

Kemper County Messenger

Established 1934 – DeKalb, Mississippi

Thursday, April 8, 2021

87th Year – 1934-2021

No. 14** 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 Swogotinsky, may be reached at 601-776-6102.

MSU EXTENSION NEW CLASS OF MASTER GARDENERS

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

MEETING OF KEMPER COUNTY WOMEN'S CIVIC LEAGUE

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

GARBAGE BILL PAYMENTS

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

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

JRMWV PROGRAM

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

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

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

COALITION FOR A HEALTHY KEMPER COUNTY

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

COURTHOUSE MASK REQUIREMENT

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

THE CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

MULTI-COUNTY CSA TEMPORARY OFFICE PROCEDURES KEMPER COUNTY

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

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

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

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

See CALENDAR, page 2

Unemployment remains idle

By STEVE SWOGOTINSKY
The Kemper County Messenger

Kemper County's unemployment rate stayed about the same in February, going up one-tenth of a point to 7.3 percent when compared to the previous month according to numbers from the Mississippi Employment Security Commission.

Kemper County's labor force in February stood at 3,430 people. Of that, 250 people were out of work.

Mississippi's not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for February 2021 was 6.1 percent, decreasing one-tenth of a percentage point from the previous month's rate of 6.2 percent.

When compared to the February 2020 rate of 5.3 percent, the rate increased eight-tenths of a percentage point.

The number of unemployed decreased 900 over the month, while the employed total increased 8,400 from the prior month.

The nation's not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for February 2021 stood at 6.6 percent decreased two-tenths of a percentage point over the month but increased 2.8 percentage points over the year.

Mississippi's not seasonally adjusted non-farm employment decreased 800 over the month and was 46,700 lower than one year ago.

The Leisure & Hospitality sector recorded the largest monthly employment decrease; while, the Manufacturing sector had the largest monthly employment gain.

For the month of February 2021, 32 counties in Mississippi posted unemployment rates less than or equal to the state's rate of 6.1 percent. Rankin County posted the lowest unemployment rate for the month of February at 3.9 percent followed by Lafayette County at 4.3 percent. Jefferson County had the highest unemployment rate for February at 15.5 percent followed by Humphreys County at 14.1 percent

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

	Feb 2021	Jan. 2021	Feb. 2020
Neshoba	5.8	5.8	NA
Leake	6.1	5.7	NA
Lauderdale	5.9	5.9	NA
Newton	5.7	5.8	NA
Scott	4.8	4.8	NA
Noxubee	8.9	9.4	NA
Winston	6.8	7.0	NA
Attala	6.6	6.7	NA



Submitted photos

Coach Sharon Thompson's East Mississippi Lady Lions listen up during a timeout in an earlier game. In the other photo, Ja'Mia Hollings takes a shot in an earlier game. The Lady Lions were 12-4 when they played Coahoma in the semifinals Wednesday at Mississippi College.

Lady Lions advance to semifinals of Region 23 tournament

From school reports

The drive is alive for the East Mississippi Community Lions as they knocked off Itawamba 63-40 Monday night and advanced to the semifinals of the Region 23 basketball tournament.

East Mississippi has now won eight-of-its-last-nine-games. The Lady Lions were to play Coahoma in the semifinals at Mississippi College. The winner takes on the winner of the Jones-LSU Eunice game for the championship.

Coach Sharon Thompson's Lady Lions now stand at 12-4.

East Mississippi made it to the final four of the tournament last week with their 69-49 home victory over Co-Lin.

Ja'Mia Hollings scored a game-high 24 points to help lead the sixth-seeded East Mississippi over the Lady Wolves.

The EMCC women owned the advantage from the opening tip against Co-Lin, jumping out to a 19-9 lead after the first quarter of play. The Lady Lions stretched the margin to 19 points (28-9) during the opening minutes of the second quarter on consecutive three-pointers by Jenessa Souza, Hollings and Amiyah Staples. With six made treys in the opening half, EMCC owned a 32-18 halftime advantage.

The reigning conference champions maintained their comfort-



able double-digit cushion throughout the second stanza, including a margin of 19 points or more during the entire fourth

See LADY LIONS, page 2

Vaccines available throughout the state

Compiled by STEVE SWOGOTINSKY
The Kemper Messenger

COVID-19 vaccinations for Mississippians are available at no cost from drive-through sites around the state, and from some local healthcare providers.

