



THE CANTON NEWS

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

CPSD school rating goes up for 2016-17

Special to The Canton News

The Canton Public School District's (CPSD) accountability score increased 52 points to a "D" while Canton High School and Huey Porter Middle School received "C" ratings according to the Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) A-F

accountability system that evaluates how schools and districts performed in the 2016-17 school year.

The District's score improved from the "F" it received last year. The totals for the state include 15 "A" districts, 43 "B" districts, 43 "C" districts, 36 "D" districts and nine "F" districts.

The accountability system also factors in how well students perform on science tests in grades five and eight. Accountability grades for high schools and districts include the four-year graduation rate, student performance on Biology, U.S. History and ACT tests, and student participation and performance in advanced coursework such as Advanced Placement and dual credit/dual enrollment courses.

According to Superintendent Cassandra Williams, "Canton Public School District is ex-

periencing rejuvenation, and through steady, sustained efforts, we will continue to grow. We are excited for what the future holds as we continue to focus on teaching, nurturing, and learning."

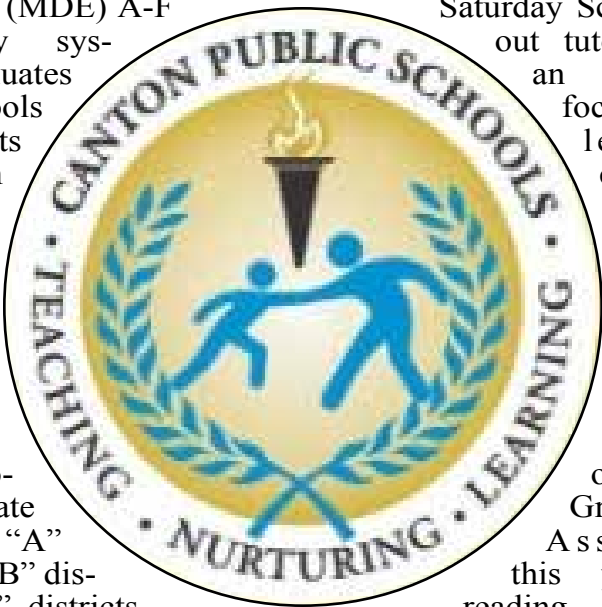
Some of the initiatives that the District implemented included

Saturday School, pull-out tutorials, and an increased focus on college-level courses for high school students.

Williams also said that the students did well on the Third Grade Gate Assessment this year. The reading assessment

determines if students are ready to move on to the fourth grade. She reported that the students went from an 85% pass rate to 92% this year.

Dr. Carey Wright, state superintendent of education, said, "These results reflect the progress and achievements students have made on state assessments, the ACT, advanced courses and the state's rising graduation rate. Teachers, principals and district leaders have been diligent in their work to help students meet higher academic standards and achieve better outcomes."



Upstairs Downtown happens Thursday

By Susie A. Wolfe

For everyone who has strolled through the streets of Canton, glancing at the upper floors of downtown buildings or peeking into below-street level windows and wondering what those places are like, it happens at 4 p.m. Thursday, November 2.

The Canton Chamber of Commerce Main Street and Nissan are hosting a brand-new event for Canton.

Upstairs Downtown is a walking tour of Downtown Canton that will showcase 10 properties.

The self-guided tour includes a wide variety of spaces, spanning residential to commercial uses, some recently renovated, some works-in progress, and some awaiting a fresh eye. A representative from the Mississippi

Department of Archives and History will be on site to give tax credit information. There will be volunteers at each location

to serve drinks and hors d'oeuvres and to answer any questions about the building. Ralph Miller will be the live roving musician for that evening.

The tour takes place on November 2, from 4-8 p.m. Day-of-tickets will be available at The Opera House for \$20. Properties include Bridgett Crosby's

Building, Canton Elks Lodge #458, Dane, The Opera House, Mosby's Upstairs, Rich Grain Distilling Company, Robert's Insurance Building, The Loft, Sunny Coco Jazz, and Legends of MS Sports Bar.

