



THE CANTON NEWS

Good News You Can Use • February 7, 2019 • Vol. 5, No. 2 • Canton, Mississippi

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

Nissan Canton to make personnel changes

Special to The Canton News

Nearly sixteen years ago, the town of Canton welcomed the construction of a Nissan manufacturing plant with open arms. As company press celebrating the plant's fifteenth anniversary noted, "Together with our Mississippi friends and neighbors, we began a journey to turn an open field outside Canton into one of the most advanced manufacturing facilities in the world."

The Nissan Canton plant almost instantly transformed Mississippi into a hub for world-class automotive manufacturing, assembling more than four million Nissan cars and trucks since opening its doors on May 27, 2003. The plant has also created more than 6,500 jobs for team members and more than 25,000 direct and indirect jobs statewide.

Recently, changes in market demand caused Nissan officials to make the decision to adjust production capacity at the Canton manufacturing facility to al-

low the company to continue to maintain healthy inventory levels. As part of the adjustment, the plant's truck line will move from a three-shift to a two-shift operating pattern, while the van line moves from a two-shift to a one-shift operating pattern. While affected Nissan employees will be fully retained and redeployed to other areas of the plant, company officials anticipate that there will be up to 700 associates (contract labor) who will remain unas-

signed. As part of this adjustment, Nissan plans to offer voluntary separation packages to certain employees of the Canton plant, age fifty-five and older. Through hand-raisers for this program, as well as natural attrition, Nissan anticipates that the estimated 700 impacted associates could be lower. The earliest release date for unassigned associates will be March 18, 2019.

Officials say the long-term outlook for the Canton plant remains strong, with production of



Nissan Canton manufacturing plant

Special to The Canton News

the all-new Altima and planned investment for the next-generation Frontier. They also plan to continue to produce the Murano, Frontier, TITAN and TITAN XD, and the NV Cargo and NV Passenger vans.

In North America, Nissan's operations include automotive styling, engineering, consumer and corporate financing, sales and marketing, distribution and manufacturing. Nissan is a glob-

al full-line vehicle manufacturer that sells more than sixty models under the Nissan, INFINITI and Datsun brands. Nissan has also partnered with French manufacturer Renault since 1999 and acquired a 34% stake in Mitsubishi Motors in 2016. Renault-Nissan-Mitsubishi is today the world's largest automotive partnership, with combined sales of more than 10.6 million vehicles in calendar year 2017.

Beals-Bradley named Teacher of the Year

Special to The Canton News

The Canton Public School District recently named Natascha Beals-Bradley, a fifth-grade teacher at Reuben B. Myers Canton School of Arts and Sciences, as the District Teacher of the Year.

Beals-Bradley served as an assistant teacher, a Barksdale Coordinator, and Parent Center Coordinator at Canton Elementary School from 1999 until 2006. She said the joy she found in working with children prompted her to pursue a degree in elemen-

tary education.

After obtaining a Bachelor of Science in elementary education from Jackson State University, Beals-Bradley went on to receive her Master of Education in teaching and learning from Liberty University.

Beals-Bradley is a life-long resident of the Madison County area and a 1994 graduate of Canton High School. She and her husband, Tyrone, have been married for seven years and have four children who are all CPSD stu-

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Natascha Beals-Bradley teaches a class at Reuben B. Myers Canton School of Arts and Sciences.

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Canton Academy theater class presents first play



Special to The Canton News
Delila Vance's theater class at Canton Academy recently presented their first play of the year, Death of a Dead Guy, to the seventh through twelfth grade students. The play told the story of a dead man found in his study and the quirky house guests and staff who tried to figure out the mystery. Pictured (l to r) are, front row: Mackenzie Pyron, Madi Cochran, Kendall Calloway, Star Spivey and Carli Cooper; and back row: Mrs. Delila Vance, Collin Gray, Eli Crosby and Kyle Brasher.

CMSC names January Musician of the Month



Special to The Canton News
The Canton Music Study Club (CMSC) recognized Zachary Mitchell as its January Musician of the Month. Mitchell is the son of Tanya and Tim Mitchell and serves as a volunteer music assistant with the children's choir program at First United Methodist Church (FUMC) in Canton. He is also active in the choral music program at Germantown Middle School. Pictured (l to r) are: Kathy Hammack, club president; Zachary Mitchell; and Angela Teasley, FUMC children's music coordinator.

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Volume 5, Issue 2
Circulation 14,000

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The Canton News is published on the first Thursday
of each month in Canton, Mississippi.

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cont. from front page

Beals-Bradley is Teacher of Year

dents. Beals-Bradley is a member of Dunimas Power Ministries Church.

Beals-Bradley says her goal as an educator is to not only be a life-long learner but also to instill in her students the importance of becoming life-long learners. She wants them to understand that people can take a lot of tangible things from them, but they can never take away their knowledge. If she were to offer advice to anyone, it would be when all else fails, ask for help and learn from your mistakes.

Khrysten Glass, a teacher at Nichols Middle School, was named the first runner-up for District Teacher of the Year.

