



THE CANTON NEWS

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Canton declared an affiliate of Keep America Beautiful

By Susie A. Wolfe

Sue Smith, director of Keep America Beautiful based in Chicago, was in Canton December 7 to train the mem-

and greenway), improve recycling and end litter.

"Rarely have I seen the enthusiasm of this group. It is electric," said Smith. "Keep Mississippi Beautiful directors

our partners help generate positive impact on local economies and inspire generations of community stewards," said Smith.

Keep America Beautiful and our partners help generate positive impact on local economies and inspire generations of community stewards.

Chamber Director Toya Veals said "Keep America Beautiful/Keep Canton Beautiful was perfect to include under the Chamber of Commerce Main Street Association umbrella. We have the same goals."

Joy Dodson, Volunteer Director of Keep Canton Beautiful,

is excited about the program. "Anyone can be involved. We need more volunteers. There will be bi-monthly meetings for those interested. For more information, contact the Canton Chamber to reach Keep Canton Beautiful at 601-859-5816.

"We need the citizens of Canton to help identify problem areas such as overgrown lots, graffiti, illegal dump site or junked cars," said Dodson. "The City will help enforce litter laws. Terrance Sanders, Canton Public Works, has asked us to report problem area to 601-859-3245."



Photo by The Canton News

Pictured, (l to r) are, front row: Maria Stewart, Canton Chamber of Commerce; Neeley Norman, Assistant Director, Keep Mississippi Beautiful; Mary Johnson, Canton Chamber of Commerce Ambassador; Toya Veals, Director, Canton Chamber of Commerce; Sue Smith, Director, Keep America Beautiful; Arnel Bolden, Canton Mayor; Joy Dodson, Volunteer Director, Keep Canton Beautiful; Sarah Kountouris, Director, Keep Mississippi Beautiful; Hurstine Watts, Canton Community Awareness; Mary Carol Patrick, Canton Chamber of Commerce; Alvin Davis, Director, Canton Parks and Recreation; Frederick Dinkha, Canton Chamber of Commerce; and back row: Officer Linda Luckett, Canton Police Department; and Terrence Sanders, Director, Canton Public Works.

bers of newly-formed Keep Canton Beautiful (KCB), one of 41 affiliates in Mississippi and 600 in the nation. The national organization, founded in 1953, seeks to beautify communities (plant trees, flowers

as well as top board volunteers attended the training session, and are excited about working with the City to remove blight areas and improve the Canton."

"Keep America Beautiful and



"Keep America Beautiful and our partners help generate positive impact on local economies and inspire generations of community stewards."

SUE SMITH

DIRECTOR OF KEEP AMERICA BEAUTIFUL

Walker named Officer of the Quarter this December



Special to The Canton News

Officer of the Quarter Ellarene Walker was recognized at the December Rotary Club meeting. Pictured, (l to r) are: Jeff Ross, Officer Walker, Chief Brown, and Mayor Bolden.

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How to build better and stronger bones in kids



Photo courtesy of NewsUSA

Courtesy of NewsUSA

It’s been ingrained in our heads since we were little: building strong bones is important. The problem is that these days many children aren’t getting the daily recommended diet and exercise needed to do so. And, with technology use at an all-time high, children are spending less time playing outdoors, which increases the risk of obesity.

Today, approximately 32 percent of American children and adolescents ages two to nineteen are considered overweight or obese. The American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons (AAOS) wants to help empower families to get up, get out and get moving to ensure optimal bone growth and reduce the risk of osteoporosis and other diseases later in life.

“Building your child’s bone bank is like a college savings plan: the earlier you start investing, the better,” says AAOS spokesperson Dr. Jennifer Weiss, a pediatric orthopaedic surgeon at Kaiser Permanente in Los Angeles. “Parents should ensure that kids are getting adequate calcium to keep their bones strong as well as appropriate levels of vitamins D and C to allow the body to absorb the calcium.”

So what’s a parent to do? The following tips from the AAOS will help get your kids (and you) moving while building better, stronger bones:

- **Move it.** Make physical activity a

part of a child’s schedule for at least 30 to 60 minutes per day. Make it fun. Enjoy the weather—walking around the block, throwing a football in the yard, or riding a bike is a perfect way to engage with your kids and still get in some exercise. Bonus? Being outside gets you and the kids some much-needed vitamin D, which also helps build strong bones.

- **Watch what you eat.** Life is busy. Which makes on-the-run snacks and meals an easy fix for harried parents. Unfortunately,

most of this kind of food does not have the nutrients to ensure good bone health. Adolescents should consume a healthy diet with calcium to maintain strong bones and lower the risk of excessive weight gain.