Ralph Miller will be the Music Host for the night. The event will take place rain or shine.



Photo by Jud Meaders

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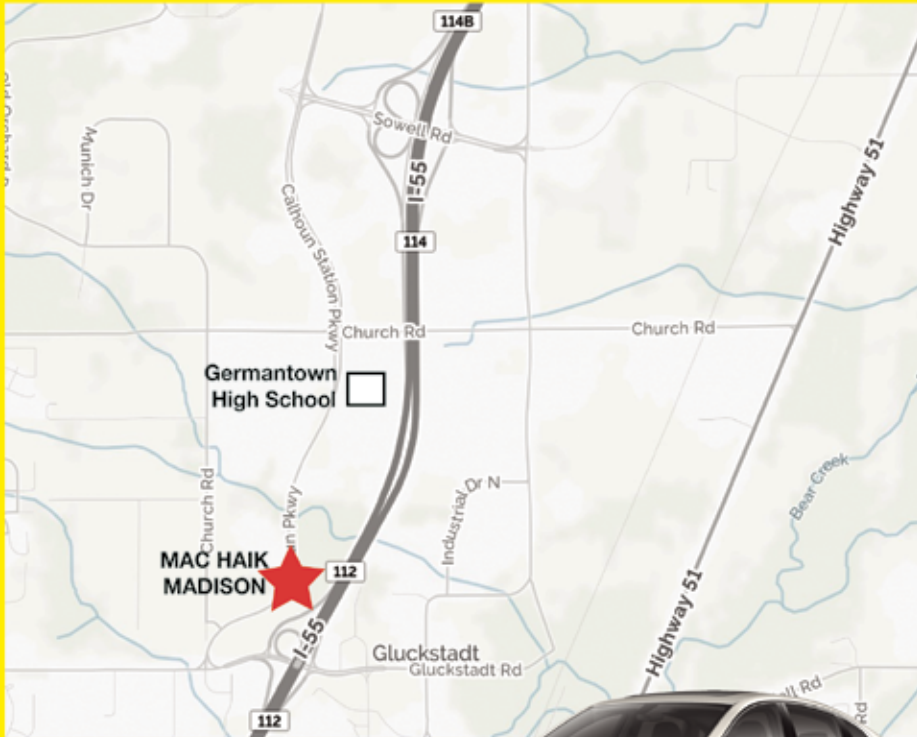
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Know Your Neighbor: Reeves Jones

By Guest Columnist Jim Ritchie

He may try a million-dollar case before a jury, then head back to his office to clean the restroom and empty the trash. When he says he's a one-man law firm, he means it. He's never had a law partner nor a secretary in his 36 years of practicing law.

Meet Reeves Jones, attorney, accomplished guitarist, published songwriter, carpenter, inventor, master gardener, visual artist and beekeeper.

He was born in Kosciusko but moved to Jackson at an early age. He attended public schools and later graduated from Millsaps College with an English degree. He earned his master's degree in English at Ole Miss, then graduated from law school there. To avoid borrowing money, he worked his way through college and law school as a carpenter. According to Reeves,

the day after law school graduation, he sold his table saw for \$100.00. "Then I had a keg party," he laughs.

Thirty years ago, Reeves moved to Canton, where he and his wife, Dorothy Chadwick, attend First United Methodist Church. "I've had a crush on Dorothy since kindergarten," Reeves says with a smile. "It took forty years, but she finally said Yes."

His self-taught skill with the guitar began when he was fifteen years old, and, at sixteen, he began hitchhiking to Memphis to play with blues legend Furry Lewis, who taught him finger-picking. Song writing naturally followed, and today several of his songs have been recorded by a progressive bluegrass band, the NYCity Slickers. One of his songs, entitled "Family Tradition," was selected by the Nord Kapp International Film Festival in Norway to open their 2015 festival.

