

# Kemper County Messenger

Established 1934 – DeKalb, Mississippi

Thursday, March 18, 2021

87th Year – 1934-2021

No. 11\*\* 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.*

### SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

The Kemper County School Board Regular Scheduled Meeting will be held on Thursday, March 18, 2021 beginning at 5:00 p.m. at the District Office.

### KEMPER COUNTY CUBSCOUTS EASTER EGG HUNT

Pack 4 of the Kemper County Cub Scouts will be sponsoring an Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, March 20, 2021 at the Kemper Lake beginning at 8:30 in the morning. Because of the ongoing Pandemic, social distancing will be enforced and masks must be worn. 1st place prizes will be awarded in three age groups: 1 year old to 6 years old, 7-10 years old, and 11-12 years old. For more information please contact: Billy J Rush, Cubmaster and Porchia Robertson-Turner, Asst. Cubmaster.

### 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>.

### POSTPONEMENT OF KEMPER CIVIC LEAGUE MEETINGS

Due to Covid concerns, The Kemper Women's Civic League will not meet until March or until further notice.

### GARBAGE BILL PAYMENTS

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

The Kemper County Courthouse will no longer be accepting garbage payments.

Payments can be mailed to:

K. C. Garbage & Solid Waste

P O Box 39

DeKalb, MS 39328

Or call 1-800-253-0831 for questions regarding your account

### JRMWV PROGRAM

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

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

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

### COALITION FOR A HEALTHY KEMPER COUNTY

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

### COURTHOUSE MASK REQUIREMENT

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

### THE CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

### MULTI-COUNTY CSA TEMPORARY OFFICE PROCEDURES KEMPER COUNTY

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

See **CALENDAR**, page 2

## Vaccines now available to all

Compiled by STEVE SWOGETINSKY  
The Kemper Messenger

All Mississippians are now eligible to take COVID-19 vaccine shot.

Gov. Tate Reeves made the announcement Monday that everyone in Mississippi may call and make an appointment to have the vaccination shot starting Tuesday.

"Almost 10,000 appointments are available statewide over next three weeks," Reeves said on Twitter. "Starting tomorrow (Tuesday), all new appointments will be open

to all Mississippians. Get your shot friends - and let's get back to normal!"

Also, there are now more than 300,000 reported cases in Mississippi since March 2020.

As of Monday, the Mississippi Health Department reported that Kemper County has had 927 reported cases of COVID-19 since March 2020, an increase of 12 cases since last Monday.

There have been 24 COVID-19 related deaths in Kemper County, an increase by one since last week.

The governor has rescinded his mask ordinance. However, the Kemper County board of supervi-

sors still have its county-wide mask ordinance in place until April 5.

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

To register for an appointment at a Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH) drive-through site, visit <https://covidvaccine.unc.edu> or call the MSDH COVID-19 Hotline at 1-877-978-6453 for additional assistance.

Follow MSDH by e-mail and social media at [HealthyMS.com/connect](https://HealthyMS.com/connect).

The rate of the number of new cases increased across the state this past week. According to health department numbers, there were 3,299 new cases reported in Mississippi in the past week. There have been 300,881 cases reported in Mississippi since March 2020, and 6,903 reported deaths, an increase of 95 since last week.

The Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH) advises Mississippians to please be patient when visiting the drive-through vaccination sites. Please arrive for your vaccination appointment 15 minutes early, and please keep to your assigned appointment time.



School photos

The East Mississippi Community College rodeo team will host the Annual Intercollegiate Rodeo beginning Thursday in Meridian.

## EMCC rodeo team set to host annual collegiate event in Meridian

### From school reports

**S**COOBA — Exciting collegiate rodeo action returns to the Lauderdale County Agri-Center this week as East Mississippi Community College's 9th Annual Intercollegiate Rodeo kicks off Thursday in Meridian. The three-day event will conclude with Saturday night's championship round.

Previously postponed due to last month's wintry weather throughout the region, this will mark the fifth straight year that EMCC has hosted a collegiate rodeo in Meridian.

Gates will open at 7 p.m. nightly. Tickets at the door are \$10 for adults and \$5 for students. Admission is free for children age 5 and younger.

