



THE CANTON NEWS

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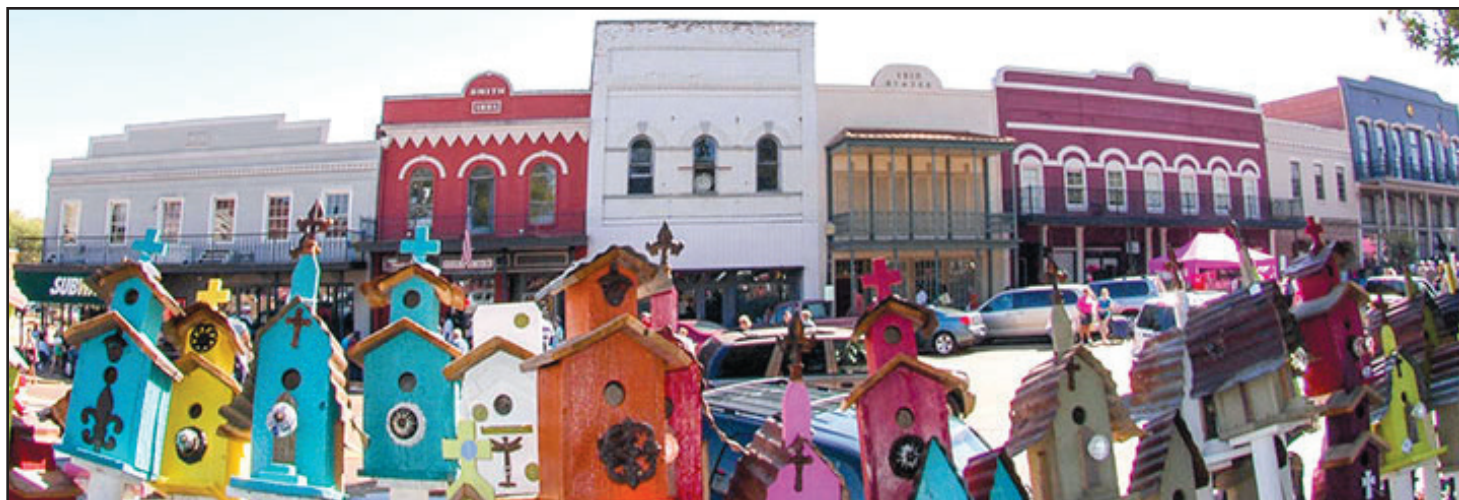
City of Canton prepares for October flea market

By Lori Lycette

Mississippi Magazine recently published that the Canton Flea Market had been voted the Best Flea Market in Mississippi for 2019, and for good reason. It began fifty-four years ago with only a handful of vendors and is now one of the largest outdoor craft markets in the South and continues to grow stronger every year.

The Canton Flea Market is one of the South's original arts and crafts shows. It is a bi-annual one-day event, which always occurs on the second Thursday of May and October. Artists and craftsmen from thirty-five states arrive twice a year to showcase their handmade items, from clothing and jewelry to pottery and woodworking, and so much more.

The May market generally has 800-900 vendors, while October's has closer to 1,100, with many vendors offering fall and Christmas decorations and items for entertaining guests during the holidays. Canton Tourism Direc-



Handmade birdhouses for sale at a past flea market

Special to The Canton News

tor Jana Dear said, "The October flea market is the kickoff event for the Christmas holidays. Always bring your list. Don't leave out teachers, Bunko groups or co-workers."

The October 10 event should attract over 50,000 visitors and shoppers, many of which drive from neighboring states in search of quality, fine art being offered at affordable prices. The hours, which were previously from 8 a.m.

to 5 p.m., have recently changed to 7 a.m. to 4 p.m.

As always, there is no admission to enter and shop, although come prepared to pay up to twenty dollars for parking spaces close to the vendors, especially those on the Square, East Peace Street and East Fulton Street, which includes the Old Jail Flea Market. Wearing comfortable shoes and bringing your own pull cart is always a good idea. There is always a good

variety of food vendors, offering everything from chicken on a stick to homemade fudge and kettle corn to fresh squeezed lemonade.

This year's May market was handicapped by rain for the first time in the history of the Canton Flea Market. Many of the organizers, vendors and shoppers said they were disappointed with the weather on that day, but also said they're hoping for sunny skies on October 10!

Canton middle schooler Rhodes scores 27 on ACT

Special to The Canton News

The Canton Public School District recently saluted twelve-year-old Kristen Rhodes for her outstanding achievement of scoring a 27 on the ACT while in the sixth grade.



Kristen Rhodes

Kristen Rhodes loves school, math and reading. While in the sixth grade at Huey Porter Middle School, twelve-year-old Rhodes took the

ACT for the first time and scored an amazing 27, just nine points shy of having a perfect score of 36 on the test and a score some high school students struggle to achieve.