About five years ago, a friend suggested that he take a daily spoonful of honey and lemon juice to battle his allergies. It worked so well he decided to try his hand at beekeeping. Now each summer he harvests 150

quarts of honey, the quality of which can be measured by his winning third place in a competition with beekeepers from all over the United States and Canada. He also invented the JONZ (pronounced Jones) Hygienic Bottom Board, a device inserted in beehives to help control invasive insects, for which he has a patent pending. His bottom board is manufactured and marketed by Dadant & Sons, Inc., one of the most prestigious beekeeping supply houses in the world.

If you want to find Reeves, just look in the courthouse, or in Dorothy's garden, or maybe in his bee yard, or out back when he's taking out the trash. "It's all good," he laughs.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Jim Ritchie is a published author, storyteller, entertainer and grandfather of eleven. He is amazed at the number of talented and accomplished people who live in the Canton area, and he thinks you should know about some of them. Ritchie and professional artist wife, Perry, live in the Shocco community out from Canton. View their work at: www.southernstories.com.

Hawkins recognized for 10 years at MSH



Special to The Canton News

Mississippi State Hospital October service award recipients included Dolly Hawkins of Canton. Pictured (l to r) are, front row: Lashanda Nichole Bingham, one year; Quintina D. Curtis, 10 years; Andrea Deon Denson Smith, one year; Glantz Kenneth Wayne Pinter, one year; second row: Vernice Evans, 25 years; Karen Phillips Johnson, 25 years; Shelley Lynn Carr, 10 years; Jackie Martin Wilson, 25 years; Shonnett Jackson Wilson, 20 years; Andrew Pitts, one year; Gayle Case, 10 years; Terry Joe Busby, 5 years; third row: James Robert Stovall, one year; Rachel J. Beatty, one year; Tara Marie Simon, 10 years; Marvin Lenn Armstrong, five years; Dolly Hawkins, 10 years; Verlone Gillon, 25 years; Robert Joe Gillon, 15 years; and fourth row: Phillip E. Cothorn, 25 years; Thomas B. Steen, one year; Brandon Byrne, five years; Preston Ware, 15 years; and James Jerome Byrd, 30 years.

Canton High School 2017- 2018 Homecoming



Mr. and Miss Canton High School are Kenna Pierce and Destiny Greenwood.

Special to The Canton News



Mr. Canton High School Kenna Pierce with the Royal Court.

Special to The Canton News

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FT Program Service Director	

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CHS Homecoming Queen



Special to The Canton News

The Canton High School Homecoming Queen is Miss Destiny Green.



Canton High School 2017-18 Soccer Schedule

Games starts at 5:30 p.m.

Nov. 14 at Jim Hill (Hughes)

Nov. 16 at Murrah

Nov. 28 Callaway (Newell)

Nov. 30 Lanier

Dec. 5 Lanier (NJ)

Dec. 7 Provine

Dec. 19 Cleveland

Jan. 9 Neshoba Central

Jan. 16 at Neshoba Central

Jan. 23 at Cleveland

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Being thankful this holiday

By Guest Columnist Pastor Guy Odom,
First Baptist Canton



Photo by The Canton News

As I say quite often, I can't believe that this year has flown by so fast. Where has the time gone? It seems that I catch myself quite a bit saying this or asking this question. It is already Thanksgiving Season!

I want to share precious words from the Word of God with you concerning this season. I find that they life me up and give me hope, joy, and power. I pray that they will be an encouragement to all who read this. Psalm 100:4-5 says, "Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name. For the Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations." Psalm 105:1 says,

"Give thanks to the Lord; call on his name; make known among the nations what he has done." Psalm 106:1 says, "Praise the Lord. Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever." Psalm 107:1 says, "Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever." 1 Thessalonians 5:18 says, "...give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." 1 Corinthians 15:57 says, "But thanks be to God! He gives us victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."

I pray that each and every one of you has a wonderful Thanksgiving season and don't forget to tell our Lord just how thankful you are! Happy Thanksgiving.

