



THE CANTON NEWS

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

Canton prepares for Christmas, plans events

Special to The Canton News

Once again, more than 200,000 twinkling white lights will sparkle and light up the city's Historic Courthouse Square, bringing the magic and nostalgia of the holidays, along with thousands of visitors, to Canton.

Decorating has begun at the Welcome Center inside the historic Trolio Hotel on the Square. Garland and thousands of lights are already framing the foyer as well as the Gathering Room, which boasts a different theme every year. This year's title will be "A Magical Movie Christmas."



Welcome Center Christmas tree dressed in gold and white this year.

Photo by Lori Lycette

Back this year is the interactive Christmas Village, giving children the opportunity to make reindeer food for Santa's reindeer to eat on Christmas Eve. Frosty will be near his igloo handing out marshmallows to roast by his fire, and Santa's elves will pass out magical glasses that make the Christmas lights in Canton come to life in special shapes! The interactive Christmas Village is designed to allow children to take home their memories from the Canton Christmas festival while creating special memories with the characters.

"As we all know, moments and

cont. on page 18

Pastor couple investing in community to foster change

By Lori Lycette

Two dedicated Canton pastors are proof that perseverance and faith can lead to significant change, and their dedication has led to a positive change in an area of the community that was lacking in worship opportunities, healthcare resources and safety.

In 2003, Dexter and Sheryl Washington moved to Canton from Crosby, Mississippi, so Dexter could work for the Nissan plant. The Washingtons came to the area with ambition and felt that God was leading them to do something more. Dexter became an ordained minister in 2009, while Sheryl was an assistant teacher at Canton Elementary. She then followed with her ordination in 2012. They started Dunamis (meaning "power" in Greek) Power Ministries that same year as a children's ministry inside the community room at Canton Estates Apartments. It began as a Bible study only for the children.

They quickly saw a need for a church, due to very few of the

local residents having a church home, and soon began holding Sunday services in that community room. The couple eventually heard about a vacant church building in the Sawmill Quarters community of Canton and moved their ministry there in 2016. Dunamis Power Ministries is covered by Apostle Gene Moody of Deliverance Ministries in Ba-

ton Rouge, Louisiana.

The Washingtons offer many other services, such as counseling for individuals as well as married couples, job assistance, education/graduation help and clothing giveaways. They really try to make themselves available to help anyone in need.

"We're a deliverance ministry. We're a church that believes in getting to the root cause of their issues so

they can heal from the inside," said Sheryl Washington.

Dunamis holds an annual health fair every October on the church property. The most recent fair had many representatives onsite from local healthcare facilities including the G. A. Carmichael Family Health Center, Mississippi State Department of Health, UMMC School of Dentistry, Sta-Home, Magnolia Health and Ambetter. Free healthcare, such as blood pressure checks, glucose testing, HIV testing, mammography screening and diabetes education, was provided. A variety of healthcare professionals were on site and stressed how crucial regular checkups are in the prevention and early detection/treatment of serious and often life-threatening health conditions.

The Washingtons said that God told them that He would rewrite the history of Mississippi, and they are believing in faith that it will happen. The church holds an

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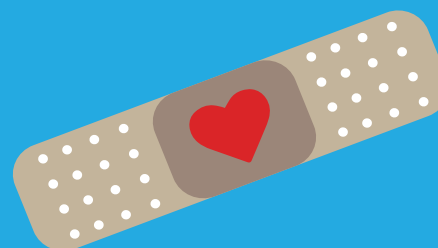


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Thornton Chapel kids begin program



Special to The Canton News



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The Thornton Chapel Kids Program, led by Joy Foy and Kathy Hammack, recently resumed monthly meetings, beginning with practice for their annual Christmas program. After practice, they had snack time, and then Evanne Flanders and Erin Palmer, both from the Canton Library, led craft time. Pictured in church pews (l to r) are, front row: Cade Slay, Trek Slay, Holt Slay, Lillian Murphy, Serenity Mallett, and Eve Slay; and back row: Rowan Murphy, Rylie Swihart, Maddie Ditzenberger, and Matthew Hammack.

Canton makes top weekend getaway list

Special to The Canton News

The digital travel magazine *Trips to Discover* recently named Canton one of the “10 Best Weekend Getaways in Mississippi.” It states, “It’s also fun to visit Canton for the weekend, especially if you enjoy local festivals. This Mississippi town is home to a hot air balloon event and also a Victorian Festival, as well as arts and craft shows in the spring and fall. It’s fun to learn about the great movies that were filmed here, at the Canton Movie Museum, including *O Brother, Where Art Thou?* and others. There’s a country club in town if you enjoy playing golf as well. Whatever you do, don’t miss out on the locally crafted spirits at Rich Grain Distilling Company. If possible, plan your weekend around Christmas to attend the fun holiday festival in Canton.”

Every year, millions of people



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use the website tripstodiscover.com to discover and plan visits to new destinations, hotels and attractions. TripsToDiscover is on its way to becoming the #1 travel discovery platform. Their mission is to inspire people to travel more, to turn daydreamers into fanatical travelers and to help make the next dream trip a reality.

