellen Waters will be making her annual report as well and will be discussing several items, including a grant the school has recently received.

After the business of the

annual meeting is concluded there will also be reports from the KA Booster Club and the PTA.

Waters said there are currently 125 families connected to Kemper Academy and that she is expecting an attendance of between 75 and 100.

Audrey Denise Rash

Funeral services for Au-

drey Denise Rash, 54, were held at 11 a.m., October 1 at Mt. Pleasant #2 Cemetery. Dr. Curtis Johnson of-

ficiated. Mrs. Rash died September 27 at the University Medical Center in Jackson.

Survivors include her husband, Elton Rash; her mother, Hattie Harris; one daughter, Kristi Rash; 2 sis-

ters, Paula Merchant and Rachel McCray; 5 brothers, Abe Harris, Charles Harris, Steve Harris, and Patrick

Harris. Beck Funeral Home of Louisville was in charge of the arrangements.

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Kemper County Messenger

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Kemper County Devotional Page

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

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How To Lead Your Family

By Rev. Bob Wilburn

Family is the bedrock of society regardless of country or culture. Family is the laboratory for life. It is in the family that God and the truths of God's Word are learned and revered. It is in the family that love and loyalty and the lessons of life are learned. Knowing how to navigate the current pandemic is important-but beyond that and more importantly than that is the glaring need of every husband and wife and mom and dad to know how to lead their family to walk with God in a world that is fighting against God.

Any person with any knowledge of what is happening around us would well understand that there is a broad and relentless movement in this country against God, God's Church, God's Word and anything that represents God. We live in a culture that is literally hostile towards God.

So, the question that begs for an answer is: How can we lead our family to walk with God in a world that is fighting so hard against God?

First of all; to do nothing is to be negligent of the most important responsibility given to us. Hebrews 2:3 says:

See HOW, Page A7



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 601-483-0225

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

KEMPER COUNTY WOMEN'S CIVIC LEAGUE HUGE GARAGE SALE

(Baked goods, adult, children & baby clothes, kitchen utensils, glassware, art and much more)
Friday, October 8, 2021
8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Kemper County Courthouse Square
DeKalb, MS 39328

INTERESTED POLL MANAGERS

Have you ever served? Would you like to serve? It's time for the Special Senator District 32 Election, November 2, 2021. If you are interested in becoming a Poll Manager for the upcoming Special Election contact your Kemper Co. District Election Commissioner. If any questions you may contact Election Commissioner Office at 601-743-5056 or Charles Hollingsworth Jr. Chairman at 601-513-3598.

REGISTRATION FOR MASTER GARDENERS

Registration is currently underway for the next class of Master Gardeners. This year, all Master Gardener instruction is online and self-paced. The current class begins Oct. 1 and closes Nov. 30.

Master Gardener volunteers experience the personal satisfaction of serving their community, gaining Horticultural expertise, and connecting with their local gardening community. Registration is available online at msuext.ms/mg now through September 15th. For more information contact your local Extension office at 601-743-2837.

CHERRY CEMETERY MAINTENANCE FUND

If you would like to make a donation to the Cherry Cemetery Maintenance Fund, please send your donation to Mary Jane Nelson, P.O. Box 33, DeKalb, MS 39328. Your contribution would be greatly appreciated.

CENTER RIDGE CEMETERY DONATIONS

Anyone who has someone buried or is interested in the Center Ridge Cemetery can send their donations to: Barbara Brown, 7246 HWY 39S, DeKalb, MS 39328

KEMPER FLEA MARKET

Every 1st and 3rd Saturdays of the month from 8am-1pm at Buzzy Bee's. Free vendor setup. Selling anything from food, snow

cones, household, crafts, and much more.

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 Malika Jones at the Kemper County Extension office at 601-743-2837 for more information.

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

See Calendar, page 7

Annual Heritage Day Set For Oct. 30

By Austin Bishop
Kemper County Messenger

The annual Heritage Day event is set for downtown DeKalb for Saturday, Oct. 30 and will officially run from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

During its quarterly meeting on Monday afternoon the Kemper County Historical Association made final plans for the event, which is both the organization's annual fundraiser and one of the most-visited days for the Kemper County Museum which is located in the old S.D. Mercantile Warehouse located just off the courthouse square at 230 Veterans Street in DeKalb.

There will be live music, a bake sale, and an opportunity for visitors to check out the wide-ranging artifacts in the museum.

Tickets for pulled pork barbecue plates — which includes a sandwich, chips, and drinks — are on sale for \$6 each. Four hundred tickets are currently in the possession of association members. To purchase your ticket in advance you can contact any of the association members or call 601-743-2412 and



More than 30 attended Monday afternoon's meeting of the Kemper County Historical Association.

request your tickets.

According to a report given during Monday's meeting there are currently 36 family memberships and 50 family memberships to the

association. The Kemper County Historical Association is hoping to encourage a younger generation to join in order to keep the county's history alive.

LOOKING BACK

first nine weeks of in-person classes.

FIVE YEARS AGO
(Oct. 6, 2016)

— Work on a portion of the 215 acres purchased by the Kemper County Board of Supervisors for future economic development could begin as early as the spring of 2017. After reviewing two proposals for development of the property presented by Waggoner Engineering of Jackson the board voted unanimously to move forward on developing the 48 acres in the fork of Hwy 16 and Hwy 397.

— Two East Mississippi Community College alumni will be honored Oct. 15 during the college's 2016 Homecoming. Randy Galloway has been selected as the college's Alumnus of the Year and Ike Hopper will receive the Distinguished Service Award.

— Jordan White was named Homecoming Queen for Kemper Academy.

— Y'landa Tisdale was named Homecoming Queen and Malik Jones Homecoming King at Kemper County High School. Bryson Jenkins was named Mr. Kemper county High School, Ne'Keida Rencer was Miss Kemper County High School.