You Are Loved,

Pastor Guy

EDITOR'S NOTE: Guy Odom has been pastor at First Baptist Church of Canton since 2012. He and his wife, Tommi, have two sons, Ely and Cy. He is originally from Vicksburg.

Students STEPing up

Special to The Canton News

On September 21, a Pre-College Day was held at Nissan Training Center, where the Student Technology Exchange Program (STEP) participants had the opportunity to meet representatives from commu-

ing, and mathematics (STEM) by leading a program for high school students to participate in the world of manufacturing, design, and engineering to learn technical job skills in manufacturing and other industries.

Due in part to major spon-



Special to The Canton News

A group of Canton students participated in STEP's Pre-College Day at the Nissan Training Center in September. These students are interested in careers in science, technology, engineering or mathematics.

nity colleges and universities, from industry, and from the military. They learned about avenues to pursue higher education at community colleges and universities, options in military service, as well as in Industrial Maintenance careers being offered by industry partners. Former students, instructors, administrators and supporters were also available for interviews.

Approximately 100 students from seven Mississippi school districts attended the day that was sponsored by the Mississippi State University CAVS Extension in Canton. The program engages students in science, technology, engineer-

sors such as Nissan, Entergy, the Mississippi Department of Education, and other local organizations, students who participated in STEP were exposed to the technology and practices employed at Nissan's Mississippi automotive manufacturing facility including robotics, mechatronics, and programmable logic controllers that command facility machinery. Many of these concepts are the same as those taught at area universities and community colleges.

The program boasts a 100 percent high school graduation rate among participants, and 90 percent of those continue their education at the undergraduate level.



Center Terrace Baptist Church
Canton, Mississippi
605 East Peace Street | 601-859-4186

Rev. Alvin Doyle, Pastor
Marcus Peagler, Music Director

Sunday School
9:00 a.m.

Worship
10:15 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.

Discipleship Training
5:00 p.m.

Midweek Service
6:00 p.m.

UPCOMING EVENTS

November 19

10:15 a.m. Service followed by a hot Thanksgiving meal

December 17

6:00 p.m. Choir presents The Christmas Cantata with fellowship to follow

Dec. 24 & 31

10:15 a.m. Service

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Accountability results show promise for growth

By Guest Columnist Cassandra Williams, CPSD Superintendent



Special to The Canton News

In most of my columns last school year, I described the many efforts that our district was making to reach both our struggling students and our proficient and advanced students. Some of the initiatives that we implemented last year included Saturday School, pull-out tutorials, and an increased focus on college-level courses for high school students. The 2016-2017 school year required us to refine our efforts to ensure that we provided intentional support for all of our students. This week, the Mississippi Department of Education released our accountability results based on the state as-

sessments that our students took in the spring. We are very pleased to announce that our district's numerical score increased by 52 points. That increase allowed us to move from a Failing (F) rating to a solid D. Though we were aiming for a C, we are still proud that our hard work paid off. There is even more good news to report. Two of our schools, Canton High School and Huey Porter Middle School, increased two whole levels! Those schools moved from F ratings to C ratings! Nichols Middle School, we are very proud to say, moved from an F rating to a D! Our third graders performed exceptionally well on the Third Grade Gate Assessment. You will recall that this reading assessment determines if our students are ready to move on to the fourth grade. Our students went from an 85% pass rate in 2015-2016 to a 92% pass rate in 2016-2017! At the high school level, our English II pass rate increased

from 37% in 2015-2016 to 70%, and our Algebra I pass rate increased from 71% to 80%! We are extremely proud of the hard work that all of our students, staff, and parents poured into our schools.

With our gains, we also have some areas that still need improvement. Our US History pass rate remained steady at 65%, and our Biology I pass rate dropped slightly from 66% passing to 62% passing. Each of our elementary schools experienced a dip in their scores, and each elementary school dropped at least one level. However, we are motivated by the fact that we now have only one failing school in the district. This lets us know that we did the right things in our schools, but we have to remain consistent to ensure that we don't experience a back and forth "yo yo" effect in our schools each year. We plan to continue with what we now know works: focusing on increased instructional

time, small group interventions, and acceleration.

