

Guastella begins residency in Arkansas



Dr. Lily Fran Guastella, daughter of Robin and Frankie McCrory recently graduated from the University of Mississippi Medical Center School of Medicine and has started her residency in family medicine at Conway Regional Health Systems in Conway, Arkansas. Dr. Guastella is pictured here in the July 1 Residency Convocation and White Coat Ceremony. Pictured above are: Dr. Rosario Guastella (husband), Resident Physician at Unity Health White County Medical Center in Searcy, Arkansas, Dr. Lily Fran Guastella, Dr. Sarah Robertson, Family Medicine Residency Program Director and Matt Troup, Hospital CEO.

IN AND AROUND LEXINGTON BY LEONA (LENA) FIELDS

Lee Henry Wright's daughter is still improving. Her niece, Cassie Wright, went to visit her. She was able to talk to her daddy on the phone. Keep praying for her.

Florine "Flora" Keys passed recently. She was funeralized Saturday, July 10. Keep the Keys family uplifted in prayer. Florine was one of the best gospel singers in Holmes County. She sang with a gospel group; plus she would sing a solo in just about any church she visited.

Laura Williams passed recently. Keep the family uplifted in prayer. I hope I got Laura's last name right. Anyway, she was the lady that worked in the office at Fred's Dollar Store before the store closed. At her demise, she was working at the Super Dollar Store in Lexington.

Second Sunday weekend, Goldia Landfair had out of town company. Her son Marcus and a friend came from Cedar Rapids, Iowa and spent two days.

People in Mississippi and all other states, don't have loose screws in your head, go get your COVID shots. Teenagers, if you are afraid of needles, it's not anything wrong with praying for God to calm your nerves. Those of you that use needles to take drugs should be brave enough to take one or two vaccines for your health and other peoples health. Using drugs are a sin; but the COVID-19 vaccine is helpful to people.

Churches, the virus is be-

ginning to rise again. The Delta version is spreading rapidly. So make sure the members use a thermometer to test their fever. Make sure they wear a mask and sanitize their hands. God wants us in church. But he also wants us to use common sense. I'd rather be in church and not in the cemetery due to COVID-19 because I did not follow the health guidelines. Make sure your church is thoroughly cleaned and sanitized after each service.

Mississippi gets nearly \$13 million for rural Covid fight

JACKSON, Miss. (AP) — Mississippi hospitals in rural areas will receive nearly \$13 million in federal funding to help fight the coronavirus, according to a news release.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services is giving \$12,918,800 through its Small Rural Hospital Improvement Program to 50 small rural hospitals in the state, according to the release from the White House. Hospitals can use the money to expand access to testing in rural areas as well as for other coronavirus mitigation efforts needed in their communities.

"The Biden Administration recognizes the important role that small rural hospitals have in closing the equity gap and ensuring that rural Americans can protect themselves and their communities from COVID-19," said Secretary Xavier Becerra in the news release.

The state's Department of Health Monday announced 796 new coronavirus cases over a three-day period from July 9 through July 11 and two new deaths during that same time period. A little over one million people have been fully vaccinated against the virus.

Agricultural Informational Fair held on June 27



Presenters were: Henry Anderson, Jr., Kimberly Clayton, Alex Harvey, Fernando Vazquez, Larry Pate and James "Jim" Corley.

A myriad of resourceful information for farmers, beginning farmers, ranchers, youth and the public was received during an eye-opening Agriculture Informational Fair held Monday, June 27. Held in Saints College/Academy Auditorium, Lexington, the event was coordinated and hosted by the Holmes Livestock and Growers Project (HLGP) in collaboration with the Holmes County USDA NRCS and FSA Service Center.

Some audience members appeared captivated to the edges of their seats. HLGP is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization built on a membership of farm families in Holmes County.

It was indeed a very interesting awareness outreach; I am glad my wife and I came to support HLGP and the great things it is doing in our county," said Leslie Greer, co-founder of the Communi-

ty Students Learning Center (CSLC). The CSLC, also a 501(c)3 non-profit has successfully implemented two of USDA NRCS's federal outreach programs; one, a youth outreach and the other, farm information awareness.

"This informational outreach is one of the many things that we do as a part of our mission," said Henry Anderson Sr., HLGP president. "We work with small farmers to promote sustainability and create legacies for future generations to enjoy the earth's natural resources."

HLGP Secretary and Outreach Organizer Kimberly Clayton welcomed the attendees, and HLGP member Derrick Scott presented the occasion. Speakers and presenters of the free event included USDA NRCS Supervisory District Conservationist, Area 4 Fernando Vazquez, Holmes County

Extension Director (Retiring) Betsy Padgett, USDA FSA Holmes County Director Jim Corley, Farm Service Agency Loan Director Larry Pate, NRCS Easement Team Leader Rick Hagar, USDA NRCS Assistant State Conservationist and Area Conservationist for the Delta Area Taharga Hart (a Holmes County native), and Professional Consulting Forester and Wildlife Biologist Alex Harvey.

Each of the presenters provided a wealth of information and resource materials. Farmers and others left the event with handfuls of pamphlets, brochures, including the MSU Extension Service Garden Tabloid dubbed as the "Garden Bible," according to Padgett.

Hart covered general details about new initiatives, new staff, etc. He pointed out that Holmes County manages most of the programs in the

state, and he highly emphasized that if anyone has questions about USDA, please feel free to contact the office.

"We encourage the farmers to stop by the office and talk with us," said Vazquez. His office covered eligibility criteria for applying for financial assistance.

"This step is very critical for farmers, because it helps them understand what documentation they need to be eligible for USDA programs. We encourage farmers to keep track of their farm records (# of cows, acres, crop, irrigation, yields, etc.)," he said.

Vazquez also covered their main conservation programs, (i) the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) which provides technical and financial assistance to producers to address natural resource concerns and deliver environmental benefits such as improved water and

air quality, conserved ground and surface water, increased soil health and reduced soil erosion and sedimentation, improved or created wildlife habitat, and mitigation against drought and increasing weather volatility; (ii) the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) helps agricultural producers maintain and improve their existing conservation systems and adopt additional conservation activities to address priority resource concerns. CSP pays participants for conservation performance – the higher the performance, the higher the payment.

An interesting awareness from the event was the critical importance of timber appraisals presented by Alex Harvey, who is also founder and president of Legacy Land Management, LLC, a black-owned natural resources management firm.

Attendee Gregory Crenshaw, who is interested in starting a cattle business, said the farm seminar was very helpful in providing information about farming, tree logging and ways to acquire cattle, and how to start your own vegetable gardens and fish ponds. "I really enjoyed the workshop," he expressed.

HLGP also recognized its outstanding youth in agriculture with gifts. Each of whom had recently represented the county well in state 4-H competitions.

President Anderson thanked the speakers, presenters, audience and everyone who helped with the event. He left everyone with this food for thought: "Land

was only made once; value it."

After the Informational Fair, a field tour was held at James "Kent" Cobbins' farm, where they received more critical information and saw first hand NRCS practices. Mr. Cobbins has a beautiful farm. I was amazed at how well his farm was put together. He and Fernando Vazquez gave pivotal information about farming. James' father also gave great points. He told visitors, "If he had the resources that we have today when he was younger, he would have had so much more. We have to take advantage of all of our resources." Kent and his family showed antique farming equipment as well as today's must haves on a farm.

Kent gave a tour of his farm outlining practices used through NRCS programs assistance, while driving a tractor pulling two trailers, where visitors sat.



Bridal Registry

Riley Angell
Aaron Goldman
August 1

Peoples Drug Store

Court Square 834-2721 Lexington