— After interviewing three candidates for the position of comptroller

the Kemper County board of supervisors voted to hire Polly Medcalf for the position.

10 YEARS AGO
(Oct. 6, 2011)

— Kemper County will receive a \$17,500 grant from USA Rural development to help repair the roof of the county-owned health department building.

— Following his second 400-yard passing performance of the season, freshman quarterback Bo Wallace of the fourth-ranked Lions of East Mississippi Community College has been recognized as an MACJC Star of the Week for the second time in five weeks.

25 YEARS AGO
(Oct. 3, 1996)

— A Nissan car which was apparently stolen in Lauderdale County was recovered recently by a group of hunters in a wooded area of Kemper County. According to Kemper County Sheriff Mike McKee, hunters apparently walked up on the car, thought it might have been stolen, and reported it to authorities. The car had all of the glass knocked out including the headlights and tail lights and the back two wheels and tires were also missing.

— Former Kemper County High School star Kevin Granger has been signed to a contract with the Golden State War-

riors of the National Basketball association, the NBA announced Monday.

— From Porterville News by Sunny Slaton: Mrs. Ruth Gordon celebrated her 93rd birthday on the 26th and was presented a beautiful cake at Mt. Hebron church on Sunday along with Mr. Champ Gibson who turned 75 on the same day.

50 YEARS AGO
(Oct. 7, 1971)

— At seven-fifteen on Friday night, October 8th, Kemper Academy will celebrate its first homecoming. Miss Ruth Gully will be crowned queen by Ricky Halley, president of the Academy student council.

— Last Thursday night members of the Kemper County Cattleman's Association met and enjoyed barbecued hamburgers at the American Legion Hut. Paul Hailey, president of the Kemper County Cattleman's Association, says 1972 memberships are due and urges all county cattlemen to pay their dues.

— From DeKalb Rt. 1 news by Mrs. Mabel Searingen: Mr. and Mrs. Belmont Clay are in St. Louis visiting their daughter, Mrs. Joyce C. Barnett and her husband. — Mr. and Mrs. J.C. Farrow are celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary on Oct. 17th.

Calendar

Continued from page 6

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 lclark@multicountyca.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 fur-

ther information, please call Marie Wilson, County Veteran Service Officer, 601-743-2247, or email kcvso@att.net.

KEMPER COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT ANNOUNCES BEAVER 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.

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 Bennammon 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 Pro-

gram 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 "PARENT" 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.

How

Continued from page 5

"How shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation?" The greatest harm we can do our children and extended family is to nothing to influence them towards God. Listen to what God's Word says in Proverbs 3:13: "The curse of the Lord is on the house of the wicked but he blesses the home of the just".

Secondly, every parent must themselves walk with God and thereby model a day to day relationship with God. We can't teach what we don't know. We as husbands and wives and parents will create a positive, encouraging and spiritual atmosphere in our home as a result of us acknowledg-

ing the Lord daily and spending time in God's Word and prayer on a day to day basis.

Thirdly, we must regard and teach God's Word as the manual for life and love. Without that, what do we have? The opinions and philosophies of a very broken world? When we teach our children the principles and precepts of God's Word we provide them with an unchanging standard by which they can live their life. Proverbs 14:26 says, "In the fear of the Lord is strong confidence, and our children will have a place of refuge". The Word of God and the Presence of God become a place of refuge for our children in this messed up world and Christ-less culture.

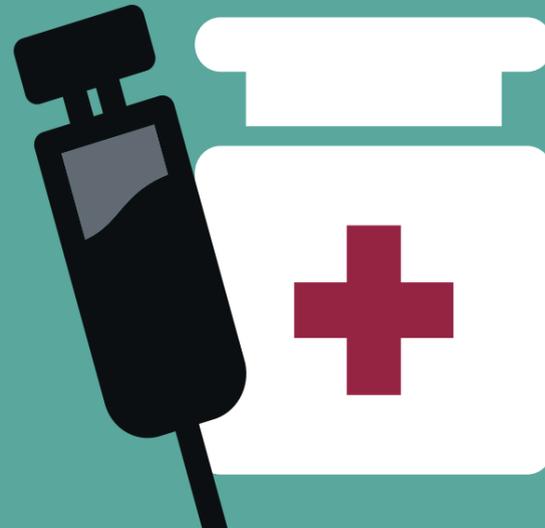
Fourthly, we must pray for wisdom and discernment. The Holy Spirit in us will give us wisdom for

every situation. We must not make decisions based on what other people think or what other parents do.

The Holy Spirit will give us Godly wisdom. When we pray over our children the Holy Spirit helps us discern what is going on in our children's lives. That is huge.

In closing, there is a way to raise our family to walk with God. The bottom line is every husband, every wife, every mom and every dad must choose God and choose to utilize the truths of His Word as we do life as a family. Our choices as parents will influence the destiny of our children.

Rev. Bob Wilburn serves as the Mississippi District Superintendent of the Assemblies Of God. Bro. Wilburn has pastored in Mississippi for over 46 years with pastorates in Indianola, Philadelphia and Amory.



A Vaccination is Your Best Shot!

Did you know that the vast majority of patients hospitalized with Covid-19 are unvaccinated? While the coronavirus is a devastating threat to our community, we can protect ourselves and our families by making the personal decision to get vaccinated. The vaccine is safe, effective, and free.

Make an appointment at one of our clinics today! There are two convenient Philadelphia locations to serve you!