Glass, who was born in Canton to a family who valued education,



Natascha Beals-Bradley was named the 2018-19 Canton Public School District Teacher of the Year.

Special to The Canton News

completed her high school career at Brandon High School. She continued her education at Mississippi College in Clinton.

Glass says that, prior to college, she discovered that education was her passion. When the time came to declare her major, the decision was very clear to her, as her passion to educate exceeded all other things. At Mississippi College, Glass was involved in extracurricular and work activities that included the Campus Activities Board, Scouts, Homecoming Committee, and the Freshman Leadership Initiative Program. She says she thoroughly enjoys people, service and planning events.

In 2015, Glass was hired as an education intern by In His Steps Ministry, an after-school education program for inner city youth in Canton. Glass says that, through this ministry, she not only has the opportunity to educate children, but also has the privilege of serving in the same community

that she was raised in. Glass says working at this ministry ultimately led to her decision to become a part of the Canton Public Schools, specifically the Nichols Middle School family.



Khrysten Glass, a teacher at Nichols Middle School, was named the first runner-up for District Teacher of the Year.

Special to The Canton News

Glass says this past year has been amazing, and she can't wait for more to come.

Other Canton Public School District Teachers of the Year included:

Kara Paige, McNeal Elementary School; Heather Stubbs, Canton Elementary School; Areale Hayes, Goodloe Elementary School; Octavian Davis, Huey Porter Middle School; Teena Ruth, 9th Grade Academy; Jeremy Jackson, Canton High School; Vanessa Bennett, Canton Career Center; and Dexter Brim, Canton Educational Services Center.

Finding kingdom of God is easy

By Guest Columnist Steve Bryant

Tuff is a Boykin Spaniel who embodies the highest virtues toward which I aspire but often fall short. He is consistently forgiving, ever joyful and interminably loving. The other day, Tuff wasn't feeling well, so I took him to the vet. Ordinarily, he goes for room and board. I've often wondered what they do back in the kennel, because he absolutely loves it. I'll say, "Come on, Tuff, you're going to jail for the next three days," and he just bursts with excitement. I've literally seen him leap from my arms into the waiting arms of a vet tech, without even an obligatory "Goodbye."



Special to The Canton News

He sat calmly between my feet as we waited our turn. The office was a flurry of activity with an amazing diversity of creatures. There was a huge Chesapeake Bay Retriever who could pull a grown man's arm right out of socket. There was a Dachshund that looked as old

as Methuselah. Senile dementia was the diagnosis. A man rushed in with a Pug in his arms. He was fed up with his grandkids, who had come for the holidays and fed his poor dog under the table at every meal. There was a tiny puppy that needed shots, and a man who held a Chihuahua that wasn't much bigger. I may have misheard, but I'm pretty sure he called his Chihuahua "Jennifer."

And of course, the clinic hadn't gone completely to the dogs. Among the cats was a very distinguished looking tom who took it upon himself to lovingly greet everyone who entered the room, including the pig. Yes, pig. The lady with the pig beamed with pride and said, "That's my baby." Tuff was a little unnerved, having never seen a live pig. Neither had he seen death. Tear-stained pallbearers carried the deceased on a gurney. His head was covered. All we could see were the two protruding front paws of a very old dog. If Heaven is a perfect place, it has to have at least a few good dogs.

Tuff was given great care that day, and I was very thankful. I dare say that every creature felt thankful to be there, human and

otherwise. We were all welcomed, understood and cared for - even the pig. On the way home, I told Tuff that, from now on, I won't tease him about "going to jail." From now on, I'm going to call it "church." And if the truth be told, most of us in our various churches could learn a few lessons from the animal hospital. There, everyone mattered. Old and young, sick and well, registered blue blood and mutts, shaggy and well-coifed, the living and the dead... everyone mattered. Everyone was accepted. Everyone was given genuine compassion. Everyone was treated with dignity. No matter if they sat obediently or strained at the leash, just as it ought to be in the Kingdom of God, everyone was loved. Even the pig.

I have a sneaking suspicion that if we will just look, we'll find the Kingdom of God almost anywhere. And wherever we find it, we ought to learn from it and be thankful.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Reverend Bryant serves as the pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Canton. Steve and his wife, Betsy, enjoy making Canton their home.

Local ministry makes impact



Special to The Canton News

Pictured (l to r) are: Canton Rotary President David Overby; Vicki DeMoney, Crossroads Ministries; Cassidy Gurley, Crossroads beneficiary and speaker; and Neal Rich, Rotarian.

Special to The Canton News

Crossroads Ministry is celebrating their Tenth Anniversary of providing a place for women who have been released from prison. At a recent Canton Rotary Club meeting, Crossroads employee Vicki DeMoney gave an overview of the program and how it has helped 127 women who have been released from prison to learn life skills and get back on the right track. The ladies who attend Crossroads Ministries arrive with the clothes on their backs and are provided with much-needed clothing, toiletries and training from volunteers. They receive thirty hours in the classroom, and the graduation rate is 87%.