- **Lift things up, and put them down.** Studies show that strength training is key to healthy bones. During resistance training, muscles have to work harder and, over time, become stronger. Although resistance exercises focus on increasing muscle mass, they also put stress on bones and have bone-building capacity.

- **Set limits.** It’s understandable that kids’ whims change with the seasons, as do the number of teams they want to play on. However, try to limit the number of teams a child plays on in one season to avoid overuse injuries. In addition, if your child tells you that something hurts, discourage him or her from playing through the pain.

For more information, visit orthoinfo.org.

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Know Your Neighbor: Jasper Bacon

Special to The Canton News

Few people experience at a young age a clear calling from God to affect in a positive manner the lives of at-risk children and their families that this man experienced. Even fewer respond to that calling as he has, resulting in life changes among the most vulnerable.

Meet Jasper Bacon, pastor, mentor, tutor, encourager and executive director of In His Steps Ministries.

Born in Madison County, he was fortunate to have a mother and father who recognized the value of

an education and who instilled into him the virtues of hard work, honesty and more importantly, a warm Christian spirituality, all of which he

continues to exhibit in performing his life's mission.

After finishing high school in Canton, he won a football scholarship to Alabama A&M, but during that first year at A&M, he realized that God had other plans for him.

He felt called to transfer to Wheaton University in Chicago where he earned a degree in Christian Educa-

tion. After graduating from Wheaton, he returned to Canton to pastor a small church, and married Carolyn, his helpmate of 31 years, who has been an integral part in his ministry. Together they have impacted many lives, ministering through the auspices of In His Steps Ministries, which they founded in 1994. Asked about long range plans, Jasper responds, "bringing folks to Christ, impacting at-risk kids and their families, and praying that God will raise up another generation to carry on In His Steps."

Would that those prayers are answered.

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 you 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.



Special to The Canton News

American Pickers to film in Mississippi

Special to The Clinton Courier

Mike Wolfe, Frank Fritz and their team will head to Mississippi to film episodes of the hit series *American Pickers* throughout the region this winter.

American Pickers is a documentary series that explores the world of antique 'picking.' The hit show follows Mike and Frank, two of the most skilled pickers in the business, as they hunt for America's most valuable antiques. They are always excited to find sizeable, unique collections and learn the interesting stories behind them.

As they hit the back roads from coast to coast, Mike and Frank are on a mission to recycle and rescue



American Pickers will film in Mississippi this winter.

Special to The Clinton Courier

forgotten relics. Along the way, the Pickers want to meet characters with remarkable and exceptional items. The pair hopes to give historically significant objects a new lease on life, while learning a thing or two about America's past along the way.

Mike and Frank have seen a lot of rusty gold over the years and are always looking to discover something they've never seen before. They say they are ready to find extraordinary items and hear

fascinating tales about them. *American Pickers* reports that they are looking for leads and would love to explore Mississippi's hidden treasure. Interested parties owning a large private collection or accumulation of antiques that the Pickers can spend the better part of the day looking through may send a name, phone number, location and description of the collection with photos to: americanpickers@cinetflix.com or call 855-old-rust.

MCBL&F names Young Professional Steering Committee



Special to The Canton News

The Madison County Business League & Foundation (MCBL&F) announced the 2017 Madison County Young Professional Steering Committee. Pictured (l to r) are, front row: Liz Donovan, Memphis Communications Corporation; Rachel Corkern, treasurer, MCBL&F; Lisa Robin, secretary, Hancock Law Firm, PLLC; Chris Roberts, chairman, BankPlus; Sarah Beth Wilson, vice chairman, Copeland Cook Taylor & Bush, P.A.; Grant Montgomery, BancorpSouth; and Haley Claxton, Trustmark; and middle row: Danielle Winningham, MCEDA; Beau Lynch, Merit Health Madison; Jamaal Holloway, Nissan North America Canton; Bradley Barnes, Adcamp, Inc.; Krystal Minor, bfac.com; Cori Hill, Levi Strauss & Company; Josh Hancock, CenterPoint Energy; and Michael Roberts, Renasant Bank; and top row: Austin Stewart, Adams Reese; Jonathan Werne, St. Dominic Health Services, Inc.; Andrew Ritter, Southern Ag Credit; Parker Berry, Butler Snow, LLP; and Scott Parenteau, C Spire.