Call 601.663.1213



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NOTICE

OF

INTENTION TO DIVERT OR WITHDRAW FOR BENEFICIAL USE THE PUBLIC WATERS OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

Notice is hereby given that on the 31ST day of August 2021, Kipling Water Association, PO Box 306, Dekalb, MS 39328, filed application No. MS-GW-17611 for a permit to divert or withdraw the public waters of the State of Mississippi for beneficial use from the Lower Wilcox Aquifer, in the county of Kemper, for Public Water System purposes, subject to existing rights, the following amount of water at the indicated location:

| PERMIT # | VOLUME | RATE | LOCATION |
|-------------|-----------|---------|-------------------------|
| MS-GW-17611 | 0.12 MG/D | 250 GPM | SW, SW, S28, T10N, R16E |

Any person, firm, association, or corporation, deeming that the granting of the above application will be truly detrimental to their rights to utilize the waters of said source, may protest in writing to the Permit Board of the State of Mississippi, ATTN: Chris Hawkins, PO Box 2309, Jackson, Mississippi 39225, setting forth all reasons why said application should not be approved. Letters of protest must be received within ten (10) days of this publication. If not protested, a permit will be issued on or after ten (10) days following publication date.

If protested, the application will be taken for consideration by the Permit Board of the State of Mississippi in its offices at 515 East Amite Street, Jackson, Mississippi, on or after, Tuesday, the 9TH day of November 2021, at which time all interested persons may appear and be heard by the Permit Board.

OFFICE OF LAND AND WATER RESOURCES
Chris Hawkins, P.E.
Chief, Permitting, Certification, and Compliance Division

Publish 10-07-2021

APAC, Mississippi, Inc., donates asphalt roller to EMCC

From school reports

APAC Mississippi Inc., an asphalt paving and construction materials company, donated a refurbished Caterpillar asphalt roller to East Mississippi Community College that will be used to teach students enrolled in the college's Heavy Civil Construction program.

"I can't thank APAC enough for this very generous donation and the support they have given us for this program," EMCC Vice President of Workforce and Economic Development Dr. Courtney Taylor said. "The asphalt roller donated by APAC Mississippi is a

very costly piece of equipment that is like brand new. This will allow us to provide training we would not have otherwise been able to do."

The Heavy Civil Construction program is a 10-week training program in the safe operation of heavy machinery that alternates between EMCC's Scooba campus and The Communiversity. Industry experts sit on advisory committees for the program at both locations and APAC Mississippi has representation on both committees.

"We strive to produce quality aggregate and asphalt mixture for the Mississippi market," APAC Mississippi Inc., Engineering Services



APAC Mississippi, Inc., donated a Caterpillar asphalt roller, at right, to our Workforce and Community Services division that will be used for training students enrolled in the Heavy Civil Construction program. Pictured at left is an excavator also used in the program that teaches students about the safe operation of heavy equipment.

Manager James Williams said. "To accomplish our goals, a well-trained staff is necessary. The partner-

ship between APAC and EMCC has resulted in providing well trained students who have the

potential to make an immediate impact on our industry. We view this donation as an invest-

ment into the next generation of highly trained individuals in our industry."

Tests reveal pandemic hindered student learning

By Kayleigh Skinner

And Kate Royals
Mississippi Today

State test results from the spring paint the first picture of how the pandemic has affected Mississippi students' learning — and overall, it's not good.

The results from the spring administration of state tests, or the Mississippi Academic Assessment Program (MAAP), show the percentage of students who passed the tests dropped 9% in English and 14% in math statewide. These assessments measure student achievement in grades 3-8, and high schoolers

also take an English II and Algebra I test.

These results, presented to the Mississippi State Board of Education in late September, offer a snapshot of the effect the pandemic has had on K-12 education in the state. State tests were not administered in 2020 because of the virus, which shut down schools in spring of that year.

This also marks the first time proficiency levels, or the percentage of students who scored at the two highest levels on the tests, dropped since the test was first administered in 2016.

This year, 34.9% of students

were proficient in English and 35.1% were proficient in math. Proficiency refers to the percentage of students who scored at a level 4 or 5 (proficient or advanced) on a 1 through 5 scale. A level 1 indicates a score of "minimal," 2 is "basic" and 3 is "passing."

But Carey Wright, state superintendent of education, said she was "pleasantly surprised" the numbers did not decrease more than they did. She also praised schools for ensuring that around 96% of students came into buildings and participated in testing in the spring, even when some were learning entirely virtually.

"I need to be honest with you, I was pleasantly surprised that we did not drop more ... This was a historical event in our nation when you think about what happened," she said. "I think the districts pivoted and did the best they could."

She said the nearly 7% drop in English proficiency is a testament to the work of the state's teachers, and the more dramatic 12% drop in mathematics reflects national trends.

"I am proud of the way Mississippi students, families, teachers and school leaders persevered through the most challenging school year of their lives," said

Wright.

Wright also said it was important to note there were districts where student performance improved.

One of those was Ocean Springs School District, which improved its district-wide English Language Arts proficiency level compared to 2019. Bonita Coleman, the superintendent, thanked teachers "who helped ensure a worldwide pandemic did not stand in the way of our continued progress."

But a statewide analysis of students who passed the tests show declines as a state and by grade level.

Ways to celebrate Fall in Kemper County

by LaWanda Shields

MAGNOLIA MINUTE BY LAWANDA SHIELDS

As the temperature begins to drop, now is a great time to get out and celebrate fall. You don't have to make a trip out of town to enjoy the beauty of the season. You can celebrate fall right here in Kemper County. Here are some suggestions for things you can do right here in your own hometown.

*Kemper Lake

Go visit Kemper Lake. Whether you are going fishing, boating, or just enjoying the beautiful scenery, Kemper Lake is a great place to visit. The water is simply majestic. It offers a bit of nature with just the right amount of civilization. It is a great place to take picture or simply sit and relax. Be sure to get your fishing license and stop by the office before fishing at the lake.

*Keyes-McRae Walking Park

Get your walk on! Kemper County's Keyes-McRae Walking Park is a great place to go for a leisurely fall walk. This short walking trail is located across from the town post office, and it also boasts of a beautiful gazebo. The gazebo is a great spot for picture-taking or simply relaxing after a quick walk around the trail. There are also several picnic style benches along the trail that can be used for taking a quick rest or to enjoy a refreshing fall snack.