Men's and women's rodeo teams from several colleges and



universities that comprise the Ozark Region of the National

Intercollegiate Rodeo Association (NIRA) will compete in the event,

including in-state foes Pearl River Community College and Northwest Mississippi Community College as well as the University of West Alabama.

Competitive events include bareback riding, tie-down roping, breakaway roping, saddle bronc riding, steer wrestling, goat tying, team roping, barrel racing, and bull riding.

Children's events will include a calf scramble for those age 6-10 and a pig scramble for children 5 and younger.

The EMCC-hosted Meridian rodeo marks the spring opener for the NIRA's Ozark Region. Regional events are also scheduled to be held this spring in Poplarville (March 25-27), Monticello, Arkansas (April 1-3), Martin, Tennessee (April 15-17) and Senatobia (April 22-24) with the ultimate goal of reaching the 2021 College National Finals Rodeo (CNFR), to

See **RODEO**, page 4

## Kemper County's unemployment takes slight drop

By STEVE SWOGETINSKY  
The Kemper Messenger

Kemper County's unemployment rate continued to drop as January 2021's rate fell to 7.3 percent, down .3 point from the previous month according to numbers from the Mississippi Employment Security Commission.

This was an improvement from last year during the shutdown caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Kemper County's unemployment rate reached 13.9 percent in April 2020.

Kemper County's labor force in January stood at 3,390. Of that, 250 people were out of work.

Mississippi's not seasonally adjusted unem

ployment rate for January 2021 was 6.2 percent, decreasing three-tenths of a percentage point from the previous month's rate of 6.5 percent.

When compared to the January 2020 rate of 5.5 percent, the rate increased seven-tenths of a percentage point. The Nation's not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for January 2021 at 6.8 percent increased three tenths of a percentage point over the month but was 2.8 percentage points higher than the year ago rate of 4.0 percent.

Mississippi's not seasonally adjusted non-farm employment decreased 18,200 over the

See **RATES**, page 2

### Here is a look at the unemployment rates in neighboring counties.

	Jan 2020	Dec 2020	Jan 2019
Neshoba	5.8	5.8	NA
Leake	5.8	6.1	NA
Lauderdale	5.9	5.8	NA
Newton	5.7	5.4	NA
Scott	4.8	4.8	NA
Noxubee	9.4	8.8	NA
Winston	7.0	7.0	NA
Attala	6.6	6.6	NA

## Students educate themselves to take down tobacco

### From special reports

According to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, every day, about 2,000 people under age 18 try their first cigarette. Adolescence is when the developing brain is most vulnerable to nicotine addiction.

"That has to change," says Amy Winter, director of the Office of Tobacco Control. "The fact is of those 2,000 youth, the ones that continue to use tobacco will ultimately die from it. This is a huge contribution to the 480,000 tobacco-related deaths per year in the United States, which could all

be prevented."

Some of those youth aren't waiting for others to fix the problem. They're working together to take down tobacco themselves. Take Down Tobacco, a fresh take on Kick Butts Day, is the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids' signature platform for empowering people to stand up and speak out against the tobacco industry.

It's a daily effort that culminates every spring with the Take Down Tobacco National Day of Action which will be held this year on Thursday, April 1. On that day, youth activists, educators, parents, health advocates

and concerned citizens come together to organize events that, raise awareness of the problem of tobacco use in their community, encourage youth to reject the tobacco industry's deceptive marketing and stay tobacco-free, and urge elected officials to take action to protect kids from tobacco.

"From cigarettes and cigars to smokeless tobacco to heat-not-burn cigarettes, the tobacco industry peddles a wide range of addictive and dangerous products that put kids at risk across the globe," said Beverly Knox, director of the Mississippi

Tobacco-Free Coalition of Noxubee, Neshoba, and Kemper Counties. "Although youth smoking rates are on a downward trend and at an all-time low, skyrocketing youth e-cigarettes rates are reversing that progress. Let's use our voice to advocate for the first tobacco-free generation."

