



# THE CANTON NEWS

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P.O. Box 1163, Canton, MS 39046

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## Canton Piggly Wiggly reopens under new ownership

By Lori Lycette

After the Piggly Wiggly (affectionately called “The Pig”) on East Academy Street had been closed and empty for most of 2019, its doors have finally reopened with new ownership, a much-needed interior renovation and many of the same faces that have served the Canton community for years.

Marty Rhoden, who was originally from Jacksonville, Florida, moved to Ridgeland with his family at the age of eight. He attended Madison Ridgeland High School and the University of Southern Mississippi.

After college, he moved to Orlando, Florida, and started Marty’s Drywall Service. He ran a very successful business for the past thirty years, until recently deciding to move back home to

Mississippi.

Robert Graves, Rhoden’s best friend since their teenage years,

had supervised eight of the previous owners’ Piggly Wiggly stores for the past thirty years. He suggested to his friend that he should get into the grocery business, starting with reopening the empty store at the corner of East Academy and South

Fulton Streets, just south of the Historic Canton Square. Rhoden

moved back and did just that.

“Robert is the brains of the operation...He buys the food, man-

ages orders, gets certifications and does anything else needed around here,” said Rhoden.

John McKay and Richard Dunn are co-managers of the new Piggly Wiggly. McKay had been manager of the store for thirty-six years and knows most everyone in the

community. Dunn is a Canton native and worked at that Piggly

Wiggly for over ten years.

“I believe we’re the only store in town that supplies custom cut certified Angus beef,” said Rhoden. “Our butcher, Michael Francis, is one of the best assets at this store. He is a service-oriented guy who will cut any cut of meat on site. Everyone in the community knows him. He has had a loyal following for many years.”

Rhoden added, “Customer service is our main focus. Anybody can sell groceries. The customer is our main focus and will always be our main focus. The customer is the most important part of our job. We will not be successful with an unhappy customer.” He also said they offer personal service, such as bagging the groceries and taking them to the car, and they will always do that.

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Piggly Wiggly owner Marty Rhoden

Photo by Lori Lycette

## CPSD retiree is honored



Special to The Canton News

Retired teacher and librarian Mrs. Modestine M. McCloud has recently completed fifty years of service to the Canton Public School District (CPSD). The Nichols Middle School Media Center will be renamed and dedicated in her honor, at 5 p.m. on January 14, 2020, at Nichols Middle School. All are welcome to join.

## Movie premieres in Canton



MCLS Director Tonja Johnson

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The Madison County Library System (MCLS) recently partnered with Canton Tourism, the Mississippi Film Office and the Mississippi Library Commission to bring

*Christmas in Mississippi*, a Lifetime movie which was filmed in Gulfport and produced by Daniel Lewis, to Canton. Ninety-five people watched it on the big screen in the Historic Courthouse

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# Ellard wins raffled Dak Prescott Cowboy helmet



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The Canton Lions Club held a raffle, offering a Dallas Cowboys football helmet autographed by Dak Prescott as the prize. Irving Ellard was selected as the raffle winner. Canton Lions Club President Mark Hopkins (left) presented the helmet to Ellard (right) during a recent Lions meeting.

# Canton High School adopts family through MadCAAP



Special to The Canton News

The faculty and staff of Canton High School adopted a family for the holidays through MadCAAP in Canton. Students in the Recycling Club delivered the packages to MadCAAP before Christmas. Students pictured (l to r) are: Wytेशia Readus, Alyssa Nelson, Cadaijha Smith and Jacques Ratliff.

cont. from front page

# Canton, MS Piggly Wiggly reopens under new ownership

“I’d love to be a big part of the community...would like to see Piggly Wiggly sponsor local sporting events. I’d like to see all of Canton move forward in a positive direction. The future is bright, and I’d like to see Canton and all of our surrounding com-

munities work together to make it a better place to live, shop and raise our families,” said Rhoden. He ended by saying, “The Pig is still in the same location, but don’t judge a book by its cover. Come in and see our interior renovations.”