The ladies also work in the Vintage Treasures store on the Canton Square, learn life-skills and go to church services. Of the 127 women who have entered the program, fifty-two have utilized the "Redemptive Way home" and "Victory Lane

home" in Canton, and only ten percent have returned to prison. Cassidy Gurley gave a very sincere testimony regarding her experience with and the terrific support of the Crossroads Ministries program.

Over the past ten years, due to addiction/drug problems in the United States and specifically Mississippi, the number of women in prison has dramatically increased to twice the number of male offenders. DeMoney has even seen three generations of the same family in prison due to drug abuse. For the past three years, Crossroads Ministries has also partnered with the Mississippi Department of Corrections, which has helped with the success of these ladies in this area of Mississippi. Crossroads Ministries is a tax-deductible, non-profit 501(c)(3) organization that works from donations and appreciates any and all support. For more information or to donate, visit www.crossroadsms.org.

MCBL&F hosts breakfast



Special to The Canton News

The Madison County Business League and Foundation (MCBL&F) Government Affairs Committee hosted the Madison County Legislative Delegation with an annual breakfast at Butler Snow. During this event, the eleven legislators who represent Madison County in the Mississippi State Legislature are recognized and honored. MCBL&F Government Affairs Chairman Phil Buffington announced the 2019 legislative agenda, which highlights the economic development support organization's priorities for the upcoming session. Pictured (l to r) are, front row: Jan Collins, MCBL&F Executive Director; Rep. Cory Wilson; Rep. Debra Gibbs; Cecil Harper, MCBL&F Chairman; Senator John Horhn; and Joey Deason, Madison County Economic Development Authority (MCEDA) Executive Director; and back row: Rep. Bill Denny; Senator Walter Michel; Rep. Joel Bomgar; Rep. Kenneth Walker; and Phil Buffington, MCBL&F Government Affairs Committee Chairman. Present but not pictured was Speaker of the House Philip Gunn.

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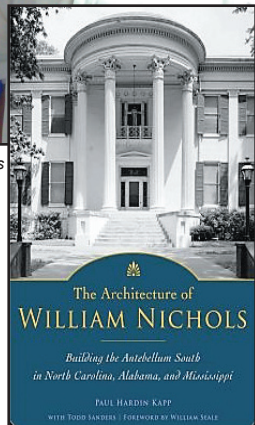
Architectural historian Sanders promotes book

Special to The Canton News

Todd Sanders, architectural historian with the Historic Preservation Division of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, spoke at a recent Canton Rotary Club meeting. He promoted his book *The Architecture of William Nichols* which tells of the Neo-classical style of buildings designed by Nichols, an English-born architect, who emigrated to the United States in 1800. He designed many



Special to The Canton News
Pictured are author and historian Todd Sanders and Joseph Orr, Rotarian and local architect.



Special to The Canton News

statehouses in the South, including the State Capitol of Mississippi and the Governor's Mansion. The University of Mississippi's Oxford campus was designed by Nichols, as well as the University of Alabama. Yazoo Clay was a big problem with many buildings during this time, before it was discovered how to create pilings and better foundations.

CHS running back Harris and coach attend banquet



Special to The Canton News

Canton High School running back Cameron Harris (left) and football coach Calvin Bolton (right) recently represented the Canton Public School District at the BankPlus Blitz 16 Player of the Year (POY) banquet. Harris was WAPT's Week 1 BankPlus Blitz 16 Player of the Week.

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Canton's Massey volunteers for the Laps for Little Ones



Special to The Clinton Courier

Hinds Community College second-year Physical Therapist Assistant students recently volunteered for Laps for Little Ones benefitting The Little Light House of Central Mississippi. Among them was Victoria Massey of Canton. The Little Light House offers a tuition free early intervention program for children birth to six consisting of intensive therapeutic care and cognitive remediation. Pictured (l to r) are, front row: Ladreka Culbert of Fayette, Nikki Vaughn of Crystal Springs, Danielle Smith of Clinton, Kelsey Nowell of Louisville, Emily Floyd of Brookhaven, Blake Ballard of Flowood, Bill Zarembo of Florence, Ashlynn Walker of Magee, Isaiah Weathersby of Flowood, Zane Warren of Byram; and back row: Lizzy Oliver of Flowood, Destin Price of Byram, Caroline Bankston of Terry, Paige Summers of Midland, Michigan, Miriam Johnson of Ridgeland, Victoria Massey of Canton, Evan Bauer of Corinth, Taylor Little of Crystal Springs, Lionel Lee of Isola and Katelyn Seeley of Ridgeland.

Inmate turned pastor speaks to local students



Special to The Canton News

Special to The Canton News

Reverend Eddie Spencer recently shared his inspiring journey with students at the Ninth Grade Academy and the Canton Educational Services Center in hopes of saving lives.

Spencer told the students that they don't have to make the wrong choice by going down a path that leads to crime and violence, like he did when he was their age. Instead, he told them to

choose to do what is right, stay in school and get their education. He said he was blessed to survive being shot four times, serve time in prison and then have a second chance to turn his life around, as chronicled in his book, *Inmate 46857*.