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CA student becomes National Guard Private

By Guest Columnist Carter Martin

Lane Martin is now “always ready, always there” since becoming an Army National Guard Private over the summer. Martin attended basic training at Fort Benning in Fort Benning, Georgia, for seventy-two days.

“It was definitely an experience. I feel like it changed my life forever. I learned so many new skills and have so much more pride in my country,” said Martin.

Martin, a current senior this year, has been at Canton Academy (CA)

since four-year old kindergarten. His career plan is to attend Mississippi State University and “get a degree in something to do with aeronautical engineering and then eventually be trained to fly the Black Hawk.” Going through basic training and leaving the state was a big step for Martin. Fort Benning is the second largest military training base in the United States. “This experience led to me being way more disciplined overall,” said Martin.

Many know Martin as a very energetic person and a leader at CA. He made friends at basic training; two of the best friends he made were Gregory Mojica and Johnny Jungles. Martin said, “I meshed with them because Gregory was twenty-eight years old, and he was very mature, so he knew when it was time to have fun and when it was time to get work done, and the same thing with Johnny Jungles.”

For Martin, mail call was one of his favorite times, because he was informed on things that were going on back at home in Canton. It was also one of the very few times that the drill sergeant was not yelling at them and mad. “The drill sergeant enjoyed tossing out the mail. By far, my mom wrote me the most,” Martin said.

Alison Martin, the yearbook

teacher and math teacher at Canton Academy, wrote her eldest son a letter almost every day. Before the 2018-2019 school year was over, Mrs. Martin took up letters from most of the senior class to mail throughout the summer to Martin.

“Every time we got letters, I had two or three from one of my classmates. That made me super happy, because I couldn’t talk to them as much. While I was there, I got four phone calls. On the last phone call, no one at home picked up, so

I called Nick (Foreman) and got to talk to him for a bit,” said Martin.

Now back at school, Martin said

he’s still adjusting to such a different environment.

School at CA starts at 8:15 a.m. At basic training, there

were three phases, red phase, white phase and blue phase. Through the three phases, trainees had to wake up at different times: 3:45 a.m., 4:00 a.m., and during the last phase, they got to sleep in until 4:15 a.m.

“This early morning schedule was not at all like back home,” Martin said. Martin got home on a Thursday, and the next morning woke up at about 4:30 a.m. stammering around because he thought he was going to be late.

While away at basic training, Martin won the leadership award over his entire company. “I was in third platoon and their platoon leader. I had a really good platoon who listened to me and worked together. We won six of the nine streamers, which means we outperformed in six of the nine training events,” he explained.

For the first three weeks of basic training, there were two other platoon leaders, and after the third week, Martin was assigned to be the platoon leader. Maintaining a platoon that won banners in competitions within the compa-



Special to The Canton News

ny, Martin kept his job as platoon leader for the rest of the cycle.

At the end of the cycle, Martin was awarded with the company coin and named leader of the cycle.

Martin would agree with most everyone who says the food there is not the best.

“The hot meals weren’t terrible. We ate very healthy meals but had to eat MREs (Meals, Ready to Eat) for lunch during white phase. They were cold, and you don’t have time to heat them up. I was definitely missing a home-cooked meal by the end of training. Actually, by the end of day one,” he said with chuckle.

Now in his senior year, Martin is a member of the football, basketball, track, shooting clays, cross country and golf teams at Canton Academy. Martin said, “I could not wait to get back playing football that Friday. I was looking forward to it for about eleven weeks.”

Martin’s favorite part of basic training was combatives, where trainees got to fight and hit each other with sticks. They also got to throw a live hand grenade for the

first time.

He said “I will always remember throwing the live hand grenade. They put it in my hand, and I immediately felt a rush of adrenaline because I had this tiny ball in my hands,” Martin gained strength both mentally and physically during his training. The most push-ups he was ever assigned to do was eighty at one time. “A lot of the guys in the platoon, including myself, could not do eighty push-ups at one time, so we all got yelled at and had to run even more.”

Coach Trey Earnhart, the CA high school principal said, “I am very proud of his dedication not only to the school but to this country. This is wonderful, and I think every eighteen-year old guy should have to go through it.”

Martin is now back from basic training and is proud to be among his CA family once again.

EDITOR’S NOTE: Carter Martin is a sophomore at Canton Academy, where he is a student in Mrs. Warren’s journalism class.

Brown-Crutcher



Mr. and Mrs. Brady Brown of Canton announce the engagement of their daughter, Nancy Michelle, to Sawyer Braden Barnes Crutcher, also of Canton. The prospective bridegroom is the son of Robbie Gowdy of Canton and Bethany Crutcher and Chris Crutcher of Ridgeland.

Miss Brown is the granddaughter of the late Mrs. Nancy Ruth Brown Koskovich and the late Douglas Hagen Brown, Sr., all of Canton. Mr. Crutcher is the grandson of Jackie Barnes and the late Mr. and Mrs. James Robert Crutcher, Sr. of Ellisville, and the late Mr. and Mrs. Theodore Gowdy of Canton.