*Hay Rides

Hay rides are another great part of the fall season. Take a ride in an open wagon or truck with friends while out in the countryside. Although hayrides are usually done in the evening time, you can do them during the day. They are

a great activity for any fall weekend.

*Scrapbooking

Scrapbooking can be done any time of the year, but fall is an especially great time to capture those memories. You can choose a theme or a story that you want to tell. Choose your pictures or captures some great photos this fall from around Kemper County. Decide on your scrapbook size and design. Now, begin your scrapbook.

*Fall Art

Autumn is synonymous with beautiful landscapes. Encourage you can capture fall's beauty on canvas or in pic-



LaWanda
SHIELDS

tures. Not only is creating art fun, but it also has several benefits. It is mentally stimulating, and it can also help you relax.

*Veteran's Memorial Engraved Walkway

Visit our Engraved Memorial Walkway. It is located just outside of the Kemper County Courthouse, and it is dedicated to the brave men and women who have served our great country. The walkway is surrounded by beautiful magnolias and other lush trees and flowers. These trees create a beauty canvas as the weather cools, and the leaves change colors.

*Hunting

If you have young boys or even girls, autumn is a good time to go hunting. Deer and turkey are animals that are hunted during the fall. Hunting is a way to spend more time outside and connect with nature. Just be sure that you and

your children following hunting safety rules.

*Harvest Teas

A Harvest Tea is a tea party where the participants each bring a dish that is one of the designated fall colors like brown, gold, white, or red. There are several different tables that are each decorated with one particular color. The different dishes are each set on a table according to their color. You can invite friends over, set up three or more different tables, and have a Harvest Tea Party at your house or in your backyard. Of course, don't forget the tea or lemonade.

Autumn is one of the most beautiful seasons of the year. Nature is alive with vivid reds, oranges, golds, and browns. Celebrate it in Kemper County by doing some of the things suggested.

Education

EMCC Homecoming activities set to culminate Saturday

From school reports

SCOOPA — After a year-long hiatus, East Mississippi Community College resumed its annual Homecoming festivities this year.

"We are very excited to host Homecoming activities once again this year," said Marion Smoot, EMCC Mathematics and Science Division chairperson, who is also this year's chair of the Homecoming Committee. "We are looking forward to having everyone back on campus to help us enjoy the festivities."

Most of the events are set to take place on Saturday.

The Alumni and Friends luncheon begins at 11:30 a.m. in the F.R. Young Student Union when the Alumna or Alumna of the Year and Distinguished Service Award honors will be presented for both 2020 and 2021.

The 2020 Alumna of the Year is Dr. Emily Warren of Meridian. The 2020 Distinguished Service Award recipient is Lowndes County resident Charlie Studdard. Cheryl Sparkman of Scooba has been named the 2021 Alumna of the Year and Macon resident Teresa Hughes is the 2021 Distinguished Award recipient.

The annual faculty and staff tailgate luncheon will begin at noon at the pavilion across from the football field.

Kickoff for the Homecoming game is 2 p.m. when EMCC will host Northeast Mississippi



East Mississippi Community College's 2021 Homecoming Court will be presented during halftime of the college's Oct. 9 Homecoming football game. Members of the court are: front row, DeWittney White of Macon; middle row, from left, Peyton Dawkins of Brooksville, Kaitlynn Stroud of Enterprise, Baylee Smith of West Point, Kinley Stewart of Quitman, Mariah Johnson of Kosciusko and Sydney Pierce of West Point; back row, from left, Daliyah Cooperwood of West Point, Eurasia Thornton of Greenville, La'Tayja Sykes of West Point, Antavia Mosley of Meridian, Megan Williams of Starkville, Yasmine Brooks of Starkville and TyKerria Jones of Starkville.

Community College. The Alumna of the Year and Distinguished Service Award recipients will be recognized during halftime when the Homecoming Court will also be presented and the Homecoming Queens crowned.

Members of the Homecoming Court are comprised of freshman and sophomore maids from EMCC's Scooba and Golden Triangle campuses.

The annual Homecoming Parade took place Tuesday evening. The parade began at Aust Hall and proceeded in front of the Gilbert Anderson residence hall. The parade turned by the campus police station, past the student union building, proceeded around by the baseball field, and passed by the men's football dorm before ending back at Aust Hall.

The Tubb-May library on EMCC's Scooba campus also hosted an event on Oct. 5 when Jim Woodrick,

director of the Historic Preservation Division of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, gave

a presentation in the library about the origins of Mississippi's mascots.

Kemper County's Thomas named Teacher of the Year

From school reports

Kemper County School District is excited to announce Thomas "Freddy" Thomas has been named 2021-2022 Teacher of the Year by Mississippi Department of Education's Department of Career and Technical Education.

Thomas is a 24-year teaching veteran as a Welding Instructor for John C. Stennis CTE and past teaching experience with East Mississippi Community College. Students have an opportunity to learn valuable trade skills when taking his class.

"First of all, Mr. Thomas is a top notch person. He is first class in all that he does," said Hilute Hudson, Superintendent of Kemper County School District. "He has exemplary work ethics



Thomas "Freddy" Thomas

and he cares about quality work and his students. Those traits are hard to find. He wants his students to succeed in life. He doesn't look at teaching as a job, he looks at it like he is giving back to our community."

Thomas also serves as Softball Coach and instructor for SkillsUSA for the district.



J L L White, Agent
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Kemper County Messenger

KEMPERCOUNTYMESSENGER.COM

A10 THURSDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2021

Timely stops key Kemper County's District win

By Cooper Sanders
Kemper County Messenger

Things started off slow for the Kemper County High School Wildcats in their 32-21 win over the Lake Hornets on Friday night, but in the end the KCHS defense closed out the game for the winners.