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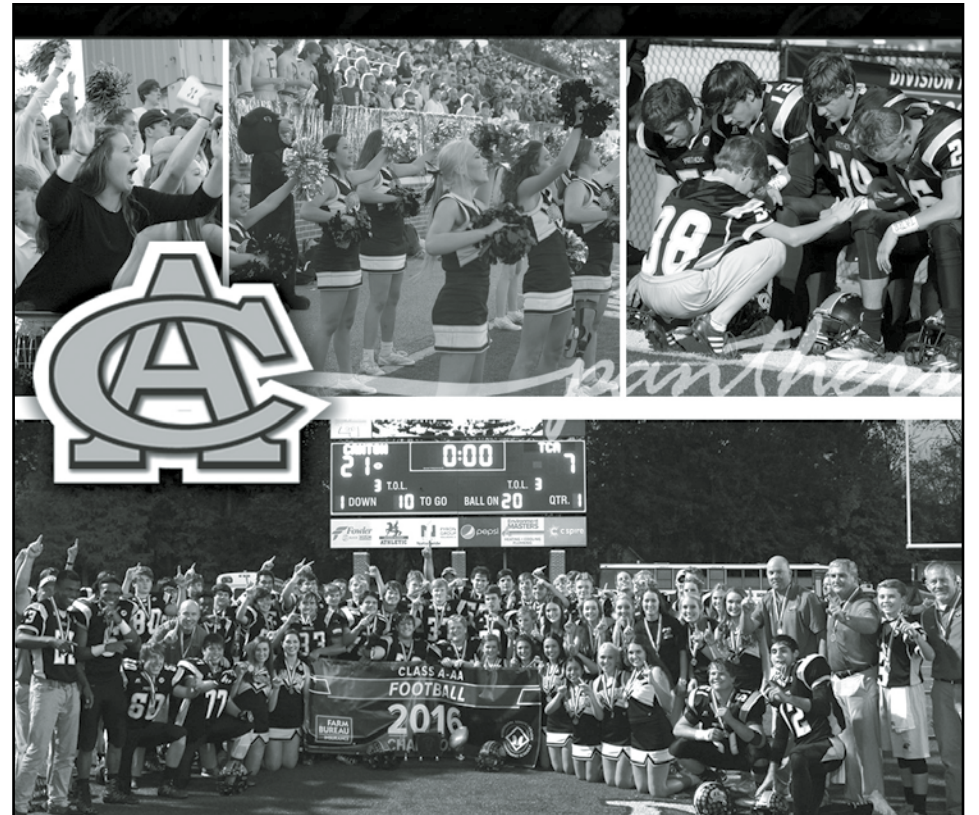
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From the mayor's desk

By Arnel D. Bolden, Mayor of Canton

As we begin a new year, I want to first give honor to God for the many blessings bestowed on our



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great city. Reflecting on the tremendous achievements that have been made to build a better Canton, I am reminded of the passage in Philippians 4:13 which reads, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

Although 2016 was a year filled with many challenges, the progress made during my administration outdistanced any obstacles that would have hindered our growth. In this month's commentary, I will focus on our efforts to create jobs, one of the elements of my seven-point plan.

During the first three months of our administration, we worked hand in hand with our state legislature to designate Canton a Healthcare Empowerment Zone.

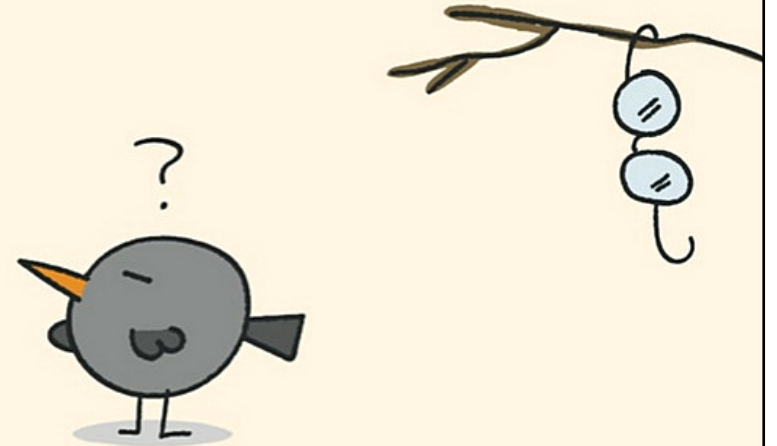
As a result, we became the home of the state's only Bio-Medical Collaboratory, bringing many jobs and business to the Win Job Center, including Telehealth One, the Global Training Institute, and many others. Madison County's only hospital, Merit Health Madison, is constructing a new multi-million dollar facility that will add many new healthcare positions to our expanding treatment network. Right across the street, we broke ground for the Nissan Supplier Logistics Center, which is now fully operational, and has added approximately 900 jobs to our community. Finally, in January of last year, we held the first major Job Fair in our city at the National Guard Armory. "Careers for Cantonians" had over 50 companies participate and many of our citizens received job offers immediately. This event will return on Jan. 24, 2017 at the Multi-Purpose Center. It is known that jobs provide stable growth to any community, and we will continue to provide the means for our citizens to improve their quality of life.

