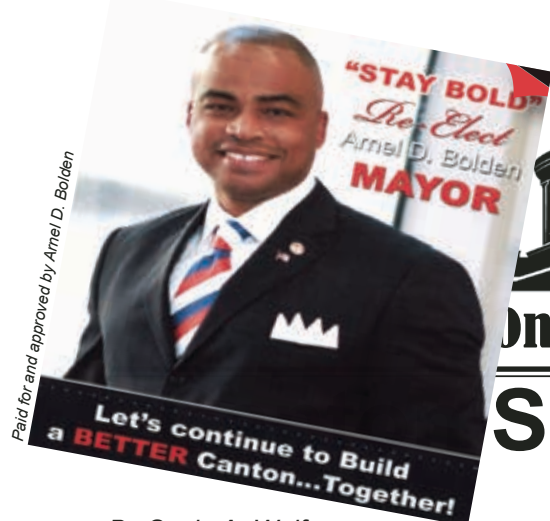


Paid for and approved by Arnel D. Bolden



# THE CANTON NEWS

On Location April 6, 2017 • Volume 3, Number 4 • Canton, Mississippi

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## Square adds new storefronts this year

By Susie A. Wolfe

The Canton Square has been the center of business in Canton for more than 100 years. Buttross Department Store has operated there for 107 years, and is currently renovating its facade. Sulm's has had a couple of locations and has called the Square home for more than 30 years. The newest additions include Legends Sports Bar, Petals & Pails florist, Opera House venue and the Canton History Museum, which showcases Square businesses through the ages.

"The Historic Canton Square is unique. It is the only one of its kind in central Mississippi," said David Crumley, architect and developer, of Crumley Properties, LLC that currently owns six properties on the Square. "The architecture is honest, and it has integrity. It is real. It is a shopping and business destination with a soul."

Today, the Square draws locals and visitors to downtown to shop, have dinner or a snack, pay utility



Special to The Canton News

*The Opera House 1853 is located on the Historic Canton Square. The property has undergone a complete renovation and is for sale or for lease by Briggs Properties.*

bills, get a haircut, visit museums and an art gallery, rent a studio apartment or reserve an event venue, or conduct business with the Madison County Chancery Clerk's office, banks, loans or check cashing, architects, local radio station, lawyers, insurance, a photographer, a tax preparer, and non-profit groups.

"The Canton Square has the

appearance of 40 years ago, so it is perfect for a movie set," said Canton Tourism Director Jana Dear, "but has so much more than the iconic Courthouse sitting in the Square or is the site for the twice-yearly Canton Flea Market."

Last June, a Civil Rights marker was added to Courthouse grounds to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of March Against Fear,

Mississippi's largest Civil Rights March which stopped in Canton.

Chamber of Commerce Director Toya Veals is seeking ways to encourage residents to stay in Canton and shop locally. Beginning in April, the monthly Third Thursday event will draw shoppers with later hours and entertainment.

Within the last 12 months, new merchants have opened, offering shoppers an even better variety to choose from. Dane, Farmhouse and Unique Antiques joined LaDiDa, Sulm's, Margaret's Estate Silver, Reflections Antiques, the Emporium, J & J Outfitters, G & S Baits and Buttross Department Store in selling gifts, home decorating and clothing. Bettina's Soul Food and Legends Sports Bar joined Tomahawk and Subway in providing food offerings. Pam Parker opened a beauty shop to add to the barber shop offerings.

Bettina and Rubin Taylor, Jr., owners of Bettina's, said they love being on the Square. They serve soul food and burgers 7-4 Monday-Friday and 11-4 on Sundays.

## Six vying for Mayor and twenty-eight for Aldermen

Special to The Canton News

With the qualifying deadline for municipal election candidates passed, the 2017 City of Canton election season has begun in earnest. Republican and Democratic primaries will be held May 2, with a runoff election, if needed, on May 16. The general election is scheduled for June 6.

Six Mayoral candidates - one Republican and five Democrats - have qualified to run.

On the Republican side of the race for Mayor, the qualified candidate is restaurant owner Chip Matthews. Democratic contenders include incumbent Arnel Bolden, former mayor Dr. William Truly as well as Glen Cotton, Greg Green, and Myron Johnson.

Twenty-eight candidates for alderman have qualified, three Republicans and twenty-five Democrats.

Six candidates have qualified in Ward 1: Democrats include incumbent Rodriquez Brown and Tameka Clincy-Champion, Fredia Day, Lenderrick "Rico" Taylor, Carnell Thompson, and Roberto Williams.

Ward 2 is between Republican Peggy Winstead and six Democrats vying for the open seat left by Alderman Olivia Harrell, who is not seeking reelection. The Democrats are Lawrence Conway, Fred Esco, Jr., Tomba Fleming, TJ Evans, Ricky Luckett and Renee Truss.

Ward 3 is an open seat this election cycle, where incumbent Alderman Les Penn is unopposed.

Ward 4 is between incumbent Daphne Johnson-Sims and two Democratic challengers, Tom Alexander and Danny Louis.

Ward 5 is between Democratic incumbent Vickie McNeill and Barbara Brown and Cary Johnson.

Ward 6 is incumbent Eric Gilkey versus Henry "Rock" Smith and Tchiakousky Williams.

