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More-house General Hospital among Community Grant Recipients

By Brittany Wilson Bastrop Enterprise

New Orleans, LA – Through support from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the Louisiana Public Health Institute (LPHI) is working to address systemic inequities to reduce tobacco use among African Americans in the South (Project ASIRT). LPHI has selected six community engagement partners and three rural health partners as Project ASIRT grantees.

These organizations will participate in a learning collaborative to build the capacity of Louisiana's rural communities to reduce tobacco use among African Americans, address and recognize tobacco-related inequities, and influence policy change at the local and state level. Each of the grantees are in one of the Project ASIRT priority locations, which include Ferriday, Jonesville, Lake Providence, Tallulah, Bastrop, Delhi, Opelousas, Kentwood, St. Joseph, and Newell-ton.

"We're excited to be working with these nine organizations to address tobacco use and cessation efforts on multiple fronts," said Tiffany Jeanminette, LPHI's director of Policy and Equity. "Working with local organizations allows us to better understand each community and create solutions that address tobacco-use, health inequities stemming from tobacco-use, and enact equity-focused policy changes."

Community engagement partners will each receive \$20,000 to increase rural community capacity and engagement to mobilize around tobacco- and tobacco-related issues facing their communities and eliminating tobacco-related health disparities. The recipients are:

Opelousas General

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PVA holds Softball Championship Ring Ceremony

By Brittany Wilson Bastrop Enterprise



Photo Submitted

Pictured here are Head Coach Megan Till and Assistant Coach Kerigan Swain along with the team.

The PVA softball team were presented their championship rings at a ceremony on Monday, January 18.

According to coach Megan Till, the team "capped off a 28-8 record to complete the ultimate dream season." The team finished the season as MAIS Class A State Champions.

During the ceremony, the team was presented with their championship rings as well as a jar of dirt from the field. A tag attached

to the jars reminded the girls "on this dirt you've literally left it all-blood, sweat, and tears. You've fought side-by-side with girls that can relate to how bad you want to win. This dirt holds your laughter as tightly as it holds your frustration. Life goes on off this dirt, but nothing can compare to the feeling you get while standing on it. Each time you look at this jar, know in your heart what it stands for and remember this championship year and all of the memories it

holds."

Awards were also given to the players for certain accomplishments. Several of the players were chosen for the All District 1st Team and the All District Second Team. Players chosen for the 1st Team include Chloe Halterman, Macy Taylor, Chloe Hobson, Elle Morgan, Anna Grace White, Emma Goss and Kayla Hawthorne. Players chosen for the 2nd Team include Racheal Hankins and Brynlee McKoin.

Girls chosen for

the All-State Team were Macy Taylor, Elle Morgan, Anna Grace White, Emma Goss, Brynlee McKoin, and Kayla Hawthorne. Megan Till was chosen as Coach of the Year, while All MAIS 1A Player Of The Year went to Elle Morgan. Refreshments followed the ceremony which was attended by family and friends of the girls.

Prairie View Academy was proud of the team and congratulated them on a well-played season and on their Championship win.

LSU AgCenter to host Virtual Training for farmer's market vendors

By Brittany Wilson Bastrop Enterprise

LSU AgCenter is hosting a Virtual Training for Farmer's Market Vendors for several parishes on Wednesday, February 17.

As stated on the Eventbrite.com page the training "will teach current and potential Louisiana farmers market vendors about growing, marketing, developing, and selling their products through both in-person and online market channels."

The training event will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. and is open to people in Morehouse, Tensas, Madison, and West Carroll. The training can be done from home or from Viewing sites in these parishes. The sites are limited to ten people per site due to COVID-19 so people are encouraged to register as soon as possible. It was also noted on the Eventbrite page for those interested "A recording of the training will be made available on the LSU AgCenter website after the event."

The event will include speakers discussing subjects such as crop production, vendor experience, information for beginning farmers, crop production and expanding the customer base, and food safety. Specific sessions include variety selection for best vendor success, increasing the growing season with high tunnel farming and hoop houses, and how to be a great vendor through product selection, market leadership, and teamwork. there will be a variety of speakers from local vendors to LSU AgCenter employees.

To register for the training and view a comprehensive schedule for the event visit Eventbrite.com and search for Virtual Training for Farmer's Market Vendors. For more information about the training event contact Celia Stevens at csteven@agcenter.lsu.edu or (318) 435-2908.

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