But Rhodes, who sets high standards for herself, is already aiming for a higher score.

"Well, I thought, 'That's kind of low,' then my parents reminded me people who are eighteen are supposed to be taking this; then I thought, 'That's good, considering I'm twelve,'" said Rhodes.

Her mother and father, Cheleta and Samuel Rhodes, were pleasantly shocked by the news.

"My husband opened it first,

and he told me the score. I didn't believe him. I expected her to do well, just not that well," said Cheleta Rhodes.

Rhodes says some parts of the test were easy for her, like science, but some parts she had not been taught yet. She says her favorite subject is math and her least favorite is English. She says the answers in English sometimes can be subjective, but, in math, the answers are either right or wrong.

Rhodes reports that she absolutely loves reading. She says she started reading when she was two years old.

"If you read more, then you'll

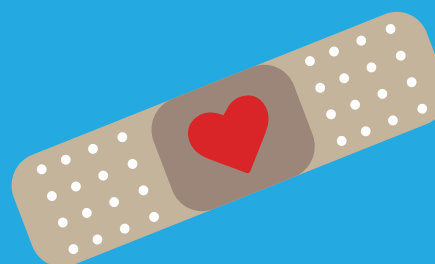
read better, then you will increase your vocabulary. People will treat you with more respect. When you use bigger words, people will respect you more," said Rhodes.

Her mother Cheleta says she and her husband tried to expose their children to words, colors, puzzles and board games while they were young and curious to help them learn. She says other parents and students can be successful and increase their knowledge by putting forth the effort and asking for help when they need it.

"Anything is possible, if you put forth the effort. A lot of people

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Celebrating September accomplishments in the CPSD

By Guest Columnist Canton Public School District Superintendent Gary Hannah

The month of September has brought lots of exciting news for Canton Public School District (CPSD). This month, the Mississippi Department of Education informed us of our preliminary ratings for our schools and our district. Our district has been rated as a D based on our 2018-2019 data. However, we are only three points from a C, a substantial increase from last year.

We are motivated by our results. To be so close to a C was both heartbreaking and exhilarating. It was heartbreaking because we were almost there, but it was exhilarating because it affirms that we are doing the right things. All of our elementary schools are now C or better, we've maintained a C at our high school for the last three

years and the one school in our district that was an F increased its level to a D.

We are almost there, and we will spend this school year making sure that we cross this last hurdle. Our main areas of focus this year will include building a strong Pre-K through second grade program, providing interventions for identified students, strengthening our Honors programs in our secondary schools, increasing language acquisition skills for our English Learners and increasing our graduation rate.

Our district is on the precipice of success, and we intend to stay the course. Our schools are rated as follows: Goodloe Elementary School-A, Reuben B. Myers Elementary School-B, McNeal Elementary School-B, Canton Elementary School-C, Nichols Middle School-D, Huey Porter Middle School-D and Canton High School-C.

MDE's accreditation guidelines require our 9th Grade Academy

to carry the rating of Canton High School; however, our 9th Grade Academy maintained an A status for the second year in a row based on the students who were assessed in 9th Grade. As you can see, we have quite a bit to smile about and a few additional goals to reach.

We were also notified this month that we will be awarded over \$40,000 from Nissan/Bank Plus based on grant applications that teachers wrote for specific projects in their classrooms. One school, Canton Elementary School, had seven award-winning grants for a total of almost \$20,000 for that school alone. The funds for these grants will be used to create extended learning opportunities to supplement our core curriculum. We will keep our stakeholders posted on the exciting projects that our students will complete using these grant funds.

As we prepare for the rapidly approaching close of the first nine weeks, I challenge all parents to continue to be active participants

in your children's learning process. We had an amazing turnout of almost 1,000 parents at our Literacy Night program. Parents were provided with strategies to help their children at home with reading and writing assignments; we will have a similar program for mathematics in the spring. We invite parents to continue to come to these events and to continue to keep tabs on your children's academic progress. Ask them about their homework and ask them to explain their data to you.

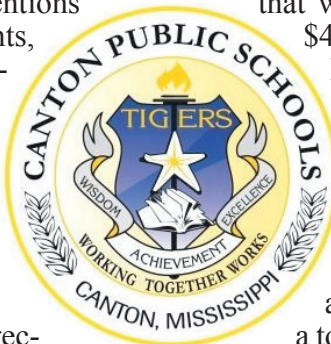
I am looking forward to being able to announce this time next year that our years of hard work have manifested into a C-rated successful district. We have the right people, programs and processes in place. We invite you to join with us as we cross the finish line this year!

EDITOR'S NOTE: Mr. Gary Hannah joined Canton Public School District as superintendent in January 2019. He is a former teacher, principal and deputy superintendent. He and his wife Monica are the parents of three children, Kia, Mady and Mason.