Ward 7 is incumbent Andrew Grant against Democrats Anthony Denton and Keith Warfield, and Republicans Debbie Bryant Bergansky and Eric Prince.

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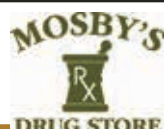
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Immunization



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# From the Mayor's Desk

By Guest Columnist Mayor Arnel Bolden

During the month of April, the season known as Spring is in full swing as we witness a peri-



Special to The Canton News

od of rebirth and renewal. It also reminds me of the scripture, Second Corinthians 5:17, which reads, "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."

With the arrival of spring, I can't help but think of life renewed - blooming flowers, birds returning from their migratory habitats to build nests, and new crops being placed in the soil. New life is everywhere, including my own home, where my wife and I look forward to welcoming our new-

born in April, as well as celebrate our anniversary.

As Mayor of our great city, with our First Lady by my side, we are proud to call Canton home. We are also sincerely grateful for the trust placed in us by you-our citizens. Canton is not only the place we live, attend church, pay taxes, own a business, but one in which we will be adding to the population. Therefore, I cannot waiver in my mission to build a better Canton and improve the quality of life for all families, including my own. Although we have made tremendous accomplishments during the last four years, I'll readily admit that "The Best is Yet to Come!" So, thanks again for your prayers, support, and I humbly appreciate your confidence in me.

May God Bless you and yours, and continue to bless our great City of Canton.

*EDITOR'S NOTE: Arnel Bolden is currently serving 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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# Mayoral Forum

&

## Alderman Candidate Meet and Greet

**Tuesday**

**April 11th, 2017**

**Time: 5:30 pm — 9:00 pm**

Moderated by

David Kenney of WLBT TV 3

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# Know Your Neighbor: Shelby Smith

By Guest Columnist Jim Ritchie

Amazing. That's a word to describe the wide range of talents owned by this month's neighbor. Meet Shelby "Skippy" Smith,

Firestone store, and is one of the oldest continuously family-owned stores on the square. Smith started working there after school and on Saturdays as a youngster and assumed ownership of the business



Special to The Canton News

Jr., businessman, outdoorsman, gardener, wood carver, furniture maker, carpenter, knife maker and gun enthusiast while still enjoying his more important roles as husband, father and grandfather.

Most folks in Canton are familiar with the store Shelby Smith TV and Appliances, which was started in 1945 by Smith's father as a

upon the death of his father.

Years ago, Smith and his wife, Carolyn, received from a friend the gift of a hand carved duck decoy. Smith opined that he could do a better job of carving one, so he set about that task. That he succeeded is evidenced by the array of decoys in his office that look like they can take wing and fly.

His good friend Wicky Mansell was adept at furniture making, so Smith decided to try his hand at that. Beautiful furniture, including a glass faced gun cabinet and a solid walnut rolltop desk, resulted. And, a hankering to make knives resulted in a bevy of incredibly beautiful, collector quality knives, along with, naturally, his hand made leather scabbards. Then, of course, there's the inventory of wooden bowls and intricate round wooden boxes replete with precise fitting caps, turned on his lathe. All of this was self-taught. He even instructed this writer in the correct way to sharpen a chain saw chain. Amazing.

*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 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.*

## CMU recently adds two directors

By Susie A. Wolfe

Canton Municipal Utilities recently added two directors, Chief Financial Officer Stephen Thompson and Human Resource

agement and development. From Port Gibson, Davis has lived in Brandon the last 25 years. She previously served as human resource manager at Mississippi

Alumni Chapter, Jackson (MS) Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., and member of Word of Life Church located in Flowood. She is certified by the Society of Human Resource Managers and Professional of Human Resources.

Stephen Thompson is CMU's new Chief Financial Officer. Originally from Clinton, Thompson, a graduate of Jackson State University, will be in charge of billing, customer service, meter readers and accounting. He will also be involved in economic development.

Thompson spent seven years as captain in the Marine Corps and other pursuits before moving back to Mississippi, where he served as comptroller at WAPT-TV and two and a half years as regional comptroller at WJTV-TV in Jackson. Thompson lives in Clinton and has two daughters, Ashley, a senior who will be attending Mississippi State, and Brooke, a ninth grader. He was formerly on the board of Goodwill, 100 Black Men of Jackson and the Diabetes Association.



Special to The Canton News

Human Resource Director Tracy Davis and CFO Stephen Thompson recently joined the Canton utility.

Director Tracy Davis.

Davis will be leading the organization in areas such as organizational development, strategic utilization of employees to serve business goals and talent man-

Development Authority for 17 years. She has a BS from Alcorn State University and a Masters from Jackson State University.

Her organization membership includes Metro Jackson Alcorn



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## CA alum traveling abroad



Special to The Canton News

Daniel Smith, a 2013 graduate of Canton Academy, was recently named a recipient of the 2017 Aydelott Travel Award, which includes funds of \$20,000 for international travel to support his research on modern architecture this summer. He is a third-year studio student in the MS State School of Architecture and traveled to Italy with MSU last summer for a four-week study of architecture and arts. He will use this award to continue his study in Brazil, France, Germany, and Bangladesh.

## Local librarians announce the "Library Love Letters"

Special to The Canton News

Do you love your library?

The staff of the Madison County Library System needs you to tell the world what you love about it.

