



THE CANTON NEWS

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P.O. Box 1163, Canton, MS 39046

Historic jail preserved in Canton, Mississippi

By Lori Lycette

The Old Madison County Jail, located a short walk from the Canton Square at 234 East Fulton Street, is not the first jail in the county, but it certainly served its purpose longer than any other on record. Madison County was established in 1828, and it is believed that the plans for the original jail were created in 1834 by state architect John Lawrence. The structure was built just off the Square on Center Street in 1836, but ultimately burned down either during or shortly after the Civil War.

In 1870, the jail was rebuilt, on East Fulton this time, using bricks from the former structure to build the cellblock of the newer structure. It was a fully functioning jail, including public executions, either inside by electric chair or hang-

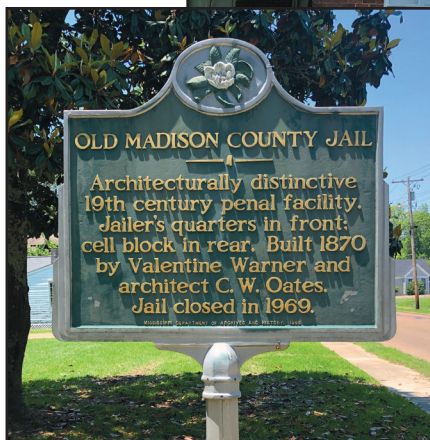


Photo by Lori Lycette



(Above) Old Madison County Jail

Photo by Lori Lycette

ings in the yard. The residence for the jailer and family was in the front section of the building, while the cellblock was in the back. It was in a rural setting and had farm animals and gardens which were tended to by

the prisoners. The jail served its purpose until 1969, closing after the new, current jail was built on Highway 51 south of town, with only one inmate escaping during the ninety-nine years of operation.

Soon after closing the doors, the building was in such disrepair that it was in danger of being demolished and the property devel-

oped for housing. Several local citizens and organizations joined together to purchase the property and then began the restoration process. The Canton-Madison County Historical Society was formed for the purpose of restoring the old jail as a museum. The cell blocks have been restored to their original condition, and it is said to be one of the few penal structures of its period to be so well preserved. The maintenance is an ongoing process, as with any older structure, and depends on fundraisers, grants and generous donations to keep it upright and in compliance with safety codes.

The jail is adjacent to the oldest cemetery in Canton, with tombstones dating as far back as 1812. It contains the historic Howcott Monument, which was erected by William Howcott in honor of his slave, Willis Howcott, and is perhaps the only one of its kind in the South. The log cabin behind the jail is estimated to have

cont. on page 2

Canton city beautification projects underway

Special to The Canton News

The City of Canton was recently chosen along with nine other cities in Mississippi and Illinois to receive a community beautification grant from America in Bloom and Canadian Railroad. This beautification grant is helping to facilitate several projects in Canton and has had people talking positively about these improvements throughout the city.

One of the first initiatives was carried out by the Canton Garden Club and Keep Canton Beauti-

ful, which focused on the addition of flower filled planters on the Square and in the Hollow. It was a community effort utilizing the help of volunteers belonging to both groups. David Bradberry, Tim Thrasher and Dave Grimmer all volunteered to build the planters with donated wood, and the paint used was donated by Barnett Phillips Lumber in Canton. Time and labor were donated by Garden Club members and their spouses to get these planters placed in visible areas with a greater focus paid to

cont. on page 7



Volunteers helping with planter boxes

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cont. from front page

Historic jail preserved in Canton, Mississippi



Log cabin on jail grounds

Photo by Lori Lycette

built in the 1820's and was found hidden inside a rental house elsewhere in Canton that was being torn down. It was donated to the Madison County Historical Society in 1984, moved to the present site in 1986 and restored to its original configuration.

The City of Canton eventually expanded the Canton Flea Mar-

ket to include this area, and the Old Jail Flea Market was formed, which includes the jail grounds as well as the area across the street behind City Hall. It takes place concurrently with the original flea market every May and October.

The jail was put on the National Register of Historic Places in 1979 and is part of the East



Photo by Lori Lycette

Members of the Historical Society (l to r) include, front row: Debra Anderson, Maureen Simpson, Pauline Watkins, Bob Summerlin, and Percy Durfey; and back row: Bobby Heath, Micah Gober, and Mary Jane Boutwell.

