



THE CANTON NEWS

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Canton News
P.O. Box 1163, Canton, MS 39046

Courtroom was named for Brown Goodloe



Special to The Canton News

Canton Civil Rights Pioneers who were honored at the courtroom dedication ceremony, include front row from right, Arthur Tate, Mary Smith Blackmon, Betty Robinson, and Mary Nell Whisenton. Back row from left is Judge Kamesha Mumford, Alderwoman Vickie McNeill, Kenny Wayne Jones, Mayor Arnel Bolden, honoree Flonzie Brown Goodloe, Cynthia Goodloe Palmer, Lloyd Goodloe and Alderwoman Olivia Harrell.

By Susie A. Wolfe

The courtroom at Canton City Hall was named for Civil Rights activist Flonzie Brown Goodloe, and was dedicated on Feb. 26 with an unveiling of her portrait. Mayor Arnel Bolden presided, and welcomed guests that included ninety-three-year-old Charles Evers, the first African American mayor of a bi-racial Mississippi town, and other Civil Rights pioneers.

"We honor those who have paved the ways for others to follow in their footsteps," said Mayor Arnel Bolden, who along with the City's alderman, sponsored the event. "We are also paying special tribute to the one (Flonzie Brown Goodloe) who has, without a doubt, paved the way for each elected official in Mississippi to enjoy the benefits of the right to vote."

Mary Smith Blackmon was recognized as the first black student to graduate from (all white) Canton High School in 1966.

cont. on page 4

McNeal students meet First Lady



Special to The Canton News

Shown with the books donated to the McNeal library are, from left, Elizabeth Russ, Touch A Truck®/volunteer, Cassandra Williams/CPSD Superintendent, First Lady Deborah Bryant, Shannon Whitehead/McNeal Principal, Quintana Goodloe/McNeal Instructional Specialist, and Amber Sukhbaatar/ Jackie's International/Bumpers Drive-In of America.

By Susie A. Wolfe

Mississippi First Lady Deborah Bryant read to McNeal Elementary kindergarteners and first graders on March 16, and donated 150 books to their school library. She then announced that both grades were being sponsored by Bumpers Drive-In, along with a group of Handy Helpers, to attend Field Trip Friday at Touch A Truck® Jackson on April 15.

CPSD Superintendent Cassandra Williams and McNeal Elementary Principal Shannon Whitehead thanked First Lady Bryant for donating books to

the students. Superintendent Williams said this event was a wonderful experience for students. She also thanked community partners Bumpers Drive-In and the Junior League of Jackson for collaborating with the district to help students excel.

The kindergarteners and first graders then experienced a miniature version of Touch A Truck® Jackson including a child simulator from MDOT, a Canton Fire Department fire engine, a Mississippi Highway Patrol truck, a big-rig from Ergon, a radio van from US 96.3, and the Mississippi Braves van, plus special visitors Trusty and Jackson,

the Mississippi Braves mascots.

Touch A Truck® Jackson is a family event that offers hands-on opportunities for children to explore, climb and touch trucks, emergency response vehicles, heavy machinery and other equipment. The 2015 Touch A Truck® Jackson Saturday general admission event at Trustmark Park drew over 5000 people with more than 40 pieces of heavy machinery, emergency response, utility, big rig and construction vehicles. This year's events will be held on Friday & Saturday, April 15 & 16, 2016 at Trustmark Park in Pearl.

Youth Leadership Government Day

Special to The Canton News

The Madison County Youth Leadership Government Day was held on Wednesday, February 24. The class enjoyed a breakfast with local elected officials at the Butler Snow Law Firm in Ridgeland.

Shown with Canton Mayor Arnel Bolden are Canton residents (l-r) Joseph Smith and Mary Breiten Webb, Canton Academy; Mayor Bolden; Brandon Porter, New Summit School; Makayla Garrett and Jamarius Brown, Canton High School.



Special to The Canton News

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CGMA April children's concert set for April 9

Special to The Canton News

The Canton Gospel Music Association (CGMA) invites the public to its first Children's Choir Festival Concert on Saturday, April 9th at 5 p.m. at the St. Paul AME Church, 505 S. Union Street. Rev. John C. Evans is the pastor.