On March 1, the library launched the "Library Love Letters" campaign to let funding officials know just how important libraries are to the people they serve. Spearheaded by the Advocacy Committee of the Mississippi Library Association, the project is designed to give patrons an easy way to show their support for libraries all over the state.

"We need the support from our

community now more than ever," said Tonja Johnson, Director. "The legislature is proposing cuts to state library funding that could result in serious changes to our library's services and staffing."

The library will be supplying oversized postcards for patrons to tell why the library is important to them. "The staff will collect and send the letters to local, state and national elected officials," said Johnson. "All patrons will need to do is tell why they love

the library."

For more information about this campaign, contact your local MCLS branch or visit [www.mcls.ms](http://www.mcls.ms).



**Artist Mark Millet**  
upper school art



**Kathleen Sorrell Penn**  
middle school math



**Betsy Pace**  
basketball  
district champs



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On December 15, 2016, Msurance acquired the assets of Roberts Insurance. We are operating both offices for a short period of time. The Roberts Insurance office on the Square will remain open no later than June 15, 2017. After June, all customer service will be provided out of Msurance's main office, located at 160 East Peace Street, conveniently located across from Regions Bank and next to McAlister's.

Msurance brings several more options for our customers along with Roberts Insurance customers. We have added several National Carriers within the last few months to provide further service to Canton.

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# Prediabetes

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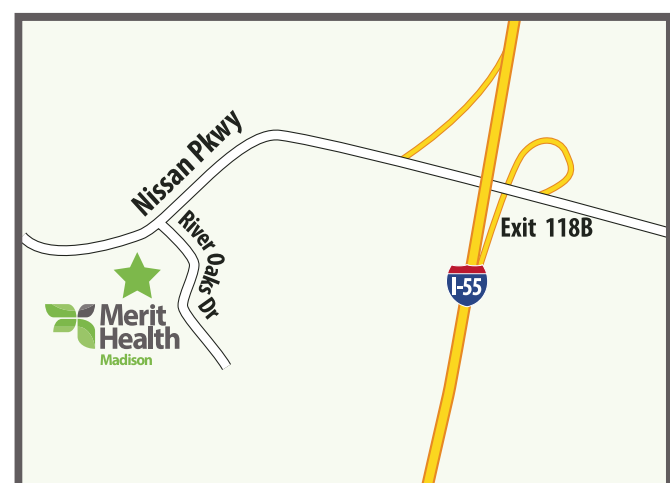
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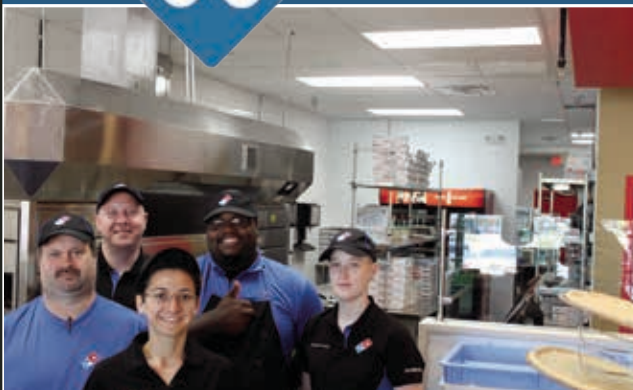
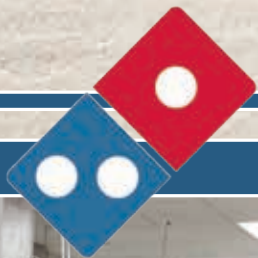
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# Easter is about resurrection

By Guest Columnist Pastor Guy Odom



Special to The Canton News

Unreal! No, I really mean, unreal! It's been a very different late winter and early spring, hasn't it? Spring has sprung, no matter what weather pattern has hit here lately. The trees are budding, the flowers are blooming, and the grass is already being mowed! Yes, in late February, I was mowing grass!

The neat thing about all of this is just reflecting on WHO is in control of the weather and Mother Nature. God is just too good. All the time, God is good. Every year after winter, it is just absolutely mesmerizing to watch Mother Nature come alive. God brings life back to Mother Nature after He uses winter to kill most of it off. It's just beautiful.

It's also that time of year where we, as Christians, celebrate Easter. Now, understand, as Christians, we celebrate Jesus Christ year round and

not just at Easter, but, Easter must always remind us that LIFE has come. Eternal life, that is. No other "so - called" god has ever risen again from the dead. No other "so - called" god went to a cross and paid the penalty for your sin and my sin, like Jesus did. Without the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, there would certainly be no faith, no eternal life, and no NOTHING.

Jesus said in John 11:25-26 "I AM the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" Because Jesus Christ is fully God and fully Man, you can have eternal life because of Easter! This is what Easter is truly about. "For the wages of sin (darkness) is death, but the gift (gospel) of God is eternal life (light) through Christ Jesus our Lord." Romans 6:23

Have a Great Easter. Join us in one of our two services on April 16. May God bless.

*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.*



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## RENEE on the ISSUES



**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:** As a city, we must do better recruiting more JOBS to Canton. We must also BUILD and PREPARE our labor force by having a workforce development training program. "If we recruit more JOBS, we must be prepared for more JOBS!"

**OPEN AND TRANSPARENT GOVERNMENT:** For too long the citizens of Canton have been left out of City Hall and City Leaders have been recklessly spending the city's resources. My plan is to keep the citizens of Ward 2 INFORMED of government issued contracts and shady business dealings.