As of Monday, the Mississippi Health Department reported that Kemper County has had 949 reported cases of COVID-19 since March 2020, an increase of five cases since last Monday. The number of deaths due to COVID-19 in the county remains at 25.

Statewide, the rate of the number of new reported cases increased across the state this past week by 1,463. There have been 306,158 cases reported in Mississippi since March 2020, and 7,051 reported deaths, an increase of 54 since last week.

Vaccination offers excellent protection against illness, hospitalization and death from COVID-19. All persons aged 16 or older who live or work in Mississippi are eligible for vaccination.

Free vaccinations are available at MSDH drive-through sites statewide.

Local health clinics, physicians, pharmacies and providers also offer COVID-19 vaccination.

Check the Mississippi Department of Health website to learn more about finding a vaccination site and making an appointment

All persons 65 and older, and anyone 16 or older with a serious chronic medical condition are urged to be vaccinated against COVID-19.

The more you are apart from others, the more you are protected from COVID-19 transmission. The virus spreads easily between those eating together, talking together, or attending events.

Avoid non-essential trips outside your home.

If you are 65 or older, or in poor health, avoiding exposure to others is especially important.

Keep at least 6 feet apart from others when you are outside your home.

Avoid crowds, social gatherings and community events. Don't gather with those outside your household members. If you eat out or visit stores, restaurants or bars, keep your trips short and wear a cloth face

See COVID, page 2

EMCC claims second women's rodeo team title in weeks

MONTICELLO, Ark. — For the second time in three weeks, East Mississippi Community College claimed a women's rodeo team title along with a second-place men's team showing this past weekend at the Weevil Stampede hosted by the University of Arkansas at Monticello. The three-day rodeo concluded with Saturday's championship round at the Drew County Fairgrounds.

The EMCC women bettered their previous program record of 480 team points set last month in Meridian by scoring 545 team points at UAM to secure their ninth region event team title since

the school's inaugural rodeo season in 2010-11. EMCC has now won three women's team titles during the current Ozark Region rodeo season, winning the spring season opener in Meridian and also prevailing last October at the Southern Arkansas rodeo.

While the EMCC men's team totaled 530 points in placing second behind Missouri Valley College this past weekend, East Mississippi's teams also combined for 1,000+ points for the second time in three weeks. The 1,075 combined team points recorded by EMCC at the Arkansas-Monticello rodeo rank the school's histo-

ry behind the program-record 1,190 combined team points earned at the East Mississippi-hosted rodeo three weeks ago in Meridian to open the spring season.

EMCC's women out-distanced team runner-up Missouri Valley College by 280 points this past weekend, while the nationally top-ranked Missouri Valley men's team posted a winning total of 1,060 points. West Alabama claimed third-place team honors in both the men's and women's competitions.

EMCC's standout sister tandem of Jaylie and Taycie Matthews

(Wynne, AR) combined to collect 330 points between them while finishing first and second, respectively, in the barrel racing competition. Jaylie, the National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association's top-ranked barrel racer during the COVID-shortened 2019-20 season, earned the maximum 180 points this past weekend with winning runs of 14.82 and 14.84 seconds to claim her sixth career collegiate barrels win. Her younger sister, Taycie, who entered spring competition as the NIRA's second-ranked collegiate barrel racer, col-

See RODEO, page 2

Senator Sampson Jackson Weekly Report

The senate gavelled out on Thursday, April 1, 2021, and the session 2021 was adjourned pending official Sine Die on Sunday April 4, 2021.

In our final week of conferencing, we adopted the Conference Report to House Bill 761 that would allow the state Veterans Affairs Board to "enter into loan or scholarship agreements with employees or students to provide educational assistance where such student or employee agrees to work for a stipulated period of time for the board," to recruit and retain more nurses for veterans' homes.

The Conference Report to Senate Bill 2834 was adopted and would create the Mississippi Historic Site Preservation Fund Grant Program; within the Department of Archives and History that will start with a \$1 million legislative appropriation for granting nonprofit 501 (c) (3) organizations grants to secure and preserve "any Native American archeology site, (b) any endangered Mississippi battlefield property,



Sampson Jackson

and/or (c) any endangered Mississippi Civil Rights Movement historic site."