May you have Peace, Love, and Joy this year and beyond.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Arnel Bolden is currently serving the City as mayor since being elected in 2013. He and his wife, LaToya Bolden, are members of Canton United Methodist Church and are active in the community.

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Canton businesses support CPSD mentor program

By Susie A. Wolfe

The Chamber of Commerce is one of 25 villages that are participating in the I!CAN Imagine-

excited to be part of this very worthwhile program. We have four employees that rotate weekly mentoring. We believe thriving school systems make a



Special to The Canton News

Mayor Bolden recently recognized the 120 I!CAN mentors in December at a Board of Alderman meeting at City Hall. Pictured, (l to r) are, front row: Dr. Karla McCullough, Co-Project Director of the I!CAN Mentor Program; Brian Anderson, ASSET Engineering; Mike Yost, ASSET; Yolanda Foster, Merit Health Madison; Ben Barnette, ASSET; Arnel Bolden, Canton Mayor; Toya Veals, Chamber Director; Jeff Ross, Trustmark National Bank; Cassandra Williams, CPSD Superintendent; Daphne Smith, Trustmark; Jonathan Spann, ASSET; Denise Austin, Trustmark; Lamont Crowley, Trustmark and Juanita Doty, Co-Project Director.

Mentoring Movement Program with Canton Public School District (CPSD). A number of businesses are included in the 120 mentors that meet weekly with students at two middle schools and the ninth-grade academy at the high school.

"The businesses in town recognize that the schools need help," said Chamber Director Toya Veals, "and want to be part of the solution. Trustmark Bank, Merit Health Madison, and The Asset Company have taken the lead in getting involved."

Veals also said that the Chamber has an education committee that meets with the CPSD superintendent and public relations director to find ways to make a difference.

According to Michael Crandall, Trustmark Bank's Canton City president, "As Chamber of Commerce president for 2017, Trustmark and the Chamber will continue to focus on and support mentoring to CPSD students."

He continued, "Trustmark is

thriving community. And, that's what we are working for."

Yolanda Foster, Merit Health Madison marketing coordinator, said "It was amazing to see the confidence and maturity that has grown in the students over the past couple of months. They are comfortable speaking in front of their peers and mentors. I only hope that this program will continue for many years to come. It has truly been a rewarding experience."

Ben Barnette, partner at ASSET Engineering, mentors along with three of his staff. He said, "For me, it has helped me gain a better understanding of the hopes and challenges of three young people in Canton. I've also gotten to meet people in Canton I likely never would have met had we not chosen to get involved. This program has helped us see that we are more alike than different and inspired us to continue to invest in one of this community's greatest resources, its children."

Seeing the big picture for a new year in Canton

By Guest Columnist Kathy Amos

Do you have a vision for the new year? You know, The BIG PICTURE! A blueprint for a great



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course of your year.

The Law of the Picture says, "People do what people see." They don't do what they hear but what they visualize. Therefore, we must intentionally focus on what we desire to do and see at the end of this year. If you want to save money, see yourself counting the sum total of what you'd like to save. If you want to buy a new home, see yourself unlocking the door of that house. Stay focused and don't allow your challenges to distract and discourage your creative process. Remember that you're creating a masterpiece that will last a lifetime.

This year can be as incredible as you would dare to envision. It's time to wake up from dreaming and turn that dream into an action plan. The ultimate blueprint to success is your BIG PICTURE.

and successful year. If you have a vision, you can clearly see how the end of this year will look. You've taken some time to pray and reflect, seeking God for what he will say and show you. Habakkuk 2:2 says, "Write the vision, and make it plain upon tables, that he may run that reads it." Perhaps, you've created a vision board or flow chart to track your goals. At any rate, to see the big picture is to see the finished product in the very beginning and keep that finished product in clear view as you transition through the

EDITOR'S NOTE: Kathy Amos is a founding member of The John Maxwell Team and a certified coach, speaker and trainer. She serves as executive pastor of the Turning Point Fellowship Ministries International Church, along with her husband. She is the founder and life coach of Glamdezvous Resorts, and the president of the Turning Point Arts & Entertainment Studio in Canton, a performing arts school, event facility and internet cafe'.

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New Year's success comes from healthy choices

Courtesy NewsUSA

"I'm going to get in shape this year by exercising more and eating healthier."

Have these words ever left your lips during the beginning months of a new year?

The Huffington Post says about 100 million Americans make resolutions every year, but only 45 percent follow through with them.

Making healthy goals is a great way to promote your own well-being by lowering your risk of conditions like heart disease, stroke, diabetes, obesity and more. Here are some tips to help make your objectives doable:

Tip #1: Make smaller, monthly goals rather than one lofty goal.

One year is a long time to work on a goal, but it's also a long time to fall behind on a goal. Instead of setting a New Year's resolution for an entire year, break it up into smaller segments, like monthly goals.