The bride-elect is a 2011 graduate of Ridgeland High School. She attended Holmes Community College, where she was named to the Dean's List. Miss Brown received her Associates in Arts degree in 2013. She is an assistant manager of The Links and Greens of Madison County in Canton.

Mr. Crutcher graduated from Madison Central High School in 2011. He is employed at Chris Crutcher Contracting in Ridgeland.

The couple will be married May 9, 2020 at Center Terrace Baptist Church in Canton.

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Spirit of Christmas Tour announced for the 1st year

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This Christmas season marks the first year that *The Canton News* will sponsor Canton's Spirit of Christmas Tour for the community. Designed to encourage businesses and homeowners to decorate for the holidays, the Canton Spirit of Christmas Tour is being created to recognize homes throughout town that are particularly festive or well-lit with holiday displays.

Tour organizers hope the tour will include more than one hundred homes, businesses and subdivisions. Citizens can nominate themselves and their own house or business, a neighbor whose seasonal efforts stand out, or simply a place that they think other people would enjoy seeing during the holiday time. "I am pleased to see another Christmas project that will go

along with all the great things we already have in Canton to celebrate the Christmas season," said Canton Mayor Dr. William Truly, Jr. "I thank *The Canton News* for taking on this Christmas Spirit Tour!"

Nominations can be made to ClayMansell@CantonNews.net or by calling 601-667-4667 ext 0. All decorations should be in place and lit by the time judging begins on November 25.

Judging will be completed between November 25 and November 28. The December 5 edition of *The Canton*

News will include the addresses of homes that make the tour, and homes and businesses on the tour will be acknowledged with a yard sign.

Cantonians who are interested in serving on the Spirit of Christmas Committee are asked to email Clay at ClayMansell@CantonNews.net



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Merit Health Madison receives international award

Special to The Canton News

Baby-Friendly USA recently announced that Merit Health Madison has received prestigious international recognition as a Designated Baby-Friendly birth facility.

Baby-Friendly USA, Inc., is the United States authority for the implementation of the Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative ("BFHI"), a global program sponsored by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). The initiative encourages and recognizes hospitals and birthing centers that offer an optimal level of care for breastfeeding mothers and their babies. Based on the *Ten Steps to Successful Breastfeeding*, this prestigious international award recognizes birth facilities

that offer breastfeeding mothers the information, confidence and skills needed to successfully initiate and continue breastfeeding their babies.

There are more than 20,000 designated Baby-Friendly hospitals and birth centers worldwide.

Currently there are 539 active Baby-Friendly hospitals and birth centers in the United States. The

"Baby-Friendly" re-designation is given after a rigorous on-site survey is completed. The award is maintained by continuing to practice the Ten Steps as demonstrated by quality processes.

Further information about the United States Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative may be obtained by contacting Baby-Friendly USA, Inc. at 518-621-7982 or visiting their website at www.babyfriendlyusa.org.



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cont. from front page

Pastor couple investing in community to foster change

October, as well as a community prayer meeting at the church every Saturday from 7 a.m.-10 a.m., where they pray for the entire state and specifically Canton. The Dunamis Power Prayer Line is a conference call from 5 a.m.-6 a.m. every Monday, Wednesday and Friday, that the couple has led for the past nine years. It can be reached by dialing 857-232-0156 and entering the code 560319 for access. The Washingtons say that all are welcome to attend any of their prayer meetings, in person or by phone.

Since 2017, the Washingtons have served on the Sawmill Quarter Coalition Board, which consists of a group of people who are vested in the community or are interested in investing in the spiritual and economic growth, as well as social advancement of the Sawmill Quarter. The board was started by Reverend Jasper and Carolyn Bacon in 2016.

"The Bacons have been a great inspiration. The work here can be a bit overwhelming, but we can

make a difference in the community as a whole. There's a lot of untapped potential in Canton," stated Sheryl Washington.

Sheryl Washington also served on the advisory board to Arnel Bolden administration, while he was the Mayor of Canton. She stated that, "We count it as a privilege and an honor to be able to serve in this community. It is a blessing, and we're looking forward to seeing this community transformed by the power of God. We believe that He's going to do it."

"We are a ministry that loves people. Life is about choices and decisions, and if people would make better choices, their life would change. Some mistakes can be avoided if we would just listen to wise counsel," said Dexter Washington.

The Washingtons created the brand "University of the Holy Spirit, the School of Life," which is a ministry intended to help bring racial unity within the church. They offer items such as t-shirts,



Photo by Lori Lycette

Landros Jones of the G.A. Carmichael Family Health Center speaking on the prevention and treatment of HIV.

mugs and notepads with the emblem. The website is www.holy-spirituniversity.bigcartel.com.