Adopting the Conference Report to House Bill 747 would allow the Rankin County sheriff to launch a pilot work release program to gauge whether it can be a viable part of prison reform by allowing certain non-violent offenders to participate.

The jailed inmate would be allowed to work and earn money to pay fines and fees, restitution, travel costs associated with employment, child support and to save for re-entry into society once released. After one year, the program will be evaluated for its effectiveness and could be implemented by the Department of Corrections over a larger geographic area.

Among other conference reports adopted were:

- Conference Report to House Bill 520 that would amend existing law to create a special fund in the state treasury to assist cities in paying costs associated with road and bridge improvements and water and sewer improvements. It would help counties with costs associated with road and bridge improvements.
- Conference Report to House Bill 1091 authorizes the operation of microbreweries that can produce and sell their products on premises as retail businesses.
- Conference Report to House Bill 1095 would authorize the Department of Revenue to be more customer friendly and "compromise and settle," certain tax issues.
- Conference Report to House Bill 1139 would stop the practice of having certain businesses pay June sales tax to the state on or before June 25.
- Conference Report to Senate Bill 2874 would require out of state contractors to secure sales tax permits from the Department of Revenue to

obtain building permits to work on homes and business structures in Mississippi, especially in the aftermath of natural disasters like tornados, hurricanes, and floods.

- Conference Report to Senate Bill 2474 would authorize the Department of Health to allow charges and payments to be made between state agencies for services under the medical marijuana program.
- Conference Report to Senate Bill 2062, Rural Fire Truck Acquisition Assistance Program, would authorize additional funding under for cities and counties when funds become available.
- Conference Report to House Bill 1197 would allow governmental entities to use the dual-phase design-build method of construction contracting over conventional construction when it fits the public interest because it saves money.
- Conference Report to House Bill 119 - Harper's Grace Law - says bill only refers to "CBD solution" meaning a pharmaceutical prepara-

tion consisting of processed cannabis plant extract in oil or another suitable vehicle.

- Conference Report to Senate Bill 2798 would allow investor-owned electric utilities to participate in the expansion of broadband services by leasing for profit, unused fiber connections.
- Conference Report to House Bill 356 would grant immunity to persons proving information that results in a child abuse investigation.
- Conference Report to House Bill 631 would allow off duty law enforcement officers to use their department vehicles on their second jobs.
- Conference Report to House Bill 928 would allow the commissioner of corrections to have a deputy director who can supervise operations when the commissioner is away.
- Conference Report to House Bill 1245 would require the Department of Transportation to maintain state highway rights of ways in cities of 10,000 or less.
- Conference Report to Sen-

ate Bill 2799 amended the Mississippi Medicaid Program and changed some medical reimbursements.

- Conference Report to Senate Bill 2795 - Mississippi Earned Parole Eligibility Act - establishes a set of guidelines that provide certain inmates a path to parole. Persons convicted of murder and human trafficking are not eligible. Non-violent offenders and certain violent offenders would be eligible to earn early release after meeting standards and getting approval from the state parole board.
- Conference Report to House Bill 1135 would create a delivery service permit allowing retailers to send alcohol products directly to consumers' homes. Age verification is one of several safety procedures to be put into place.

We made appointments to boards and agencies and passed a rules calendar honoring exemplary Mississippians.

I appreciate the opportunity to serve you. Please call me at 601-359-3232 if I can help you.

Legals and Classifieds

LEGALS

IN THE CHANCERY COURT OF KEMPER COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF MARK ALLENS STRONG, SR., DECEASED CAUSE NO. 20-22 SUMMONS THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI COUNTY OF KEMPER TO: ALL KNOWN AND UNKNOWN HEIRS AT LAW OF MARK ALLEN STRONG, SR., ADDRESSES UNKNOWN UPON DILIGENT SEARCH AND INQUIRY

You have been made a Defendant in the suit filed in this Court by Kayla Shaye Six, seeking to determine the heirs at law of Mark Allen Strong, Sr., Deceased. You are summoned to appear and defend against the complaint or petition filed against you in this action at 9:00 o'clock a.m. on the 3rd day of May, 2021, in the courtroom of the Kemper County Courthouse at De Kalb, Mississippi, before the Honorable Kiley Kirk, 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 29th day of March, 2021.