**INCREASED FUNDING FOR CANTON POLICE DEPARTMENT:** Canton Police officers are working to PROTECT us from becoming victims of crimes. We need to ensure our Canton Police officers are protected by having better equipment to do their job.

**BETTER QUALITY OF LIFE:** You work hard to earn a living, you deserve to be able to come home and enjoy your family. We need BETTER PARKS and AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES for our youth!

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# Canton History Museum to open on the Square

By Susie A. Wolfe

The Historic Canton Square has something for everyone, including museums. In addition to the Multicultural and Film museums, the Canton Tourism office is opening

and inspire the younger generation that they can do even better.”

Dear said that the museum will feature the megaphone used by the town crier that has been featured in *National Geographic Magazine*. Some of the scenes include



Photo by Jud Meaders

a history museum next to the Tourism office to showcase “the businesses that make Canton what it is today,” said Tourism Director Jana Padgett Dear.

“The museum will keep changing as business in Canton changes,” she said. “Many of Canton’s citizens have donated pieces of history that remind the older generation about the good times, and teach

a Seale Lily soda fountain, Dr. Spivy dental office, Saab’s Fine Fashions, and a replica of the front of the Grogan cabin. There will also be animation figures for the kids to enjoy.

Dear said, “We all have a story to tell, and if we don’t tell it, it won’t get told.”

A date has not been set for the opening. Admission will be \$5.

# Canton cleanup projects making a big difference

By Guest Columnist Joy Dodson, Keep Canton Beautiful Director

The response from Keep Canton Beautiful’s first event, Ritches to Ditches, was inspiring as people got out all around Canton and

al event, but if you don’t want to wait until next year, we have THE GREAT AMERICAN CLEAN-UP, which will take place on Earth



Special to The Canton News

filled over 35 huge bags, which were donated thanks to our national sponsor, Glad.

We have had emails, texts, Facebook posts, and some folks came into the Chamber office to show off what they had done, and I can already see a huge difference around Canton. We had groups who cleaned up on Highway 16, and then planted azaleas under the Canton sign; ladies that walked Peace Street and cleaned up in the rain; kids who cleaned up their neighborhoods with Mayor Bolden; a family who collected over ten full bags from Nissan Parkway; kids who picked up bottles and trash near Walmart; and Tractor Supply...the list continues to grow every day, actually!

This will surely be an annu-

Day, April 22. Look for more details soon, because we are working with Waste Pro to come up with a plan for that day right now. Keep Canton Beautiful is not stopping at just trash pickup either; we are on a mission to take steps each day to improve and revitalize Canton! We know that Canton is already charming and quaint with so much history, and we are not trying to change what Canton is to so many people; we are trying to spruce it up to show it off. Improving upon what we already have will bring people here to shop, eat, buy empty buildings/homes and more.

Keep Canton Beautiful would like to thank all of the sponsors who helped make this event possible and all of the citizens who went out and cleaned up the ditches.



Innovation that excites

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# Cancer Awareness Month observed in month of April

By Guest Columnist LaToya Bolden, MD

Cancer continues to be the second leading cause of death in the United States, outnumbered only



Special to The Canton News

by cardiovascular disease. Given this harsh reality, there's no wonder April is one of nine months wherein the American Cancer Society formally promotes awareness. April heralds the following: National Cancer Control Month; National Minority Cancer Awareness Week; National Oral, Head, and Neck Cancer Awareness Week; and Testicular Cancer Awareness Month. More than merely wearing a ribbon of a designated color, cancer awareness prompts us to show compassion to survivors and caregivers, remember those whose demise has been caused by this dreaded disease, and to support research aimed at the discovery of a cure.

Bringing it home, the story of cancer has been made personal for many Cantonians. Our community can continue the journey along the road to healing and coping with the effects of this mass atrocity by doing the following:

1. Share your stories as a way to offer encouragement and support to others. Being transparent, I

share how my life has been significantly affected by the perils of cancer. Early in my medical career, I provided anesthetic care to countless patients undergoing cancer surgeries at M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, one of the preeminent cancer centers in the world devoted exclusively to caring for cancer patients. Later in life, I would realize how God used that experience to prepare me to deal with being a caregiver to my only brother, who ultimately succumbed after a valiantly fought battle with cancer at the age of 43.

2. Embrace healthy lifestyle modifications and undergo routine checkups/screenings from your healthcare providers.

3. Stay informed, and be an active participant and supporter of local venues aimed at improving the health and welfare of our citizens.

To date, no cure for cancer has been found. Although research in the field shows promise, we must be vigilant in our efforts to educate and inform others about healthy habits designed to detect and prevent the proliferation of this menace to our society.

May God watch over and protect you and yours.

*EDITOR'S NOTE: Dr. LaToya Mason Bolden, MD, is a Board-Certified Anesthesiologist with more than 12 years of experience. She currently is Associate Professor of Anesthesiology, Director of Obstetric Anesthesia Education, and Associate Chief of Obstetric Anesthesia at the University of Mississippi Medical Center.*

# BankPlus announces initiative to support the women in businesses

Special to The Canton News

"The Source" will support Mississippi women in business with mentoring and networking opportunities. BankPlus is the first Mississippi bank to offer an initiative of this scale to women in business.