"The public is invited to come and hear the melodic sounds of children's choirs assembled together to blend their voices in songs of praise," says Sherida Banks, Children's Choir Festival Chairperson. Banks is member of CGMA and is a junior at Germantown High School.

Children sing with such joy and glee and sincerity and the public is invited to come and "Listen to the Children" from across Madison County.



This festival will also highlight the importance of investing in children by providing music scholarships to the many musically talented. To-date, the Canton Gospel Music Association has awarded \$20,000 to 100 students.

Music scholarship applications will be available for those students wishing to apply. Scholarships will be awarded in the month of May and at the upcoming Thirteenth Annual

Scholarship Awards and Gospel Music Celebration on August 28.

The CGMA consists of choir directors, choir presidents, musicians, songwriters, recording artists, song leaders, soloists, radio announcers, ministers of music and pastors of Madison County.

Lions Club plans auction

Special to The Canton News

The annual Canton Lions Club Auction will be held on Friday, April 15 beginning at 5 p.m. at the National Guard Armory. The Lions Club International is the world's largest service club with more than 1.4 million members in 207 countries.

Items to be auctioned will include trips, tools & equipment, pottery, artwork, furniture, jewelry, potted plants, etc. which are donated from local businesses.



Marlo's Backyard Bar-B-Que will serve bar-b-que chicken and/or a pulled pork plate beginning at 5 p.m. Marlo's, now in a new location on West Peace Street, is providing the food at cost and donating their time.

The auction begins at 6:30 p.m. Funds raised will go to support the Canton Lions Club's local charities, eye glasses for those in need and school scholarships.

For more information, contact Barbara Power at 601-859-6466 or Chan Chandler at 601-259-1606.

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EPWA To Host Marketplace Festival



Special to The Canton News

The Empowering Progressive Women's Association will hold Marketplace Festival 2016 on Saturday, April 9 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Turning Point Arts & Entertainment Studio at 231 West Peace Street.

The event will deal with taking the initiative to celebrate, empower and support aspiring new business owners and pioneering trailblazers who have mastered the craft of selling.

Throughout the day, there will be business experts that will empower shoppers and vendors to build bigger brands, develop personal growth and leadership skills and ministering in the marketplace.

Tickets are \$5. For more information go to www.kathyamoscoaching.com.

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From the Mayor's desk

By Guest Columnist Arnel Bolden,
Mayor of Canton

Now that March is here, it's time to get outside and enjoy the fresh air and sunshine by engaging in outdoor activities like



Special to The Canton News

walking, running, tennis

and youth sports. We are fortunate to live in a city that affords residents of all ages the opportunity to enjoy these activities in several designated areas that are well-maintained and monitored by Canton's Parks and Recreation Department, Public Works, and members of the city's Police Force.

My colleagues and I on the Board of Aldermen have spent many hours this year in meetings devoted to the goals we have for the city. One of the most important goals is the continual management of our green spaces, walking trails, sidewalks, and city parks. I truly believe that we can build a healthier Canton for the improved mental and physical well-being of all residents and for future generations to come.

Now, more than ever, spring in our city is filled with opportunities for

outdoor fun. Parents looking for healthy and entertaining activities for their children or seeking safe areas in which to hold family outings this spring and summer can find all they need right here in Canton.

Children can utilize the playground equipment, and picnics and family gatherings can be held in any of our public parks. Our Parks and Recreation Department has been working diligently to ready our parks and playgrounds for the summer, and we're already off to a great start.

Don't forget about the well-maintained sidewalks of downtown Canton when looking for a safe area in which to walk. Many take advantage of this secure, shaded area by putting on their walking shoes and exercising during the noon hour or after hours.

Our green spaces are taking shape as the season changes and I extend my heartfelt gratitude to the city personnel who plant flowers, cut the grass, line the ball fields, monitor the areas for safety and make improvements to make our facilities and spaces more accessible and secure.

If you have an opportunity, please explore all that Canton's parks and green spaces have to offer. They are the perfect place to relax, exercise and enjoy leisure and sporting events without having to leave home.

As we enter the most important season of rebirth and renewal, Easter, I hope you and your family have a wonderful spring as you enjoy our wonderful city.