"We didn't always stop them, but we got stops at the right time," said Wildcat Coach Ray Westerfield. The Wildcat defense forces three turnovers in the second half.

"That's huge for our defense," said Westerfield, "For them to step up at this time in our first district ball game, that's huge for their confidence and huge for us as a coaching staff". While the Wildcats did give up over 300 rushing yards, the Wildcats did not give up a single passing yard as the Hornets were 0-7 passing, including two interceptions. "We knew Lake was gonna come down hill on us playing smash mouth football

If we get a team like Lake to throw it, that means we are doing something right in the run game", said Westerfield. After a big win opening district play, The Wildcats will travel to Macon tomorrow to face Noxubee County.

After being forced to punt from their own 28 yard line, the Wildcats gave up a blocked punt, recovered by the Hornets for a touchdown, to make the game 7-0. A few drives later Kemper County's Aaron Steele ran it in from two yards, however a missed PAT made the score 7-6. After a few empty drives for both teams, Aaron Steele threw to Rickey Little as Little ran through the defense like a freight train, breaking many tackles on his way to the end zone for a 50 yard touchdown. The two-point conversion made the score 14-7.



(Left) Jamar Grace (6) picks up some yards as the Wildcats defeat Lake 32-21.

(Below, left) Kemper County's Aaron Steele (11) rushes for a first down for the Wildcats.

(Below) Kemper County's Homecoming King and Queen Zavion Hill and Kayla Hearn.

(Bottom) The 2021 Kemper County Homecoming Court (Left to Right) Maliyah Betts, Elaina Tisdale, Olivia Hill, Jahmique Clemons, Andrewnetta Adams, Alfred Love, Zariyah Moss, Jamar Grace, Kamri Tate, Zavion Hill, Kayla Hearn, Ashawna Grace, Ty'Kevon Steele, Precious Stone, Kennedi Rush, Martaxia Richardson, Santasia Rencher, Latajah Whitsett

Jason Dyess/ Messenger



The run game for Lake was strong all game as on the very next drive, LHS quarterback Brady Mcgee broke off for a 49 yard run setting up for a 10 yard touchdown by Cornelius Mayers. The PAT then was wide right ending the half with a score of 14-13.

Lake then came out of halftime controlling the ball with the run game for a seven minute possession. On the last play of the possession McGee threw the ball deep but was intercepted by Jamar Grace. The rest of the third quarter was scoreless for both teams but



after a minute of play in the fourth, Steele threw to Grace for a 44 yard touchdown to make the score 20-13, with a failed conversion.

On the next drive, the

Wildcats forced a crucial fourth down for the Hornets, however Hornet running back Mayers broke free for a 45 yard touchdown. The conversion gave the Hornets a

one point lead over the Wildcats. This was the final touchdown the Wildcats allowed as they ran off with the win after-

See Win, page 11



Win

Continued from page 10

wards.

On the next drive Mayers ran the ball for nearly 20 yards but lost the football, which was recovered by the Wildcats. Following a 39-yard run by Dencenzo Miller Jr., Steele ran the ball in for a four-

yard touchdown. On the next drive the Hornets' quarterback McGee broke off for a run that went 72 yards but Steele once again made a big play, this time on the defense as he chased McGee down, tackling him at the five yard line.

On the next play Nicholas Murray recovered a fumble inside the five yard line. The next play resulted in a holding,

pushing the Wildcats back to their own 2-yard line. Steele then broke off for a 62 yard run, giving his offense even better field position. He then threw the ball to Jamar Grace once again who waltzed in for a 30 yard touchdown. If the touchdown didn't seal the deal for the Wildcats, Kessler Thompson's interception on the next play from scrimmage did.



(Above) Last year's Kemper County Homecoming King Jordan Little crowns this year's Homecoming King Zavion Hill Friday night.

(Left) Kemper County Cheerleaders (left to right) Dereana Williams, Damiyah Bester and Prenqualia Adams cheer on the Wildcats in Friday's night's homecoming win over Lake.

Jason Dyess/ Messenger

KCHS Track Champions honored

By Cooper Sanders

Kemper County Messenger

Before the huge homecoming win to open district play for the Kemper County Wildcats football team, a ring ceremony was held in honor of the Lady Wildcats track team, who won the 4x200 relay State Championship last spring. The team consisted of Brynasha Bourrage, Kalyan Clayton, Jashunti Bourrage, and Zariyah Moss and was coached by Keith Cole. The team finished with a time of 1:48.01. Winning the schools first state championship in track.

Cole said that to him it was just a blessing, but to the girls it gives them an opportunity to change their lives. Cole was proud of all the hard work his team put in throughout the year, for it all to end with a championship. "It shines a light on Kemper County," Cole said. "Not just for football, not just for basketball, but for track."



The KCHS girls relay team was honored for their state championship during Friday night's football game.

Photo by Cooper Sanders

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Kemper Academy Rams eye week off



By Cooper Sanders
Kemper County Messenger

This week the Kemper Academy football played host to Newton Academy, dropping a 52-16 setback.

Coach Michael Dawkins did say that there was no quit in any of his players. He stated that his players have huge hearts for the game.

In the game, quarterback Eli Weaver threw for 194 yards including two touchdowns. Both of those touchdowns and 106 of those yards were caught by Colton Kynerd. The pair of Thomas Mattox and Eli Miles both had four tackles, while Miles rushed for 40 yards and Mattox rushed for 41.

Brody Barefield made four tackles and Nick Dawkins had three tackles.

Next week the Rams have an open date before traveling to Bogalusa, La. to face Bens Ford on Oct. 15.



(Top, left) Eli Weaver (22) of Kemper Academy follows his blockers in Friday night's football game.

(Top, right) The Kemper Academy Rams run to the field for their 2021 Homecoming game against Newton County Academy.

(Above) Kemper Academy's Eli Miles (16) breaks around the defenders in the Rams homecoming loss to Newton County Academy 52-14.