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# A positive mindset for the new year '20

By Guest Columnist Joy Foy



Joy Foy

Special to The Canton News

As we begin a new year, I would like to challenge all of us to be positive. If we aren't careful, we will find ourselves in this New Year complaining and being negative, instead of looking into the future with positive optimism. We all tend to judge and assess everything, especially economic development efforts.

How many of us thought that the \$10,000 per acre that Madison County Economic Development Authority (MCEDA) paid to Mr. Joe Martin for his farmland was a smart move at the time? MCEDA got plenty of negative opinions concerning the incentives for Nissan. Recruiting retail and putting investment dollars and efforts into tourism has not always been supported.

For our (6,000 plus or minus) neighbors and friends who have a job at Nissan with average wages ranging from approximately \$10.65 per hour for assemblers and \$25.41 per hour for analysts with employee benefits, the value of Nissan is very real. Nissan has given \$15 million in charitable do-

nations and paid \$300 million in local and state taxes, according to their fifteen-year recap in 2018.

The training available in Madison County today, because of Nissan, makes for a better workforce, which greatly helps with recruiting. This has helped to recruit industry that isn't Nissan related, which helps to diversify our job market.

MCEDA's investment into farmland at Gluckstadt has proven to be a huge success, since, without that available acreage, we could have never landed Nissan. They not only required 1,000 acres for their own use, but the site they chose would also require space for their suppliers. According to Chief Operating Officer Danielle Winningham and Director of Business Development Lauren Scheel, both of MCEDA, the interior panels, seats, frames, front end module, HVAC and protective coating for the frames are all being produced on the original Martin property farm site, which is part of the Central Mississippi Industrial Center (CMIC). The last sale of property from that farm bought \$60,000 per acre.

This pays big dividends to Madison County Schools, since a portion of the property is Sixteenth Section Land. The infrastructure that Canton Municipal Utilities provided for Nissan has opened up acreage for residential develop-

ment, allowing for numerous new subdivisions. More houses mean more people who demand more retail and services.

The merchants of Canton can tell you that the tourists coming to Canton are well worth the effort and the cost to recruit. The crowds at the Canton City of Lights Festival broke records, and the Square has never been prettier. It was so much fun to shop around the Square and meet people from New York, North Carolina and numerous other states and communities of Mississippi.

Extra help is hired, creating new jobs, and the cash registers ring as these outsiders help to add bigger incomes for our merchants. Remember that the more the merchants sell, the more taxes the City receives, and that income can pay for better roads, schools and landscaping.

Happy New Year! Let's all keep open minds and look at the whole picture for a positive mindset in 2020.

*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.*

## CCC students complete ethics workshop



Special to The Canton News

The Mississippi Community Education Center (MCEC) recently assisted students of the Canton Career Center (CCC) with completing the Smart Work Ethics Workshop. Pictured are the Canton Career Center students with MCEC Community Liaison Paul Mooney.

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## A group of people, mostly older adults, are standing in a church sanctuary, singing from hymnals. They are positioned in front of a large, ornate altar. The church has stained glass windows and a decorated wall with a wreath.

Special to *The Canton News*

Following the peeling of the

Special to *The Canton News*

Also serving as instrumentalists were Jerry Buckner, guitar; Ellen Matthews, French horn; and Angela Teasley, flute. The afternoon concluded with local tenor, Tommy Sullivan, singing "O, Holy Night."

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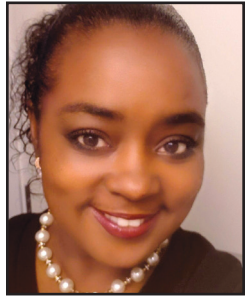




# CPSD's board secretary receives MSBA award

Special to The Canton News

Canton Public School District (CPSD) Board of Trustees Secretary Dr. Shivochie Dinkins was recently awarded the Mississippi School Board Association's (MSBA) Individual Distinguished Circle Award. This award is based solely on the number of whole hours earned by school board members in the 2018-2019 school year, excluding six hours of the Basic Course. This award requires forty-two or more whole hours of MSBA-approved training. Dr. Dinkins received 50.5 hours of training. Dr. Dinkins was recognized for her outstanding service and dedication to the school district.