Canton charities receive donations from fraternity



Special to The Canton News

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The men of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity held their 79th annual 7th District meeting recently in Jackson. Along with the Epsilon Kappa Kappa Chapter of Canton, the fraternity donated to the following three Canton organizations:

\$2,000 to Our Daily Bread Ministries, \$2,000 to the Boys and Girls Club, and \$10,000 to the Juanita Sims Doty Foundation that started in Canton and mentors to young males at two Canton middle schools.

CPSD Job Fair set for April 9

Special to The Canton News

A job fair for the Canton Public School District will be held on Saturday, April 9 at Goodloe Elementary School from 9 a.m. to noon. CPSD is currently recruiting for teachers, teacher assistants, administrators, cafeteria workers and maintenance workers.

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The Knights of Pillars Nurses hold first anniversary banquet

Special to The Canton News

The Knights of Pillars Nurses Association will present its first anniversary banquet on Saturday, April 16 at 7:30 p.m. in the St. Paul Family Life Center



on South Union Street. Admission is \$20. Contact Bertha McGruder for more information at 601-953-8769.

Tourism promotes Spring walks around the Square

Special to The Canton News



Photo courtesy of weknowyourdreamz.com

Canton Tourism will walk the square from noon until 12:30 p.m. every Tuesday and Thursday from March 22 to June 16.

"It's a chance to meet new people, enjoy the outdoors and fresh air while staying active and healthy," said Tourism Director Jana Pagett.

Merit Health Madison is a partner with them and will provide a speaker once a month at the welcome center.



Courtroom renamed

continued from front page

James "Fee" Jones was the first black salesman to work at Perlinkeys Store for men only. Betty Robinson was the first black teller to work at Canton Exchange Bank, now Trustmark. Carrie Smoot was a dedicated Civil Rights worker. Arthur J. Tate, Sr., was the first black senator elected since the Reconstruction Era from Madison County. Mary Nell Whisenton was the first black salesperson to work at the Fair Store, now known as Iupe's.

Family members and distinguished guests were also present to recognize the honorees.

Brown Goodloe dedicated her honor to her father, Frank Brown, Sr., who had been denied the right to vote in that very courtroom many years before.



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Walk to support SIDS

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In an effort to create awareness and raise funds to support the fight against Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS), Sudden Unexplained Infant Death and infant mortality in Mississippi, the Mississippi SIDS and Infant Safety Alliance will be sponsoring a fundraising event for Mississippi residents and their families.

The 5K Walk/Run for Babies will take place on the Square in Canton on Saturday, April 9. The 5K Walk/Run will be a timed event. Registration will begin 8 a.m., with the Walk for Babies to begin at 9 a.m.

A balloon lift will take place at 8:50 a.m., before the 5K begins.

Registration for adults is \$25 and children under 12, \$12 (includes a T-shirt; if chip timed, add \$2) and children 5 and under are free (\$10 if requesting a T-shirt). T-shirts are guaranteed for paid registrations

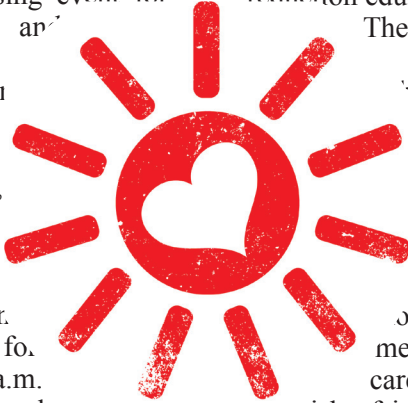
received by Friday, April 1.

After the 5K Run/Walk, a one-mile fun run will take place. Food and games will be available.

All proceeds will be donated to the Mississippi SIDS and Infant Safety Alliance in support of research and ongoing bereavement support and reduction education.

The race is dedicated to the memory of all babies in Mississippi who have died of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome, Sudden Unexplained Infant Death, miscarriage or any incident of infant mortality. Lifesaving messages for parents and caregivers on reducing the

risk of infant death will also be available. For more information or to participate in the Annual Walk/Run for Babies, contact the MS SIDS and Infant Safety Alliance at 601-957-7437 or www.ms-sids.org. The organization also has a Facebook page.



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Incorporated in 1833, Canton is the county seat for Madison County, which is currently the wealthiest county in the State of Mississippi. Most of the buildings in the downtown historic district were constructed in the late 1800’s and early 1900’s and are listed on the National Register of Historic places. This designation qualifies the majority of these buildings to be eligible for both State and Federal Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credits.