Spencer is now a pastor who shares his story with hopes that others will choose to live victorious lives. The students thanked Reverend Spencer for his powerful, life-changing testimony.

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Coffee Club going strong Sims given Hero Award



Photo by Lori Lycette

Pictured (clockwise, from left) are: Bill Vaughan, Lloyd Spivey, Froggy Hayes, Toxey Hall, Charles McLean, John Scanlan, J. B. Love, Henry Rings and Bob Heath.

By Lori Lycette

More than twenty-five years ago, Jim Lacey began the men's "Coffee Club" in Wardell's Restaurant, located at the northeast corner of the Canton Square, where Bettina's is currently located. Several men began meeting for coffee most every weekday morning to discuss the news of the day and attempt to solve the world's problems.

As a restaurant would close down for good, they would move to another, totaling about ten different eating establishments over

the years, until finally moving to the Canton Tourism office on the Square about a year and a half ago.

The group, ranging from age seventy to ninety-three, has grown to about twenty-five "members" over the years, with anywhere from about ten to twenty showing up on any given morning. Sadly, Mr. Lacey passed away about six months ago, but the close-knit group still continues the camaraderie and tradition of reminiscing about the days of old, and they expect to be around for many years to come.



Special to The Canton News

During a recent City Hall meeting, the City of Canton and the Canton Fire Department presented Eugene Sims with the Hero Award. The award was given in thanks of Sims' heroic effort to pull a young woman from a burning vehicle in a car crash in Canton.

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- Start with the entrance to your home. Change your outside lights to energy-saving bulbs. Check to ensure that air is not seeping into your home. Most homes have gaps around the windows, doors, and edges where walls and floors meet. You can purchase supplies such as foam weather-stripping from many home improvement stores to quickly fix these problems.
- Appliances can also consume a tremendous amount of energy. You can save on your utility bill by making a few minor adjustments. Such as scraping dishes instead of rinsing before loading them in the dishwasher. Run the dishwasher with a full load and use the air-dry option if available. Try to wash most clothes in cold water and always rinse cold. You can save hundreds of dollars on water heating each year. Remember to keep that lint trap clean! Keep the condenser coils clean on your freezer and refrigerator.

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CANTON MUNICIPAL UTILITIES ■ Where Utilities Power Possibilities

Canton library offers yoga classes for free

By Lori Lycette

Jean Powers has a passion for taking something difficult and making it easy for others, whether it's a classroom learning experience or doing a yoga pose. "When I see my students make progress, or hear joy in their voice over no longer experiencing daily pain, I know I'm right where God wants me to be," said Powers. "The classroom has always been my mission field to share the Gospel. I want to provide a safe place for Christians, as well as nonbelievers, to be able to feel good about themselves and to rehab injuries."

Special to The Canton News



Jean Powers

Powers adds that her teaching style is personable, conversational and steeped in easy-to-understand alignment principles.

Powers is a certified yoga instructor from Madison who teaches the basics of yoga from 4-5 p.m. on the first Friday of every



Special to The Canton News

month at the Canton Public Library, a program which is offered by the library at no charge.

Students collect cans for local Canton residents



Special to The Canton News

The Canton Ninth Grade Academy's Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) delivered donations that were collected during their canned food drive to Madison Countians Allied Against Poverty (MadCAAP) at the end of the year. Students were able to work in the food pantry and packed eighty food boxes that were distributed to Madison County residents for Christmas. Students and administrators said it was a great experience for the students to be able to volunteer and serve others in the community. The club is sponsored by Mrs. Teena Ruth.

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Citywide cleanup gaining momentum in Canton

By Guest Columnist Joy Dodson,
Keep Canton Beautiful Director

Keep Canton Beautiful (KCB) is now entering the second year, and we have not lost momentum! There is always a project to complete or an improvement to be made. I hope everyone got to see the WLBT coverage of the new recycling program that KCB started up at Canton High School. My hope is that our efforts will encourage change... I can feel it already happening. With over 7,500 pounds of recycled material collected, it's clear that the Canton High Tigers are now full-blown recyclers!

Spring is around the corner, and we already have a new entrance gateway to the city planned, an outdoor learning area approved and ready for construction and tons of flower bulbs ready to be planted here and there. The next date to put on your calendar is the Great Canton Clean Up, which will be Thursday, February 21. This city-wide cleanup was widely popular last year and collected over twenty-eight tons of household garbage from all around the city. We will have signup sheets and orange tags out at the beginning of February. Follow our Keep Canton Beautiful Facebook page for details.



Special to The Canton News

CORRECTION

In the January issue of The Canton News, we incorrectly identified Hurstine Watts as Hurstine Wells. We apologize for this error.