We anticipate that the gains that we made will provide motivation for all of our schools to continue their efforts towards increasing our students' proficiency. We still value and need your help. If you are interested in tutoring students, volunteering at our events, or helping in some other way, please contact us. Canton Public School District is experiencing rejuvenation, and through steady, sustained efforts, we will continue to grow. We are excited for what the future holds as we continue to focus on teaching, nurturing, and learning.

EDITOR'S NOTE: With over twenty years in education, Cassandra Williams' focus as superintendent of the Canton Public School District is to increase student achievement through an invigorated emphasis on teaching, learning and nurturing.



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Tallulah's opens for business

By Susie A. Wolfe

Charles Lovett and her daughter, Nichol, visited seven Southern states before finding the perfect antebellum house off the Square in Canton, then the perfect shop on the Square.

Tallulah's, a purveyor of fine goods, opened on Union Street the first of October. Lovett, a California native, has been making her own designs since she was a child. She is a dress maker, costume designer, and artist who makes her own dolls by hand by pouring liquid porcelain. She worked with children's theater and opera, among other productions in Richmond, California.

"My daughter is a writer and loves the South and its rich history because of writers like Faulkner," said Lovett. "We visited seven Southern states, including Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, Tennessee, North and South Carolina, and Arkansas, but I fell in love with Canton and its people when we visited here."

"After visiting the McWillie House on Center Street," said

Lovett, "it worked out that my California house closed in two days, and we moved into this house within 14 days."

"People here are so nice," she said. "Everyone smiles and says hello. They treat you with respect, while California was overpopulated, busy with traffic, without water and full of unfriendly people. We even committed to the house with just a hand shake."

Though she is still remodeling her home, Lovett is excited about living in a town where it only takes five minutes to get around.

Lovett likes to put old and new things together in art pieces. She said she creates new pieces from broken things that are put together to make something new, functional and fun. "I have unique merchandise," she said. "Most of it is created by me, including designed from scratch or redoing old furniture. It's fun what come up with."

In the future, Lovett wants to teach doll making classes, and get involved in costuming theater and school programs.



Special to The Canton News

Distillery releases bourbon

Special to The Canton News

Rich Grain Distilling Company announced the release of the first bourbon whiskey ever made in the state's history. The distillery opened a few years ago and immediately began mashing, fermenting, and distilling bourbon to be aged in barrels. Those first few barrels have now matured, and that whiskey is now available as Rich Grain Distilling Company Bourbon.

Contrary to popular belief, bourbon can be made in any U.S. state, not just Kentucky; however, Kentucky produces the majority of the world's bourbon. Bourbon is a very particular type of whiskey, and according to law, must be produced in the USA, made from a mash of 51% or more corn, and aged in brand new charred oak barrels. Rich Grain Distilling distills two separate whiskey recipes. Recipe one consists of 66% corn, 17% barley, and 17% rye. Recipe two is iden-

tical, except the rye is replaced with wheat. The two recipes are mashed, fermented, distilled, and barreled separately. At bottling,

barrels of recipe one and recipe two are married and mixed together.

"The spiciness of the rye, and the light sweetness from the wheat, balance one another out beautifully," said David Rich, owner.

The bourbon will hit package store shelves Thanksgiving week in select markets. Availability will be limited in the first release, and customers are encouraged to ask their local store to reserve them a bottle while supplies last. If customers aren't able to acquire a bottle in the first release, they

shouldn't despair, as availability will increase and more stores will be able to carry the product in the next several months. Rich Grain Distilling Company also produces unaged corn whiskey, white rum, and spiced rum that are sold in liquor stores across the state.