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Elmore James kept coming home to Canton

By Guest Columnist Steve Patrick



Does Canton have a “favorite son”? It seems to become clearer with each passing year that, without a doubt, it is the legendary blues musician Elmore James.

His fame and legacy seems to grow more and more as time goes by. In fact, the second annual Elmore James Memorial Blues Festival will be held on Friday, June 18 at 6:00 PM on the historic downtown square.

Born on January 27, 1918, Elmore James was (probably) not born in his mother’s hometown of Canton, nor did he die here. However, a huge segment of blues music, as we know it, and indeed the foundation for modern Rock and Roll, was created on Hickory Street in the “Hollow” by this man.

Destined to be known as “King of the Slide Guitar,” James was elected into the Blues Foundation’s Hall of Fame in 1980. He was later inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1992 for his role as a seminal influence.

James had undoubtedly grown up working very hard as a sharecropper and moved around a good bit with his family. In Mississippi, as a child, he had always shown an interest in music, and by age 15, he had made a name for himself playing in clubs. Then in 1937 at the age of 19, James met the most legendary Blues player of all time, Robert Johnson. His music and style had a major influence on James who was soon playing right beside

Johnson. Elmore began to emulate his use of a “slide”, (a steel tube, knife, or piece of glass) on the guitar...a.k.a. the “bottleneck technique”.

James continued to hone his skills as a Blues man after Johnson was murdered, until he enlisted in the Navy in July, 1943. He fought in the Pacific Conflict, and returned to Mississippi two years later only to learn that his parents had moved to Chicago. He

nothing short of legend. James was now 28 years old, and it was at this time that he was diagnosed with a heart condition. But, regardless of his health, he hit the road with his music.

After extensive travel from 1945-1948, James again moved back to what he considered his “hometown” of Canton. In 1951, he overcame his fear of recording, and recorded his first single called “Dust my Broom”

now a formidable bluesman who had paid his dues. He cried out traditional lyrics in a high, forceful and anguished vocal intensity over his wailing super amplified “slide” guitar leads. It has been said that it transformed the lonesome moan of the Delta blues into a Chicago scream.

In 1952, James recorded nine songs with Ike Turner on piano at the Club Desire in Canton. James also recorded additional songs later that year in Chicago.

James spent years traveling and recording, but a second heart attack forced him back to Jackson in 1958 where he worked as a DJ at WRBC. Finally, vital and happy to be back performing, James died on May 24, 1963 from a third heart attack. Between 300-400 people attended his funeral in Chicago, and his body was sent back to Jackson. He is buried in Ebenezer, Mississippi at the Newport Baptist Church cemetery.

The influence that blues music, and in particular James’ electric slide guitar, was about to have on Rock and Roll cannot be understated. He died before the “1960’s blues revival” that would have likely boosted his career. Never could he have imagined the impact his music would have on the world.



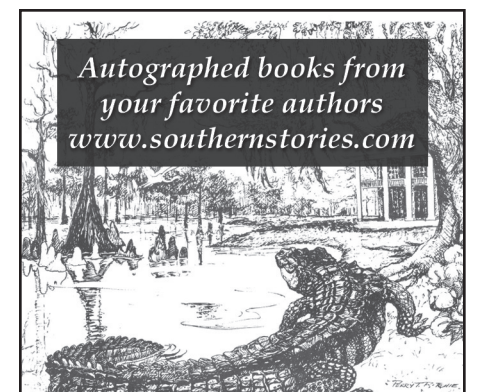
Photo by Mississippi Blues Commission

sought out his adopted step-brother, Robert Holsten, who had opened his own radio repair store in Canton.

It was on Hickory Street at Roberts Radio Repair that James and his brother continued to experiment with sound and amplification. In retrospect, the result of their efforts is

which was a hit. He recorded the single for the Jackson-based Trumpet label, based on Farish Street.

In 1952, Ike Turner came to Canton to persuade James to come to Chicago to play clubs and to record. James, at this point, participated in the birth and flowering of electric blues. He was



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THE ECONOMICS OF PRESERVATION

The City of Canton is 180 years old and has a rich history of buildings and homes. The Canton Redevelopment Authority seeks to preserve these structures and redevelop them into viable businesses. Here are examples of some of the city’s recognizable buildings, before and after.