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Madison County Gospel Music artists recognized

By Guest Columnist
Cynthia Goodloe Palmer

February is National Black History Month. Therefore, it is appropriate to recognize the large number of local, as well as national gospel



Desiree Hart

Special to The Canton News

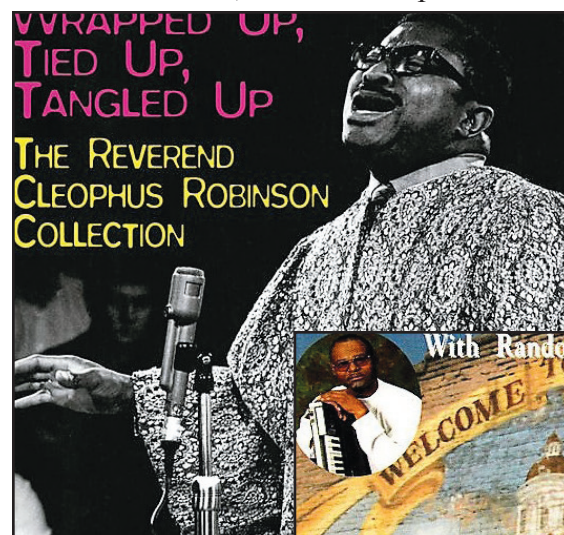
recording artists who hail from Madison County.

In many cases, these artists have dedicated their lives to this

genre of music. We salute and honor

the rich history and legacy of these artists. Their music can be heard daily on our local station, WMGO radio, in addition to radio stations throughout the world. Some of these artists have received national and international acclaim and have been featured on national television programs, including Rev. Cleophus Robinson, The Canton

Spirituals, Sister Thea Bowman, Ashford Sanders, Canton Gospel



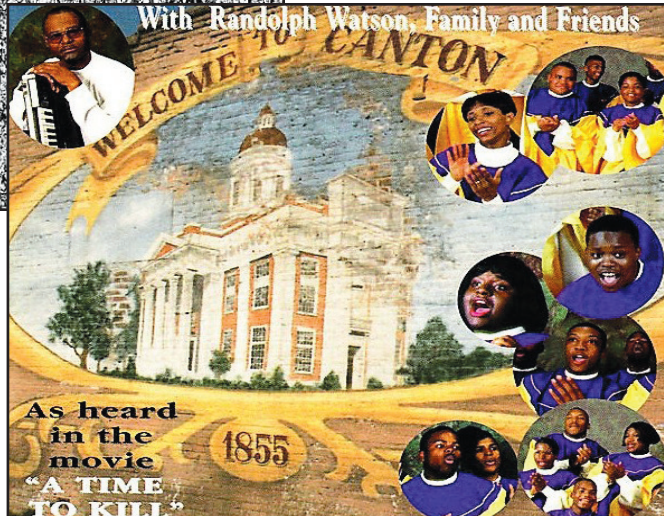
Rev. Cleophus Robinson (above)

Soul Children, Tony Davis and Cynthia Goodloe Palmer, to name a few.

We salute Ann Reed Nichols, Anointed Brothers of Christ, Ashford Sanders, Calvin April, Canton Community Fellowship Choir,

Canton Gospel Chorus, Canton Gospel Soul Children, Canton Southernaires, Claudgeanna Roberts, Cynthia Allen, Cynthia Goodloe Palmer, Delores Brown, Desiree Hart, Dwayne Watkins, Earl Tyler, Eddie Jackson, Ed Hightower, Gloria Collier, Holy Child Singers, Lee Starling, Margelet

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Canton Gospel Soul Children

Special to The Canton News

Clemons, Minister Vorneal Lipsey II, Northside Com-

munity Choir, Rembert Washington



Ashford Sanders

Special to The Canton News

Memorial Chorale, Rev. Cleophus Robinson, Rev. Clyde Tate, Rev. Curtis Brown, Rev. Eugene Rivers,

Rev. Jessie Primmer, Sr., Rosie Rivers

Veal and Cathy Loach, Sister Thea Bowman, Songbirds of the South, Thea Bowman Memorial Choir, The Canton Spirituals, The Four Spirits, the Jackson Family, Tony Davis and Young Men of Faith.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Palmer is an international award-winning recording artist and is a three-time winner at the Mississippi Gospel Music Awards. She serves as the founder of the Canton Gospel Music Association.