BankPlus announced the launch of The Source, an initiative designed to provide Mississippi women in business with access to capital, mentoring support and networking opportunities to succeed in business.

The Source will launch with the goal to loan \$50 million from BankPlus to women seeking to start a business, grow a business or for any other business purpose. This investment further demonstrates the bank's continued commitment to the communities it serves.

"We are extremely excited to launch The Source as a community-wide initiative for all women in business," said Bill Ray, President and CEO of BankPlus. "Many of our state's great businesses were started by women and many of our business leaders are female. We believe that if we can provide critical information to help all women succeed in business, our communities will thrive."

The Source launches with an impressive list of Mississippi business women on the initiative's Founding Advisory Panel. Members of The Source Advisory Panel will act as a resource to participants in The Source network.

"I am excited to be a part of The Source program and give back to the community," said Founding Advisory Panel Member Marlo Kirkpatrick of Kirkpatrick & Porch Creative. "Plus I know I have so many things to still learn, both from other women with more experience and from today's generation of women who can help keep my skills up-to-date."

"The BankPlus workforce is 74% female and we represent all levels of management, many in senior leadership roles. Our bank understands there is a direct correlation between a successful female and a successful community," said Katy Hedglin, Director of The Source.

This unique initiative will draw on the bank's resources to create programming relevant to women in business directed by industry experts. Programs for The Source will include educational and networking events, mentoring opportunities and business planning meetings. Educational events for The Source will cover topics such as management, human resources, growth, marketing, technology, business planning, personal finance, sales, social media and more. Already scheduled sessions include How to Speak Confidently, Maximizing Your First Impression and Women Investing Now. The program is designed for all women in business, across varied industries, business sizes and professions.

For additional information or to participate in The Source, visit [www.thesource.net](http://www.thesource.net).

HAPPY EASTER  
FROM THE CANTON NEWS

  
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# Educational Foundation seeking funding for CPSD

*Special to The Canton News*

The Canton Public Schools' Educational Foundation is seeking to provide scholarship funding for eligible students at Canton High School to take college credit-bearing courses and be dually enrolled at Holmes Community College.

Community members who have volunteered to lead this foundation in its mission include:

Michael Crandall (Trustmark) - President  
 Dr. Juanita Sims-Doty (CPSD) - Vice President  
 John Scanlan - Secretary  
 Bob Montgomery - Treasurer  
 Zach New - Member  
 Toya Veals - Member

The Foundation recently sponsored a fundraising reception to generate scholarship funds for students' enrollment costs. The event added over \$5,000 to the fund for scholarships.



All photos Special to *The Canton News*

The organization has released an "Honor Roll" to highlight the generosity of the community, businesses, and organizations of Canton and the surrounding areas. Foundation leadership say the Honor Roll is proof that the community's effort to create a village of support for CPSD students is working.

The Honor Roll includes:

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Upsilon Upsilon Omega Chapter; Bank-Plus; Canton Rotary Club; Carson Consulting Services, LLC.; Jennifer Clanton; Desmond & Puller Adult Daycare Center, LLC.; Greater Tabernacle Ministries; Martina B. Griffin; Interdenominational Ministers Alliance; Miriam B. Koury; Madison County Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.; Madison County Business League; Mississippi Community Education Center; Annie Harris; Myron Johnson; Beverly Mitchell; C R Montgomery; Dr. A. P. Durfey, Jr.; Dr. Cory Murphy; Nancy New; Zach New; 100 Black Men of Canton; Lillie Porter; Jeffrey L. Ross; Dr. Juanita Sims-Doty; Small Town Music; Mr. & Mrs. Sam P. Smith-Vaniz; TempStaff; Trustmark National Bank; Vibha Vig; and Pearl E. Wales.

For more information about the CPSD Educational Foundation, see page 15 of this paper, or email CPSD Superintendent Cassandra Williams at [cassandrawilliams@cantonschools.net](mailto:cassandrawilliams@cantonschools.net).

# Surgical oncologist Ley joins Merit Health Medical

*Special to The Canton News*

Surgical oncologist Phillip Ley, MD, FACS, has joined the practice of Merit Health Medical Group.

Houston.

"Dr. Ley is an excellent surgical oncologist who is compassionate to his patients throughout their cancer journey," Merit Health



*Special to The Canton News*

With more than 20 years of experience, Dr. Ley specializes in breast cancer surgery, and performs additional surgeries to treat melanoma, sarcoma and endocrine (thyroid) surgery. He brings the benefits of advanced research, training and techniques to his patients.

"We are pleased to have a specialist of Dr. Ley's caliber on the Merit Health team," Merit Health CEO Steve Dobbs said. "He provides a wealth of resources to the residents of the communities we serve."

Dr. Ley completed pharmacy school at the University of Texas in Austin before enrolling at Baylor College of Medicine. He completed his residency in general surgery at Texas A&M University's Scott & White Clinic in Temple, Texas, then went on to complete a surgical oncology fellowship through the University of Texas at MD Anderson Cancer Center in

Woman's Hospital CEO Sherry Pitts said. "In addition, he is an advocate for breast cancer research and prevention, and is continually exploring options for his patients, such as genetic testing for patients with a family history of breast cancer."