For information and resources about the dangers of e-cigarettes and tobacco products visit [www.healthymys.com/tobacco](http://www.healthymys.com/tobacco). For help with quitting visit [www.quitnow.net/ms](http://www.quitnow.net/ms), or call the Mississippi Tobacco Quitline at 1-800-QUIT-NOW.



# Safety reminders during poison prevention week

By JAMES L. CUMMINS  
Special to The Messengerr

Poison Prevention Week is March 21-27, 2021. The third week in March each year is nationally recognized to highlight the dangers of poisonings and how to prevent them. Over 2.1 million poisonings are responded to each year by the 55 Poison Control Centers across the United States. More than 92 percent of these poisonings occur at home. The majority of non-fatal poisonings occur in children younger than 6 years old. You have to be extra aware in times of stress or when family activities are taking place. This is a common time for poisonings to occur. The first step in preventing unintentional poisoning is to keep medications and common

household chemicals out of sight and out of reach of children. You should store medications, cleaners, and chemicals in locked cabinets and on higher shelves. Special locks and safety latches are available for cabinets and drawers. If there are young children in your home, always ask your pharmacist for child-proof containers. One should never refer to medication as candy and don't make a game of taking medication. You should not let children play with a medication container, even if it is empty. You should teach children to ask an adult before putting anything into their mouths and since children like to imitate adults, avoid taking medications in front of them. Never store chemicals or cleaning products in unmarked containers or food and beverage

containers. There are many colorful drinking products on the market and each year thousands of adults and children mistake poisonous chemicals for what they thought were harmless drinks of lemonade or juice. One such chemical, antifreeze, resembles some of the drinks on the shelves today because of its sweet taste and its lovely color. There are a number of indoor and outdoor plants that can be poisonous also. Check with your local library for books on poisonous plants or your plant nursery for help with identifying what may be harmful. Some pharmacies stock poison first aid kits. These kits contain syrup of ipecac, activated charcoal, and Epsom salts. You would use these products only after seeking professional

advice as to whether to induce vomiting or not. NEVER treat your child unless you have spoken to a poison control center, your physician, or hospital emergency room first. The number to the Poison

Control Center is 1.800.222.1222. For more information, go to [www.poissonhelp.hrsa.gov](http://www.poissonhelp.hrsa.gov). James L. Cummins is executive director of Wildlife Mississippi, a non-profit, conservation organization founded to conserve, restore, and enhance fish, wildlife, and plant resources throughout Mississippi. Their website is [www.wildlifemiss.org](http://www.wildlifemiss.org).

## COUNTY JAIL DOCKET

January 25th -March 8th		
tion Violation		phernalia
<b>3-8</b> Cordexster A Grace, 26, 5780 New Hope Rd De Kalb, MS, Charges: DUI 1st; No Driver Insurance; Speeding James R Hill, 27, 10050 Rd 2804 Philadelphia, MS, Charges: Probation Violation	<b>3-10</b> Shantonia McCoy, 44, 160 Otha Roberts Rd De Kalb, MS, Charges: Driving while License Suspended	<b>3-12</b> Travoris Croff, 27, 825 Depot St 27 De Kalb, MS, Charges: DUI, No Ins, No Tag, Poss. Marijuana in motor vehicle; Poss. of Drug paraphernalia; No Seat Belt; Decorey R Mason, 28, 176 Old De Kalb Scooba Rd Scooba, MS, Disturbance of Peace

## Legals and Classifieds

### LEGALS

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

Letters Testamentary having been granted on March 3, 2021, by the Chancery Court of Kemper County, to BENJAMIN A. GLISPIE, Executor of the Estate of LEVI C. GLISPIE, Deceased. Notice is hereby given to all persons having claims against said Estate to present the same to the Clerk of this Court for probate and registration according to law within ninety (90) days from the first publication of this notice, or they will be forever barred. DATED this the 10th day of

March, 2021. BEN-JAMIN A. GLISPIE, Executor of the Estate of LEVI C. GLISPIE, Deceased By:R. Kelly Kyle, MSB No. 09392Kyle Wynn & Associates, PLLCPPost Office Box 1578Madison, Mississippi 39110(601) 978-1700FAX (601) 978-1770Publication Dates:March 18, March 25, April 1, 2021