Canton Historic District. It is still owned by the Historical Society, which meets inside the jail at 10:30 a.m. on the third Saturday of every even month. All are welcome to attend the meetings and also become a member of the group. They would like to honor the history of the jail by eventually having a knowledgeable per-

son on site one day every week to lead tours, preferably on Mondays, since that is normally a big tourist day for Canton. If you are interested in learning more of the history of this property, contact Canton Tourism at 601-859-1307 or stop by the Welcome Center located at 141 North Union Street on the Square.

Lions Club extends sincere thanks for support to the annual auction

The National Lions' Mission Statement is, "To empower volunteers to serve their communities and meet humanitarian needs." Proceeds from all Canton Lions Club's fundraising efforts are used to fulfill this mission in the Canton, Mississippi area.

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Canton appeals to their newcomers

By Guest Columnist Joy Foy



Joy Foy

Special to The Canton News

Spring has energized us in Canton, and we are out and about meeting our neighbors. The Canton Garden Club placed new flower boxes around the Square, the Lions hosted two of the four planned "Canton After 5" events at the Trolie Hotel, and Canton Tourism entertained ladies with a trade-show type environment showcasing local merchants in the Opera House at a spring program they called "Spa & Shop." Everywhere I go, I meet people new to Canton. When asked why they chose Canton, the stories are amazing and all point to the positive quality of life available in Canton.

As retirees, Al and Donna Salmi moved to Canton from Maryland. I sit across the table at Lions Club from Al, and he told me that Donna had visited here with a girlfriend, and when she returned home, all she talked about was Mississippi. She would say the food was better, people were more friendly and the weather was warmer. Nine years ago, they moved to Canton. They stay engaged through activities offered to them as members of First Methodist Church, as well as volunteering at local civic clubs and at the hospital. They say they are enjoying Canton as their happy retirement place.

Joseph Orr, a licensed architect, grew up in south Jackson, but has his architectural firm's office on the Square in a beautiful rehabilitation of his own creation. His building is part of the old Canton Municipal Utilities offices. Eighteen years ago, Joseph found Canton to have the character and

affordability that would allow his business to prosper. He is very generous to numerous city and civic projects with his time and expertise, which includes custom design and drafting, in addition to his architectural skills. Much of his work is due to his knowledge of retrofitting historic buildings to maintain their historic character while serving a new purpose. You can see samplings of his work on his website jorr.biz. His unique architectural design around town adds to the downtown's charm. As Joseph grows his career and becomes more successful, he also helps Canton to win.

John Martin is a young attorney with Montgomery McGraw, PLLC, but I met him first as an owner of his Canton art gallery, Row 76. John grew up all over the U.S.A. but mostly calls Dallas, Texas, home. He met his future wife, Brooke Tarleton, from Mandeville, Louisiana, when they both were in law school at Ole Miss. After graduating in 2010, John went back to Texas to practice law, and Brooke became a lawyer in the Jackson office of Baker Donelson. Within a year, John was looking for a job closer to Brooke. His search led him to Canton and the Montgomery McGraw Law Firm. Repurposing a historic building at 141 West Peace Street, on the Square, exercised his creative side. He has turned the building into a mixed-use facility by developing the upstairs as an apartment, and the art gallery and some professional offices on the street level. In 2018, the Row 76 Gallery opened with plans to host art events and showcase up and coming new artists. In addition to being a lawyer and now a developer, he is also an artist working in acrylics, pencil and photography. Small town Canton and its historic Square were perfect, according to John, to help him begin his law career

and grow the type of art gallery that he had envisioned.

Places from all across the U.S.A. are represented by new people in Canton. Homes around Canton are being purchased by families from places like Massachusetts (Susan and Joe Kennedy), Ohio (Amber Milks and family), Wisconsin (Tiffany Ditzinberger and family), Texas (Steve Scott and Brenda) and Michigan (Dave and Suzanne Danaher). John David Ridge from Hollywood, California, has owned a home in Canton since filming movies here years ago, and Charlie Lovett also comes to us from California. Several other Canton properties have sold to people from surrounding cities who move here for their children to participate in school sports or to invest in the preservation of a lovely historic city. Whether for jobs or other reasons, these newcomers are finding that Canton makes a good home address.