Dr. Ley is board certified by the American Board of Surgery. He is a member of a variety of organizations, such as the Society of Surgical Oncology, American Society of Breast Surgeons, the American College of Surgeons and the American Society of Clinical Oncology. As part of his work, he is a clinical cancer genomic research associate for City of Hope National Medical Center, a renowned comprehensive cancer center, in Duarte, Calif.

Dr. Ley is on the active medical staff of Merit Health Woman's Hospital and Merit Health River Oaks. For more information, call (601) 933-6132.

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## EPWA honors Bettina's



*The Empowering Progressing Women's Association (EPWA) recently gave special recognition for outstanding service to Bettina Taylor, owner of Bettina's Soul Food. Taylor is the first recipient to receive the Business Women's Leadership Award in Canton. Taylor (fifth from left) is pictured with Canton Mayor Arnel Bolden (third from right) and Dr. LaToya Bolden (far left), both EPWA members. Also pictured are some of Taylor's staff.*

Special to The Canton News

## Re-Elect

**Vickie McNeill Alderman** DISTRICT 5

Alderman Vickie McNeill was born and raised in Canton's Ward 5 district. She wants to continue to fulfill her promise made to her predecessor, the late Reuben Myers, Sr., who asked her to run after he realized his health was failing.

Vickie McNeill keeps her promises. She secured a \$500,000 grant to install Safe Route sidewalks for children's safety. She secured financial assistance to refurbish more than 20 home in Ward 5, with another three underway. She joined others to secure funds to fix the sewage problems that plagued Ward 5 for 60 years.

**VOTE MARCH 3 TO RE-ELECT  
VICKIE MCNEILL ALDERWOMAN WARD 5**

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## Mayoral Forum

April 11, 2017

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# Canton glows in sunset



Photo by Jud Meaders

Jud Meaders opened Academy Suite Studios recently and caught this photo of lightning in the distance from his upstairs balcony on Peace Street.



On May 2, 2017 vote for a person who has the leadership and experience to bring about a change at city hall; someone who isn't afraid to speak up and speak out for those who have no voice.

## Profile:

- Member of Priestly Chapel Missionary Baptist Church
- Canton High School Graduate
- Southern Arkansas University Graduate-B.B.A
- Captain U.S. Army Reserve
- Iraq War Veterans OIF III with 22 years of service
- Member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc.

## Continue service to City of Canton:

- Seek out every opportunity to recruit employers to Canton
- Increase minimum wage for city employees
- Increase service wages for Police and Fire Department
- Push to reduce Utility Rates
- Improve Sewer Services
- Reduce Crime
- Improve City Streets
- Community Beautifications

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## Lions recognize members



Special to The Canton News

Bobby Long, left, and Herb Power were awarded the Melvin Jones Fellow Award for serving the Lions Club International for 31 and 29 years, respectively. The Canton Lions Club raises money through the recent March Auction and Bar-B-Que to support those who need eye or hearing assistance in Canton and Madison County, among other activities.

## ON May 2 VOTE FOR FRED ESCO, JR. FOR ALDERMAN WARD 2

I have the experience and background to help build our city into a model city. I will work to bring about positive change for our city by helping to provide leadership to the Board of Aldermen.



I will work to bring unity among Board members. I will have regular meetings with the citizens of Ward Two, so your voice will be heard at City Hall.

I want to thank all of you in advance for your vote and support.

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# CPSD's Foundation holds a fundraising event

By Guest Columnist Superintendent Cassandra Williams

In my November column, I told you about our efforts to increase the number of high school students who take credit-bearing college courses through dual enrollment at Holmes Community College. In addition to increasing Canton High School's accountability rating, the benefits of taking advanced and college credit-bearing courses are significant for students. Students who take and are successful in these courses are more prepared for college, because they will be pre-exposed to college-level rigor. These students often save on college expenses by taking introductory level courses while still in high school. Students with this type of high school preparation often graduate from college early, or they are able to take even more rigorous course work in college. The focus on college and career readiness in high school is a big-picture approach to providing our community, state, and nation with a workforce that is fully prepared for success.

Last school year, we had only two students who were dually enrolled. I am thrilled that we currently have seventy-two students enrolled in college-level courses

at Holmes Community College. Though the fee for college cred-

es, which will allow them to enter college with several college credits. We have identified that a primary reason for students' pre-



Special to The Canton News

Pictured (l to r) with Superintendent Cassandra Williams are Canton Public Schools' Educational Foundation members: Toya Veals, John Scanlon, Dr. Juanita Sims-Doty, Superintendent Cassandra Williams, Nancy New, Zach New, Mike Crandall, and Bob Montgomery.

it-bearing courses is significantly cheaper for students who take courses in high school (as opposed to once they are fully enrolled in college), the \$100 per class fee is still significant for many students. Additionally, some students are eligible to take several courses

previous non-participation was their inability to pay for the courses. To address this need, we established the Canton Public Schools' Educational Foundation to seek and provide funding for eligible students at Canton High School to take college credit-bearing

courses and be dually enrolled at Holmes Community College.

On Thursday, March 9, our foundation sponsored a fundraising reception on the Canton Square to generate scholarship funds for our students' enrollment costs. Canton native Grady Champion provided entertainment for potential donors as we discussed the importance of this initiative. We were pleased beyond measure to add \$5,500 to our scholarship fund! The generosity of the community, businesses, and organizations of Canton and the surrounding areas is proof that our effort to create a village of support for our students is working. If you would like to join us in developing students who will be valuable assets to the city, state, and nation, please email me at [cassandrawilliams@cantonschools.net](mailto:cassandrawilliams@cantonschools.net). We are doing phenomenal things in our district, and we would love for you to join our efforts.