Jason Dyess/ Messenger



(Above) Kemper Academy's Crown Bearer Peyton McAdory and Flower Girl Margo Holsen.

(Below) Kemper Academy Homecoming Court for 2021 (Left to Right) Halie Mabry Johnson, Abigail Williams, Breanna Eaves, Avery Luke, Sydney Wilson, Shelley Knight, Madison Boswell, Cailea Johnson.

Jason Dyess/ Messenger



KCHS tops Philly in three

By Cooper Sanders
Kemper County Messenger

This past week the Kemper County Lady Wildcats traveled to Philadelphia for a district bout against the Lady Tornadoes.

The Lady Wildcats swept the Lady Torna-

does with scores of 30-28, 25-23, and dominated the final set 25-10. On Thursday, the Lady Wildcats lost to the Lake Lady Hornets. The scores were 25-19, 25-17, and 25-9.

This week the Lady Wildcats were set to hit the road to face Scott Central and Newton.



EMCC teams finish third in men's and fourth in women's

Press Reports

LIVINGSTON, Ala. — Highlighted by a pair of first-place individual finishes, the East Mississippi Community College rodeo teams placed third in men's competition and fourth on the women's side during this past weekend's UWA Rodeo Showdown hosted by the University of West Alabama. The three-day NIRA Ozark Region event concluded Saturday evening at UWA's Hines-Spree Rodeo Com-

plex.

For the EMCC men, newcomer Clay Liven-good (Cleveland, NC) led the way by claiming top honors in tie-down roping with times of 9.5 and 10.3 seconds to earn 145 team points.

Local product Matt Watt (Scooba) tied for fifth place and earned 60 points in tie-down roping, while also pairing with teammate Tanner Brown (Florence) to claim fourth-place honors and 140 total points in team roping. The tandem

posted a winning time of 6.1 seconds during first-round action.

Brothers Cade and Cooper Cowan (Lamar) also advanced to Saturday's short-go round in team roping for the Lions but did not register a time.

The Lions' other 110 points were collected by Myles Neighbors (Benton, AR) for his second-place showing in the steer wrestling event. His performance featured a winning effort of 4.3 seconds during first-

round competition.

Women's scoring for EMCC consisted of Jaylie Matthews' (Wynne, AR) second straight barrel racing win in as many events to begin the 2021-22 Ozark Region schedule. With winning times of 15.47 and 15.56 seconds at UWA, Matthews garnered the maximum 180 points to collect her ninth Ozark Region regular-season barrel racing victory. The reigning CNFR reserve champion barrel racer and 2019-20 Ozark Re-

gion champion previously secured four event titles in her specialty event last year and three first-place finishes during the pandemic-shortened 2019-20 rodeo season.

In other EMCC women's action this past weekend, Mikayla Joh Almond (Olin, NC) advanced to Saturday's short-go round in break-away roping but did not score.

Missouri Valley College dominated the men's competition at UWA with 945 team points. UT

Martin earned team runner-up honors by finishing 35 points ahead of the EMCC men.

Host West Alabama secured the women's team title with 405 points to place ahead of runner-up Missouri Valley (295 pts) and Pearl River Community College (275 pts).

Coach Morgan Goodrich's EMCC rodeo teams will take a week away from competition before resuming action Oct. 14-16 at the Three Rivers College event in Sikeston, Mo.

KEMPER ACADEMY QUEEN



Robert Luke escorts his daughter Avery Luke off the field after she was crowned Homecoming Queen for Kemper Academy.

Jason Dyess/ Messenger

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No. 6 EMCC remains undefeated with big division win

Fast start spurs No. 6 EMCC Lions to key 30-21 road win over No. 13 Northwest

From School Reports

SENATOBIA – After scoring the game's first 27 points, the sixth-ranked Lions of East Mississippi Community College held on for a key 30-21 road victory over No. 13 Northwest Mississippi during Thursday's MACCC North Division clash played at Bobby Franklin Field.

Entering the game as the NJCAA's No. 4 scoring offense (46.5 ppg) on the year, the Lions' 20-point opening quarter began with Jamari Jones' 19-yard scoring pass to Zias Perryman coming out of the backfield at the 8:52 mark. The point-after-touchdown attempt was unsuccessful.

Aided by a costly Northwest penalty called on a third-and-long play deep in EMCC territory, the Lions proceeded to go 74 yards on the next three plays for their second score of the quarter. Following Perryman's 26-yard rumble and Jones' 12-yard keeper, EMCC's sophomore quarterback found Jontarius Henderson in the end zone from 36 yards out to make the score 13-0 with 4:27 remaining in the quarter.

The visitors closed out the first-quarter scoring by taking advantage of an opportunity created by their defense immediately following a big play during Northwest's ensuing kickoff return. After Keyon Fordham's 59-yard kickoff return to EMCC's 39-yard line, Trey Laing stripped NWCC quarterback Michael Hiers of the ball from behind on the next play from scrimmage and the fumble was recovered by Devonyal Lofton near midfield. Five plays later at the



Jamari Jones looks for a receiver.

ROCKY HIGGINBOTHAM/ MESSENGER

2:08 mark, Jones scored on an 8-yard keeper and Peyton Rodgers' subsequent PAT was good to increase the lead to 20-0.

The Lions maintained their momentum into the second quarter. Set up by a 45-yard catch and run by Arkansas transfer Montae Spivey, who sped down the right sideline before cutting across the field to the 18-yard line, EMCC's seven-play, 75-yard scoring drive was capped off by Ethan Conner's 2-yard keeper to extend the margin to 27-0 with 9:11 still remaining in the first half.

The Rangers responded on their next possession by going 70 yards on nine plays to get on the scoreboard at the 5:41 mark

when Jaquerrius Williams went untouched into the end zone from 11 yards out to cut the deficit to 27-7.