These are the types of testimonies that economic developers feature in marketing materials. The strategy is that people enjoying themselves will create a positive perception to others. Whether one is looking to retire, grow their business or begin a new career, Canton has opportunities. We are very pleased to have our newcomers and their testimonies for choosing Canton as home. These happy Cantonians certainly contribute to the local quality of life through their talents and enthusiasm. Welcome!

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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Manning named valedictorian



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Jordyn Manning was named Canton High School (CHS) valedictorian for the class of 2019. She has a 3.94 GPA (Grade Point Average) and plans to attend Holmes Community College majoring in Computer Engineering. Manning is the daughter of Adrienne Manning and Dwayne Fleming.

Handy named salutatorian



Special to The Canton News

Makaila Handy was named Canton High School (CHS) salutatorian for the class of 2019. She has a 3.85 GPA (Grade Point Average) and plans to attend Alcorn State University majoring in Biology. Handy is the daughter of Kametriss and Calvin Whisenton.

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Canton Public Schools recognize achievements



Goodloe Elementary School recipients

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At a recent board meeting, Canton Public School District (CPSD) Board of Trustees and Superintendent Gary Hannah honored the hard work, dedicat-

ed service and accomplishments of the students, teachers and employees of the month from all the schools in the district. Pictured are a few of many who were recognized that day for their achievements.



Reuben Myers School of Arts and Sciences recipients

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Ninth Grade Academy recipients

Special to The Canton News



TIMOTHY JENKINS

Madison County
CIRCUIT CLERK



My name is Sara Baldwin Albritton, and I would like to publicly endorse Timothy Jenkins for our next Circuit Clerk of Madison County.

I worked in the office of the Madison County Circuit Clerk for 22 1/2 years. Of those years, 21 were spent working under former Clerk, Lee Westbrook. I was eliminated from my job by our current Circuit Clerk, in a text message, and I was never given a reason as to why I was being let go.

It may seem that I am endorsing Mr. Jenkins in this way because I lost my job; however, I have seen first hand the differences that the general public may not see, and my own personal experience is just one example.

Lee Westbrook joins me in endorsing Mr. Jenkins because we both know his experience while serving on the Election Commission brings a much-needed set of qualifications to the office, as the Circuit Clerk performs several important duties in the election process. In addition, Mr. Jenkins is a good, Christian man who we both believe would serve Madison County professionally, ethically, kindly, and diligently.

I humbly ask that you consider him when casting your vote in the August 6th primary.

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Historic jail preserved in Canton, Mississippi

By Lori Lyette



(Above) Old Madison County Jail

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Several local citizens and organizations joined together to purchase the property and then began the restoration process. The Canton-Madison County Historical Society was formed for the purpose of restoring the old jail as a museum. The cell blocks have been restored to said to be one of the few penal structures of its period to be so well preserved. The maintenance is an ongoing process, as with any older structure, and depends on fundraisers, grants and generous donations to keep it upright and in compliance with safety codes.

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Canton city beautification projects underway



Special to The Canton News

areas that did not currently have flowers. Nearby merchants were given watering containers and signed agreements to keep their planters watered.

The next location chosen for

needed improvements in beautification was City Hall. The Canton Parks and Recreation department has already started on these updates, and they will continue over the next several weeks. Can-



Entrance to the Hollow

Special to The Canton News

tonians are encouraged to keep watching as our City Hall landscaping gets spruced up thanks to Alvin Davis and his crew.

Volunteers are always needed to carry out these projects, so those

interested in helping, should contact the Canton Garden Club or Keep Canton Beautiful on Facebook. Verification of service hours is available on approved projects.



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We are called to form an assembly of harvesters

By Guest Columnist
Reverend Dr. Leroy Lacy

Matthew 9:37-38 KJV (37) Then saith he unto his disciples, the harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; (38) Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest that he will send forth labourers into his harvest:

Define: Harvest – the period at the end of the growing season, when crops were gathered.