**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.

## Community Holy Week service dates set

Special to The Canton News

First Presbyterian Church announces the Annual Community Holy Week Services at noon each day, beginning Monday, April 10 through Friday, April 14.

The half-hour service will be followed by a complimentary light luncheon hosted by the church of the day and assisted by the First Presbyterian Women. Below is a schedule of services for Holy Week:

**Monday:** Grace Episcopal Church, Rev. Beth Foose

**Tuesday:** First United Methodist Church, Rev. David Lowery

**Wednesday:** Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Fr. Michael O'Brien

**Thursday:** First Baptist Church, Rev. Guy Odom

**Friday:** First Presbyterian Church, Rev. Steve Bryant

On Maundy Thursday, April 13, at 6 p.m., there will be "A Service of Darkness."

The Service of Tenebrae has a rich tradition in the church, dating back to the eighth century. The word "tenebrae" is derived from Latin and means "darkness." Through word and music, this service dramatizes the suffering, death, and burial of Jesus Christ. As the service moves from light into darkness, the diminishing light symbolizes the fading devotion of the apostles as well as the impending death of Jesus Christ. This is a service of contemplation in preparation for the joy celebrated with Christ's resurrection on Easter Day.

For more information, call 601-859-4738.

## Service Dates:

### Monday:

Grace Episcopal Church,  
Rev. Beth Foose

### Tuesday:

First United Methodist  
Church, Rev. David Lowery

### Wednesday:

Sacred Heart Catholic  
Church, Fr. Michael  
O'Brien

### Thursday:

First Baptist Church, Rev.  
Guy Odom

### Friday:

First Presbyterian Church,  
Rev. Steve Bryant

## Priestly will host revival

Special to The Canton News

The Priestley Chapel M.B. Church will hold its Spring



Special to The Canton News

Revival Sunday through Tuesday, April 9-11, at 7 p.m. The theme, "Standing Firm in the Lord," will be delivered nightly by the guest minister, Rev. Jonathan Phillips, pastor of Union Baptist Church in Brandon and Smith Chapel Baptist Church in Flora.

The church is located at 177 Virililia Road in Canton. For more information, call 601-859-8449.



# The Workers' Rights Movement comes to Canton

By Guest Columnist Matthew Jackson

Saturday, March 3, 2017 -- It's 12:30 p.m. on a beautiful, temperate day in Canton. Cars, vans, and buses are filling the parking lots at the Canton Sportsplex. People have been arriving for a while now, coming to participate in the March On Mississippi. Some come for the speakers, some are employees at Nissan, and others are simply there to support the Nissan workers.

Background: The March On Mississippi was organized by the Mississippi Alliance for Fairness at Nissan, a group created to address issues at the plant. Workers at the plant claim that Nissan is using intimidation and threats to keep them from voting on whether or not they would like to form a union to represent the workforce at the Canton plant. They say that the lack of a union has led to unequal pay and unsafe working conditions, like those that led to OSHA recently fining Nissan over \$20,000 for multiple safety violations.

Nissan has released a statement responding to the safety claims, stating in part: "We dedicate extensive time and resources to safe-

ty programs and training at the plant...Nissan's Canton plant has a safety record that is significantly better than the national average..." And responding to claims of work-



Photo by Matthew Jackson

er intimidation: "The allegations made by the union are totally false...Nissan respects and values the Canton workforce, and our history reflects that we recognize

the employees' rights to decide for themselves whether or not to have third-party representation."

The March: The March kicked off around 1 p.m., beginning with

and actor/activist Danny Glover. "The eyes of the country, the eyes of the world are on you at this moment...all of our people deserve decent wages and decent benefits...[this is] a struggle for dignity," said Senator Sanders, to a loud and enthusiastic crowd.

The marchers began their 2.5 mile trek to Nissan at about 1:45 p.m., the final goal of which was to deliver an official letter of complaint to Nissan. The crowd was diverse and upbeat, and consisted of Nissan workers, members of the UAW from other plants, students, retired workers, families, and many who had come out to support the employees of Nissan.

As they marched, the people talked, laughed, and chanted. Two of the most common chants were: "What do we want? Justice! When do we want it? Now!" and "Show me what democracy looks like. This is what democracy looks like!"

There were no reports of issues, even with the large crowds and a small group of people protesting the march. Everyone was bused back to the Sportsplex from Nissan, and the crowds dispersed peacefully.

## Velma Jackson High School excelled in 2016-2017 sports



Special to The Canton News

Velma Jackson athletics was the topic of discussion at a recent Rotary meeting. Pictured (l to r) are AD/Football Coach Bernard Euell, basketball seniors Jamuel Brooks, Travis Brown, Coach Anthony Carlyle, and Kiryne Jobe, with VJHS Foundation Vice-Chairman Bob Montgomery. The group recognized VJHS for their district championships in football, boys and girls basketball and powerlifting. The boys basketball team also just won their fourth 3A championship in five years. The Canton Rotary Club was an original sponsor of the VJHS Foundation that recognizes and promotes the school and academic success.