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Superintendent Gary Hannah



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Know Your Neighbor: Lafayette Wales

By Guest Columnist Jim Ritchie

Who knows how many lives he
has been instrumental in saving or
improving? Hundreds



Special to The Canton News

Lafayette Wales

for sure, but thousands would probably be more accurate. Imagine having a career where doctors would come to you and say something like, "I'll try and figure out a way to treat and cure my patient, but my patient and I are depending on you to tell me what I'm dealing with." His answer might have been as simple as a flu bug or as complex and terrifying as methicillin resistance staphylococcus aureus or the AIDS virus.

Meet Lafayette Wales. Father, church deacon, painter, carpenter, gardener, handyman, microbiologist and retired chief laboratory technologist at the University of Mississippi Medical Center (UMMC).

He was born in Canton, the youngest of five children (his twin sister preceded him into this world

by two minutes), graduated from public school here and received his Bachelor of Science degree from Tougaloo College, where he majored in biology.

His goal at Tougaloo was to become a doctor, and after graduation, he obtained a job at UMMC in the laboratory, where he began studying for the Medical College Admissions Test (MCAT). His studies were interrupted by having to assume family responsibilities due to his father's health issues, and his medical school aspirations gave way to his newly found attraction of the microbiology laboratory.

"In the early days," he says, "the doctors would come down to the lab with patient samples, and we would do our tests. It was part detective work and part science, and I enjoyed the process. With the advent of the computer, the doctors didn't have to accompany the samples as much, but our process remained the same...find the problem and advise the doctor."

Wales worked his way through the laboratory organization from assistant technician to technician, then to technologist and finally chief laboratory technologist for the last five years leading up to his

retirement. He spent thirty years at the medical center.

He stays busy these days providing help to his neighbors in various projects, gardening and performing his duties as deacon at Mount Zion Cobbsville Missionary Baptist Church, where he and his wife Genie Dannette attend. Their son Lafayette, Jr., is a senior at Ole Miss pursuing a degree in Criminal Justice.

Lafayette Wales no longer chases malevolent organisms in the lab, but there is no doubt that there are an awful lot of people who currently enjoy good health directly attributable to his skill years ago in identifying their body's enemies to their doctors. What a superb capstone to survive an esteemed career!

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 local citizens should know about some of them. Ritchie and his professional artist wife, Perry, live in the Shocco community out from Canton. View their work at www.southernstories.com.

CGMA awards thirteen scholarships



Special to The Canton News

The Canton Gospel Music Association (CGMA) recently awarded thirteen music scholarships at the 16th Scholarship Awards and Gospel Music Celebration. To date, the CGMA has awarded 145 music scholarships totaling over \$30,000. It is sponsored by the Canton Gospel Music Association. Cynthia Goodloe Palmer is the founder/president. Pictured (l to r) are: Sherida Banks, CGMA; Erma Cole, CGMA; Daisy Ellis, CGMA; Reverend David Jackson; Aaliyah Dawson; Christian Dismuke; Sarayah Griffin; Lailah Griffin; Tierra Smothers; Sadie Luckett; Kaleb Bullock; Jordan Whitehead; Gabrielle McElroy; Wendalyn Towner; and Reverend James Sims, CGMA Scholarship Chairman.

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Developments have been made in City of Canton

By Guest Columnist Joy Foy

"Only positive Mississippi spoken here!" Do you recall when Governor Fordice adopted this saying and suggested that we start to be mindful about our thoughts and words? He especially stressed positive words about all things related to Mississippi.

Have you ever proved to yourself the power of the spoken word? I recently had to go for physical therapy and chose to go to a fellow Lions Club member, Adam Moore, here in Canton at the Performance Therapy clinic along Highway 43.

I was very impressed with how much I had learned and improved in the first week and was telling a girlfriend about my experience. She shared that her mother had had a similar positive experience. Then I heard a second person say that he had never recovered so quick-

ly from knee surgery. Everyone I met at physical therapy (PT) was smiling and sharing stories of their recovery.

My progress improved with each visit, and I'm convinced that it is due, in large part, to these affirmations from other PT patients. I worked hard, but I was encouraged by other's opinions.

Our words do have power, and we can use them for our city's advantage. We can and should view the first line greeters at the convenience stores and fast-food restaurants as ambassadors. A list of current events to share with customers such as downtown sales at local shops and special events is one way to involve them. The back of bathroom stall doors along the interstate could become an advertising canvas encouraging travelers

to explore downtown. The waiters and waitresses in restaurants should have a positive answer ready when asked what there is to do in the area. Property owners' voices are heard in the way their property is maintained.