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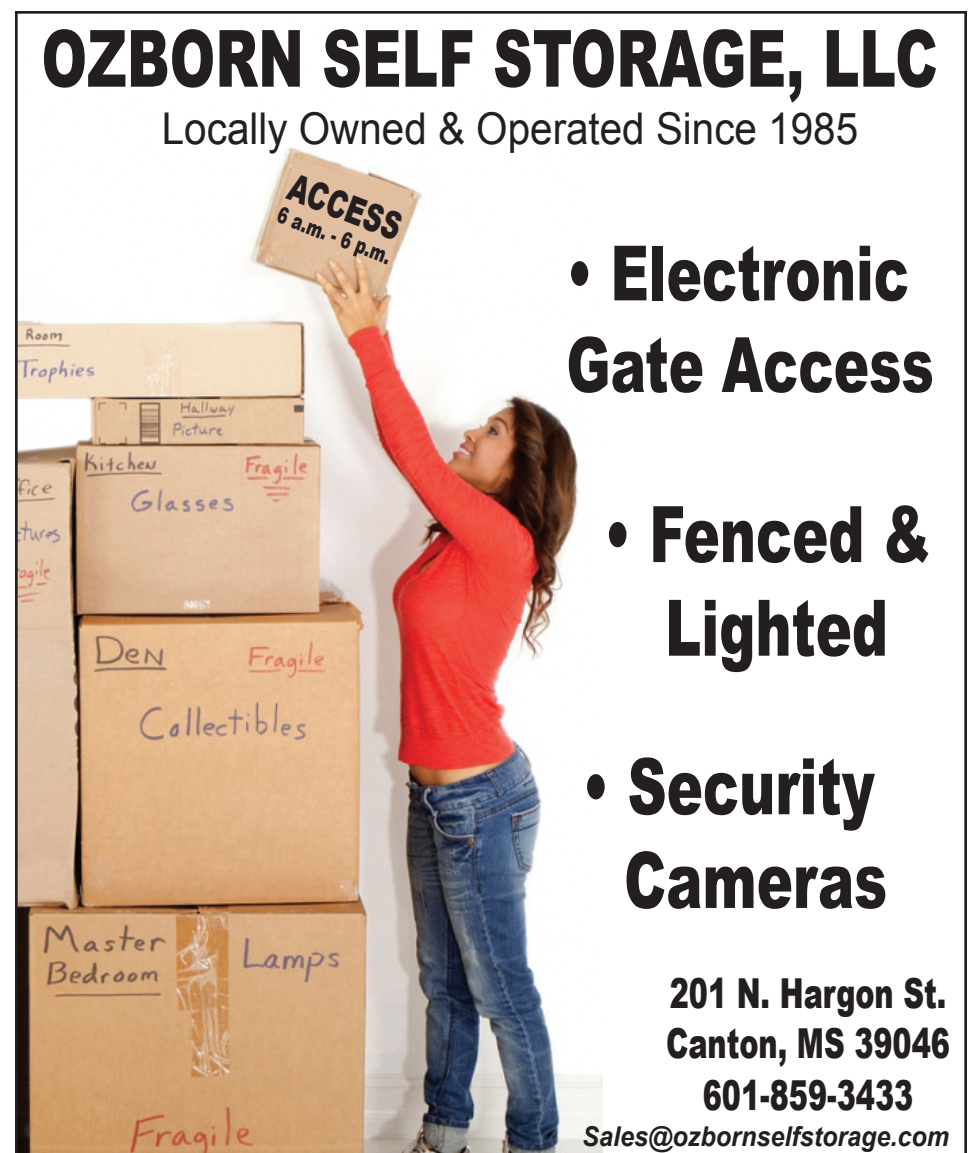
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Canton Police Chief awards Bravo “Shift of the Year”



Special to The Canton News

Canton Police Chief Otha Brown presented Bravo Shift Supervisor Officer Deonta Young with a “Shift of the Year” plaque during the City’s January board meeting. The Bravo Shift includes Officer Harvey Marcellus, Officer Young, Sonya Wright, Ondre Smith, William Horton, James Jackson, Patrick Shearry and Edgar Esco, and was given this award for their hard work and dedication while serving the citizens of Canton for the calendar year 2018. Pictured (l to r) are, front row: Les Penn, Officer Young, Daphne Johnson-Sims, Mayor William Truly and Rodriquez Brown; and back row: Andrew Grant, Fred Esco, Jr., Chief Otha Brown and Eric Gilkey.



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Happy Valentine's Day to Canton, Mississippi

By Guest Columnist Joy Foy

Valentine's Day, according to Wikipedia, is a world-wide holiday to celebrate romantic love. We in the United States celebrate this on



Special to The Canton News

February 14, and the most typical gifts include candy, greeting cards, flowers and a special dinner. These positive feelings contributed 19.6 billion dollars to the American economy in 2018. This equates to an average of \$143.56 spent per person, up from \$136.57 spent per person in 2017.

Demographics are a big influencer in valentine purchases, and research shows that men normally spend twice as much as women. As you might guess, the age of a relationship has a direct correlation to the degree of spending incurred for Valentine's Day. The 2017 Tourism Economic Impact Report that was posted in the Jan-

uary/February 2019 issue of the *Delta Magazine* shows that the average age of a Mississippi traveler is forty-eight years old, and their average household income is \$71,900. With this type of tourist visiting Canton, one can see that Canton has the potential to really score big around Valentine's Day.

Hopefully, we locals will not leave all of the spending in Canton to outsiders. If you choose a romantic meal with your valentine, our Two Rivers Restaurant offers your choice of a casual meal in the main dining room, celebrating with a crowd in the bar or an intimate dinner in the wine room with no interruptions. This year, Johnny Stewart, owner of Two Rivers, is offering a limited menu for Valentine's dinner in the old Culinary Cowboy Restaurant on February 14. According to Johnny, only diners with pre-paid reservations will be allowed, and all of the items on the menu will be the same price. The guests who would like to drink are welcome to bring their own bottle, and the restaurant will provide the appropriate glassware,

but call early (601-859-9999) for your reservations. We have several other restaurants in the Canton area to accommodate a wide variety of tastes. If you are in a celebrating mood, you can find good food and a good time in Canton.