Special to The Canton News



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Ambassador of the *Month*



Tamika Liddell, Renasant Bank. My passion is helping, encouraging, and supporting others. I think being an ambassador gives me the opportunity to get out in the community to serve and partake in all these things. It allows me the opportunity to take part in new experiences, visit different organizations and functions, and meet people that I may not otherwise.

MANSELL MEDIA WORKSHOP



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Clay Mansell of Mansell Media conducted a Workshop for Chamber members discussing how to use social media networking to grow your business. Breakfast was sponsored by Printables and More.

AD OF THE *Month*



Visit our Facebook page for more details
www.facebook.com/LaDiDaCantonMS

UPCOMING EVENTS

Upstairs Downtown

November 2nd

4:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Tour begins at the Opera House 1853

Grand Opening & Ribbon Cutting Ceremony Families First for Mississippi

November 7th

Grand Opening 9:30 am - 11:00 am

Ribbon Cutting 10:00 am

Workshop

Everyone communicates but few
connect by John C Maxwell

Conducted by Kathy Amos

Nov 7th

830 am - 930 am

Chamber Office

Merchants Open House

November 24th - 26th

Downtown stores will be open

Fri & Sat 10 am - 8 pm

Sunday 1-5

Sip'N Cider

December 3rd

5:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Historic Downtown Canton

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The Canton Garden Club visits Lise Foy's farm



Special to The Canton News

The Canton Garden Club visited Lise Foy's farm north of Canton. She operates Farm Girl Grocery and grows all her own food. Pictured (l to r) front row, are: Tracy Moon, Jeanee Shell, Brenda Johnson, and Maria Stewart; and back row: Labonne Corcoran, Lise Foy, Susan Riddell, Mary Carol Patrick, Rose Bradberry, and Linda Patrick.

The Great Canton Cleanup becomes a success

By Guest Columnist Joy Dodson,
Director Keep Canton Beautiful

Keep Canton Beautiful is excited to announce that day one of The Great Canton Cleanup held on Friday, October 20, was a wonderful success! Our partnership with the Canton Public Works Department under the leadership of Director Lawrence Morris and Assistant Director Rucker Stewart, along with the participation from Canton residents, was all we needed for this event to work. If you missed our first cleanup day, then we will

have two more on Thursday, November 30, and Thursday, January 18.

The instructions for this event are easy. There are orange tags available for pick up at the following locations: CMU on the Square, City Hall, Canton Welcome Center, Buttross Department Store, and the Canton Chamber office. When you go pick up your tags, there is a sign-up sheet where you will list your address so that a route can be prepared for the Public Works Department, then all you need to do is tag whatever

items you would like picked up. Put them in a visible place by 7 a.m. on the morning of the pickup.

During the first pickup day, over 17.84 tons of trash, yard waste, furniture, household items, etc. were picked up and hauled to the landfill. Powered by Canton Donuts and the support of many, we helped to clean up items that were too big to place in personal cars or trucks or too heavy for residents to haul off on their own.

Please follow Keep Canton Beautiful on Facebook for up-

dates, pictures, meeting dates and everything else. Stay tuned to see updates on old murals and some new murals also.

Right now, KCB needs paint, any color and any kind, so if you have any paint that you don't want, we can save you a trip and pick it up from you. Just send us a message.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Joy Dodson lives in Canton with her husband Gary and their two sons. She is the Director of Keep Canton Beautiful.



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Musician of the Month



Special to The Canton News

Piper Cooley was named October Musician of the Month by the Canton Music Study Club. She performed three piano selections for the club's October meeting. She is the daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Brian Cooley of Canton and is a second grader at Canton Academy.

Library introduces app

Special to The Canton News

The Canton Branch of the Madison County Library System (MCLS) recently unveiled a new

with three goals in mind," said Johnson, "increase access, expand programming to meet patron needs and increase visibility.

"In addition to the rebranding,



Special to The Canton News

There are posters like this around town that allow library patrons to scan a QR code to check out books. This and other items were recently unveiled to increase access to the MCLS.

logo, and now is introducing a new mobile app to promote reading to the citizens of Madison County.