In 2015, they moved their family to Sharon and, due to their values and faith, they felt that homeschool would be a good option for their family. In 2017, they started the Wisdom and Leadership Academy (WLA) in their home in Sharon. The school is now available to other families of faith, so they may have a better educational alternative. Mrs. Niccori Brown of Ridgeland is the AAA certified teacher at WLA. Mrs. Alma Stokes volunteers with the school; she tutors and helps wherever there is a need.

The Washingtons have six children: Daphanee (22), Dexter, Jr. (18), Charity (15), Daniel (12), Colin (11), and Garrett (8). Daphanee is a missionary for the church, and her travels have included Melbourne, Australia, and Montego Bay, Jamaica. She took a course in missions at the International House of Prayer in Missouri. Charity, Daniel, Colin and Garrett are all involved in the music ministry of church. Dexter, Jr., is a great athlete and a drummer, but does not play for the church at this time.

The co-pastors made a trip for the ministry to Lagos, Nigeria, earlier this year and both said that

it was life changing.

"We saw and learned a lot. It made us even more grateful for our nation and all of the freedoms and blessings that we have in America. To be a Christian in America bears great responsibility, as we realize that many Christians around the world are not free to exercise their faith," said Sheryl.

The Sawmill Quarter has a very dangerous past. For many years, if anyone who was not a member of the community tried to enter the area, they were often met with violence. The Washingtons said that it is a safer place to visit now, and they are hopeful for the future. They both agreed, "We love the people. We love the community, and we're looking forward to God helping us make a difference."

The Washingtons said that anyone who needs a church home is invited to attend Dunamis Power Ministries, located at 597 Dowdle Drive in Canton. For more information, contact Pastor Dexter Washington at 601-720-0883 or Sheryl at 601-720-1023.

Sunday morning service begins at 11 a.m., Thursday night Bible class begins at 6:30 p.m., and Saturday morning community prayer meeting lasts from 7 a.m.-10 a.m. They say that all are welcome to come.

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Hospitals are economic engines for communities

By Guest Columnist Joy Foy

As we enter the Thanksgiving season, we in Madison County have a jewel to be thankful for, and that is Merit Health Madison. This hospital is located along Nissan Parkway on the south side of Canton.

United States healthcare spending grew 3.9% in 2017, reaching \$3.9 trillion or \$10,739 per person, according to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (cms.gov). Healthcare is big business for even the smaller towns of Mississippi.

In Ruleville (estimated 2019 population of 2,619), the citizens realized that the most important asset they had was their hospital, the North Sunflower Medical Center. They joined forces and elected to grow that asset by bringing in doctors from surrounding hospitals to

offer specialized treatment locally, instead of having their citizens travel to the bigger towns. They realized that if the people got a diagnosis and their prescription in town, they were more likely to buy their medicine in town. If they did not travel to Oxford or Tupelo to see a doctor, they were more likely to do their grocery shopping in town. This mindset has paid dividends in numerous ways, including a new drug store in town.

At the beginning, they advertised to surrounding areas by targeting the ambulance services. They recorded a jingle and gave each ambulance service a copy of the tape, "Take me to Ruleville."

In keeping with the marketing campaign, the hospital was the first in the area to offer covered parking for the ambulance to load and unload, the first to have free coffee and drinks and the first to create an inviting space for these paramedics to complete their required paperwork. This plan has worked for this rural hospital, and it continues to add services and grow yearly. North Sunflower Medical Center

is now advertising in our area.

I am delighted to see that Merit Health Madison is adopting a similar plan and partnering with the University of Mississippi Medical Center (UMMC). UMMC is capitalizing on the available operating rooms, hospital beds and proximity of Merit Health Madison to Jackson. Both doctors and patients benefit from the ease of scheduling procedures and the speed of the service at Merit Health Madison.

Erin Noble runs a very successful gift shop within Merit Health Madison. She is very pleased with the traffic that comes through her shop and enjoys being around the hospital's friendly staff. Sales at the small shop is consistent year-round. It has been a good way for Erin, owner of Sulms' downtown, to grow her business.

Merit Health Madison employs approximately 350 people and has 345 total medical providers. There are two medical office buildings on the hospital's campus, which allows for rotating specialists in physician clinics to allow patients to get checkups in Canton instead

of having to travel to surrounding areas for doctor visits.

Healthcare can make a huge impact on the economy in the jobs created and the good healthcare available locally. Population in our state and in Canton is aging so the need for healthcare will only increase with time. I am excited to see the hospital working to become a more viable element in the local economic development equation.

Thank you, God, for blessing us, and thank you, Merit Health Madison, for being a positive factor in creating a growing economy for us in Canton.

Happy Thanksgiving to each of you.

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.



The City of Canton Parks and Recreation would like to give thanks to the sponsors, vendors, local businesses and the community members who supported the Breast Cancer 3K Run/Walk, Kids Fun Run and Health Fair event and helped to make this event a success.

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Nissan and BankPlus award mini grants to CPSD

Special to The Canton News

Canton Public School District (CPSD) was recently awarded \$41,402 in mini grants by Nissan and BankPlus. The awards were based on grant applications that teachers wrote for specific projects in their classrooms.