Any group or organization can adopt an area in town to keep clean and make a positive statement to all who travel there. Spending our money locally has a very positive impact and makes a huge statement to

business owners and the city coffers.

Words do have power! We should always be mindful to use our words as a constructive force. There are many ways to be a volunteer for a Canton campaign to speak pos-

itive, and an arts community like Canton has lots of positive things to share. Using these types of advertisements and community buy-in has worked in communities all across Mississippi. How will you participate in speaking good things for Canton?

Our day presents many choices, and we can either pledge to do our part to be a catalyst and a constructive force for speaking good things in Canton or continue with the status quo. I can tell you, from my own experience, that if you choose to be a positive catalyst, you will certainly help Canton, and in the same way all the clients are helping Performance Therapy, the positive attitude will also help yourself.

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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Joy Foy



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Faithful Christ-followers will receive the prize

By Guest Columnist
Reverend Marcus Peagler

The old preacher was on a ship while the wind was blowing over one hundred miles an hour. He started to pray, "God, send us the spirit of the children of Israel, the children of Moses and the children of the Promised Land." Another brother began to pray, saying, "Lord, don't send nobody. Come yourself, this ain't no time for children." The crucifixion is not really for young children. That is why the Mel Gibson movie is rated R?" It is about sin, death and the hurt it causes.

When our daughter Melody was four years old, she hurt her chin while riding an ATV with another adult. When I arrived, the bleeding had stopped, and she was playing with a friend, but I knew the cut needed stitches. Our doctor told

us to bring her to the emergency room. I told Melody we needed to go to the hospital to sew up her chin, and she told me She did not understand. Her chin did not hurt anymore.

Have you ever tried reasoning with a four-year old? I finally just got on my knees and asked if she knew that I loved her. She said yes, she did, and I told her I would never hurt her but that her chin would never be the same unless it had stitches. Tears came to her eyes and she said, "Yes, sir."

Being a preacher, I promised her that we would go to Walmart for a prize after we went to the hospital. We passed Walmart on the way and she said, "Daddy, I have a better idea, why don't we go to Walmart first?" Pretty smart kid. As we walked into the hospital, she took my hand and said, "Daddy, hold onto me and don't let go."

The doctor put a papoose on her — looked like a straight-jacket to me. She smiled at me and motioned for me to hold her foot. It was tough, and I thought she would never have anything to do with me again

and probably would not even go to Walmart with me. But then I felt her hand in mine, and she said, "Daddy, I love you. Thanks for holding me."

My friend, you will go through difficult times, and it's okay to cry. Remember the cross: It means that God is not going to let go, no matter the circumstances.

There was a young boy who lived in south Florida who had a bad day at school. His house was on a lake and when he got home, he just hit the water and began to swim. When he was about halfway out into the lake, he looked up and realized that he was nose to nose with an alligator. He made a U-turn and swam as hard and fast as he could, yelling the entire time. A neighbor saw what was happening and called 911. His mom saw him and dove into the lake. The alligator and his mom arrived at the boy about the same time. There was a tug of war, but his mom won.

When he was released from the hospital the news media was there, and they asked to see his scars from the alligator. The young boy

showed them the scars, and then told them he wanted them to see his other scars. He showed the media his arm. Those were the scars from where his mother would not let go.

Have you ever wondered when Jesus returned from the grave, he still had scars? He had a perfect body with scars. The scars are for us. He wanted us to know God does not let go, even in death. Let's think about his scars and ours, and remember not what the world does to us, but what He did for us. Many times, I am just like my daughter, I want the prize first, but in this world of sin and death, the pain comes first, then God's promised prize.

Actually, because of what Christ did on the cross, life is like a movie. He writes the script, and we play the part (the thieves crucified with Jesus.)

When Charlton Heston was starring in *Ben Hur*, he was having trouble with the chariot. Finally, the director told him that it was very simple. It was just a mov

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Canton Academy art program thrives under Millet

By Lori Lycette

About ten years ago, Mark Millet received a phone call from previous Canton Academy (CA) Headmaster Curt McCain telling him that he needed to come teach art at CA. After the third persistent phone call, Millet and his wife decided to tour the school with McCain and discuss the prospective job description. Since Millet had found that most schools try to fit each classroom into a tight little “box” with strict boundaries, when McCain said, “We’ll leave you alone,” that was all Millet needed to hear.

Millet teaches Art I and Art 2 to high school students, with the Art 2 students being “hand-picked” each year from the previous year’s class. He gets to know the students and their families and builds a trust and rapport with them, so that he can fulfill his vision of stimulating the young, curious minds in his classroom through a very hands-on, highly creative approach to life.