(seal)

SHERLINE WATKINS, CHANCERY-CLERK FOR KEMPER COUNTY, MS; DC

IN THE CHANCERY COURT OF

KEMPER COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI IN RE: THE ESTATE OF JEFFREY ALLENWEAVER, DECEASED 19-72 SUMMONS THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI COUNTY OF KEMPER TO: ALL KNOWN AND UNKNOWN HEIRS AT LAW OF JEFFREY ALLEN WEAVER, POST OFFICE ADDRESSES UNKNOWN UPON DILIGENT SEARCH AND INQUIRY

You have been made a Defendant in the suit filed in this Court by Gary Weaver, seeking to determine the heirs at law of Jeffrey Allen Weaver, Deceased. You are summoned to appear and defend against the complaint or petition filed against you in this action at 9:00 o'clock a.m. on the 3rd day of May, 2021, in the courtroom of the Kemper County Courthouse at De Kalb, Mississippi, before the Honorable Kiley Kirk, 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 29th day of March, 2021. Sherline D. Watkins CHANCERY CLERK, KEMPER COUNTY, MS; DC

IN THE CHANCERY COURT OF KEMPER COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI THE ESTATE OF JOHNNIE PEDEN, DECEASED, GREGG GAROFALO, ADMINISTRATOR PLAINTIFF vs. CAUSE NO. 17-67 BEATRICE ROGERS-SMITH, WAUKAYE DEFENDANTS PEDEN, THELMA

KIRKLAND, STEPHANNIE PEDEN, GAIL THOMPSON, CYNTHIA PEDENBELL, FRANKLIN D.R. PEDEN, ANTHONY PEDEN, DEBRA BRITTAN, JACKIE PEDEN, KIM PEDEN, ANTOINE PEDEN, JOHNNIE THOMAS WILLIE THOMAS, CHARLES THOMAS, JOHN LOVE, JERRY THOMAS, MARIO THOMAS, ANDRE THOMAS, JUNE WILLIAMS, MAURICE THOMAS, JOSEPH C. PEDEN, JR., RAYMOND PEDEN, DEBORAH PEDEN, DONNA MALAVE, VERONICA PEDEN-MOY, AMANDA BMLLER, YVETTE PEDEN, TIMOTHY PEDEN, TUNISIA PEDEN-GAY, DAVON PEDEN, CHANTELE PEDEN, MARJORIE PEDEN, DUANE MARTIN, GYRON PEDEN, LESTER PEDEN, JR., CHRISTOPHER PEDEN, LINDA PEDEN-POWELL, WILLIE PERRY PEDEN, MONICA PEDEN & MONYNA PEDEN, ALL UNKNOWN HEIRS OF JOHNNIE PEDEN, DECEASED

Summons THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI COUNTY OF KEMPETRO: BEATRICE ROGERS SMITH POST OFFICE ADDRESS UNKNOWNWALL UNKNOWN HEIRS AT LAW OF BEATRICE ROGERS-SMITHADDRESS UNKNOWNWAWUKAYE PEDENADDRESS UNKNOWNWALL UNKNOWN HEIRS AT LAW OF WAWUKAYE PEDENADDRESS UNKNOWNWSTEPHANIE PEDENADDRESS UNKNOWNWALL UNKNOWN HEIRS AT LAW OF STEPHANIE PEDENADDRESS UNKNOWNWAIL THOMPSONADDRESS UNKNOWNWALL UNKNOWN HEIRS AT LAW OF GAIL THOMPSONADDRESS UNKNOWNWCYNTHIA PEDEN-BEL-