Kemper County School District Searching for Students with Disabilities Kemper County School District is participating in an ongoing effort to identify, locate, and evaluate children from birth through twenty-one who are suspected of having a disability and may need special education and related services. This includes children with disabilities residing in Kemper County

who are homeless children or are wards of the State and children with disabilities attending private schools, regardless of the severity of their disability. Research indicates that early identification is essential to the growth and development of children with special needs. Information obtained from parents and other agencies are useful in determining present and future program needs for disabled children. The ultimate goal of the Kemper County School District is to provide a free and appropriate public education for all children with a disability. Any individual, who knows of a child in the Kemper County School District with a disability and is not presently being served, should contact Amanda Hailey, Special Education Director and Child Find Coordinator, at 601-743-5125.

Hailey is responsible for conducting an annual publicity campaign, contacting agencies, coordinating disability referrals, and initiating the evaluation process for in-school and out-of-school children who may need special education services. She is also responsible for ensuring that the Child Find procedures mandated by the Mississippi Department of Education are implemented and followed in a timely manner. Once all the information has been obtained from the referral stage, a comprehensive evaluation is conducted by qualified personnel and will include administering an achievement, intelligence, and other appropriate tests that would be necessary for determining eligibility. After eligibility has been determined by the district's Multidisciplinary Evalua-

tion Team, the child is placed in an appropriate special education program according to the individual needs of the child. Information identifying the individual will be maintained by the school district and will be provided to other agencies in accordance with the Family Rights Privacy Act. Parents are guaranteed the right to examine documents concerning the identification, evaluation, and educational placement of their children. Access to this information is forbidden to any unauthorized person without written parental permission. Programs are offered for Autism, Deaf-Blind, Developmentally Delayed, Emotional Disability, Hearing Impairment, Intellectual Disability, Language Speech Impairment, Multiple Disabilities, Other Health Impairment, Orthopedic Impairment, Specific

Learning Disability, Traumatic Brain Injury, and Visually Impaired. For additional information concerning referring students with disabilities, contact Amanda Hailey who is the Special Education Director and Child Find Coordinator. She can be reached at Post Office Box 219, DeKalb, MS 39328 or by telephone at601-743-5125.

### HELP WANTED

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

## Calendar

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ment. 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 [iclark@multicountyca.org](mailto:iclark@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](http://extension.msstate.edu). The fee for training and testing is \$20, payable online by credit card, debit card, or eCheck. Successful completion of the training will certify the private applicator to purchase and use restricted use pesticides (RUPs) in the State of Mississippi for a period of 5 years. For more information contact your local extension office at 601-743-2837 or Mississippi Pesticide Safety Education at 662-325-5829.

**VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE HOURS**  
During the COVID-19 cycle, the Kemper County Veterans Service Office will be open normal hours, for appointment only. For those Veterans or surviving spouses, please call ahead for appointments. Walkins will be seen when time and space allows, and if unable to assist an individual, an appointment will be made. The Kemper County Veterans Service Office is located in the

Courthouse Annex, 29 Bell Street, DeKalb, MS. Hours are Monday and Tuesday, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. To set up an appointment, or for further information, please call Marie Wilson, County Veteran Service Officer, 601-743-2247, or email [kcvs@att.net](mailto:kcvs@att.net).

**FREE MATTER OF BALANCE CLASS**  
Matter of Balance Classes have been POSTPONED until further notice.

**ADULT JIGSAW PUZZLE**  
Adult Jigsaw Puzzle meet-ups have been POSTPONED until further notice.

**EARN YOUR HS DIPLOMA**  
Earn Your High School Diploma in just 22 weeks! Tuition, Room and Board is absolutely Free! Youth Challenge, located at Camp Shelby Mississippi, is the Premier Alternative Education Program for 16 to 18 year old youth, who are struggling in the traditional school environment and for those who are no longer attending. Challenge also offers nationally certified job skills and College classes through a local University. We accept both Male and Female Applicants, 16 to 18 years of age. For an Application

or more information call: 1-800-507-6253 or visit our website: [msyouthchallenge.org](http://msyouthchallenge.org)