Millet says he has “the ultimate

room” which even includes a kitchen where he teaches his students how to cook healthy meals. They also take regular field trips, from bike rides exploring the town of Canton and its history, to locating and trying out different restaurants (even currently painting a mural in Seafood King), all while making entertaining videos of their adventures. Millet has shot and edited over 700 videos of the students and their adventures, which can all be found at artist-millet on Instagram, with some condensed versions on YouTube, under the same name. They’ve also recently taken on the project of repairing Ms. Judy’s (lunch lady) old farm truck, affectionately named “Lunch Money,” while videoing the entire process.

Canton Academy High School Principal Tray Earnhart said, “Art is very important in education. School has become so standardized and focused on STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) that we tend to forget the arts. We encourage creativity. If we stifle activity, then we



Photo by Lori Lycette

Art 2 students pictured with Millet on Superhero Day (l to r) are: Lane Martin, Kathrine Coward, Mr. Millet, Taylor Rosamond, Nick Foreman, Bethany Biggers, and Wonderful Lin.

lose what should be a fundamental part of education. Not just the ‘what,’ but encourage minds to think creatively about the ‘why.’ Mark does a great job with this. What he’s done with our Art Department is a key component to our approach to education.”

Millet’s Art Department at Canton Academy has so much going on every day that it’s impossible to list it all, but rest assured that his knowledge and creativity will

live on through all of his past and present students. One day, they will tell their grandchildren about “this one art teacher at Canton Academy that helped mold them” into who they have become.

Mark Millet says he feels thankful and blessed to be a part of this great school, and to have been pursued by the headmaster those ten years ago. They kept their word and have left him alone...to this day.

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Everyone should exercise their right to vote

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Voting. A word defined by the Merriam-Webster Dictionary as “an expression of opinion or preference.” A concept well known by all Americans, considering many things about this country are decided by elections. President, judges, mayors and governors are all voted upon by the general population; and if not, they are decided by elected officials.

Everyone qualified to vote should vote, because everyone has an opinion. The whole purpose of democracy is for every person to have a say in what goes on, and when less than half the country is voting, not everyone’s voice is being heard. And when everyone is not being heard, that’s not a democracy.

The fact is that most of the people who don’t vote are young, those who are only eighteen to twenty-four years old. Even though many people are opinionated and have different beliefs and ideals, most millennials (born 1981-1996) have removed themselves from the electoral process. “Only thirty

percent of millennials think it’s essential to live in a democracy, compared to seventy-two percent of those born before World War II” (Gershman, 2018). This means that less than half of all millennials actively voice their thoughts.

It’s important to remember that the younger generations are voting for the future. The younger vote in elections is incredibly influential, as they and their offspring will be reaping the effects of the elected officials.

People assume that everyone votes, but that is not the reality. While seventy percent of Americans say they believe that high voter turnout in presidential elections is important, only fifty-six percent of Americans who were of the voting age voted in the 2016 presidential election, according to the Pew Research Center. And even though approximately 245 million Americans were of age to vote that year,

only 157.6 million were actually registered.

Citizens of other countries often complain about the world around them, and many don’t have the option to change that world. However, Americans have the power to make decisions that can affect the future of the nation. Many brave people in the history of this country

have fought for the right to vote, especially women, minorities and Native Americans.

The power to choose what happens in this country lies in the hands of the

voter.

Voting is a guaranteed way for the people’s voices to be heard. It is an effective way of fighting for your beliefs and for the direction you think your town/state/country should be headed. While there are many ways to practice activism, such as peaceful protests, letters and phone calls to elected officials or actually running for office, vot-

ing is one of the easiest ways to participate in politics.

Stay informed. Research each candidate and stay current on registration deadlines and polling places. Watch the candidate debates if they are taking place for that specific election.

General elections are held each year in November on the first Tuesday after the first Monday of the month. Registered voters cast their ballots for federal, state and local representatives. This includes U.S. senators, representative to Congress, governor, attorney general, state treasurer and more. Odd-numbered years will have municipal elections where there are no federal or state officials being voted on. And every four years is the presidential election.

Exercising the right to vote is one of the truest aspects of democracy, and it’s one that hasn’t always been guaranteed to every citizen in this country. In a country with over 200 million eligible voters, you may think your vote doesn’t matter. But that couldn’t be further from the truth. Every vote matters so get out and vote.

YOUR VOTE MATTERS

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ASSET Engineering welcomes Greg D. King, PE

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ASSET Engineering, a growing firm specializing in power systems design and analysis, is proud to announce that Greg D. King, PE, has joined



Greg D. King, PE

having worked most of his career leading medium and high voltage projects all over the country for General Electric’s office in Jackson, Mississippi. His areas of specialization include substation

most of their lives in Madison, Mississippi, except for a brief stint in Houston, Texas, where he served as a Supervisor at a Houston based consulting firm. He has four children and is a proud

knowledge and experience to our clients’ projects while contributing to ASSET’s continued growth.