Following the intermission, the only scoring of the third quarter came on the half's opening drive when Northwest receiver D.T. Sheffield hauled in Hiers' 3-yard touchdown toss over the shoulder in the back left corner of the end zone. Eli Hamlin's successful PAT completed a 10-play, 73-yard drive to make it a brand new ball game at 27-14 with 9:53 remaining in the quarter.

Later in the quarter, the Lions couldn't take advantage of a 12-play drive, highlighted by a 47-yard run by Perryman,



Zias Perryman moves downfield.

ROCKY HIGGINBOTHAM/ MESSENGER

which consumed nearly five minutes on the game clock. Rodgers' 32-yard field goal attempt hit off the upright during the final minute of play to keep it a 13-point contest heading into the final quarter.

In an attempt to make it a one-score game, almost half of the fourth quarter was taken up by Northwest's 16-play, 68-yard drive that ate up seven minutes on the game clock before stalling on EMCC's 12-yard line.

Following the Lions' ensuing three-and-out possession and a 23-yard punt midway through the quarter, Northwest took advantage of the excellent field position at EMCC's 31-yard line. Four plays later at the 5:38 mark, Hiers hit Sheffield again in the left side of the end zone for a 9-yard touchdown toss that cut it to a one-score game (27-21) and gave the Rangers their third straight unanswered touchdown.

The visitors immediately responded on their next possession when Jones hit Kevin Barnett around midfield for a 55-yard

catch and run to the 18-yard line. The big play set up Rodgers' 34-yard field goal that stretched it back to a two-score contest with 2:53 remaining in the game.

EMCC's defense, which entered the contest ranked second within the NJCAA ranks in scoring defense (6.0 ppg), then essentially sealed the deal with less than two minutes left on the game clock with Lofton's strip sack of Hiers around midfield that was recovered by Elijah Davis.

Statistically for East Mississippi, Perryman rushed for a career-high 129 yards on 18 carries, including runs of 47, 26 and 19 yards. He also had two catches for 37 yards, highlighted by his 19-yard touchdown reception to begin the game's scoring.

EMCC's Jones completed 19-of-33 passes

for 328 yards and two touchdowns, while picking up 30 rushing yards and a score on nine attempts.

Jones once again evenly spread around his 19 completions to 10 different receivers. Josh Aka and Henderson led the way with three catches apiece for 50 and 41 yards, respectively.

Coach Buddy Stephens' 5-0 EMCC Lions, 3-0 in MACCC North Division play, return to the Scooba campus for two consecutive home division games. After playing host to the Northeast Mississippi Tigers on Saturday (Oct. 9), the Lions will stay at home to welcome the Coahoma Tigers the following Thursday (Oct. 14). EMCC's upcoming Homecoming contest against Northeast will kick off at 2 p.m. at Sullivan-Windham Field.

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Thank You

To the people of DeKalb, Kemper County, and the surrounding areas:
 Thank you for your love, your giving hearts, and most of all your prayers. I am doing ok and, on my way, back to "maybe" normal if at all possible. The food, clothing, and many gifts but most of all your prayers have seen me through this most trying time and I am hopefully on my way back to normal. I lost everything except my night gown, even my little 5 cats and 4 dogs, which actually saved my life by waking me up to find my home in flames. I have always been known as a collector and a keeper. Family things given to me, the gifts that my students gave me over the years, things that people were tired of- I collected, they all carried special memories. These were my treasures. Even all my wedding gifts- I had kept everyone. Such beautiful memories they gave me, also all the special gifts from my students. Thank all of you again for making this most trying time more bearable for me.

Sincerely and with love,
 Joyce Craig McCoy Aust

Officials shortage leads MHSAA to alter football schedules

By Laurence Hilliard
Kemper County Messenger

The Mississippi High School Activities Association has moved final regular season football games up one day.

For 2A, 3A and 4A teams, including Kemper County, the final game will be Thursday October 28. For 1A, 5A and 6A teams it will be Thursday November 4.

The changes were made be-

cause of a shortage of officials available. Games for 1A, 5A and 6A scheduled for Friday October 29 will not change and opening round playoff games for 2A, 3A and 4A will remain on Friday November 5. For each week, about half the games will be played on Thursday and half on Friday.

Games that will be changed include Kemper County at Nanih Waiya from October 29 to October 28. It's a Region 5-2A game that could affect region stand-

ings and seedings for the play-offs.

In a You Tube video on the MHSAA website, executive director Rickey Neaves said "This is a change we feel like we have to make. I think it's a good plan and it's even a plan we might consider next year or for every year to ensure that we get the best officials possible for our year-ending games and for all of our playoff games."

The changes will give teams

one fewer day to prepare for the final regular season game, but one additional day for playoff teams to prepare for opening round games.

Kemper County coach Ray Westerfield said having one fewer day to prepare for a region opponent is significant. "One less day of watching film. One less day of rehabbing injuries. One less day of practice. But the good thing is that we will all have an even playing field.

You have to play the hand that has been dealt and put your best foot forward. The game will be played on Thursday whether we are prepared or not."

Conversely, he said the extra day to prepare for a playoff opponent is a plus. "One more day to watch film. One more day to rehab. One more day to meet with your coaches and get a game plan when it's win or go home."

Kemper County Messenger

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EMPLOYMENT ANNOUNCEMENT

The Kemper County School District is accepting applications for the following positions with pay according to the district approved pay scale: English Teacher and Algebra Teacher. Applicant must possess or be eligible to possess a valid Mississippi Educator License.

Applications may be picked up at the office of the Superintendent of Education at 159 Main Avenue in DeKalb, MS or online at HYPERLINK <http://www.kempercountyschools.org>. Applications will be accepted until positions are filled. Kemper County Schools is an equal employment employer and does not discriminate with regard to race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, or disability.