Canton Elementary School received seven award-winning grants for a total of almost \$20,000 for that school alone. The Canton Board of Trustees along with CPSD Superintendent Gary Hannah recognized these outstanding teachers for their

hard work to secure these funds during a recent board meeting. The funds for these grants will be used to create extended learning opportunities to supplement the school

district's core curriculum. They say they will keep the stakeholders posted on the exciting projects that the students will complete using these grant funds.



9th Grade Academy and Canton Career Center with grants.

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(left) Goodloe Elementary and Nichols Middle School teachers with grants.



Canton Elementary teachers with grants.

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Canton Elementary and McNeal Elementary teachers with grants.

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Community Resource Fair offers assistance

By Lori Lycette

Canton’s Second Annual Community Resource Fair was recently held on the Courthouse Square. Many representatives from local businesses and agencies were on-site to give free advice on finances, childcare, transportation, housing, career readiness, health-care and veteran services. These organizations decided together that they wanted to bring resources out to the public on a single day and make themselves available for residents who may not normally walk into a bank, a library or a government office, where they can learn the steps needed to utilize the many



Photo by Lori Lycette

Canton Community Resource Fair on the Square

services that are available. Canton Community Resource Fair Coordinator Tamiko Stanley said, “Our goal is to educate the community with basic life skills and make them aware of the resources available to help them become self-sufficient, eliminating barriers and wiping out excuses. We believe in giving a hand up and not a hand-out.” Stanley added that education is the first step in learning how open a bank account, buy a home or adopt a healthy lifestyle, and then a sense of pride will come after they have achieved these things on their own. They are hoping to hold the fair more often, such as quarterly instead of annually.

K. Coleman inducted into Phi Theta Kappa



Special to The Canton News

The Gamma Lambda Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa at Hinds Community College recently held a ceremony at the Raymond Campus to induct new members for the fall 2019 semester. Keanna Coleman (pictured) of Canton is among the new inductees into the international honor society for community and junior college students. Membership in Phi Theta Kappa is extended to students who have a 3.5 cumulative grade point average or above on 12 or more transferable credit hours. There are more than 1,285 Phi Theta Kappa chapters throughout the United States and abroad.

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Canton Nissan lets THEE good times roll with JSU



Canton Nissan employees at the JSU Homecoming game.

Special to The Canton News

Special to The Canton News

Jackson State University’s (JSU) Homecoming is as big as they come. It’s an entire week of celebration and bringing people together. This year, Nissan served as the title sponsor for JSU’s Homecoming with the theme “Let THEE Good Times Roll.” The collaboration was the first of its kind for Nissan and the historically black colleges and universities (HBCU).

“We were looking for an opportunity that truly touched the hearts in our community,” said Erik Fields, vice president, Manufacturing, at the Nissan Canton plant. “What better event than homecoming, where students, alumni, the greater Jackson community and beyond gather to reunite and celebrate?”

Supporting JSU’s Homecoming was a natural fit for Nissan. First, they have a longstanding commitment to Mississippi’s historically



The brand-new 2020 Titan showcased at the game.

Special to The Canton News

black colleges and universities. Since 2003, they’ve invested more than \$2 million in Mississippi’s HBCUs. More than half of that support has gone toward science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) programs. Second, many of the Nissan team members across the company say they are proud HBCU graduates. Nearly 30% of the workforce at Nissan Canton alone came from JSU. Nissan reports that these employees make significant contributions

every day towards the company’s success.

Throughout the week, Nissan employees were involved in fun-filled activities, from Yard Fest and the parade to tailgating and the football game. Nissan vehicles were front and center as well. During the parade, they not only presented their full lineup of current vehicles, but also showcased the brand-new 2020 TITAN, manufactured right here in Canton, for the first time in Mississippi.

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Mount Zion Church choir visits Washington, DC



The W. L. Johnson, Sr., Inspirational Mass Choir on Capitol Hill Special to The Canton News

Special to The Canton News

The W. L. Johnson, Sr., Inspirational Mass Choir of Mt. Zion M. B. Church of Canton was invited to participate in the Annual Legislative Conference (ALC) Gospel Extravaganza in Washington, D.C., by Congressman Bennie G. Thompson, who represents Mississippi’s 2nd Con-

gressional District. The choir members say they were honored to have been able to participate in such an awesome event, where they were able to meet other gospel groups and fellowship with them. They were received with open arms by everyone they came in contact with. Congressman Thompson made sure they were well accommo-

dated and that every need was met. The choir was fed spiritually and physically and had the opportunity to go to Thompson’s office on Capitol Hill, where they were fed a meal and had a ‘meet and greet’ with the congressman. They also met with some of his staff, also from Mississippi, and did some sightseeing, including the Smithsonian

National Museum of African American History and Culture. The choir said that representing Mississippi was wonderful, but representing Canton was even better. The choir wants to thank their pastor, Dr. W. L. Johnson, Sr., their families and friends, as well as other Cantonians, who are not in the choir but made the trip to D. C. to show support.