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their team as a Senior Project Engineer. King graduated from Mississippi State University with a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering. Greg is eager to work alongside his new colleagues on ASSET’s growing backlog of power projects.

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engineering, and related controls systems.

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King and his wife have lived

grandfather. King and his wife enjoy traveling, being outdoors, cooking, and spending as much time as possible with their family. King looks forward to developing new relationships and bringing his significant

tions through a focus on innovations in the engineering industry.

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Grace Episcopal Church will ring bells for peace

Special to The Canton News

On the feast day of St. Francis, Church bells will be rung at the time of the Muslim Call to Prayer in remembrance of St. Francis' meeting with the Sultan of Egypt. On Friday, October 4, at 2 p.m., the bells of Grace Episcopal Church will ring out to call people to remember St. Francis' courageous choice 800 years ago to cross battle lines during the Crusades in order to speak directly with the Sultan leading the Egyptian army. Amidst the horrors of war, these two men spoke of peace and reconciliation while finding common ground within their warring faiths. Here in Canton, Grace Episcopal will be ringing church bells and holding a Service of Prayers for Peace at the time that the Muslim community is being called to prayer as a reminder of the willingness of St. Francis and Sultan Al-Kamil to transcend differences in the name of love. All are welcome to attend at 161 East Peace Street.

At a time of division and distrust,

the Franciscan community wants to remind people that the saint so beloved for his care for animals and creation was willing to risk his life in the hope of reconciliation and peace. St. Francis and Sultan Al-Kamil are models for how Cantonians also can reach out beyond their own communities in peace and love. With Grace Episcopal Church, The Third Order Society of Saint Francis Province of the Americas invites the community to honor St. Francis by reaching across differences seeking understanding.

The bell ringing is part of a world-wide remembrance of Saint Francis' meeting with the Sultan, initiated by Franciscans in Belgium and the Netherlands. The website franciscancall4peace.org includes a map showing locations throughout the world that will be participating in this witness for peace.

"In these times of unquiet and tension, the simple act of ringing bells reminds us of the love St. Francis had for all of creation and his courage in expressing that



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love. Franciscans everywhere will be joining in this celebration of love and peace," said Janet Fedders, Minister Provincial for the Americas Province of the Third Order, Society of St. Francis.

The Third Order of the Society of St. Francis (TSSF) is an Anglican/Episcopal religious order made up of individuals who live by Franciscan principles "in the world." This is the order founded by Francis himself for those who

were drawn to his way but felt called to live it out right where they were. Its members are male and female, lay and clergy, married and single, each serving God in the ordinary occupations of life, while modeling their lives on St. Francis, who saw the face of Christ in everyone he met: bishop or leper, Christian or Muslim, friend or stranger. For more information about TSSF, visit tssf.org.

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Canton Music Study Club has first 19/20 meeting



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The Canton Music Study Club (CMSC) held its initial meeting of the year last month at the First United Methodist Church in Canton. President Marian Durfey welcomed members and led in the club ritual. Program Chairmen Princess Thompson and Sarah Waters gave an overview of programs for the year. The guest speaker for the evening was Frances Nelson, President of the National Federation of Music Clubs. Cecil Fox, Jr., Treasurer of the Mississippi Federation of Music Clubs, also spoke to the group. Pictured (l to r) are Cecil Fox, Jr., Frances Nelson and Marian Durfey.



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Stuapalooza Golf Tournament honors Stuart Smith

By Lori Lycette

Stuart Smith was born January 27, 1991, to Clark and Rai Smith, both lifelong Cantonians. He was an extremely outgoing child, never meeting a stranger. As he grew up, he became

very popular at Canton Academy, from being voted Class Favorite every year from grade seven to eleven, to Best Overall Junior High and then Mr. Canton Academy his senior year.

Rai Smith said of her son, "Stuart would talk to anyone. He loved everybody, and everybody loved him. He loved hunting, fishing, playing baseball and football, music and socializing." Smith attended Mississippi State University (MSU) and was always the "life of the party," so

much that many of the college parties that he attended were nicknamed Stuapalooza. He was very popular and loved at MSU.

He had broken his hip in high school and was prescribed lots of opioid pain pills, which led to benzodiazapines, and then he found that they were widely used as recreational drugs at college and very easy to obtain.

On November 6, 2015, without any warning, Smith took his life. He had always come across as an extremely happy young man, who lived life to the fullest, and made the lives of those he touched a little brighter.

Clark Smith said about his son, "He was the single most loved person that I've ever met...instantly loved as soon as people met him. He definitely knew

he was loved. For instance, one year when he was on the homecoming court, I was driving the convertible that he was riding in. He said, 'Slow down, these are my fans.'"