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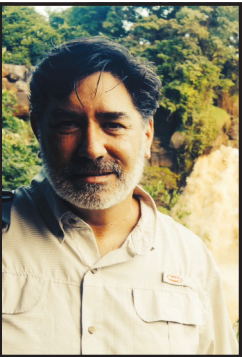
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Love one another

By Reverend Steven S. Bryant,
pastor of the First Presbyterian
Church of Canton



Christians are called to love. But how? The world holds forth the kind of love which must be continually earned on the basis of what we accomplish and how we make others feel. Real love, however, is pure grace. God loves you not because of who you are and what you've done, but because of who He is and what He has done for you in Christ.

"Raisin in the Sun" is a powerful play about a family struggling to get by in a New York ghetto. The father dies leaving life insurance and savings to provide for college tuition and a better life for his family. But his son foolishly loses the money. The daughter had her heart set on attending college, and when she discovers what her brother has done, she is overwhelmed with anger. She says, "You are not a man. There is nothing there to love."

The mother scolds her, "I thought I taught you better. I thought I taught you to love him."

"But what is there to love?" the daughter responds. The mother says, "There is always something left to love, and if you haven't learned that, you haven't learned anything. Have you cried for him today? I don't mean for yourself because we lost the money. I mean have you cried for him – what he has been through and what it has done to him? Child, when do you think is the time to love somebody the most – when they have done good and made things easy for everybody? Well then, you are not through learning because that is not the time at all. It is when he is at his lowest and can't believe in himself. That is when you love. You love them the most when they need it the most. When you start measuring somebody, measure him right, child. Make sure you have taken into account the hills and valleys he has come through before he ever got to where he is. Love him the most when he needs it the most."

That's the way God loves you, and precisely how we are called to love one another.

Reverend Steven S. Bryant supplies the pulpit of First Presbyterian Church of Canton and serves as the Executive Director of the Booth Leadership Initiative (BLI), Africa. BLI funds theological education, sustainability training and church construction in 13 nations of Sub-Saharan Africa. He and his wife Betsy enjoy making Canton their home.

Register Today! Camp Bratton-Green Summer Camp 2016

Camp	Dates	Current Grade	Directors	Price
Junior High 1	June 6 - June 11	Grades 7 - 9	Rev. Walton Jones & Wil Oakes	\$450
Elementary 1	June 13 - June 18	Grades 3 - 4	Rev. Gates Elliott & Rev. Annie Elliott	\$450
Middler 1	June 20 - June 25	Grades 5 - 6	Rev. Elizabeth Wheatley-Jones & Rev. Brandt Dick	\$450
Junior High 2	June 27 - July 2	Grades 7 - 9	Rev. Jason Shelby & Buddy Turpin	\$450
Intro Camp	July 8 - July 10	Grades 1 - 2 & 1 Adult	Bishop Brian Seage & Rev. Jennifer Southall	\$200
Elementary 2	July 11 - July 16	Grades 3 - 4	Rev. Robert Wetherington & Rev. Betsy Baumgarten	\$450
Middler 2	July 18 - July 23	Grades 5 & 6	Rev. Chuck Culpepper & Grae Dickson	\$450

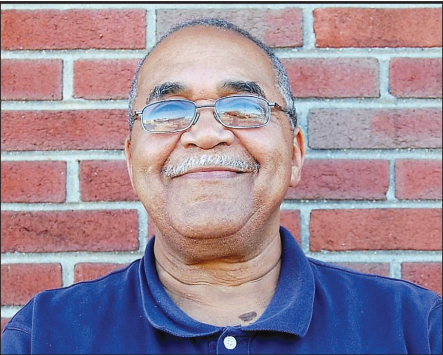


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Leon Whitehead named Canton News sales rep



Special to The Canton News

Leon Whitehead is a new part-time sales representative for *The Canton News*. He is also employed at a privately-owned nursing and rehab facility.

Whitehead is a former member of Mt. Pilgrim Missionary Baptist Church, and said he is a "Word of God minister in action." He has a radio show on WMGO each Sunday at 3:30 p.m.

He and his wife, Verna, have been married 38 years and have five children.