ADDRESS UNKNOWNWALL UNKNOWN HEIRS AT LAW OF CYNTHIA PEDEN-BELADDRESS UNKNOWNWFRANKLIN D.R. PEDEN ADDRESS UNKNOWNWALL UNKNOWN HEIRS AT LAW OF FRANKLIN D.R. PEDENPOST OFFICE ADDRESS UNKNOWNWDEBRA BRITTANADDRESS UNKNOWNWALL UNKNOWN HEIRS AT LAW OF DEBRA BRITTANPOST OFFICE ADDRESS UNKNOWNWJACKIE PEDENPOST OFFICE ADDRESS UNKNOWNWALL UNKNOWN HEIRS AT LAW OF JACKIE PEDENPOST OFFICE ADDRESS UNKNOWNWKNIM PEDENPOST OFFICE ADDRESS UNKNOWNWALL UNKNOWN HEIRS AT LAW OF KIM PEDENPOST OFFICE ADDRESS UNKNOWNWNONNA MALAVEPOST OFFICE ADDRESS UNKNOWNWALL UNKNOWN HEIRS AT LAW OF DONNA MALAVEPOST OFFICE ADDRESS UNKNOWNWVERONICA PEDEN-MOYPOST OFFICE ADDRESS UNKNOWNWJACKIE PEDENHEIRS AT LAW OF VERONICA PEDEN-MOYPOST OFFICE ADDRESS UNKNOWNWYVETTE PEDENPOST OFFICE ADDRESS UNKNOWNWALL UNKNOWN HEIRS AT LAW OF YVETTE PEDENPOST OFFICE ADDRESS UNKNOWNWTUNESIA PEDEN-GAYPOST OFFICE ADDRESS UNKNOWNWALL UNKNOWN HEIRS AT LAW OF TUNESIA GAY PEDENPOST OFFICE ADDRESS UNKNOWNWDAVON PEDENPOST OFFICE ADDRESS UNKNOWNWALL UNKNOWN HEIRS AT LAW OF DAVON PEDENPOST OFFICE ADDRESS UNKNOWNWCHANTELLE PEDENPOST OFFICE ADDRESS UNKNOWNWALL UNKNOWN HEIRS AT LAW OF CHANTELE PEDENPOST OFFICE ADDRESS UNKNOWNWALL

UNKNOWN HEIRS AT LAW OF JW PEDENALL UNKNOWN HEIRS OF JOHNNIE PEDEN

You have been made a Defendant in the suit filed in this Court by Hon. Gregg Garofalo, seeking to determine heirship and partition the real property owned by the Estate of J.W. Peden in Kemper County, Mississippi. You are summoned to appear and defend against the complaint or petition filed against you in this action at 9:00 o'clock a.m. on the 3rd day of May, 2021, in the courtroom of 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. 2021. ISSUED UNDER MY HAND AND SEAL on this the 29th day of March, 2021. SHERLINE WATKINS; CHANCERY CLERK KEMPER COUNTY, MS; DC

ELC-1 (Adopted 3/22/89) Exhibit 1 **NOMINATING NOTICE** Pursuant to the provision of Section 69-27-31, Mississippi Code 1972 Annotated, and the established procedures of the Mississippi Soil and Water Conservation Commission, nominations will be accepted for the election of the Kemper County Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners for beats Two, Three and Four until April 29, 2021. Nominating petition forms and election procedures may be obtained from the Kemper County SWCD, Daws Building

197 Hopper Avenue, DeKalb, MS 39328-0576. Signed by Authority of the Mississippi Soil and Water Conservation Commission as recorded in its minutes as of November 17, 2020. Mark E. Gilbert Executive Director, MSWCC

HELP WANTED

EMPLOYMENT ANNOUNCEMENT The Kemper County School District is accepting applications for the following positions with pay according to the district approved pay scale. Chief Administrative Officer/Principal Certified Teachers/Instructional Coach School Counselor Senior Army Instructor/Interventionist (Lower/Upper Elementary, Middle & High School) Administrative Assistant (Transportation, IT, Maintenance) Bus Drivers/Applications may be picked up at the office of the Superintendent of Education on Main Street in DeKalb, MS or online at HYPERLINK <http://www.kemper-countyschools.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 application for the following position Dietary Aide, Housekeeping, RN, LPN, CNA Application may be picked up in the Business Office. Between the 9:00am-4:00pm--

Rodeo

Continued from page 1

lected 150 points at UAM with runs of 15.17 and 15.18 seconds.

Also in barrel racing, Mikayla Joh Almond (Olin, NC) placed sixth in the event to earn 40 points and give the EMCC women 370 total points in the barrel racing competition.