Harvest was one of the happiest times of the year in Palestine (Ps. 126:5-6; Is. 9:3), with celebrations and religious festivals (Ex. 23:16). There were actually two marked harvests. Barley was gathered from mid-April onwards, and the wheat from mid-May. Harvest became a picture of God's judgment (Jer. 51:33) (Joel 3:13), and Jesus compared the last judgment with the harvest (Mt. 13:30, 39) (Rev. 14:14-20). However, Jesus used the same metaphor for the gathering of those who believed in him (Mt. 9:37-38) (Luke 10:2) indicating that the final harvest has already begun with his first coming (John 4:35).

Define: Laborers—one who worked at manual or physical labor.

Almost everyone in the Bible worked and worked hard. There were relatively few skilled occupations such as potters, metalsmiths, masons, scribes, dyers, or weavers and jewelry makers. For the most part, the life of the average person consisted of long hours of very hard work and small incomes (Ps. 90:10). Some laborers worked in the fields at harvest times as har-

vesters, gleaners and reapers.

Laborer is a worker, especially a person who does some kind of physical work: a person engaged in work that requires bodily strength rather than skill or training. But in the spiritual arena, the laborer that Jesus is talking about is one who has been a follower of him, and willing to work on his behalf. Now mind you that in the secular world, a laborer is the one that most often does the hard work, the low end of the job. Usually the pay is not as good as the front office. But, in the spiritual arena, the laborer is working for the Lord and usually is the one who gets the job done. No labor – No pay! Now, I better tell you that working in the vineyard for the Lord not only pays well, but it affords you an opportunity for eternal life: there is no better pay than eternal life with Jesus.

Before we can labor, first, we must take the initiative and go. Secondly, we must have an audience which is the harvest. Thirdly, we must have a message from God. In order to harvest, there must be some laborers working to do the harvest. In the spiritual arena, God said he needed some laborers because there was plenty of harvest.

But there was a shortage of laborers. When there is plenty of harvest, then God needs plenty of laborers to handle the harvest. We need to picture ourselves as a laborer – ready to go to work. And then picture Jesus with a sign: "Help wanted." If we are going to make an impact on our communities, we must first accept our role as laborers: now, if we are laborers for the Lord, then we must be committed.

That commitment can be found in Romans 12:1-2: "I beseech you therefore, brother by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies

a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God which is your reasonable service (2) and be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God."

Then, we must remember St. Matthew 5:13-14: "Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt has lost his savor, (or flavor) where with shall it be salted? It is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men. (14) Ye are the light of the world; a city that is set on a hill cannot be hid."

The purpose of salt is it gives flavor to food that it did not otherwise have. If we are the salt of the earth, then, we are laborers for God who is ready to help with the harvest.

But whether he prayed for more workers or not, you cannot dispute that he commands us to pray for more laborers (workers). Do you pray that the Lord would rise up and send out workers from your church? Maybe, they will serve in the ministries of the church. Maybe, God will send them to the streets with the Gospel. But, in some mysterious fashion that I do not understand, God works through our prayers. If we all prayed for more workers, maybe we would have more wanting to serve than we had openings for service. Laborers are needed, but they must be the laborers of God. For the harvest is God's! It is totally inadequate to humanly select the laborers, lay human plans, and send laborers forth in human strength. Such human actions will not get the job done. God's call and God's appointment are needed. Christ is saying, "Pray that God will raise up enough laborers to reach your generation." (Mt. 7:7) "Ask, and

it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find, knock, and it shall be opened unto you."

Conclusion: The harvest is the Lord's. He knows the harvest, every stem and blade of it. He knows everyone-everybody and mind and act, and thought, need, and provision (Mt. 10:30). He knows the heart and knows what must be done to harvest the field in the most efficient and effective way. Therefore, the laborers must be chosen, called, and enlisted by him. Christ is the one who must send forth laborers.

The harvest is God's. It is to be harvested as he says and wills; and not as we may wish. No man has the right to harvest by using his own message and ideas. Christ has clearly instructed and demonstrated that "the Gospel of the Kingdom" is to be preached. The harvest is God's and, he can reap the harvest:

-if there are enough "concerned" laborers.

- if there is enough "prayer" for laborers.

-if there is enough "commitment" to surrender to his call to go.

-if there is enough "dedication" to follow him day by day and hour by hour.

-if there is enough "faith" believe Christ and the truth of the scripture.

-if there is enough "conviction" to stand true and firm through all.

Then, "An Assembly of the Harvesters" can reach its full potential.