According to MCLS Director Tonja Johnson, her system is the first public library to offer an app. It will allow library patrons to scan QR codes, find your car, search the library online catalog, and find directions to the local branch.

"We are reintroducing the library

patrons can look forward to new creative and digital spaces and services at each branch, an updated website launched October 5 and our new mobile app.

"We have an exciting year planned with new services and partnerships within the community. We look forward to delivering the best services possible to our patrons."

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Canton Academy celebrates 2017 Homecoming



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Canton Academy held homecoming Friday, October 6, with a week full of festivities ending with a football game against Starkville Academy. The 2017 homecoming court was Madi Cochran (7), Barnes Wadford (7), Lane Francis (10), Miller Burnside (10), Anna McNeer (12), Billy McNeer, Sydney Thomason (12), Anthony Thomason, Homecoming Queen Virginia Grace Lavender (12), Ken Lavender, Mary Camden Sanders (1), Carley Crosby (CA Homecoming Queen 2016), Jenson Williams (11), Jonathan Earnhart (11), Abbey Magee (9), Hunter Pigott (9), Emmalane Martens (7), Bert Goodloe (7).

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Left: Kenneth Don Holtsinger,
Engineering Coordinator

Right: Robert Lockett, *Meter Reader*



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CA Homecoming Queen

CA Coaches of the Year



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Canton Academy's 2017 homecoming queen is Virginia Grace Lavender. Pictured (l to r) are flower girl Mary Camden Sanders, 2016 homecoming queen Carley Crosby, Virginia Grace Lavender, and her father/escort Ken Lavender.



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Coach Ron Jurney was named AA MAIS Football Coach of the Year, and Coach Ben Williams was named Coach of the Year in girls track and boys track.

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How obesity impacts Americans, especially African Americans

By Guest Columnist April Perry

Obesity is a primary concern for my close relatives and is mostly related to unhealthy dietary habits and lack of physical activity. I have five aunts, and they are all obese, with two of them weighing over 300 pounds. The obesity has taken over their bodies and resulted in one of them having knee surgeries due to the excessive weight on her joints. Other family members have attempted to address the concerns through the persuasion of changing their diets and going on a short walk in the afternoons. As I watch the struggles of what my family is going through, it has opened my eyes in wanting to live a healthier life.

Obesity is a significant public health concern. African Americans (AA) are the highest rank among obesity. According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), more African American women are morbidly obese than AA men. Obesity affects many Americans epidemically because of the choices we make.

Health care providers are at-

tempting to combat this epidemic by having insights on the patients focusing on what they are eating and how much he/she is exercising.

People are aware of the food choices and that it plays a significant role in obesity and achieving weight loss. Research has shown it's not about the diet, it's about the behaviors surrounding the eating.

Why are Americans obese?

What does it mean to be overweight? Obese classification is determined by body mass index (BMI) or a measure of body fat based on your height and weight.

For Americans, obesity is a problem but has no definite answers. Scientific studies often reach conflicting conclusions, but mostly obesity contributes to too much

food and too little exercise.

According to the CDC, more than one-third (36.5%) of the U.S. adults are obese. The new analysis in this year's report projects obesity rates to continue on their current trajectory, and estimated that by 2030 adult obesity

rates could reach 44% in every state. Studies have also shown that there will be new cases of type 2 diabetes, coronary artery disease,

stroke, hypertension, and arthritis.

As a result, obesity-related health care costs could increase by 10%. The analysis shows that if the BMI could decrease by 5%, we could spare millions of Americans from serious health complications and death. The estimated annual medical cost of obesity in

2008 in the U.S. was \$147 billion. Being obese can also raise blood cholesterol and triglyceride levels, which are linked to heart disease and stroke.

Childhood obesity is a more significant concern. Children who are not making healthy choices are at highest risk for obesity and will always be if dietary changes are made. Prevention of obesity is living a healthier life and being more productive.