Dr. Shivochie Dinkins

# Day graduate of MC Nursing School 2019



Shadricia Day of Canton is a recent graduate of the Mississippi College (MC) School of Nursing. Day said she liked MC's School of Nursing due to its Christian care. Graduation was held at the A.E. Wood Coliseum on the Clinton campus.

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# CA cheerleaders perform in Orlando Disney parade



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Several Canton Academy cheerleaders were selected as Disney World All-American Cheerleaders and performed in the recent Thanksgiving parade in Orlando. Pictured (l to r) are: Emma Lane Martens, freshman; Summer Hederman and Ashlyn Thompson, both eighth graders; and Reese Willis, freshman.

# CA kindergarten classes donate canned goods



Special to The Canton News

Canton Academy K3, K4 and K5 classes recently collected 265 canned goods to donate to The Lord's Supper Homeless Ministry in Madison. Organizers said their guiding Bible verse for the collection project was: "He uploads the cause of the oppressed and gives food to the hungry" (Psalm 146:7).

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# Canton Academy student places in MAIS Spelling Bee



Special to The Canton News  
Canton Academy students recently competed in a Mississippi Association of Independent Schools (MAIS) Spelling Bee. Sixth grader Mackenzie Turner placed second and will now advance to the MAIS District Spelling Bee at Hartfield Academy on January 17. Pictured with Turner is sixth grade teacher Carleen Singletary.

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# MCBL&F selected top nonprofit by MS Business Jrnl

Special to The Canton News

The Madison County Business League & Foundation (MCBL&F) was selected by the *Mississippi Business Journal* as a 2019 Top Mississippi Nonprofit Organization. The organization was recently presented the award at an event held at the Old Capitol Inn in Jackson.

The Madison County Business League & Foundation is a 501(c)(6) economic development support private membership organization which was created in 2008 through a resolution passed unanimously by the Madison County Board of Supervisors to serve as private stakeholders for the Madison County Economic Development Authority (MCEDA); thus, creating a public/private partnership.

The mission of the MCBL&F is to bring together, under one organization, the voice of numerous entities in order to establish a clear and concise message for the future. This organization, which is comprised of elected, appointed,

business and individual leaders of Madison County, will enable all partners in business and economic development to participate collectively in bringing together the overall vision for Madison County. In 2014, the Madison County Foundation merged with the Madison County Business League to form the Madison County Business League & Foundation. The MCBL&F serves as a seamless conduit for the flow of information between the private sector and the policy makers in local, county, state and federal government.

The MCBL&F provides networking opportunities for member decision makers and young professionals with elected officials, on all levels, as it strives to assist MCEDA with the promotion, development and expansion of business, education, transportation, employment, workforce development, quality of life and other common business interests of commercial enterprises in Madison County. The MCBL&F exists to provide additional financing for



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Pictured (l to r) are, front row: Chairman Barney Daly, Executive Director Jan Collins and Immediate Past Chairman Cecil Harper; and, back row: Vice Chairman Wesley Goings, Director John Geary, Secretary-Treasurer Renee Rice, Penny Danford of the Advisory Board, and Director Samantha Barnett Lofton.

those initiatives whose costs cannot be supported through public funding. This creates a pathway for grants and other expenditures that can supplement those needs. The MCBL&F sponsors the Madison County Young Professionals which provides opportunities for professional development and peer to peer networking for the

future leaders of Madison County. MCBL&F and MCEDA sponsor the Madison County Youth Leadership program for outstanding juniors in all Madison County public, private and parochial schools plus Jackson Prep, Jackson Academy and New Summit School. The program's mission is to pro-

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# In His Steps celebrates milestone of twenty-five years

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Last month, In His Steps (IHS) Ministries, led by the Reverend Jasper and Carolyn Bacon, held their annual Vision Dinner to celebrate the past twenty-five years of ministry and also look to their next steps, as they report that the Lord continues to grow In His Steps. Several out of state, as well as many local supporters, attended, totaling over 275 guests to celebrate the occasion.

At the dinner, several people, such as Dr. Dolphus Weary and Mr. Michael Engelbrecht, shared their personal involvement with In His Steps, and all testified to the faithfulness of God. The past twenty-five years was commemorated with a video of the history of In His Steps' and showed future plans of the new property that was recently acquired for In His Steps' Camp and Training Center.