Canton, MS election news



Special to The Canton News

Special to The Canton News

A special election runoff was held last month between Lafayette E. Wales and Keith B. Warfield for the City Council seat of former Ward 7 Alderman Andrew Grant. Wales won the election with 184 votes, while Warfield received 107 votes. A special election runoff between John E. Brown (86 votes) and Tim-

othy Taylor (70 votes) will be held November 19 to replace former Ward 5 Alderwoman Vickie McNeil. The Canton City Council meets the first and third Monday of every month for a work session and the first and third Tuesday of the month for a board meeting, both taking place in the courtroom at City Hall. Both sessions are open to the public and begin at 4:30 p.m.



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MCYL class announced



Special to The Canton News

The Madison County Business League & Foundation (MCBL&F) and the Madison County Economic Development Authority (MCEDA) announce the 2019-20 Madison County Youth Leadership (MCYL) Class. Two juniors from each of the public, private and parochial schools in Madison County, including six students from Canton schools, plus Jackson Academy, Jackson Prep and New Summit School, were selected by their administration to represent their schools in this year's class. The students are all Madison County residents. The MCBL&F and Madison County Community Trust (MCCT) will award scholarships to each student upon the successful completion of the program. Pictured (l to r) are, front row: Karen Solano-Ortega, Canton High School; Delaney Ralston; Mackenzie Coburn; Leah Clark; Mika Maehata; Edrea Magee, Velma Jackson High School; and Victoria Chough; second row: Alissa Burgess; Ann Parker Baldwin; Hanna Nowell; Lucy Blaylock; Sofia Rodriguez; and Mary Hazel Bellan; third row: Joseph Sharp, Velma Jackson High School; Mary Addison Gregory; Kayla Young; Kyle Brasher, Canton Academy; Ava Kump; and Sara Kennedy Lampkin, Canton Academy; and back row: Logan Nowell; Ian Harris, Canton High School; Conner Ivey; Terence Garrett; Will Scoggins; and Chadwick Collins. Not pictured: Alex Summerford.

Canton Public Schools see rating improvements

Special to The Canton News

The Canton Public School District's accountability rating increased for 2019, and two schools – Goodloe Elementary and the 9th Grade Academy - earned an "A" rating in the Mississippi Department of Education's 2019 Accountability Results. The 9th Grade Academy, however, must actually carry the rating of Canton High School, regardless of its individual performance.

The Mississippi Department of Education released letter grade ratings recently, with an "A" as the highest possible academic rating. CPSD's overall score is 533, up 27 points over last year's total of 506. The district overall was given a "D" rating. Students are scored on a five-point scale on state tests, with 3 considered a passing score. But schools don't get growth points for students who score 3 one year and then score 3 the following year. Only students scoring 4 or 5 meet growth by maintaining their current levels.

McNeal Elementary School and Reuben B. Myers School received "B" ratings, Canton Elementary School and Canton High School both received "C" ratings, and Nichols Middle School and Huey L. Porter Middle School both received "D" ratings. District officials have set five-year goals of all schools rating successful or better, as well as goals to encourage community and parent involvement and remain fiscally responsible.

School	2018 Grade	2019 Grade
McNeal	D	B
Goodloe	B	A
Myers	D	B
CES	B	C
Nichols	F	D
Porter	D	D
CHS	C	C
9 th Academy	A	A

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UMMC surgeries now done at Merit Health Madison

Special to The Canton News

Like hundreds of Mississippians, Harry Miggins is on dialysis while waiting for the kidney transplant that will greatly improve his quality of life.

But pending that, several of his vessels have been widened and strengthened to make it easier for his blood to flow to and from a dialysis machine. Dr. James Wynn, University of Mississippi Medical Center (UMMC) professor of transplant surgery, performed two outpatient procedures to better accommodate needles required for dialysis.

Miggins' surgery took place not on UMMC's campus in Jackson, but at Merit Health Madison, thanks to a business venture between the two hospitals. It allows Medical Center physicians to perform low-risk, non-complex surgeries and provide post-operative care and clinic visits at Merit Health's facilities in Canton, effectively expanding UMMC's adult hospital capacity and operating room availability.

And, it allows UMMC providers to be more easily accessible by patients and families.

Miggins loves it. Each of his surgeries were in the morning, and he was home by early afternoon. "I got in and out pretty fast. It was a good experience," said Miggins, who lives in Jackson.

Parking at Merit Health Madison, a quick jog off the Nissan Parkway West exit, "is really good," Miggins

said. He and his father were able to park just steps from the visitors' entrance.

At a time when competition for patients can be fierce in the health care market, the relationship between UMMC and Merit Health Madison is just the opposite. UMMC surgeons work side by side with Merit Health Madison's surgical nurses, anesthesiologists and surgical support staff in providing select short-stay procedures.

UMMC daily copes with constraints on operating room space, hospital bed space and ambulatory clinic space. The agreement allows room for more high-acuity cases and specialty procedures to take place at the University Hos-

pital.