MS Care Center of DeKalb is accepting applications for a CNA PRN pay rate up to \$15.00 HR. **Application may be picked up in Business Office between 9 a.m.- 4 p.m.** Email resumes to Rbolens@msscdekalb.com or mail **MS Care Center of DeKalb 205 Willow Ave. DeKalb, MS 39328.**

Employment Announcement
The Kemper County School District is accepting applications for the position of **Administrative Assistant.** Applicant must possess an Associate's Degree or equivalent hours in secretarial/book-keeping supplemental by advanced secretarial/book-keeping courses with five years or more of experience. Pay will be based upon the district approved salary scale. **The district is also accepting applications for the positions of Teacher Assistants and Custodians.** Pay will be based upon the district approved salary scale. Applications may be picked up at the office of the Superintendent of Education at 159 Main Ave. in DeKalb, MS or online at [HYPERLINK http://www.kemper-countyschools.org](http://www.kemper-countyschools.org). Applications will be accepted until positions are filled. Kemper County Schools is an equal employment employers and does not discriminate with regard to race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, or disability.

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Invitation for Bids
Stumpage for Sale
Sealed bids will be received by the Kemper County Board of Education in DeKalb, Mississippi up to and no later than 4:00 P.M., October 14, 2021, for the purchase on a lump sum basis for all timber, standing or down, designated for harvesting on 70.00 acres in Section 28, Township 11 North, Range 16 East, Kemper County, Mississippi. Bids should be addressed to Kemper County School District, P.O. Box 219, DeKalb, Mississippi 39328 or hand delivered to 159 Main Avenue, DeKalb, MS 39328. No faxed or emailed bids will be accepted. The envelope should be clearly marked to indicate that it contains a timber bid for Section 28, Township 11N, Range 16E, containing 70.00 acres' m/l. All bids will be opened at 5:00 p.m. on October 14, 2021, or as soon as possible thereafter. The Board reserves the right to reject all bids.

Publish 09-23-21, 09-30-21, 10-7-21

MISSISSIPPI FORESTRY COMMISSION

INVITATION FOR BIDS

CONTAINERIZED TREE PLANTING

ON COUNTY SCHOOL LANDS

Sealed bids will be received by the Kemper County

School District, DeKalb, Mississippi,

up to and not later than 4:00 P.M., October 14, 2021, for doing CONTAINERIZED TREE

PLANTING work on 214 acres according to the terms of the contract. The work will be

done as follows:

| SECTION | TOWNSHIP | RANGE | ACRES |
|----------------|----------|-------|-------|
| TREES PER ACRE | | | |
| 16 | 10N | 18E | |
| 214 | 454 | | |

Areas to be worked will be shown to prospective bidders by a representative of the Mississippi Forestry Commission, Louisville, Mississippi or by telephoning (662-361-1135). Before bids are submitted, prospective bidders must become familiar with area to be improved. A work contract which will be required is attached. Should a prospective bidder wish to vary this contract, it is requested that he appeal in writing to the Mississippi Forestry Commission ten days prior to opening of bids. The successful bidder will be required to sign and abide by the contract. The Board reserves the right to reject or refuse any and all bids. In submitting a bid please mail your bid in an envelope addressed as follows:

Publish 09-23-21, 09-30-21, 10-7-21
**

MISSISSIPPI FORESTRY COMMISSION

INVITATION FOR BIDS

CONTAINERIZED TREE PLANTING

ON COUNTY SCHOOL LANDS

Sealed bids will be received by the Kemper County School District, DeKalb, Mississippi,

up to and not later than 4:00 P.M., October 14, 2021, for doing CONTAINERIZED TREE

PLANTING (LONGLEAF PINE) work on 106 acres according to the terms of the contract.

The work will be done as follows:

| SECTION | TOWNSHIP | RANGE | ACRES |
|----------------|----------|-------|-------|
| TREES PER ACRE | | | |
| 16 | 9N | 17E | |
| 106 | 605 | | |

Areas to be worked will be shown to prospective bidders by a representative of the Mississippi Forestry Commission, Louisville, Mississippi or by telephoning (662-361-

1135). Before bids are submitted, prospective bidders must become familiar with area to be improved. A work contract which will be required is attached. Should a prospective bidder wish to vary this contract, it is requested that he appeal in writing to the Mississippi Forestry Commission ten days prior to opening of bids. The successful bidder will be required to sign and abide by the contract. The Board reserves the right to reject or refuse any and all bids. In submitting a bid please mail your bid in an envelope addressed as follows:

Case: 35CH1:21-cv-00094-KK Document#: 3 Filed: 08/31/2021 Page 1 of 1
Publish 09-23-21, 09-30-21, 10-7-21

IN THE CHANCERY COURT OF KEMPER COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

IN RE: THE REAL PROPERTY AND ESTATE OF JOHNNY MAY, DECEASED

NO. 21-# 94

SUMMONS

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

TO: ALL UNKNOWN HEIRS AT LAW OF JOHNNY M. MAY ADDRESS UNKNOWN

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT

You have been made a party in this Cause by Suzanne May Evans and Paula May Cash in the matter to Determine Heirship of Johnny M. May, Deceased.

You are summoned to appear and defend against said complaint or petition at 9:00 a.m. on the 1st day of November, 2021, before the Honorable Kiley Kirk at the Kemper County Courthouse at De Kalb, Mississippi, and in case of your failure to appear and defend a judgment will be entered against you for the money or other things demanded in the complaint or petition.

You are not required to file an answer or other pleading but you may do so if you desire. Issued under my hand and the seal of said Court, this 31st day of August 2021.

(seal)
CHANCERY CLERK
KEMPER COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI
BY: /s/: Sherline Watkins D.C

FILED IN MY OFFICE
AUG 31 2021
KEMPER COUNTY
CHANCERY CLERK
SHERLINE D. WATKINS

Publish 09-23-21, 09-30-21, 10-7-21