Tip #2: Buddy up.

Making dual resolutions with a friend makes it easier to stick to them. If you're both relying on

each other, you'll be less likely to back out or quit altogether. Partner up with a friend or family member with the same goals as you, then work together to make them happen.

Tip #3: Give yourself a break.

To make your goal more fail-proof, don't set it up to be too difficult to achieve. Be realistic. If your goal is to eat healthier, don't make every food you enjoy off limits. Everything is better in moderation.

Tip #4: Have a support system.

Failure is more likely to happen if the people around you are pressuring you and tempting you to fail. Make sure your friends and family are on board with your resolutions to ensure they won't try to steer you down the wrong path.

New goals are a great way to gain lifelong health (www.lifelonghealth.com) and lower your risk of disease.

Healthy choices can be made any day of the year, so if you find yourself failing, start again or make new ones. It doesn't have to be January to be the start of a healthier you.

Toya recognition.....



Special to The Canton News

Toya Veals, far right, director of the Canton Chamber and Main Street Association (EPWA), was recognized for being named a 2016 honoree of the Empowering Progressive Women's Association. Kathy Amos, EPWA, and Mayor Arnel Bolden presented Veals with a Mississippi-shaped award and proclamation. She was one of twelve 2016 honorees of EPWA, whose vision is to honor and empower women regardless of race, creed, or economic status.

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Canton native launches interactive social media show

Special to The Canton News

The Central Mississippi area is now home to one of the most unique social media shows in the entire country. Canton native Kinoy Brown is the host of the Kinoy Brown Rolling Show. Brown hosts the interactive talk show on Facebook Live each weekday from 8 a.m. until 8:30 a.m. from the cab of his Nissan truck. The show rolls to a different location each day and allows special guests to join the broadcast.

“I started this program mainly as a therapeutic outlet,” said Kinoy Brown, host of the show. “I’m currently on medical leave from my career at Nissan North America in Canton, and I was looking for a way to communicate with people. One day, I made a Facebook Live post and my Facebook friends kept asking for more and more. We decided to unite our listeners around a specific time each day, and now we are taking on causes like our recent Christmas

donation to Youth Villages in Ridgeland.”

The Kinoy Brown Rolling Show has several thousand people who view the program each day. The listeners are cajoled with humorous stories, inspirational segments and special guests. The show also features birthday announcements, anniversary and special event ‘shout outs.’

Brown is a 1995 graduate of Canton High School and attended Alcorn State University. He and his wife Melissa, a registered nurse, reside in Ridgeland with their nine-year-old daughter Kennedy.

“What the viewers see on the Kinoy Brown Rolling Show is just me. I love people and enjoy the instant feedback of sharing on Facebook live,” Brown said. “I always end my show with the same line – ‘I love you and there is nothing you can do about it!’” The Kinoy Brown Rolling Show focuses on networking, health, the promotion of local businesses and good, clean fun.



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CPSD announces plans for Spring Superintendent's Tour

By Cassandra Williams, CPSD Superintendent

Each year, the Mississippi Department of Education assigns In 1982, famous poet and author Dr. Maya Angelou exclaimed through the title of her narrative memoir, that "All God's Children Need Traveling Shoes."

As superintendent of the Canton Public School District (CPSD), I am excited to take that sentiment to heart in spring, 2017. Each of my columns this year has placed strong emphasis on the need for

our school district, our community, and our businesses, to have one heartbeat. We have a tremendous amount of work to do in Canton Public School District, and we are well on our way to building a successful district. It is for this reason, that I want to showcase the positive things that are happening in our district. Additionally, I want to answer any questions that you may have about the work that we are doing, what our goals are, and where we see ourselves going in the near future. Finally, I want to celebrate you and demonstrate the value that I place on your role in our efforts.

Early in our second semester, I will embark on my Spring Superintendent's Tour. My tour will consist of question and answer sessions at restaurants, in neighborhoods, at hair salons and barber shops, and at civic and community organization meetings. During these sessions, I will outline our goals and answer any questions that you may have about our district or individual schools. In case you aren't able to attend these

sessions, I will also post monthly video updates to our district's Facebook and Twitter pages to keep everyone aware of the great things that are happening in our district. We also have two big parent and

community events planned for the spring. Our Parent ED-Travelaganza in February will consist of sessions that will include how to help with children's homework assignments, the process for applying to college, and several others. We'll

culminate the spring semester by hosting a Roaming Park Festival in April where we will have music and food in Canton's three major parks. Finally, I'm most excited about my Breakfast with the Superintendent events in which I will pick up selected students and parents on Saturday mornings and treat them to breakfast!