Flower shops begin preparing weeks in advance to fill and deliver creative orders for Valentine's Day. In Canton, SuPerl's Florist (601-859-3474) has moved east of the square into the Canton Plaza Shopping Center at 1018 Peace Street. They have been in operation in Canton since 1949. Hamlin's Floral Design (601-859-8434) has been offering in-town and out-of-town deliveries for the past forty years. They are located at 285 West Peace Street. Fletcher's Flowers (601-859-4713), another name that has deep roots in Canton, is located on the square at 119 North Union, next door to Legends of Mississippi Sports Bar and Restaurant. All three have a wide array of floral gifts and arrangements to appease both young and mature valentines. Canton's gift shops offer can-

dles, jewelry and other typical romantic gifts. The gift wrapping, offered free of charge by our merchants, adds to the positive appeal of whatever you choose for your sweetheart. Erin Noble, of Sulm's on the Square and Sulm's at Merit Health, reports that her store at the hospital also carries Valentine's candy and custom gift baskets as well as fresh flowers. LaDiDa, also located on the Canton Square, offers a wide variety of gifts for that special lady in your life.

Canton has many opportunities to capitalize on these positive romantic emotions! Shop local, and allow your local merchants to help you show some love to your sweetheart.

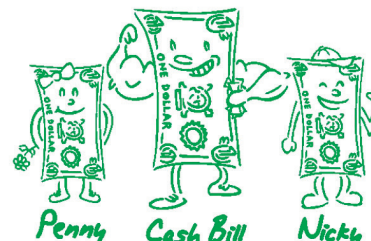
EDITOR'S NOTE: Joy Foy is married to James Foy and is a retired Economic Developer with the Mississippi Development Authority. Foy is an active participant in the community of Canton. She is a member of the Lions Club and on the Keep Canton Beautiful Committee.



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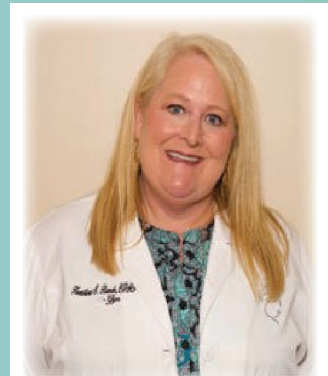
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KPNA holds memorial



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Pictured (l to r) are, front row: Laura Lacy, Rachiel Johnson, Ruby Johnson, Ermalene Guydon, Pearlina Hatcher, Katie Hamlin, Sylvia Grant and Bertha McGruder; and back row: Helen Owens, Annie Smith, Mary Johnson, Shirley Griffin, Cassandra Cannon, Nettie Travis, Darlene White, Monica Gilkey and Ida Thomas.

Special to The Canton News

The Knights of Pillar Nurses' Association (KPNA) recently held their annual memorial service, at which several family members of deceased nurses were in attendance. They celebrated the birth of Christ by providing Angel Tree gifts to a family of four, as well as three other individuals at St. Paul A.M.E. Zion Church.

Bertha McGruder gave a short history on the Knights of Pillar Nurses Association and its origin. The group celebrated the life and

legacy of Joyce Conway Adams, who inspired McGruder to begin this association. Adams' daughter, Jazmine Adams, and her siblings were there to support KPNA. The families of Mrs. Essie Horne and Mrs. Annie Crowe also attended the celebration, just to name a few.

KPNA ended 2018 with a group fellowship at the home of Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Johnson with food, laughter and gift exchanges. The group says they are looking forward to an even better and more prosperous year in 2019.

Pink Goes Red affair

Special to The Canton News

The Twenty Pearls of Canton Foundation and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, Upsilon Upsilon Omega Chapter will join the ranks of hundreds of chapters across the globe in hosting events to raise funds for the American Heart Association and bringing awareness to heart disease in women.

The Upsilon Upsilon Omega Chapter was chartered in 1998 in Canton. Since that time, the chapter has worked to have a significant impact on the lives of those in the Madison County area through its program service initiatives in education, family, arts, environment and health. The chapter is currently under the leadership of Dr. Shivochie Dinkins.

Cantonians are encouraged to join the ladies of The Twenty

Pearls of Canton Foundation and Upsilon Upsilon Omega Chapter for an elegant evening of entertainment and fun. Tickets are \$40 and include dinner, complete with appetizers and dessert, live entertainment, dancing, door prizes and a few other surprises.

The attire is semi-formal, and ladies are encouraged to wear a red dress, while guys are asked to wear a red tie. All proceeds will benefit The American Heart Association and the Twenty Pearls of Canton Foundation's Community programs.

The event will be held on Saturday, February 23, from 7 until 11 p.m. at the Sparkman Auditorium at the Mississippi Agricultural and Forestry Museum, which is located at 1150 Lakeland Drive in Jackson.

For more information, contact T. Shae Martin at 601-654-4710.