"Merit Health Madison is proud to partner with the University of Mississippi Medical Center to facilitate access to health care while allowing growth of services for patients in central Mississippi," said Brit Phelps, Merit Health Madison's chief executive officer. "Our community is benefiting from UMMC specialists, such as Dr. James Wynn, who can operate and follow up with their patients at Merit Health Madison."

Dr. Thomas Helling, professor and chief of the Division of General Surgery, frequently performs procedures in the operating rooms at Merit Health Madison.

"What's been a pleasant surprise for patients is the ease in which they can maneuver through

campus," Helling said. "But if it's a fairly quick operation with low risk, they'd prefer to be in a hospital that doesn't have as much activity. Patients enjoy being out here, and they come from all over."

Dr. Claude Harbarger, assistant professor of otolaryngology and communicative sciences, performs pediatric surgeries at Merit Health Madison every other Thursday. "Most of the procedures

full-service hospital."

Wynn performs kidney transplants at UMMC's Jackson campus, and he's providing a wide variety of procedures at Merit Health Madison to help kidney failure patients begin dialysis or continue on it.

"Being able to further expand our surgical capabilities is a great thing, and access is easy for everyone," he said. "Patients from the northern part of the state like

to come here so that they don't have to drive into Jackson."

Merit Health Madison's surgical staff, including veteran nurses and anesthesiologists, "are literally bending over backward to provide patients and families with a good experience," Helling said. "Everyone seems very appreciative that we are out there and contributing to the success of the medical complex."

Long-range plans are to explore care for UMMC inpa-

tients at Merit Health Madison and to perform surgeries there with a higher degree of complexity, Wynn and Helling said.

"We're focusing now on developing a familiarity with the hospital and personnel, and we hope to expand that as we become more acquainted with the resources and support staff," Helling said.

A campus of the University of Mississippi, UMMC is the state's only academic medical center. Located in Jackson, it encompasses seven health science schools, including medicine, nursing, health related professions, dentistry, pharmacy, graduate studies and population health. The Medical Center's health care enterprise includes the state's only Level I trauma center and its only children's hospital. UMMC's education, research and health care missions share the objectives of improving the health of the state's population and eliminating health disparities.

For more information, visit www.umm.edu to view news and stories produced by UMMC Communications and Marketing.



Special to The Canton News

the system," Helling said. "It's a light, airy environment, and it's not crowded. Patients are having a good experience as they work through the surgery, post-operative care and discharge."

Along with general surgery procedures, UMMC specialists are performing orthopaedic, breast, breast oncology, plastic, general and pediatric ENT and vascular access surgery such as that performed on Miggins.

UMMC physicians are seeing breast, plastic and general surgery patients at clinic appointments there.

"If it's a serious problem, there's no question that patients would want to be where the facilities and expertise are, and that's the main

are for ear tubes and tonsillectomies," he said. "The patients and families who've gone there have had a very good experience. It's more of an in-and-out experience, and the check-in process is quick."

He also said it loosens up operating rooms at Batson Children's Hospital for children with more serious illnesses.

"It's important to remember that Merit Health Madison is a free-standing hospital equipped with an Emergency Department, full radiology and anesthesia services, ICU services and a full front-line health care team, Wynn said. "It's great to have all of those capabilities, if something did arise in a surgery. That patient could be admitted, if necessary, to a

The Canton News is proud to present the first

Canton's Christmas Spirit Tour

Nominations are being sought from the Canton community for homes and businesses that are into the Christmas Spirit.

To nominate your home or business, a neighbor's home, or any yard you see that's in the Christmas spirit, please contact *The Canton News* by emailing ClayMansell@CantonNews.net or by calling 601-667-4667 ext 0.

Judging will be November 25th – 28th.
Signs will be placed at our Christmas Spirit Tour homes, and the entire tour will be printed in the December 5th paper.

Murphy receives Herb Power Award from Canton Lions



Danny Murphy receiving the Herb Power Award from Lions Vice President Darlene Austin. Special to The Canton News

Special to The Canton News

The Lions have created the Herb Power Award in honor of Power's example for serving. Herb Power was a dedicated husband and father, a veteran of the United States Military, having served during WWII. He was a thirty-year member

of the Canton Lions Club and was a contributing member of the First Presbyterian Church, the Madison County Historical Society and the Canton Chamber of Commerce and Main Street. His was a life of service to family, country and community, and he exemplified the Lions Club motto "We serve."