"Stuart was very close to his brothers who were three years younger than him. Twins Patrick and Daniel really looked up to Stuart and have recently become a chemical engineer and an architect, respectively, partly due to their older brother's advice for them to make better choices than he did and to get a good education," said Rai Smith.

Within days of Smith's passing, to honor his life and to also help others, his SAE fraternity brothers started the Stuart Smith Memorial Scholarship at MSU.

The Stuapalooza Memorial Golf Tournament is an annual event held at the Country Club of Canton, and this year's will be held on October 12. The tournament has raised almost eighty thousand dollars for the scholarship fund, which provides two four-year college scholarships for Madison County students annually. Donations also go towards suicide prevention at Ole Miss, MSU, USM and JSU. To contribute in any way to the tournament or directly to the scholarship fund, contact Reed Brantley at 601-503-6166 or grbrantley91@gmail.com.

A portion of the proceeds of The Stuapalooza Golf Tournament is also donated to the Central Mississippi Out of the Darkness Walk, which is a fundraiser to fight suicide. This year's walk will take place at Strawberry Patch Park in Madison on October 19 beginning at 9 a.m. All participants will need to register online at afsp.org/centralms.



Stuart Smith

Special to The Canton News



Espy addresses Rotarians



Special to The Canton News

Pictured (l to r) are: Neal Rich, PE and Managing Partner, Asset Engineering of Canton; Portia Ballard Espy, Executive Director for The William Winter Institute for Racial Reconciliation in Jackson; and David Rich, President Canton Rotary and CEO of Rich Grain Distillery in Canton.

Special to The Canton News

Executive Director of the William Winter Institute for Racial Reconciliation Portia Ballard Espy spoke at a recent Rotary Club meeting. Espy presented the Three Pillars of the William Winter Institute for Racial Reconciliation program: 1) Community Building, an eighteen-month commitment and the "Welcome Table"; 2) Youth Engagement, a nine-day program for twenty-eight sophomores and juniors; and 3) Policy and Civic Education, a plan to educate Mississippi

communities on how to support change.

She stated that improving the "Quality of Life for all Mississippians" and the "Brain Drain" leaving Mississippi are key factors for the Mississippi Economic Council. The William Winter Institute for Racial Reconciliation is a 501(c)3 organization that was established and based at the University of Mississippi in Oxford for nineteen years but recently moved to Jackson. For more information or to get involved, call 601-355-8167 or email info@winterinstitute.org.

Hoopla digital is here

Special to The Canton News

The popular on-demand eBook service hoopla digital is now available for free at the Madison County Library (MCLS). Library card holders can access over 319,000 eBook titles. Content can be downloaded from any computer or mobile device by downloading the hoopla digital app for iOS or Android.

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Wicker receives award



Special to The Canton News

The Madison County Business League & Foundation (MCBL&F) and the Mississippi Economic Council recently co-sponsored a business roundtable at the Ridgeland law offices of Adams and Reese. The US Chamber of Commerce's Spirit of Enterprise Award was presented to Senator Roger Wicker. Pictured (l to r) are: MCEDA Executive Director Joey Deason; MCBL&F Executive Director Jan Collins; MCBL&F Chairman Cecil Harper; Senator Roger Wicker; Clark Jackson, US Chamber of Commerce; and MCBL&F Government Affairs Chairman Phil Buffington.

cont. from page 5

Grandparents honored



Special to The Canton News

The Canton Library recently honored grandparents with a special event. Pastors Dexter and Sheryl Washington, co-pastors of Dunamis Power Ministries, led worship through song as their daughter, Charity, accompanied on the piano. The children made a craft to present to their grandparent(s) to show their love and appreciation for all they do. Pictured at front of room (l to r) are: Charity Washington (on piano), Dexter Washington and Sheryl Washington.

Faithful Christ-followers receive the grand prize

ie. Heston just had to stay on the chariot, and the director would make sure he won. The best I can tell you is that life is like a movie in which God has written the final scene. Because of the cross, we win the race, and He gives us the

prize.

Both thieves in the Luke 23 passage were believers. One believed a lie, and the other came to believe the truth, but both believed. The Bible records that there was grief deserved. The two thieves were

guilty. Belief was declared. Luke 23:42 says, "Lord remember me." The prize was delivered. Luke 23:43, "And Jesus said to Him, assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise." Hallelujah! What a Savior!

EDITOR'S NOTE: Rev. Marcus Peagler is the current interim pastor of First Baptist Church of Canton. He is also the Sunday School and Discipleship Ministries Director of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

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Canton Lions appreciate supporters, honor Power

Special to The Canton News

Beginning in April of this year, the Lions Club hosted four “Canton After 5” events. These were designed to attract people into town and to serve as fundraisers to help finance Lions’ local service projects. The Lions say they are very grateful to all the friends and supporters for attending and making these summer programs successful.