EDITORS'S NOTE: Dr. Lacy is the pastor of New True Light Baptist Church of Canton and the president of the In Denominational Ministerial Alliance, while also a member of many other organizations.

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Reverend Dr. Leroy Lacy

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Canton Academy holds 2019 field day fundraiser



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Canton Academy's Student Government Association recently held a field day fundraiser for Judy Martin, a longtime staff member of the school, who underwent surgery this past semester. The students participated in powder puff football, softball and dodgeball.

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The Heart of the Hollow documentary premieres



Lake Dodson, Dr. Wilma Clopton, and William Lindsey.

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The Heart of the Hollow documentary recently premiered at the Canton Library. Lake Dodson, a junior at St. Joseph Catholic School, and William Lindsey, a junior at Germantown High

School, compiled interviews, researched archives and edited this documentary. They utilized the Canton Library's film and sound equipment, as well as the professional editing software. Dr. Wilma Clopton mentored the young men throughout the



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Pictured at the premiere (l to r) are: William Lindsey, Tim Taylor, Glen Cotton, Lake Dodson, and Dr. Wilma Clopton.

process all the way to the Mississippi History Day Competition, where Dodson and Lindsey won third place in the state for documentaries. *The Heart of the Hollow* touches on what life was like in Canton before and after integration. Many Cantonians

were interviewed, and these two young filmmakers worked hard to compile all the stories in hopes of preserving a piece of Canton's history. The documentary may be viewed on YouTube under the title *Heart of the Hollow Final*.

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CA holds annual art show



Special to The Canton News

The Canton Academy (CA) annual art show was recently held in the high school lobby. Students had the opportunity to showcase their art during a silent auction process. Students, faculty and parents were able to bid on the pieces and take home their favorites. Pictured (l to r) are: Matthew Galloway, Anna Claire Mabry, Graeme Dickson, and Daniel Spivey.

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Joni and Friends director speaks at CA chapel



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At a recent Canton Academy high school chapel, students in grades 7-12 were given the opportunity to hear from and interact with Martie Kwasny, area director of Joni and Friends of Mississippi. Ms. Sarah Morris' 9th grade Honors English had read Joni Eareckson Tada's autobiography, JONI. Kwasny told the students about the organization that was created by Tada with the goal of "accelerating Christian ministry in the disability community." Each student was gifted a copy of the book.

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Farmer directs funds to Madison County Library

Special to The Canton News

Local farmer Danny Murphy directed \$2,500 to the Library Foundation of Madison County through America's Farmers Grow Communities, sponsored by the Bayer Fund. "As part of their mission, The Library Foundation of Madison County used the funds to bring back the Bookmobile equipped with story times, DIY crafts, activities, games, Special Needs resources, video games, 3D printing upon request, resume and career building, tech classes and more," said Tonja Johnson, Director of Madison County Library System.

Celebrating its tenth year, America's Farmers Grow Communities partners with farmers to support nonprofit organizations strengthening rural communities. The program offers farmers the chance to direct a \$2,500 donation to a nonprofit of their choice. It has awarded more than \$33 million to over 8,000 nonprofits across rural America.

"A better life is Bayer's goal. Farmers are invested in their communities, they root for their neighbors, and they know when and where there is a need," said Al Mitchell, Vice President Corporate Engagement, Bayer. "Farmers are one of America's best resources, which is why Grow Communities partners with them to direct donations to the organizations they are passionate about and that make a positive impact and a better life in communities."

Started in 2010, the America's Farmers programs, sponsored by the Bayer Fund (a philanthropic arm of Bayer) have been dedicated to partnering with farmers to strengthen rural communities. The programs provide funding for agriculture scholarships, nonprofit donations and school STEM grants. Since inception, the fund has awarded over \$50 million to rural communities. For more information, visit: AmericasFarmers.com or follow on Facebook at facebook.com/AmericasFarmers. The Bayer



Tonja Johnson receives check from Danny Murphy.

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Fund is a nonprofit organization dedicated to strengthening the communities where farmers and Bayer employees live and work

by providing funding for food and nutrition, education and community development projects.



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Canton Academy students participate in talent show



Special to The Canton News



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Canton Academy (CA) students recently participated in the annual talent show. They showcased their singing, instrument playing and joke telling skills for the student body. Shown in photo on left is Walker Goza; and photo on right (l to r) are: Bethany Bigger, Katherine Coward, Aislynn Cochran, and Taylor Rosamund.