EMCC also picked up 175 additional points with Blair Bryant's first-place finish in the breakaway roping event. The

Hatchechubbee, Alabama native earned the title by posting winning times of 2.4 and 2.5 seconds.

Leading the way for the EMCC men this past weekend, former national collegiate all-around champion Marcus Theriot (Poplarville) paired with Cole Curry (Liberty) to claim the team roping title and collect 320 team points between them following their winning short-go effort of 5.3 seconds.

Also in the team roping event for the Lions, Matt Watt (Scooba) teamed with his brother, Jacob from West Alabama's team, to score 80

points apiece for a fourth-place finish. EMCC's Blake Crawford (Felda, FL) picked up 20 individual points by teaming with Southern Arkansas' Brody Forsyth.

The Lions also collected 90 team points with Myles Neighbors' (Benton, AR) third-place finish in the steer wrestling event, including a winning first-round effort of 3.6 seconds.

Rounding out the men's team scoring for EMCC, West Smith (Emmet, AR) picked up 40 points in the tie-down roping competition. EMCC's Curry also advanced to the championship round of tie-down rop-

ing. Coach Morgan Goodrich's nationally top 10-ranked East

Mississippi rodeo teams are scheduled to continue NIRA Ozark Region competition,

April 15-17, at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

Lady Lions

Continued from page 1

quarter. The differential increased to a game-high 27 points (60-33) after the Lady Lions opened the final period with eight unanswered points, including three-pointers by Shakira Wilson and Tamara Alexander.

Hollings' fifth career 20-point outing was highlighted by 10-of-16 shooting from the field. She also pulled down eight rebounds. Wilson followed with 11 points, while Staples approached a double-double with nine points and nine rebounds.

Derrica Gilbert and Aniya Sanders led the visiting Co-Lin Lady Wolves with 17 and 12 points, respectively.

COVID-19

Continued from page 1

covering. Gathering outdoors is safer than gathering indoors. Masks and social distancing are still needed outdoors. Follow restrictions on indoor and outdoor gathering sizes.

Calendar

Continued from page 1

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

FREE MATTER OF BALANCE CLASS

Matter of Balance Classes have been POSTPONED until further notice.

ADULT JIGSAW PUZZLE

Adult Jigsaw Puzzle meetings have been POSTPONED until further notice.

EARN YOUR HS DIPLOMA

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

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

KEMPER CO OBSERVATION 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 Holman 601-490-0206 ms102-cc@mswg.cap.gov.

TODAY'S MOM

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

FREE BOOKS TO CHILDREN UNDER 5 YEARS OLD

Kemper County is a participant in the Dolly Parton Imagination Library Program providing a free book mailed monthly to the child in the child's name from birth until the child reaches the age of five. This project is sponsored by the United Way of East Mississippi, the Strasser Family Foundation and the Partners for Kemper County, Community Foundation of East Mississippi. To enroll your child on the website enter uwem.org and click on Impact

See CALENDAR, page 4

CHAPTER 7 BANKRUPTCY \$545 + Costs
CHAPTER 13 BANKRUPTCY
Court Fees Up Front

Jim Arnold, Attorney
601-656-6914

"Kemper County School District is advertising a Request for Proposal (RFP) for Student Transportation Services. Please reach out to the district directly at (601) 743 - 2657 to ascertain a copy of the specifications. The deadline for the RFP is due to the office of Kemper County School District by April 23, 2021."

(USPS 292280)
The Kemper County Messenger is published every Thursday in DeKalb, MS 39328. James E. Prince, III, President. Subscriptions are \$36 per year in Kemper County, \$40 per year outside of the county and \$43 a year outside of the state. Single Copy price is 50 cents. Periodical postage paid at DeKalb PO office. POSTMASTERS: send change of address to Kemper County Messenger, Box 546 DeKalb, MS 39328; 601-743-5760 Monday noon is the deadline for all news submissions, advertising, weddings and obituaries. The Kemper County Messenger reserves the right to reject or edit any or all advertising.

Premeal preparations save time in the kitchen

Compiled by DENISE SWOGETINSKY
Kemper Messenger

We all look for ways to save time in the kitchen.

Prepping things in advance is a great time saver. One time saver is to chop onions, peppers, celery, and/or garlic.