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

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED AT CIVIL AIR PATROL**  
Headquarters Mississippi Wing Civil Air Patrol United States Air Force Auxiliary 1635 Airport Dr. Jackson, Miss. Volunteers needed! G.V. "Sonny" Montgomery Squadron, CIVIL AIR PATROL, Meridian, is looking for new members. Meeting time is Monday nights (except holidays) at 5:30 p.m. in building 308 at Key Field Membership categories: Cadets (youth) ages 13 - 18 (but may remain as a cadet until age 21.) Senior Members: age 18 and up. contact: Captain Carolyn Holiman 601-490-0206 [ms102-cc@mswg.cap.gov](mailto:ms102-cc@mswg.cap.gov).

**TODAY'S MOM**  
A FREE educational program is being offered to help moms-to-be learn how to make healthier choices for themselves and their baby. Today's Mom, is comprised of a series of six free lessons that includes: Keep Baby Safe, Food Safety, Pregnancy Concerns, Healthy Choices, Physical Activity, Recipe Testing and Breastfeed-

ing. If you are interested in this program. Please call Mary Bennamon at the Kemper County Extension office 601-743-2837 to find out about classes or if you have any questions. Email: [mlb267@msstate.edu](mailto:mlb267@msstate.edu)

**FREE BOOKS TO CHILDREN UNDER 5 YEARS OLD**  
Kemper County is a participant in the Dolly Parton Imagination Library Program providing a free book mailed monthly to the child in the child's name from birth until the child reaches the age of five. This project is sponsored by the United Way of East Mississippi, the Strasser Family Foundation and the Partners for Kemper County, Community Foundation of East Mississippi. To enroll your child on the website enter uwem.org and click on Impact Programs Imagination Library or [imaginationlibrary.com](http://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.

**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 Bennamon at the Kemper County Extension office 601-743-2837 to find out about classes or if you have any questions. Email: [mlb267@msstate.edu](mailto:mlb267@msstate.edu)

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

**NEW LIFE RETREAT DRUG & ALCOHOL REHABILITATION & EDUCATION**  
Narconon New Life Retreat would like to remind families to stay educated on the signs and dangers of drug abuse. Methamphetamines and opioids are on the rise in both rural and city areas. Learn the signs and protect your loved ones from drug abuse and addiction. The amount of deaths caused by Methamphetamines has almost tripled since 2014. To learn more, visit: <https://www.narcononnewliferetreat.com>

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## Rates

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month and 36,900 over the year. Industry sectors registering the largest monthly employment losses were Trade, Transportation & Utilities; Professional & Business Services; Leisure & Hospitality; and Construction. For the month of

January 2021, 32 counties in Mississippi posted unemployment rates less than the state's rate of 6.2 percent. Rankin County posted the lowest unemployment rate for the month of January at 3.7 percent followed by Union County at 4.3 percent. Jefferson County had the highest unemployment rate for January at 17.0 percent followed by Wilkinson County at 13.9 percent.

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

### LEGAL NOTICE

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

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

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

### ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

The Board of Education of the Kemper County School District hereby gives notice that bids will be received from all financial institutions located within Kemper County until 10:00 a.m. on March 19, 2021, for the privilege of keeping school funds or any part thereof in said institution or institutions for the years beginning July 1, 2021, and ending June 30, 2024, all pursuant to Section 27-105-305, et. al., Mississippi Code of 1972. Said bids shall designate the kind of security as authorized by law which the financial institution proposes to give as security for said funds and current interest rates on deposits and time deposits offered by the financial institution, as well as all applicable bank fees to be charged to the district. Bid instructions and forms can be obtained by contacting Dr. Matilda Miller at (601) 743-2657.

Please mail bids to Kemper County Superintendent of Education, P.O. Box 219, 159 Main Street, DeKalb, MS 39328. Please specify "Financial Bids" on envelope.

Bids will be opened at the regularly scheduled April 8, 2021 Board meeting.