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Upcoming EVENTS

Marketplace Festival 2016

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Turning Points Arts & Entertainment Studio

Ambassador's Luncheon

April 15th
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JSU Workshop - First Steps to Small Business

April 26, 2016
Canton Chamber Office - 8:30am



Make plans to attend the next Morning Mixer

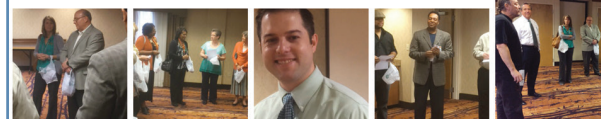
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Get up, dress up & show up!



Special to The Canton News

*By Kathy Amos,
 The John Maxwell Team*

Do you realize how important it is to “show up?” Even when our circumstances are unfavorable we must decide to show up for our God-given assignments. John Maxwell says, “Everything that’s worthwhile is uphill.” This means that in spite of the challenges and oppositions; we have to fulfill those assignments.

Great leaders will go the distance

and follow through to fulfill their assignments even if it doesn’t look or feel good. Take Abraham for instance. When God asked him to take his beloved son, Isaac, to Mount Moriah and sacrifice him there, Abraham followed through to the last detail of his assignment. Only an angel from heaven saved his son’s life.

Abraham decided to get up when he heard the voice of God to sacrifice his son, and dress himself and his son for the journey up that mountain. And he showed up and made an altar in obedience to fulfill his assignment. Fulfilling

your purpose requires courage, commitment and intentionality to move into greatness regardless of how difficult we think the challenges may be. Courage is not the absence of fear, but the willingness to do it afraid. Each time we make the commitment to move in faith and show up to do the work God has assigned us to, he is actually trying to bless us in ways that we can not imagine.

Take the leap of faith and get up! Dress up! Show up!

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Know your neighbor: Ernie Dorrill



Special to The Canton News

By Guest Columnist Jim Ritchie

If you're in hearing distance of his backyard shop out east of Canton, you might hear the bang of a hammer shaping red hot iron or steel into art. The artist, according to experts in the field, is one of the top five metallurgists in the United States. His skilled hands produce pieces of museum quality. And he won't sell any of them. He says selling them is too much like work.

Meet Ernie Dorrill, Carthage native,

Mississippi State graduate, retired architect, rhythm and lead guitar player and master craftsman. He's sought by metallurgists all over the country to teach his methods of creating medieval-like locks, sconces, chests with hidden compartments and a myriad of other unique devices of the type produced during the 12th to the 16th century. For work like this, very special tools are required, and since these tools are not commercially available, he makes his own. Rows upon rows of his specialized chisels,

punches and the like hang on his shop walls, ready to be used in producing objects that inspire awe by visitors. Most folks don't know, he says, that to produce one of his big locks, he makes the key first, then builds the lock around the key.

When he's teaching classes, he says the question he's always asked is, "What's your favorite piece?" His pat answer: "My next one." And you can bet that the next one will be interesting, unusual, intricate and beautiful. And not for sale.



UPCOMING EVENTS



THE 3RD THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH
APRIL 21

PLANT & DIG DOWNTOWN

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State Research Engineer Watkins honored for 25 Years of Service



Special to The Canton News

Pictured left to right: Northern Transportation Commissioner Mike Tagert, State Research Engineer James Watkins, MDOT Executive Director Melinda McGrath, Southern Transportation Commissioner Tom King, and Central Transportation Commissioner Dick Hall.

Special to The Canton News

Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT) State Research Engineer James Watkins of Gluckstadt was recently awarded with the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) 25-Year Award of Meritorious Service. The award

is given to transportation employees having accrued 25 years of service with one or more AASHTO member departments and who have attained the grade of District Engineer, Assistant Central Office Division Head, Bureau Chief or higher. The official rules governing the award were first established in 1946 and are still in effect today.