Spread them on waxed paper-lined cookie sheets and freeze. After they're frozen, store in snack bags by the amounts you would need in a recipe.

Buy a few rotisserie chickens, or do your own in your smoker. Then debone it and chop the meat, separating white and dark meat by recipe and

preferences. Freeze in storage bags until needed. Make your own spice rubs and store in air type containers. Use your smoker to prepare Boston Butts, chickens, etc. pull these meats and freeze by recipe amounts in storage bags. Prepare liquid marinade and store by canning. Just remember, the

more prep you can accomplish, the easier a healthy lifestyle will be to accomplish.

SOY GINGER MARINADE
2 cup soy sauce
1 1/2 cup honey
1 1/3 cup medium dry sherry
12 cloves garlic, mashed to

4 tsp. ginger root, peeled and grated

In a stainless steel, combine ingredients and bring to a boil, stirring. Simmer for 5 minutes. and mix well or blend in a blender. Canner in canning device.

2 c. wine vinegar
8 tsp. dried parsley flakes
8 crushed garlic cloves
1 1/2 c. lemon juice
18 c. salad oil
3 c. soy sauce
1 c. Worcestershire sauce
8 T. dry mustard

MARINADE

See COOK, page 4

Kemper County Devotional Page

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Matthew 27:45-46

In these verses we see the death of Jesus. Jesus was and is the Son of God, so this is a mysterious event, but it is the heart of the Christian faith. The cross of Christ is simple, yet the most profound truth in human history.

Before Jesus was arrested he prayed to his Father, "If possible let this cup pass from me. Nevertheless, not as I will, but as thy will." On the cross, Jesus is drinking the cup of God's displeasure.

In verse 45 we read, "Now from the 6th hour there was darkness over all the land until the 9th hour." Jesus is on the cross. The earth becomes dark. When Jesus was born there was the favor of heaven upon earth. Angelic choirs sang as the glory of the Lord appeared, because a Savior, who is Christ the Lord, had come (Luke 2).

Jesus didn't just feel forsaken, he was forsaken. He was making atonement for sin. He was paying the debt of man's sin. He was meeting the obligation of the law of God, or we can say, God was letting the law take its course. Every violation of the law incurs a debt. This was a judicial punishment the Lord Jesus was receiving.

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."
— John 3:16 (NIV)

But now, as he is nearing death, there is darkness. Darkness represents the absence of life or the judgment of God. In Exodus 10, the plague of darkness over Egypt lasted 3 days. Here it lasts 3 hours. In Amos 8, the Lord is displeased with the evil of men and says, "I will make the sun go down at noon, and darken the earth in broad daylight."

This is good news for sinners. There is a fountain of life in Christ, free forgiveness in his name for all who believe. It is by faith we are saved, looking away from ourselves to the gift of God. In Christ we are freed from condemnation and given the favor of God forever. We have no ground for boasting in ourselves, but much ground for boasting in Christ.

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

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

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Party Girls bouquet

In the Garden with Felder Rushing

You know that cringey feeling when someone attends a wedding wearing something so flashy it takes away from the bride's glory? Same thing happens when azaleas erupt into eye-popping bloom.

Don't get me wrong, I love azaleas. Really. It's just that they, like a handful of other equally blinding floral exhibitionists including snowball Viburnums, wisteria, dogwoods, Hydrangeas, Southern magnolias, and crape myrtles, are so stop-in-your-tracks gorgeous they cause less-showy natives and other more demur plants to fade into the background like wallflowers.

Those few garden critics who say I don't like them simply misjudge my point, which is that when these blousy beauties show up to banish dreary winter weather and jump-start our Spring gardens, myriad other not-so-floriferous beauties simply fade into the background.

Reminds me of Skippy and Daphne, the "fun girls" from Mt. Pilot in the old Andy Griffith TV program. They were well-meaning, but every time they showed up in Mayberry, three things happened: they jazzed things up, then quickly left town, but in the meantime they left the perfectly attractive, hard-working local Thelma Lou and Helen feeling... well, a little dowdy.

Isn't this what azaleas do to otherwise outstanding Spirea, Kerria, Japanese maple, blueberries, English dogwood (Philadelphus, also known as mock orange), black- and blueberries, and other more subdued flowering shrubs? When azaleas and snowballs show up they poke us in the eye and then disappear into the background as big green meatballs, leaving us both energized and dazed.