### (USPS 292280)

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



# Easy ways to make healthy, tasty snacks

Compiled by DENISE SWOGETINSKY  
Kemper Messenger

Using fresh vegetables, pig rinds, or low carb crackers, here is a great way to snack on a healthy lifestyle.

You can make a variety of low carb dips to spice these

healthy snacks up. Just remember that healthy eating requires planning and moderation.

**EASY LOW CARB CHICKEN SALAD**  
2 cups chicken (grilled shredded)  
2 hard boiled eggs (chopped)

1/4 cup chopped pecans  
3 pickles (chopped)  
1/2 green bell pepper (seeded, chopped)  
1/2 cup mayonnaise  
1 teaspoon whole grain mustard  
2 teaspoons fresh lime juice  
1 teaspoon dried dill weed salt

pepper

Gather all of your ingredients in one place. Make sure everything is chopped up and ready to be mixed together.

**HEALTHY RANCH DIP**  
1/3 cup light mayonnaise  
1/3 cup light sour cream

1 tablespoon lemon juice  
1/2 teaspoon dried herbs (mixed)  
1 clove garlic  
1/2 teaspoon onion powder  
1/4 teaspoon salt  
1/4 teaspoon pepper

Mix together mayonnaise, sour cream, lemon juice, dried

herbs, garlic, onion powder, salt and pepper in a bowl. Let it sit for 30 minutes so the dried herbs can soften a little, then serve.

**LOW CARB CAULIFLOWER HUMMUS**

See **COOK**, page 4

## Kemper County Devotional Page

**SUBWAY** Subway of DeKalb  
Hwy 16 • DeKalb  
601-743-5516

*"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**

### Acts 5:1-11

In this story we are introduced to a couple named Ananias and Sapphira. We are told they sold a piece of property and lay part of the proceeds from the sale at the feet of the apostles to be used for gifts to the poor. However, they conspired to falsify the truth of the transaction.

Ananias appears first and gives the money. Peter exposes the deception, and Ananias suffers sudden death. A few hours later his wife Sapphira comes before the apostles ignorant of her husbands' fall, and she repeats the false narrative concerning the money. She also is struck dead.

The judgment was not because of the amount of money they gave. They were free to do with their property as they chose (verse 4). The judgment was from the misrepresentation. They are contrasted with Barnabas (chapter 4), who was so named by the apostles for his service to the church. He also gave the proceeds from the sale of a property he owned to aid the poor. Ananias and his wife wanted the reputation but not the character of Barnabas.

The sudden death of Ananias and Sapphira is shocking. There is no doubt we are to see it as a judgment of God, and it is given to provoke fear in us (verses 5 and 11). So to understand it, we need to understand the grievous nature of the sin.

The sins that stand out are greed, hypocrisy, and lying. Riches are not evil, but they are dangerous to our souls. Paul warns (Ephesians 5) that no greedy person will inherit the kingdom of God. You can give to the church or to charity (in itself commendable) for ostentatious reasons. The Lord Jesus condemned the Pharisees for being greedy even though they were dutiful in giving.

The greed of the couple in this story is exposed by their hypocrisy. They wanted to make the appearance of being more generous than they were. It must have been painful for them to give, and it was plainly impossible for them to give without receiving credit for it. The duplicity of their hearts is the warning here. God will not be mocked.

They conspired to lie to men because they loved the praise of men. But they were ignorant of

God. The Scripture says God hates lying lips, and that the devil is the father of lies. Peter remarks that it was Satan that filled the heart of Ananias (verse 3). The devil is deceitful; so will those be under his influence. But Ananias and his wife were not hidden from the Holy Spirit when the conceived the plan to lie to the apostles.

We need to consider that all things come from God. God is the absolute Lord of all things, both in heaven and earth. Whatsoever is possessed by any creature is by His indulgence. Everyone must get a grant of God of all he has. Money tends to rule men to set limits on the rights of God over them. Yet we have nothing but by God's leave.


This passage is a warning of the nature and power of sin. William Plumer warns of the nature of sin: "It is the missing of the mark. It is transgression. It is rebellion. It is iniquity. It is evil and only evil. It is folly, the opposite of wisdom. It is a lie, the opposite of truth. It unmans a man. It separates between God and his creature. It opens hell. It banishes from the best society, which is heaven. It cannot be cured by finite power or human means."