Canton Public School District is a community effort. It takes us all to move our district forward, and we need your help. If you would like me to come to your business, neighborhood, or community group meeting, please email me at cassandrawilliams@canton-schools.net. I'm ready to put on my traveling shoes...I hope to see you along the way!orting us in meeting our goal.

EDITOR'S NOTE: *With over twenty years in education, Cassandra Williams' focus as superintendent of the Canton Public School District is to increase student achievement through an invigorated emphasis on teaching, learning and nurturing.*



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Canton City employees honored for services



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Turning Point Fellowship Ministries International Church and the churches of Canton, partnered with Mayor Arnel Bolden to recognize 42 City employees for outstanding work and service from 10 years up to 31 years. For the past eight years, the appreciation luncheon has been hosted twice a year in July and December by Apostles Joe and Kathy Amos, their small church family and other churches in the community. Among the partnering churches and pastors are First Baptist Church, Pastor Guy Odom; Grace Fellowship Baptist Church, Pastor Larry Saxton; and Mary Grove M. B. Church, Pastor Carl and First Lady Savannah Fleming.

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Build an relationship this New Year of 2017

By Pastor Guy Odom

Happy New Year! Unreal that it is 2017. But I must tell the truth, I am glad that 2016 is



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over. Even though I am glad 2016 is over, the Lord taught me many things in 2016 such as trust, patience, faith, endurance, and on and on it goes. Anyway, on to 2017 and a new beginning. When I sat down to write this, I really wanted to focus on RELATIONSHIPS. So, that is exactly what I am going to do. But first, I want to vent some frustration. What, you may ask? The Pastor or any pastor venting while writing an article for the Canton News? Yes! 2016 was filled with hate, violence, and destruction in many parts of our Country as well as in our community. It really saddens me when I watch and see with my own eyes how we treat one another as human beings in our

society today! I am 47 years old (even though I don't look it), and truly want to be a godly example to my family, church, and in my community of Canton. I enjoy building relationships with all people as human beings. John wrote in 1 John 4:7 "Dear friends, let us LOVE ONE ANOTHER, for LOVE comes from GOD." Just this one verse alone sums up what God desires for us to be as well as demonstrate. He didn't say love just a few, some, or many. He said ONE ANOTHER. This includes ALL people. Yes, God made us all different and respectfully so, but that doesn't give anyone the right to hate, despise, belittle, or make life miserable for anyone. Unfortunately, here in our own beloved City of Canton, we have hate, prejudice, and jealousy, which in the end leads to destruction of friendship especially RELATIONSHIPS! I want to do something about it! How you may ask? One RELATIONSHIP at a time! Paul wrote, "I can do ALL things through CHRIST who strengthens me." Join me in making a difference in our community in 2017. For heaven's sake, just be a friend to someone and build a RELATIONSHIP this year.

God Bless,
Pastor Guy

EDITOR'S NOTE: Guy Odom has been pastor at First Baptist Church of Canton since 2012. He and his wife, Tommi, have two sons, Ely and Cy. He is originally from Vicksburg.

First Presbyterian names new church secretary



Special to The Canton News

Jackie Buck has been named new church secretary at Canton First Presbyterian Church. She started November 15, and her hours are 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. five days a week. She will also be handling bookkeeping. Buck most recently served in management with a non-profit in Decatur, Alabama. She lives in Madison and has two daughters. Eleanor Touchet owns Pink Peppermint Paper in Madison and also lives in Madison. Amanda is an attorney in Boston.



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Pace promoted to Army major in November ceremony

Special to The Canton News

After six years of dedicated service, Kenesha D. Pace was promoted to the rank of major in the United States Army in a cere-

and being involved in health care related specialties and health outcomes. The field of pharmacy offers a broad opportunity to impact the economical use of medication in both rural



Special to The Canton News

CHS graduate Kenesha D. Pace is Chief of Pharmacy at Army's Fort Drum.

mony that took place November 11 at Fort Drum, New York. She is the daughter of Clarence and Ellawase Pace of Canton.

Pace began her military career after graduation from Canton High School in 2001 by obtaining a four-year Army Reserve Officer Training Corp Scholarship. She completed her post-secondary education as an Army ROTC cadet at Tulane University Orleans Battalion, and graduated from Xavier University of Louisiana with a degree in 2005. After completing her undergraduate degree, she attended Xavier University of Louisiana College of Pharmacy, where she completed her doctoral degree in pharmacy in 2009. Soon after Pace completed a post graduate pharmacotherapy residency at Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center in Shreveport, Louisiana, in 2010 and became a Board-Certified Pharmacotherapy Specialist in December, 2014.

"I have always enjoyed science

and urban societies," said Pace. "The Army provided an avenue for educational funding via scholarships, the opportunity to acquire both medical training, and administrative skills, and the opportunity to live in various parts of the world."