Me, I can just say no to them, like that third beer or extra helping of mac n' cheese. If I want to be blinded by azaleas all I have to do is look across the street for a fling with Spring bling.

Instead, I savor the more subdued true beauties that inspire and comfort. Instead of blinding but finicky dogwoods, I treasure my much easier to grow native redbuds, "grancy graybeard" also known as American fringe tree, cherry laurel,

hummingbird-laden red buckeye, and my arbor's stunning crossvine.

And perhaps the most delicious spring shrubs of all, our native deciduous azaleas which flower before they leaf out. Last week I saw these leggy natives, often called wild honeysuckle, flowering all up and down the Natchez Trace, covered with huge tiger and other swallowtail butterflies. Most are pink but there are other species that flower in white, yellow, orange, and even red. And they make me all but swoon with their heady sweet bouquet.

Speaking of fragrance, this is the season when the warm wafting fragrance of banana shrub beckons us to take off our shoes and run barefoot. Before long there will be a citrusy conspiracy going on between Magnolia, star or confederate jasmine, Ligustrum, privit, and honeysuckle; though each has its own signature attar, I can barely tell them apart when they battling up for nose-space.

Meanwhile, my unexpected tendency to over-accessorize my garden with glass bottles, Mardi Gras beads and other bling is being overshadowed by the party girls across the street vying for attention.

So last week I hosted a garden soiree with them, gathering them from around my little neighborhood. Made a big floral bouquet with them that was actually almost embarrassingly opulent. They were seated side by side in one of my great-grandmother's favorite vases, which is embossed with either dogwood or Cherokee rose flowers; even stuck in a couple of stems of dogwood, our local fun gal. Couldn't have been more lush had they been arranged in a vodka bottle.

We whooped it up during our sumptuous 'do, but they quickly faded, leaving me to savor my beloved main garden squeezes.

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

Calendar

Continued from page 2

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.

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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.

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More Kemper County names at www.treasury.ms.gov



State Treasurer David McRae returns unclaimed money to the Mississippi State Department of Health.

Cook

Continued from page 3

4 T. coarse, freshly ground black pepper
Combine all ingredients. Seal in jar and store in refrigerator.

MEAT MARINADE

1 cup olive oil
1 cup red wine vinegar
8 tablespoons lemon juice
8 tablespoons mustard (Dijon)
2 tablespoons Worcestershire sauce
8 cloves garlic (minced)
4 onion (small, minced)
4 teaspoon black pepper
2 teaspoon salt
Mix all the ingredients. Can in canning device.

DRY SPICY BARBECUE RUB

Dry Rub Mix:
ground cumin
paprika
garlic powder
onion powder
chili powder
kosher salt
cayenne pepper
black pepper
white pepper
brown sugar
In a large bowl, combine 1/4 cup each of cumin, paprika, garlic powder, onion powder, chili powder, salt and ground pepper. Add 1/2 cup dark brown sugar. Mix all ingredients together well. Pour into a clean dry mason jar and store tightly sealed until ready to use.

SPECIAL DRY RUB

8tbsp. paprika
8 tbsp. light brown sugar
8 tbsp. salt
4 tbsp. ground red cayenne pepper
4 tsp. dry mustard
4 bay leaf
In a food processor or blender, combine ingredients. Process until bay leaf is pulverized and mixture is thoroughly blended. Store in airtight container at room temperature up to 3 months.

HERB MIX

4 tbsp. fennel seed
4 tbsp. dried savory
4 tbsp. dried marjoram
4 tbsp. dried thyme
4 tbsp. rubbed sage
Combine all ingredients. Store in an airtight container.



ZETA DOVE MEMBER SOROR JUANITA PAGE

The DeKalb Chapter of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc, Beta Alpha Alpha Zeta, recently celebrated Soror Juanita Page of Scooba, MS for being a Zeta Dove member of the Sorority. Dove status is given to Sorors who have been members of the Sorority for 50 or more years. Mama Page, as she is affectionately called by her Sorority Sisters became a member of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. on April 29, 1967 at Rust College in Holly Springs, MS.

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