The Canton Lions say that Jana Dear and the Canton Tourism staff are much appreciated for all their help and for allowing the use of the Trolio Hotel’s beautiful Rose Garden Room for the Lions Club gatherings. Granville Edgar, of Hannah’s Liquor Store, has always supported the Lions and donated wine for all four of these events.

The Canton Lions say they also wish to thank David Rich, owner of Rich Grain Distillery, for the bourbon tasting program in April; Wanda Baldwin and Sherry LaCour for the class in May on butterfly gardening; and Braley Reed from the

Canton Library for her guidance in June on safely utilizing social media. The Lions took a break in July. Erin Noble and Jane Foster featured tailgating tips in August for the last summer session. Tailgating proved to be a good choice to end the “Canton After 5” events. With the help of Dear, Noble, Foster and *The Canton News* promoting this event, there was a whopping crowd of fifty-three paying customers. Noble and Foster not only attracted the largest crowd of the summer, they also donated all the tailgating food, which gave the Lions a larger share of the proceeds to pocket for projects.

The Canton Lions will feature “A Salute to Herb Power” dinner on October 22, 2019. It will take place at Two Rivers’ Events Venue beginning at 6:30 p.m. Call 601-842-1780 for reservations. Cantonians are encouraged to attend and honor Power’s longtime service to the community.

The Canton Lions say they want to thank everyone for their support!

State Hospital honors service anniversaries



Special to The Canton News

Mississippi State Hospital (MSH) recently honored employees with August anniversaries for their years of service to the hospital, including one from Canton. Service awards are given to MSH employees in the month of their date of hire, beginning with one year and followed by every fifth anniversary year. Employees receive a Certificate of Appreciation and a Service Award Pin. The program is sponsored by Friends of Mississippi State Hospital, Inc. MSH, a program of the Mississippi Department of Mental Health, was founded in 1855 and helps the individuals it serves achieve mental wellness by encouraging hope, promoting safety, and supporting recovery. Recipients include (l to r) front row: Kierra Smith (Jackson, 1 year); Polly Ross (Canton, 1 year); Jalonda Quinn (Brandon, 1 year); and back row: Brittany Thrash (Morton, 1 year); Jackie Fleming (Jackson, 35 years); Jennifer Giambrone (Clinton, 20 years); and John Dawson (Madison, 1 year).

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Every Kid Outdoors designed for fourth graders

Special to The Canton News

Fourth grade students can get a free annual pass to visit more than 2,000 federal recreation areas with their families, classmates and friends. The Every Kid Outdoors Program is an interagency collaboration between the Department of the Interior, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and U.S. Forest Service that provides fourth graders with free access to explore, learn and recreate in spectacular settings, including national parks, wildlife refuges, marine sanctuaries and forests.

“Introducing fourth grade students to America’s public lands provides them with limitless opportunities to have fun, be active, improve fitness and learn critical skills,” said Secretary of the Interior David Bernhardt. “Visits on class trips or family vacations to the rich variety of astonishing landscapes and historic treasures located on public lands will result in unforgettable experiences and,

hopefully, forge lifelong connections to the outdoors.”

The bipartisan John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management and Recreation Act, which was signed into law by President Trump on March 12, 2019, authorized funding for Every Kid Outdoors for the next seven years.

To obtain the free pass, fourth grade students visit the Every Kid Outdoors website, participate in a short educational activity, and download a voucher. The voucher is valid for multiple uses between September 1, 2019, and August 31, 2020, to correspond to the traditional school year. The voucher may be exchanged for a keepsake pass at participating federal lands.

The voucher or pass grants free entry for fourth graders, all children under 16 in the group and up to three accompanying adults (or

an entire car for drive-in parks) to most federally managed lands and waters. The pass does not cover expanded amenity fees such as camping or boat rides.

The great outdoors make a great classroom. Fourth grade educators are encouraged to take advantage of the wide range of educational programs and tools associated with the Every Kid Outdoors Program. Educational activities, field trip options, information and tools in English and Spanish, and the ability to print vouchers for passes for students are all available on the website.

The Every Kid Outdoors Program replaces the Every Kid in a Park Program that was established in 2015.

The program focuses on children ten years of age—the age of most fourth graders—based on research that indicates chil-

dren ages nine through eleven are at a unique developmental stage in their learning where they begin to understand how the world around them works in more concrete ways, and they are more receptive to engaging with nature and the environment. By focusing on this age group year after year, the program aims to ensure every child in the United States has the opportunity to visit their Federal lands and waters by the time he or she is eleven years old, thereby establishing a lifelong connection to enjoy and protect our American outdoor heritage.

There are seven federal agencies participating in the Every Kid Outdoors Program. Lands and waters accessible with the pass can be located by viewing the websites of the participating agencies: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Forest Service, National Park Service, U.S. Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.



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