Pace has moved all over the country with the Army, and currently serves as the Chief of Pharmacy at Fort Drum, New York.

"I continue to serve because I love the challenges that my job brings," said Pace. "I always keep in-mind what one of my mentors said, 'If you are not being challenged and learning anything new, then it is time to go home.' Every day I am challenged to provide the best medical support to my fellow service members, retirees, and dependents."

In her spare time, Pace enjoys spending time with friends and family, Latin and ball room dancing, traveling, and reading novels.

County paves community thruway in Canton, MS Center



Special to The Canton News

Madison County recently paved the parking lot behind the recycling wall adjacent to the Canton Community Center and the Madison County Circuit Courthouse. This was done in conjunction with the Hickory Street Revitalization Project. The area was previously not paved. It is joint City/County property. Pictured (l to r) are: Paul Griffin, Madison County Board of Supervisors, District 5; Maureen Simpson, Executive Director of Canton Redevelopment Authority; and Dan Gaillet, Madison County Engineer and Road Manager.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Canton Chamber of Commerce Main Street Association Annual Meeting

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Theme: "Canton-Moving Forward: Together We Thrive"

Speaker: Marshall Ramsey, Award-winning cartoonist for the Clarion Ledger.

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Mayor recognizes 120 !!CAN, A-TEAAM mentor volunteers



Special to The Canton News

Mayor Arnel Bolden recognized mentors of Canton Public School District (CPSD)'s !!CAN Mentor and A-TEAAM Mentoring Initiatives for their community support and outstanding service to our students. During the December Board of Aldermen meeting, the following organizations were honored with certificates: Nichols Middle School !!CAN Mentor Villages/Organizations: Comcast; Rogers High School Class of 1968; Rogers High School Class of 1969; Greater St. Matthew M.B. Church; Trustmark/Canton Chamber; Jackson State University/Dept. of Communicative Disorders; Porter Middle School; Pleasant Green M. B. Church; Priestley Chapel; USDA; Greater Tabernacle Ministries; Madison County Laymen; Hinds Community College/HALS; Canton High School/9th Grade Academy. CANTON HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1975; CANTON HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1971; HUMBLE JERUSALEM/CLASS OF 1973; ASSET ENGINEERS/CANTON CHAMBER; CENTRAL OFFICE/CANTON PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT; CITY OF CANTON. A-TEAAM Mentoring Organizations: Nichols Middle School and Porter Middle School; Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. Upsilon Upsilon Omega Chapter; Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated Madison Alumnae Chapter; 100 Black Men of Canton; Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated Rho Xi Lambda Chapter; Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Incorporated Epsilon Kappa Kappa Chapter. "CPSD thanks these community organizations for going above and beyond the call of duty to help our students succeed and our community grow stronger," said Superintendent Cassandra Williams.

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Language and math guides available for free for parents

Special to The Clinton Courier

The Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) has developed family guides to assist with grade-level at home strategies and activities that support both student and parent understanding of the English language arts and mathematics standards. Parents can use the activity booklets at home to support what their children are learning in the classroom.

The Family Guide for Student Success booklets outline what children should know and be able to do in English language arts and mathematics at each grade level from pre-kindergarten through eighth grade. Dr. Carey Wright, state superintendent of education, said parents understand best their child's needs, strengths, abilities and interests, and they can partner with their child's teacher to provide opportunities to learn and grow.

"Parents are their child's first teacher in life. That responsibility doesn't end when a child enters school. These guides were created to encourage parents and children by reinforcing classroom activities at home and to build a strong partnership with their teachers," Wright said.

The guides list expectations for children at each grade level and activities that families can do at home. They will be translated into

Spanish and available to parents and teachers this month.

Robin Lemonis, MDE's director of Student Intervention Services in the Office of Elementary Education and Reading, led the project to create the booklets as a resource for parents who wanted to help their children reach learning goals but needed examples of how to do it.

"Often parents do not understand the terminology and methodology associated with the standards that their child is expected to learn in each individual grade. This project stemmed from my desire to simplify the language used within the standards so parents could help support their child's learning. In addition, it provides teachers with an opportunity to communicate the needs of the student and offers them a chance to model and share these simple strategies and activities with parents," she said.

MDE staff and Mississippi teachers contributed their expertise and time in the development of the guides.

"I want to thank staff and teachers for all the hard work they put into creating these booklets. I believe that these resources will help build students' knowledge and skills and provide a strong

MDA offers free Business Launchpoint tool kit online

Special to The Clinton Courier

The Mississippi Development Authority Entrepreneur Center's newly re-designed Business Launchpoint planning tool, focusing on successfully launching a business or growing an existing business, is now available for free online.

"MDA's core mission is to expand Mississippi's economy through recruiting new business as well as supporting existing businesses by providing the right tools," said MDA Executive Director Glenn McCullough, Jr. "Business Launchpoint can help Mississippians effectively start and run their own business."