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Goodloe Elementary Spelling Bee winners



Special to The Canton News

2nd/ 3rd grade competition: 1st place- Kenneth Johnson, Jr., 2nd place- Kertilya Glover
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Special to The Canton News

4th/5th grade competition: 1st place- Kaniyah Hawkins, 2nd place- TyQuonderick Hunter
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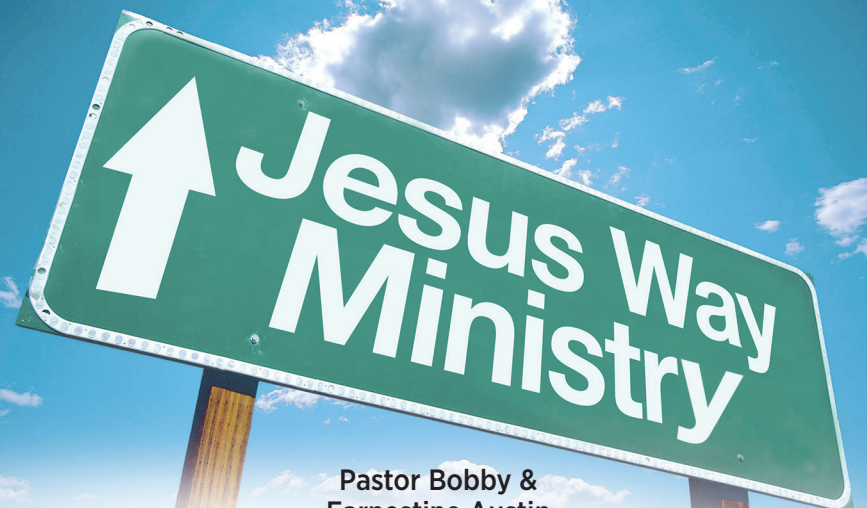
Congratulations

to Dr. Tip Hailey on his retirement from 41 years of practice. And welcome to Dr. Brian Holt and Holt Animal Hospital.

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Canton Cemetery gets much-needed fencing



Special to The Canton News

The Canton City Cemetery Fencing Support Group is shown at the March dedication ceremony. From left, Bob Montgomery, Maureen Simpson, front, Clyde Edwards, Mayor Arnel Bolden, Lee Breeland, chairman, Patricia Breeland, and Miriam Koury.

By Susie A. Wolfe

The dedication for fencing at the Canton Cemetery, on the National Register of Historic Places, was held March 14 on site. The fencing support group paid for the project by private donations and memorials, and a \$10,000 grant by the Department of Archives and History.

The fencing project was coordinated by the Canton Redevelopment Authority. Lee Breeland chaired the support group which was comprised of Clyde Edwards, Miriam B. Koury, Maureen Simpson and Bob

Montgomery.

The 12-acre cemetery has 3600 marked graves that date from 1853 to the present, including 200 graves in a Jewish section. There are also 350 Confederate soldier graves though there was no major battle in the vicinity of Canton. These were first labeled "unknown," until a renewed effort by the Sons of Confederate Veterans discovered 256 names, and in 1986, placed new markers on those graves.

The guest speaker for the dedication

was Jim Woodrick, a Madison County resident who works with the Mississippi Department of Archives & History. He spoke about the history of the cemetery and some of the interesting monuments, which made the cemetery eligible for the National Register listing within the theme of art.

Unique tombstones in the cemetery include cast zinc tombstones which have a bluish tint to them. They were marketed as more durable than marble, about one-third less expensive, and were easily custom made. Other tombstone styles include use of cherubs, placing pebbles on the on the grave, and tree stones or tree stumps, often used by members of the Woodmen of the World.

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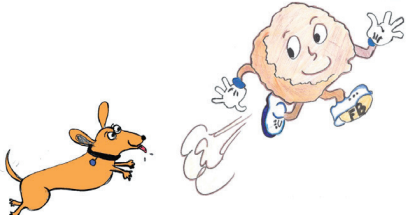
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Alderwoman Olivia Harrell is passionate about Canton



Special to The Canton News

By Susie A. Wolfe

Olivia Harrell has been alderwoman of Ward Two since 2013, and is impressed by the wonderful people in Canton. She became an alderwoman because “I want Canton to be a prosperous city with a good quality of life.”

Her ward includes Canton Elementary School, on which she said the rebuilding there “will be a really nice spot for the community and

include more green space.”