Factors that may contribute to weight gain among young adults include genetics, eating habits, physical inactivity, sleep habits, medical conditions, and certain medications.

Everyone needs a goal and to have positive reasons to achieve that goal. Losing a few pounds can have cardiovascular benefits and put you on your way to healthier living. Everyone should consider these ideas to work toward maintaining a healthy weight.

EDITOR'S NOTE: April Perry is a Family Nurse Practitioner student at Alcorn State University. She is from Canton.



Special to The Canton News

Set your compass destiny

By Guest Columnist Kathy Amos

As a leader, have you ever been in a situation where you just didn't know which way to turn, what to do or where to go?



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Perhaps you were leading your family, your church, your community or even a small group. There were times you'd make it through by the skin of our teeth and in other times you surprisingly accomplished the mission with flying colors! At any rate, the success of your journey all depended on how well you were able to chart the course.

I'm reminded of Nehemiah and the call of God for him to return to his hometown and rebuild the ruined walls of the city. As willingly and desperate as he was to do the work, he

had to have a plan of action. So he developed a strategic eight-step plan for great success: 1) He started off by identifying the problem, 2) He took time to fast and pray, 3) He met with key influencers, 4) He took a thorough assessment of the situation, 5) He met with people to cast the vision, 6) He encouraged the people with past success stories, 7) He used the power of persuasion to receive buy-in from the people, and 8) He grouped them in pairs according to their skills and talents to get the job done. This is called The Law of Navigation which says "Anyone can steer the ship, but it takes a leader to chart the course."

EDITOR'S NOTE: Kathy Amos is a coach, speaker and teacher with The John Maxwell Team. She serves as executive pastor of the Turning Point Fellowship Ministries International Church, along with her husband Joe. Amos is also the president and founder of the Empowering Progressive Women's Association.



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events for the whole family. Enjoy the old-fashioned carousel rides, Animation Museum, over 200,000 glittering

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Families First opening new location in Canton Nov. 7

By Susie A. Wolfe

The Families First Resource Center will hold its grand opening at its new Nissan Parkway location on Tuesday, November 7. The ribbon cutting will be held at 10 a.m. and an open house from 9:30 – 11 a.m.

Components of the new center include a training room, clothing closet for job readiness, education and literacy lab, hands-on skill development, literacy nook and toy lending library. It is designed to stimulate employment through job readiness, support family financial stability, promote literacy, and increase graduation rates while continuing to support positive youth development, decreasing teen pregnancy rates, promoting positive father involvement, parenting education and parenting skills development.

Over the last five years, Families First for Mississippi has successfully served the State by providing Youth Development and Parenting/Life Skills services. These services are

delivered by two community agencies: The Mississippi Community Education Center (MCEC) and the Family Resource Center (FRC). MCEC

en families of all backgrounds and life circumstances by providing youth development and parenting education through seminars, workshops, classes,

agency offices. Families First has created a tremendous positive impact across the State, but it has the potential to be much more dynamic in its services.

Executive Director of MCEC, Dr. Nancy New, and Executive Director of FRC, Christi Webb, explain the agency's purpose, "Our main goal for Families First for Mississippi is to impact the entire family by connecting the dots between all of the Mississippi family services."

This is the program's largest challenge. It is crucial to join together the existing family services to help accomplish the mission and purpose of Families First for Mississippi. MCEC and FRC are reaching out to community colleges, higher education, non-profits, state agencies, churches, public schools, and leaders in the community state-wide in order to bridge the gap. Together the services can strengthen families and overall well-being of the State.



Photo by The Canton News

The new Families First staff pictured (l to r) are, front row: Kim Halford, Morgan Patterson, Betsy Nicholson, and Nancy McRight; and back row: Eric Beamon, Paul Mooney, and Austin Smith.

and FRC have provided Families First for Mississippi services jointly for over 20 years. The program seeks to strengthen

and presentations. The program services are provided within schools, community centers, churches, and state



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