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Lions Club hosts annual barbeque and auction

Special to The Canton News

The Canton Lions Club annual barbeque and auction was supported and enjoyed by a host of merchants, businesses and friends. The Lions Club members dished up smoked chicken plates as a line of “customers” formed through the doors of the Canton Army National Guard Armory. Close to 600 people were served.

The Lions say they are very thankful to all who donate items for their auction, purchase dinner tickets, buy chances to win \$500 and stay to bid at the auction. The atmosphere is pumped with positive energy as each Lion has a role to play in serving all of the customers/



supporters.

The day begins early with the cooking of the chickens at First Methodist Church, setting up the Armory and cataloging the auction items. The crowd that ate onsite and stayed for the auction said they enjoyed bidding on original art, autographed books, gift certificates from casinos, golf courses and restaurants, and also tools, small appliances and numerous other items. Casey Wingfield served as the auctioneer, and as in years past, he kept things moving at a fast pace. The night ended with a drawing for a door prize of a big-screen TV. All in attendance said they had a good time.

As the last customer paid for purchased items and left the Armory, a group of hardwork-

ing Lions had the satisfaction that funds would be available to continue the Lions' mission.

Last year, Lions were able to give three scholarships to seniors, sponsor two students for Lions Club Band, sponsor five boys to the Lions Boys Leadership Conference and helped with eyewear and hearing aids for many locally. Contributions included donations to the Mississippi Eye Bank, Addie McBride Mid-South cataract surgeries, White Cane and Leader Dog. In addition, support was given to local organizations such as In His Hands and Son Valley. Bobby Long

is the 2018-2019 Lions Club President, and he said that with the success of this year's auction, the club will be able to continue making contributions to worthwhile causes.

The thirty-one active members of the Canton Lions collectively thank everyone who made the annual fundraiser a success.

They invite any and all who would be interested in joining the Lions Club to come join them for lunch and check out becoming a Lion. They meet every Wednesday from 11:45 a.m.-1 p.m. at Penn's Restaurant located at 1528 MS-43 in Canton.

Nissan visits Canton Public middle schools



Special to The Canton News

Canton Nissan employees visited Canton Public Schools' eighth graders at Huey Porter and Nichols Middle Schools to share with them about the benefits of participating in the Mississippi Scholars Program and the Mississippi Tech Master Program. These Mississippi Economic Council programs are aimed at encouraging students to take more challenging courses in high school. Mississippi Scholars is a college-prep program designed to engage students in science, technology, engineering and math, while the Mississippi Tech Master Program prepares students to join the workforce after graduation. All national data indicates that students with a more rigorous academic schedule of high school studies are better prepared for college and/or to enter today's competitive job market. Some of the requirements include forty hours of community service, a minimum of a 2.5 cumulative GPA, 95 percent attendance, an ACT composite score of 18 or better and no outside suspensions.

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Dodson receives award for keeping Canton beautiful

Special to The Canton News

Joy Dodson, director of Keep Canton Beautiful, was recently recognized by Keep Mississippi Beautiful at its annual awards luncheon. Keep Canton Beautiful is a community-based affiliate of Keep America Beautiful, the nation's leading organization for litter prevention, recycling and beautification.

Keep Mississippi Beautiful's annual awards luncheon honors Mississippians who have demonstrated outstanding leadership in their communities in the areas of litter prevention, recycling, waste reduction, beautification and com-

munity improvement.

"This year's award winners show the good work that these Mississippians are doing to take make our beautiful state a better place to live and for others to visit," said Sarah Kountouris, Keep Mississippi Beautiful executive director.

Dodson received a first place award for Recycling in Mississippi for her efforts in starting a recycling program at Canton High School.

"I am proud of the impact we made and will continue to make at Canton High with our recycling initiative," she said. "For a high school to go from not recycling



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at all to collecting over 14,000 pounds of recycled materials in one school year and starting the very first Canton High Recycling Club...now that is amazing. The cooperation from the entire school was high from day one, especially

since there was a national contest involved."

Dodson is referring to the Pepsi-Co Recycle Rally, where schools pledge to keep track of their recycling to earn money for their school.

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