A recital was performed by the newest SPASE students. SPASE is an after school program for chil-

dren. The night also honored the Strobeck family and Reverend Jerry Clark, whose faithfulness to the calling of God has enabled In His Steps to impact so many lives.



Carolyn and Jasper Bacon

Special to The Canton News

At the end of the night, Reverend Bacon concluded with Hebrews 13:8, "Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever," and he reported that one thing was evident above all else: God did it. Bacon said many people came with a heart to support In His Steps, and over \$10,000 was raised to go



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SPASE students who recited scripture and performed a skit and rap for the crowd (l to r) were, front row: Bryson T., Demondric G., Kenlei C., Cyleria G., AhZorian B., and Ricky S.; and back row: Michael C., Jayden H., Haley J., JohnTavious P., Mercedes J., Clifton B., and Elijah K.

towards the new Christian campground and training site, three new staff members and general operating funds.

From the development of In His Steps in the early years to now, the employees of In His Steps Ministries say that God has done it all, as they look forward to the plans He has in store. The staff encourages Cantonians to consider partnering with them in the coming year and

invites the public to join them at next year's annual Vision Dinner to see what God has continued to accomplish in the community of Canton.

For more information about the In His Steps ministry, visit their Facebook page or website, [www.InHisSteps.org](http://www.InHisSteps.org). The ministry's main office is located at 3528 North Liberty Street in Canton and can be reached at 601-859-5708

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# Know your neighbor- Dr. Robert L. Hester, of Shocco

By Guest Columnist Jim Ritchie

Human life starts with a single cell.



Dr. Robert Hester

Special to The Canton News  
That cell divides into a gazillion cells, each with a destination and purpose.

These cells then become organs, such as a heart, two kidneys or two lungs.

How do all of the organs fit into the complex, intricate workings of the wonderful machine we call the human body? And how does the alteration of one element affect any or all of the others?

Searching for answers to this type of question has been his life's work for this neighbor. Meet Dr. Robert Hester, who lives with his wife, Dr. Marion Wofford, in the Shocco community, east of Canton.

Born in Starkville, where he attended public school, he graduated from Mississippi State University with a degree in biological engi-

neering. This field was chosen because of his love of biology stemming from two junior high classes taught by influential teachers. The engineering part was accomplished because his father, a professor of aerospace engineering at Mississippi State, required each of his four children to study engineering if they expected him to pay for their education, and all four of them did...Robert in biological, his sister in aerospace and his two brothers in industrial and agricultural engineering.

When he graduated, there was a joint program between Mississippi State University and the University of Mississippi Medical Center that issued a PhD in biomedical engineering. Robert decided to earn that degree, which required another year of mechanical engineering work at Mississippi State and then completion of the necessary physiological work at the University Medical Center.

After earning his PhD in biomedical engineering, he completed a three-year fellowship at the University of Virginia, where he learned a new technique to do research. He

returned to the Mississippi Medical Center as a faculty member in the Department of Physiology, which, at that time, was chaired by the late esteemed Dr. Arthur C. Guyton, who authored the physiological textbook used by medical schools all over the world.

In the ensuing thirty-five years, Robert has taught medical students and graduate students and has done basic research on projects, such as studying the effects of obesity on cardiovascular disease. Over the last fifteen years he, in collaborations with Dr. William Pruett and Dr. John Clemmer, has directed work, that was originally started by Dr. Tom Coleman, along with Dr. Guyton in the 1970s, to develop and expand a computer software package simulating the human body, which aids their continuing research on how the human body works.

It's incredibly complex work, of course, since bodies differ, diseases differ, medications differ, treatments differ, and when any treatment or change occurs, that event may produce different responses within different people. This work

has gained worldwide attention, and Dr. Hester has accepted invitations to attend meetings all over the United States and in Europe, where the research is discussed.

To learn more about Dr. Hester's work, visit You Tube, do a search on "Robert Hester," and call up his lecture on "The Most Complete Computer Simulation of Human Physiology."

Meanwhile, back in Shocco, he likes to ride his bicycle. On occasion, he's ridden it from his work at the medical center in Jackson thirty miles to his home. He's also ridden it from home some one-hundred and seventeen miles to Starkville. I didn't ask him why.