Peter had earlier stated that Christ Jesus is the only name under heaven whereby men may be saved (4:12). Christ came into the world to save sinners, but we must be sincere in faith. He is wise and knows all things. He knows who are his. Christians have love to the unseen Christ, for delivering them from the judgment of God.

After our recent ice storm, I, like many, resolved to be better prepared for the next power outage. Yet, I haven't done anything yet toward that resolution. There may not be another power outage. But it is certain I will stand before the Lord. This is a story meant to shake us out of lethargy and get us prepared for the day of the Lord.


Ananias and Sapphira belonged to the best church. They had the apostles as their ministers. They saw and heard miraculous things. Nevertheless, they were entirely unprepared for the judgment of God. And it came suddenly. It always does. So, as the Lord directs, let us be watchful over our souls.

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Romans 8:28

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— 1 Corinthians 5:17 (NIV)

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# ‘Love your neighbors, but keep your fences’ rings true

I have an expensive dilemma in my little garden, thanks to an appreciation of wildlife. My altruistic intentions are one thing, but keeping voracious interlopers off my vegetables is a whole ‘nother issue.

I asked for it in the first place, inviting all critters great and small to my little urban plot. Even put up a Backyard Wildlife Habitat welcome sign, courtesy of the National Wildlife Federation. And it has paid off with songbirds, flying squirrels, owls, different lizards and pencil-size slug-eating “worm” snakes, lightening bugs, native pollinator flies and bees, and so much more.

I do have a few rules about their behavior, including discouraging toolshed-nesting wasps, and relocating big spiders when they try to entangle me on my paths. I won’t tolerate venomous snakes, but I leave harmless others to keep rodents in check. Heck, I even get along with a colony of tick- and flea larvae-eating fire ants out by the street, long as they keep to themselves.

But now, after starting a new raised bed as a Covid project, I have had to dust off a phrase popularized by Ben Franklin: “Love your neighbors, but keep your fences.”

It’s not just keeping good relations; in my case it became a literal thing when my otherwise wonderful neigh-

bor starting allowing raccoons to share cat food with his old kitty.

I generally don’t mind them, as long as they don’t burrow under my cabin. But when they are done feeding next door, they swing by my little kitchen garden for late night snacks. They, and the orphaned ‘possum I rescued and let loose in my garden. And squirrels, and neighbors’ feral cats, and various rodents. And butterflies with their ravenous caterpillar offspring.

So far the deer that occasionally roam alongside the creek across the street haven’t found what’s left of my generous spread.

Anyway, after decades as an Extension horticulturist, and many years of working with fellow horticulturists and garden consultants, including many who manage botanic gardens, I know a thing or two about garden pests. And we all agree, from collective experience and deep research, that in most cases neither the countless anecdotal pie-in-the-sky home remedies nor commercial repellents work well, if at all, or for long. If they did, we would ALL know about it by now, and we seasoned experts wouldn’t have pests in our own gardens.

So what do I do? In a word, I fence. Hog wire or dog fencing for determined big animals, chicken wire for smaller foragers, and netting for birds and

insects. The lightweight netting is a must for keeping cabbage moths and squash vine borers from laying eggs, though I do have to lift it to hand-pollinate my squash. So far I haven’t had to deploy my small electric fence setup.

Permanent fencing isn’t cheap, and none of it is easy or terribly attractive, but they work. Repeat this in your mind: fences and screening work.

I put posts around my little raised bed, attached permanent fencing to the ends and back side, and made a removable front side panel and easy-lift top panel for easy access to digging, planting, and harvesting.

Under the creative spell of boredom I spray painted the fencing for more color in the little garden, because why not? Some folks wear lipstick and mascara. Set a little birdhouse on one of the fence posts, and a simple but cheery scarecrow on another. It all helps me smile.

So, yeah. I’m not 100 percent wildlife friendly. Still, I’m ready, if that’s what it takes to avoid wasting money, effort, and precious time in the garden.