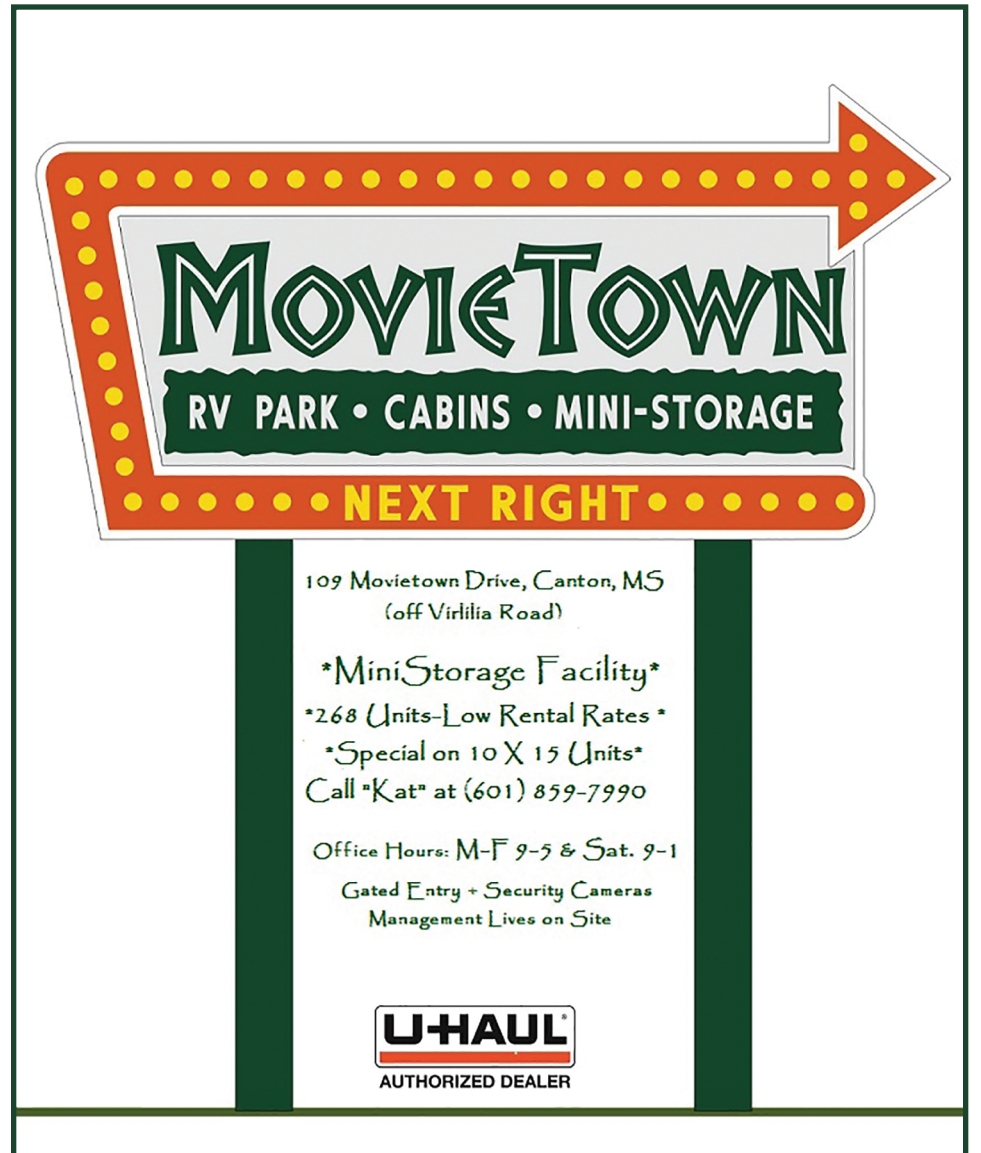
One of Harrell’s favorite lines is “bloom where you are planted,” and that’s what she seeks to do.

Originally from Tennessee, she and her husband, James, moved to Canton 35 years ago, and immediately wanted to do something to help those in poverty. She became involved in a new venture with Sister Grace Mary McGuire called MadCAAP (Madison Countians Allied Against Poverty). She has served in several leadership positions there in her 30+ years with the organization, including director and now as board president.

Harrell, a former school teacher, also served on the Canton Public School Board of Trustees for 15 years.

Additionally, she spent six years on the Board of Directors of the Canton Housing Authority and has been instrumental in organizing and advancing the Canton Area Habitat for Humanity.

Among her other interests, Harrell enjoys being a grandmother. She has two children and three grandchildren, two in Madison and a new one in Austin, Texas.



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