*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 professional artist wife, Perry, live in the Shocco community out from Canton. View their work at [www.southernstories.com](http://www.southernstories.com).*

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Ceremony – January 20, 2020 at 11:00 a.m.

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- Parade at the Historic Canton Square
- Program at the Canton Community Center

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cont. from page 8

# MCBL&F selected a top MS nonprofit for year '19

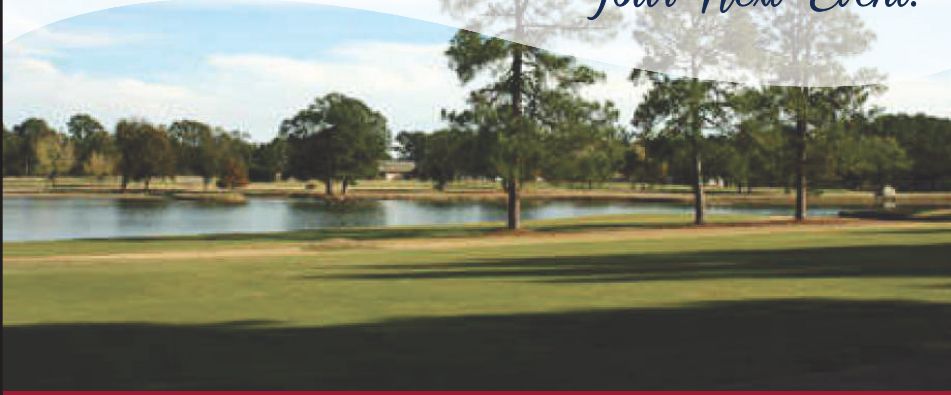
vide the emerging workforce with a deeper understanding of the careers available in Madison County in an environment that develops their leadership skills and encourages graduates to take their knowledge and their experience into the community for the betterment of Madison County as a whole. And, to discourage brain drain! The MCBL&F also created the North Madison County Excel By 5 initiative to support early childhood development in Madison County for children ranging from birth to five years old.

The Madison County Business League & Foundation created its 501©3, the Madison County Community Trust (MCCT), in 2014 to support the needs of education and workforce development in Madison County. Since that time, thousands of dollars in grants have been awarded to the Madison County Schools and Canton Public Schools to facilitate dual enrollment in local community colleges,

financial literacy training for teachers, master teacher of entrepreneurship training, socio-emotional soft skills teacher training and the Madison County Mobile Media Lab (bookmobile). MCBL&F membership assisted in efforts for Madison County to achieve ACT Work Ready certification by awarding a grant to facilitate the ACT Work Keys assessments for all career technical students in the Madison County Schools and the Canton Public Schools, enabling them to receive the National Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC). In addition, scholarships for every graduate of each year's youth leadership class, funding for North Madison County Excel By 5 projects, and numerous other grants are provided to improve the educational, health, economic and social status, and well-being of the citizens of Madison County. These projects are made possible through the financial support of the MCBL&F members.



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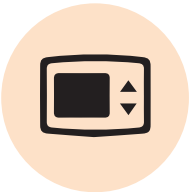
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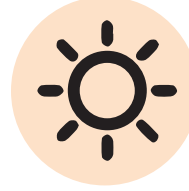
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# Give your past to God and trust Jesus this new year

By Guest Columnist,  
Pastor Clayton Roberts

There is something about a new year that brings hope. At the start of a new year, most people think that this year will be different. What are some things in your life that you want to change this year? How can we experience a new start?

Let us look to the Bible and see what we can learn. Philippians 3:12-14 says, "Brethren, I do not regard myself as laying hold of it yet; but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus."

We must let go of past experiences that are holding us back. Don't let these experiences define you. Don't let negative words that other people and even you

have spoken over your life hold you back. The failures of yesterday are stepping-stones to move you forward. Determine today that you are not going to be held back by anything that has happened in the past.

In a story from 2 Chronicles 33, Manasseh was one of the most wicked kings to rule over Judah. He practiced many forms of witchcraft and worshipped foreign gods. God judged him and sent him into captivity in Babylon with a hook in his nose in utter disgrace. In his despair and sorrow, he cried out to God with humility. God heard him and brought him back to Jerusalem and to his Kingdom.