The Business Launchpoint is designed to educate entrepreneurs and small business startups on the proper techniques to successfully launch or maintain a business. With instructions on how to write

a business plan, create a marketing strategy and develop a financial strategy, Business Launchpoint is free to download and available on www.mississippi.org and www.mse-networks.org.

"Mississippi's entrepreneurial spirit is strong, and this tool kit is a valuable resource for business leaders, whether they're considering delving into a startup or adding on to an existing operation," McCullough said.

Covering a variety of business types, the guide will help build a strong foundation for an existing business or help a concept grow by educating entrepreneurs on capitalizing on opportunities, identifying problem areas and successfully securing financing.

The tool kit may be downloaded at www.mississippi.org. For more information, contact Nash Nunnery with MDA's Entrepreneur Center at 601-359-6678.


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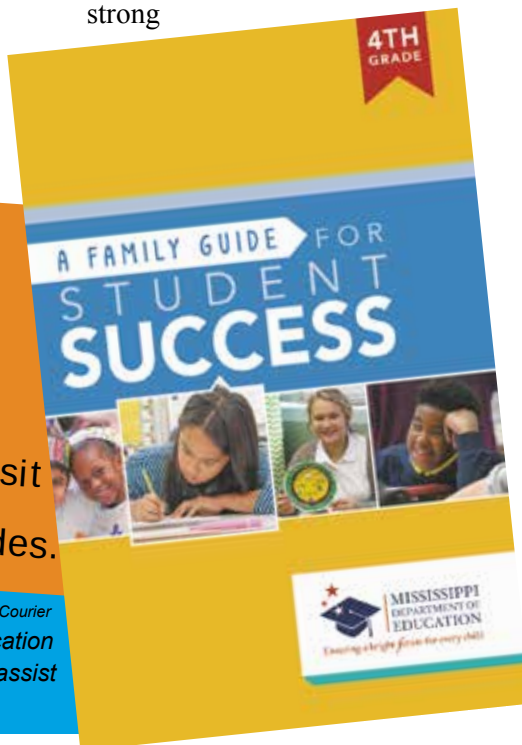
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The Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) developed family guides to assist with grade-level at home strategies.



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Nissan donates \$20,000, conducts volunteer day for Mississippi Food Network's BackPack Program

Special to The Canton News

Nissan made a \$20,000 donation to the Mississippi Food Network as part of its ongoing support for Mississippi children in need. The funds will be used to expand the organization's BackPack Program for students in elementary through junior high school. In addition to the monetary contribution, which will fund 4,000 backpack meals, employees from the Nissan Vehicle Assembly Plant in Canton packaged more than 800 meal kits for the program on November 22 as part of a Nissan day of service.

The BackPack Program is a nationwide initiative that was launched by Feeding America. It provides hungry children with nutritious, easy-to-prepare meals and snacks for the times when they do not have access to breakfast and lunch at school—on weekends and during vacations. The Mississippi Food Network's program currently serves 1,090 children at 25 participating sites each week, and Nissan's contribution will support the distribution of meals at Operation Upward, a non-profit in Jackson, Miss.

"Far too many children in Mississippi are at risk of going hungry

each week. School meals are an important part of the solution, but they are not available every day. That is why the BackPack Program

nearly \$80,000 to the Mississippi Food Network. More than 98 percent of the contributions have gone to the BackPack Program, and they

week from 60 to 120.

To further advance the Mississippi Food Network's mission of relieving poverty-related hunger in Mississippi, Nissan employees assembled 800 meal kits in the non-profit's newly renovated packing room on November 22. They were the first volunteer group to ever assemble kits for the organization, donating their time so that the organization's funds go farther.

"The team at Nissan Canton is always eager to support the Mississippi Food Network, Operation Upward and the critical work they are doing in our community," said Steve Marsh, vice president of manufacturing, Nissan Canton. "We are humbled to play a role in the efforts to ensure that no child experiences hunger."

Since the Canton assembly plant opened in 2003, Nissan and its employees have awarded more than \$12 million in grants, scholarships and in-kind gifts to charitable organizations across Mississippi, with an emphasis on improving the lives of children. Nissan employees also give their time, volunteering in classrooms and with nonprofits focused on youth development and education.



Special to The Canton News

Nissan employees assembled more than 800 meal kits on November 22, as well as donated \$20,000 to the Mississippi Food Network's BackPack Program.

is so important, and supporters like Nissan enable us to help more kids," said Charles H. Beady, CEO of the Mississippi Food Network.

Since 2006, Nissan has donated

have funded 15,800 meals. This year, Nissan doubled its contribution to \$20,000, which will allow Operation Upward to increase the number of students it serves each

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