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



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## Rodeo

Continued from page 1

be held June 13-19 in Casper, Wyoming.

“We always enjoy hosting this rodeo in Meridian and we encourage everyone to come out to the Lauderdale County Agri-Center to support all of the outstanding student-athletes who will be competing. It should be a very entertaining three nights of college rodeo competition,” said EMCC’s reigning Ozark Region Coach of the Year recipient Morgan Goodrich.

As the spring rodeo season gets underway, the East Mississippi men’s and women’s teams both rank among the NIRA’s top 10 national standings based on fall season

results. The EMCC men are presently ranked eighth nationally and third regionally with 2,340 total points, while the women’s team currently leads the Ozark Region team standings and sits ninth nationally with 1,235 total points.

Individually for the EMCC men’s team, former CNFR all-around national champion Marcus Theriot (Poplarville) ranks second nationally in tie-down roping as well as in the men’s all-around competition for the 2020-21 college rodeo season. He is also currently ranked ninth nationally and third regionally in steer wrestling.

Also for the EMCC men, reigning top-ranked collegiate steer wrestler Myles Neighbors (Benton, Ark.) ranks

fourth in the region and tied for 19th nationally in his specialty event. In addition, Matt Watt (Scooba) is tied for second regionally and tied for 16th nationally among team roping headers, while three other EMCC team roping headers (West Smith, Nick Gonzales & Theriot) and two team roping heelers (Clay Green & Cole Curry) are all ranked among the top 10 regional leaders.

In women’s Ozark Region competition, EMCC heads into the spring rodeo season holding a narrow 75-point lead over Missouri Valley College in the team standings. A year ago as Ozark Region reserve champions, the EMCC women qualified for the 2020 CNFR but did not

get the opportunity to compete at nationals because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The EMCC women’s team was led throughout the fall season by freshman Taycie Matthews (Wynne, Ark.), who hails as the nation’s top-ranked collegiate barrel racer after winning four of the five event titles during the Ozark Region’s fall slate. Her older sister, Jaylie, currently stands third in the region and 16th nationally after previously finishing the abbreviated 2019-20 NIRA season as the nation’s top-ranked collegiate barrel racer.

Also for the Lady Lions, Kyla Matthews (Athens, Tenn.) presently ranks second in the region and sixth nationally in breakaway roping.

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## Cook

Continued from page 3

- 3 cups cauliflower florets
- 2 tablespoons water
- 2 tablespoons avocado oil
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 3 whole garlic cloves
- 1 1/2 tablespoons tahini paste
- 3 tablespoons lemon juice
- 2 garlic cloves (crushed, in addition to above)
- 3 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil
- 3/4 teaspoon kosher salt
- smoked paprika
- olive oil

Combine the cauliflower, water, 2 Tbsp avocado or olive oil, 1/2 tsp kosher salt, and 3 whole garlic cloves to a microwave safe dish. Microwave for about 15 minutes – or until softened and darkened in color. Put the cauli-

flower mixture into a magic bullet, blender, or food processor and blend. Add the tahini paste, lemon juice, 2 raw garlic cloves, 3 Tbsp olive oil, and 3/4 tsp kosher salt. Blend until mostly smooth. Taste and adjust seasoning as necessary. To serve, place the hummus in a bowl and drizzle with extra virgin olive oil and a sprinkle of paprika. Use thinly sliced tart apples, celery sticks, raw radish chips, or other veggies to dip with.

### ALMOND LOW CARB HUMMUS

- 1/2 cup water
- 1/2 cup olive oil (and/or grapeseed oil)
- 1/2 cup raw almonds
- 1/4 cup lemon juice
- 3 tablespoons nutritional yeast
- 1 clove garlic (or more to taste)
- 2 teaspoons soy sauce
- 1/4 teaspoon cumin

- 1/2 teaspoon chili powder
- 1/4 teaspoon coriander
- 1/4 teaspoon paprika

Toss all ingredients into a high power blender, like a Blendtec, nutribullet, or a food processor. Blend for 2-3 minutes till smooth. Best served chilled. Store in fridge in airtight container.

## Calendar

Continued from page 2

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