Herb and Barbara Power at a past Lions auction. Special to The Canton News

This award pays tribute to Herb's desire to serve his fellow man. Nominees had to exemplify this same spirit demonstrating leadership, dedication and a Lion's heart for service in keeping with the Lions' mission. The Canton Lions Club presented Daniel (Danny) Per-

ry Murphy with the first Herb Power Award at a banquet held recently at the Two Rivers Restaurant. Murphy was selected based on his dedication to the Lions through his help with the annual barbeque, auction and other fundraisers. He also mirrors Herb in serving his church and community.

cont. from page 16

Canton, MS prepares for Christmas, plans events

memories are priceless treasures we will have forever, and the Canton's Christmas Festival allows you to capture those times with your loved ones during the special holiday season," said Canton Tourism Executive Director Jana Dear. To take full advantage of the festival's breathtaking nighttime views, festival hours will be from 5 p.m. until 9 p.m. Friday, November 29, through Monday, December 23. Throughout the month, several merchants around the Square will have extended holiday hours and will offer a respite from the hectic, big-box-store experience. Shoppers can stroll the sidewalks and enjoy the season, immersed in lights and holiday music. as they



Special to The Canton News

pop into gift shops, vintage stores and boutiques for unique items, special sales and samples. Light and character parades, at 6:30 p.m. and 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturday nights throughout the festival's run, enhance the family fun with a chance to meet favorite princesses, superheroes and more. Additional festival highlights include Mrs. Claus' Story Time, trolley rides around the Square, miniature train and fire truck rides, an old-fashioned carousel, as well as photos with Santa nightly throughout the festival. For more information, contact the Canton Tourism office at (601)-859-1307 and follow them on Facebook!

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An address to my countrymen

By President Woodrow Wilson

The White House, November 11, 1919. A year ago today our enemies laid down their arms in accordance with an armistice which rendered them impotent to renew hostilities, and gave to the world an assured opportunity to reconstruct its shattered order and to work out in peace a new and juster set of international relations.



The soldiers and people of the European Allies had fought and endured for more than four years to uphold the barrier of civilization against the aggressions of armed force. We ourselves had been in the conflict something more than a year and a half.

With splendid forgetfulness of mere personal concerns, we remodeled our industries, concentrated our financial resources, increased our agricultural output, and assembled a great army, so that at the last our power was a decisive factor in the victory. We were able to bring the vast resources, material and moral, of a great and free people to

the assistance of our associates in Europe who had suffered and sacrificed without limit in the cause for which we fought.

Out of this victory there arose new possibilities of political freedom and economic concert. The war showed us the strength of great nations acting together for high purposes, and the victory of arms foretells the enduring conquests which can be made

in peace when nations act justly and in furtherance of the common interests of men.

To us in America the reflections of Armistice Day will be filled with solemn pride in the heroism of those who died in the country's service, and with gratitude for the victory, both because of the thing from which it has freed us and because of the opportunity it has given America to show her sympathy with peace and justice in the councils of nations.

EDITOR'S NOTE: This address was presented at the White House on November 11, 1919.

Frost presents CMSC program



Special to The Canton News

The Canton Music Study Club (CMSC) recently held a meeting at the First United Methodist Church of Canton. Following the club ritual and business, President Marian Durfey welcomed guest speaker, Shannon Frost. Frost is the financial and membership director of Mississippi Alliance for Arts Education and also serves as marketing director for New Stage Theatre. The mission of the Arts Alliance is to advocate for high quality, comprehensive and sequential arts programs for all Mississippi students. Following the program, the club enjoyed social hour hosted by Kathy Hammack and Cecil Fox, Jr. Pictured (l to r) are: CMSC program chairman Sarah Waters and Shannon Frost.



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Canton Academy hosts college fair for students



Special to The Canton News



Special to The Canton News

Canton Academy recently hosted a college fair at which students were able to learn about different universities in the South. College recruiters promoted their schools, met with students and handed out swag. Shown in left photo are: Seniors Nick Foreman (left) and Kurt Adcock (right) speak a Hinds Community College representative; and right photo: Juniors Abbie Parkinson (left) and Allie Parkinson (right) speak with a University of Louisiana Monroe representative.

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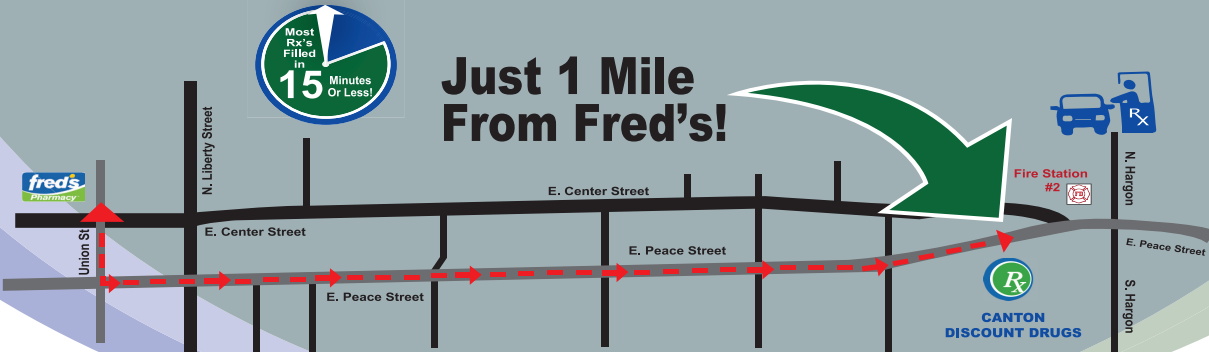
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