Special to The Canton News



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Awards luncheon held for the NMED board members



Special to The Canton News

The North Madison County Economic Development Council (NMED) recently held a board appreciation luncheon for its inaugural membership. NMED is a non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization with a mission to create economic development, improved housing, workforce training and other community related services for constituents in Madison County, District 5. Each member's personal donations were used to create the board, which has provided numerous services such as community forums, small business seminars, presentations to civic groups and financial workshops. It also serves as an advisory board to the Madison County Board of Supervisors' Sulphur Springs Healthplex in Camden. Pictured (l to r) are, front row: Dr. Pollia F. Griffin, Dr. Pallascene Bright Cole and Earnestine Bilbrew; and back row: Doris Sutherland, Dr. Mary Sims-Johnson and Ed Hightower. Not pictured: Diane Shaw Day and Willie Cline.

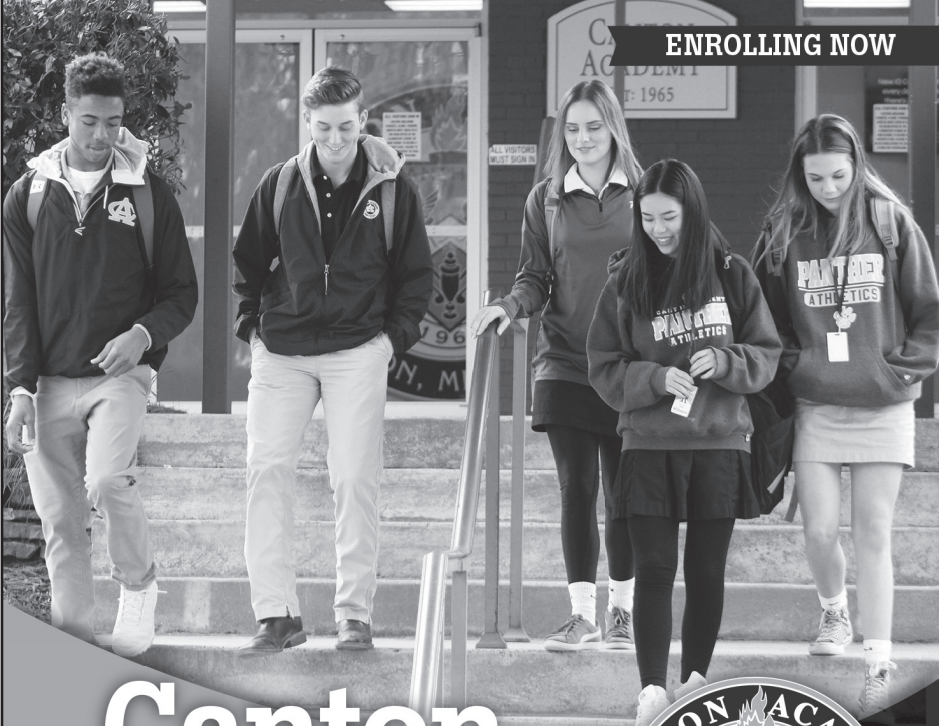
Marines speak to Canton Academy upperclassmen



Special to The Canton News

Staff Sergeant Munro and Sergeant Tassara of the United States Marine Corp, along with Canton Academy graduate Keaton Permenter (Class of 2018), spoke to the eleventh and twelfth graders about the benefits of joining the Marines.

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County meets ACT Work Ready certification

Special to The Canton News

The Madison County Economic Development Authority (MCEDA) announced that Madison County has met all criteria to become a certified ACT Work Ready Community. This achievement caps the two-year engagement process and begins a two-year growth and maintenance phase to retain certification.

The ACT Work Ready Communities initiative is designed to assist a particular area, region or state in developing its workforce pipeline to provide skilled workers for employers. The framework allows each participating community to quantify and improve the skill levels of its workforce through a standardized workforce skill credential, the ACT WorkKeys® National Career Readiness Certificate™, supported by data updated online by ACT on a monthly basis.

“We are proud of Madison County’s designation as a Work Ready Community, which recognizes successful efforts by the community, education and business

leaders to strengthen workforce training and development in order to meet the economic develop-

cation proves that Madison County citizens are highly-educated and skilled across all industry seg-

ment Authority and Holmes Community College, along with the Madison County Business League and Foundation, Madison County Community Trust, WIN Job Center, Madison County Public School District and Canton Public School District. Each entity played an important role by promoting the initiative, investing in testing and paving the way for Madison County’s emerging, current and transitioning workforce to be identified in the local talent pipeline.

“I am proud that Madison County has chosen to pursue the Work Ready Community initiative, and I am happy that Holmes Community College could partner with the county and assist in reaching the goals to become Work Ready,” said Dr. Mike Blankenship, Vice President of Workforce Development at Holmes Community College. “This will position Madison County to better compete for important economic development projects and create opportunities for our county citizens to have the best quality of life possible.”



Special to The Canton News

ment needs of our community,” said Joseph P. Deason, Executive Director of MCEDA. “This certifi-

cations.”

The initiative was led by the Madison County Economic Devel-

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