After we let go and forget the past, we must have something to look to or someone to believe in. As a minister of the Gospel, I believe that person is Jesus Christ. He is the only one who can bring meaningful change in our lives. He holds the keys to your life and your future. The Gospel is a beautiful example of how to let go of

our past and begin again. When we admit our sin and believe Jesus died on the cross to pay for our sin, all our sins are forgiven. We are now a child of God, and the Holy Spirit helps us to live according

to God's Word.

When I was in graduate school, God began to move on me in a profound way. I read through the Bible in four months. I was in a major crisis in my life. I had to choose God's way or my way. I

chose God's way. Since then, my life has been an incredible journey of God's grace and mercy. It can be the same for you. You will never regret putting your faith and trust in Jesus Christ. I have not looked back, and neither will you when you decide to follow Him.

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Clayton Roberts is Pastor of Canton Christian Center and resides in Madison County with his wife, Katie, and two children, Andrew and Grace, and their cat, Matilda.



Special to The Canton News

Pastor Clayton Roberts

*Canton Christian Center*



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# Mississippi State Hospital honors employees



Special to The Canton News

Mississippi State Hospital (MSH) recently honored employees, including one from Canton, with November anniversaries for their years of service to the hospital. 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 sward pin. The program is sponsored by Friends of Mississippi State Hospital, Inc. Pictured (l to r) are, front row: Kaye Myers, twenty years, Jackson; Melissa Andress, one year, Utica; Stephanie Battle, one year, Clinton; Mechelle Allen, fifteen years, Brandon; Brittany Collier, one year, Brandon; Samquinnetta Hartzog, one year, Florence; and back row: Kay Desai, twenty years, Ridgeland; Debbie Boteler, fifteen years, Richland; June McCafferty, ten years, Braxton; Fredrica Oliver, one year, Bolton; Tamela Sanders, twenty years, Jackson; Elnora Humphrey, five years, Canton; and Terri Jenkins, twenty-five years, Jackson..



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# Canton Academy holds '19 annual Holiday Hustle



Special to The Canton News

Canton Academy (CA) recently held their annual Holiday Hustle fundraiser, where all profits go to teacher and staff Christmas bonuses. It consisted of a 5K run/walk and a Reindeer Trot one-mile fun run for children under twelve. A record number of students, faculty and staff participated this year to make it a huge success. CA Alum Mary Hollin Brock (left) won Overall Female and CA Junior Case Lambert (right) won Overall Male.

# 9th Grade Academy places in robotics competition



Special to The Canton News

Canton's 9th Grade Academy (NGA) Science Club recently competed in the Mississippi Robotics Fall Stem/Sumo Competition, which was held at the Nissan Training Center in Canton. Both teams tied for second place in the small Sumo Wrestling Competition. Seany Cruz placed fourth in both the Drone Flying and RC Bowling categories. Johntravius Hunter tied for fourth place in RC Bowling. George Garcia placed third in the RC Bowling competition and won fourth overall. Tyrese Payton placed second in both RC Bowling and Drone Flying. Asiyon Hudson placed fourth in the Science Competition and third overall. Pictured (l to r) are: Ameria Hudson, George Garcia, Asiyon Hudson, Johntravius Hunter, Seany Cruz and Tyrese Payton-Murry.



