



Obituary





EDWIN WILBURN HOOKER III
Edwin “Ed” Wilburn Hooker, III passed on to his heavenly home Friday, March 26, 2021 with loved ones by his side.
Ed was a beloved son of the Lexington, MS community remembered for his kindness, charming personality and endearing sense of humor. He was born in 1971 and raised in the Lexington First United Methodist Church, was an Eagle Scout and graduated from Central Holmes Acad-

emy. Many fond memories were made hunting at Random Shot, playing football, baseball, golfing at “Little Augusta” and following his favorite team the Ole Miss Rebels. He graduated with a Business degree from The University of Mississippi and was a member of Phi Delta Theta fraternity where he met many of his life long friends.
Ed married Kimberly Flowers in 2000 and raised their family in Ridgeland, MS and attended Christ United Methodist Church. He spent his career in medical device sales in the area of vascular surgery. Ed’s greatest joy came from spending time with his loving family and his most treasured moments were watching his children grow and excel in the many activities they pursued. One of Ed’s gifts was being a genuine friend with a beautiful, kind heart and an easy going style that made him

loved by all that knew him.
Ed is survived by his loving wife Kimberly, son Edwin “Win” Wilburn Hooker, IV and daughter Anna Margaret. He is also survived by his parents Ed Wilburn and Margie Hooker of Lexington, MS; sisters, Kathleen Hooker Waldrop (Art) of Atlanta, GA and Louise Hooker of Jackson, MS; nieces and nephews, Quin and Eliza Waldrop, Alexis, Eli and Owen Ridgeway, Belton Walker and Elliott Flowers; and the many friends and extended family that loved him.
He is preceded in death by his paternal grandparents, Edwin “Wilburn” and Mary Elizabeth Yates Hooker, Lexington, MS; and maternal grandparents, William and Helen Cheever Bird, Birmingham, MI.
A memorial service was held at 12:00 p.m on Tuesday, March 30, 2021 at Christ United Methodist Church, 6000 Old Canton Rd., Jackson, MS Burial was held at Lexington Odd Fellows Cemetery on Rockport Rd., Lexington, MS at 2:30p.m.
In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Lexington Odd Fellows Cemetery, Christ United Methodist Church in Jackson, MS, or a charity close to your heart.





Thank You

— FROM THE FAMILY OF —

Dominica LuCinda Fleming
December 30, 1974 – February 21, 2021

There are not enough words to fully express our heartfelt thanks for the sympathy, prayers, love, and support you have extended to our family during this time of loss.

Delta State to host in-person Spring 2020 Commencement Exercises April 30

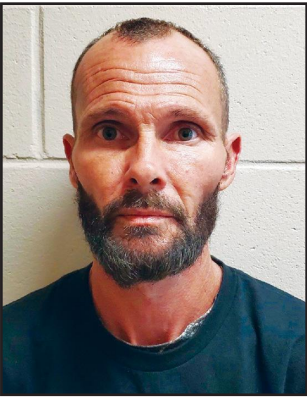
Press Release
CLEVELAND, Miss.— Delta State University is pleased to announce plans to host in-person commencement exercises in celebration of its Spring 2021 graduates.
The University will host three commencement ceremonies at 10 a.m., 1 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. Friday, April 30, in the Walter Sillers Coliseum, located on DSU’s campus. A live stream of the ceremonies will also be available at www.deltastate.edu.

Delta State President William N. LaForge said the decision to host in-person graduation ceremonies was made in the interest of providing students and their families with the best possible graduation experience, while also maintaining COVID-19 safety protocols.
“Our decision to move to an in-person event is premised both on our current experience with low numbers of positive COVID-19 cases on campus, and on our expectation that all participants in the graduation ceremonies will adhere closely to the protocols, including mask-wearing and social distancing,” said LaForge.
“I am very pleased that we

Former Oktibbeha County road department employee arrested for embezzlement


Press Release
JACKSON, Miss. – Thursday, March 25, State Auditor Shad White announced Special Agents from his office have arrested Thomas Smith, a former Oktibbeha County Road Department employee. Smith was arrested after he was indicted for embezzlement. A \$657.20 demand letter was presented to Smith when he was arrested. The demand amount includes interest and investigative expenses.
Smith is accused of embezzling fuel by siphoning it out of a county-owned truck. Smith purportedly hid fuel containers on the side of the road so he could stop and siphon fuel from the truck into the containers. Smith would allegedly return to the location in a personal vehicle to retrieve the fuel he had siphoned. Investigators determined this scheme lasted from June 2019 to August 2019.
Smith surrendered to Special Agents at the Oktibbeha County Sheriff’s office. Bond was set at \$5,000 by

can make this adjustment for our graduates, who deserve our public recognition and congratulations on their special day,” he added.
Graduates participating in the ceremony will receive four guest tickets each. Due to COVID-19 seating limitations, additional tickets will not be available; however, graduates are encouraged to share the live stream with guests unable to attend in-person.
To ensure the safety of students, employees and guests, all attendees will be required to wear a face-covering throughout the ceremony, adhere to social distancing guidelines and complete a temperature check prior to entry into the coliseum.
While adherence to DSU’s COVID-19 protocols necessitate some modifications, Provost & Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Charles McAdam said the university is excited to once again celebrate this important milestone with graduates.
“We are very pleased to offer an in-person celebration for our Spring 2021 graduates. Our students have worked hard, and our graduates have earned the oppor-




THOMAS SMITH
the court.
No surety bond covers Smith’s employment as an employee of Oktibbeha County. Surety bonds are similar to insurance designed to protect taxpayers from corruption. Smith will remain liable for the full amount of the demand in addition to criminal proceedings. The case will be prosecuted by the office of District Attorney Scott Colom.
Suspected fraud can be reported to the Auditor’s office online any time by clicking the red button at www.osa.ms.gov or via telephone during normal business hours at 1-(800)-321-1275.

tunity to be publicly recognized and celebrated for their achievements,” he said.
McAdams believes the modified in-person ceremonies are a step forward in the return to normalcy for the DSU community.
“I know we all hope an improving health environment over the next several months will enable us to return to Commencement ceremonies as we have had them in the past,” he said.
Graduating seniors are encouraged to check their University e-mail for additional details regarding participation in the ceremonies.
For additional details about Delta State’s Spring 2021 Commencement Exercises, visit www.deltastate.edu/academic-affairs/registrars-office.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

WALDEN CHAPEL
Walden Chapel United Methodist Church in Goodman will host a “Passion Parade”, Good Friday, April 2 at 6:30 p.m. The parade line up will begin at 5:30 p.m. at the church.



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Julie Ellison...Gen. Manager

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

In Holmes County -	\$35.00
In Mississippi -	\$40.00
Outside Mississippi -	\$50.00