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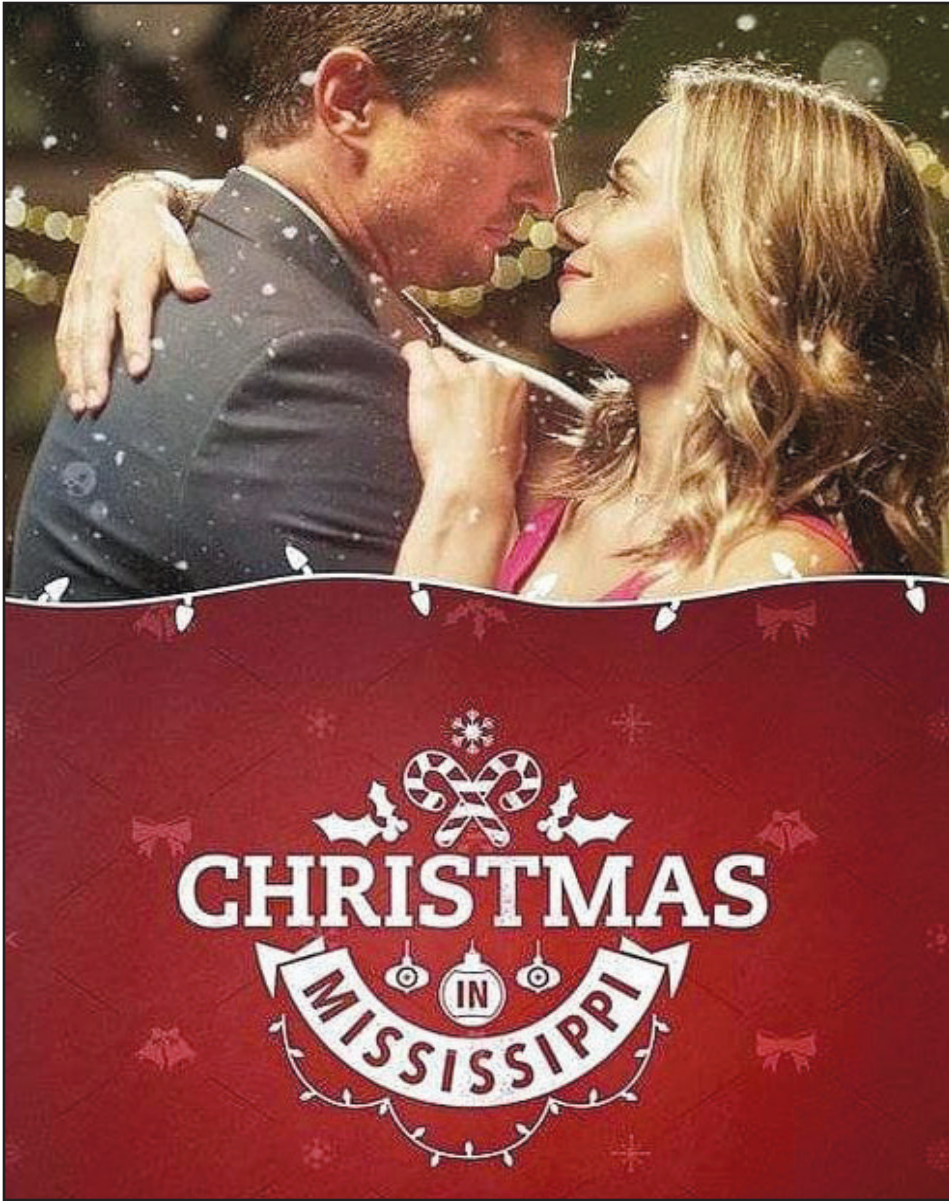
**#JacksonZoo**

**THE JACKSON ZOO**



cont. from front page

# Movie premieres in Canton



Special to The Canton News

on the Square of Canton. People discussed their favorite holiday hometown memories as they finished off their popcorn, cheese straws and Mississippi-shaped cookies after the movie.

Each magical, free ticket not only guaranteed entry to the premiere, but was also good for special discounts given by participating merchants on the Square. The event was a chance for the library to pour hope into their patrons, and for the

local businesses to love on their community, which participants say created a fun holiday outing.

The local Mississippi Film Office, Canton Tourism and the Mississippi Library Commission worked together to produce a successful event, as well as the local businesses, who gave discounts and door prizes throughout the evening.

For more information about this event, call 601-859-7733, ext. 108.

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# Nissan of Canton, Mississippi holds toy drive



Nissan Canton employees with donated toys



Nissan employees loading toys for delivery

Special to The Canton News

Nissan believes that no child should go without a present for

Christmas, so the company hosts an annual “Christmas from the Heart” toy drive each year. Before Christmas, Nissan team members

donated the toys, and then they partnered with the Marine Toys for Tots Foundation to share them with children in Mississippi. The

Veterans Business Synergy Team, a group of Canton team members who are military veterans, coordinated the toy drive.

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