## Canton Garden Club holds plant and bake sale April 22

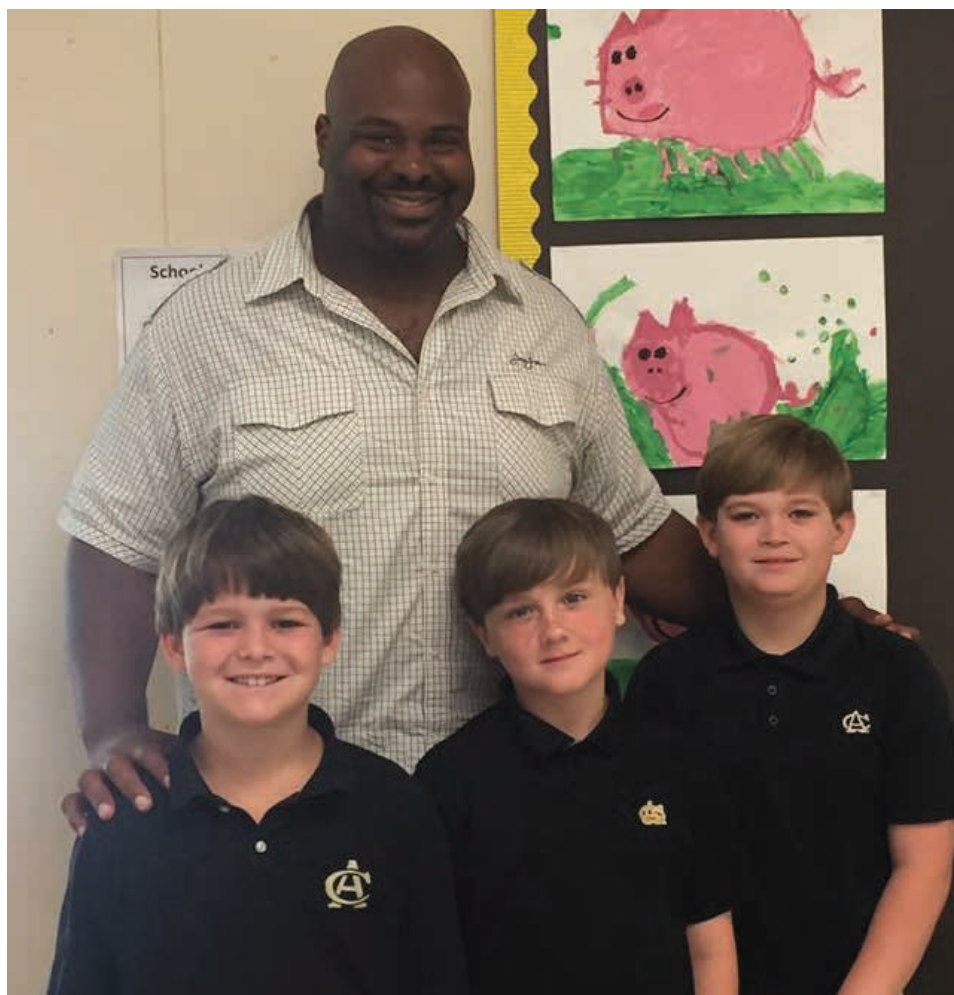


Special to The Canton News

The Canton Garden Club Annual Plant and Bake Sale will be on April 22, at the gin located at 436 West Peace Street at Small Town Music, between 9-12. There will be lots of plants and baked goods for sale.



# “Porkchop” Womack visits CA



Special to The Canton News

Canton Academy enjoyed a visit from Mississippi State alum and pro football player, Floyd “Porkchop” Womack, during chapel in March. He gave an inspirational talk about doing your best, working hard and answered lots of questions about his football career.

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# Myron C. Johnson announces run for 2017 Mayor's post

By Myron C. Johnson

I announced my candidacy via social media on March 2, 2017, with great responses. I was born and raised in Canton, and I am also a proud product of the Canton Public School system, where I was a successful student and athlete. I credit my achievements to my firm faith in God. In addition, I am a lifelong member of Liberty M.B. Church in Canton, MS, and believe serving God is the foundation for serving others. Being a successful business man, I founded Energizer Entertainment, of which I am a DJ (Disc Jockey) that provides live entertainment, poetry, motivational speaking and comedy shows for adults. However, I do have my

own non-profit organization that I am currently working on for the citizens of Canton.

In 2001, I had the honor of graduating from Canton High School receiving a football scholarship to Holmes Community College, where I played football. Once graduated in 2003 with my associate degree in liberal arts, I attended Jackson State University, majoring in sociology receiving my Bachelor of Art degree in 2008. Since forever I have always been a man with a heart to serve, and in 2010 that desire led me to join Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. (active member). Being determined and persistent, I went on to graduate with my



Special to The Canton News

master's degree in counseling studies from Capella University in 2013. One thing I've always wanted to do was to give others in my community an opportunity to grow by providing access to various activities/outlets I may not have had as a child growing up. I held a "Stay in School" event (for ages 6-12) in Canton each year during 2011-2014, this event was free to the public. The event was held at various locations in Canton. In 2015, I held a "Boys 2 Men Youth Luncheon" at the Canton Community Center, there, young men received encouragement and inspiring words from some great speakers. During the summer of 2016, I assisted my twin brother Byron with his fitness/health classes for the City of Canton that was free to the public. I truly believe in volunteering my time whenever needed, I have provided my DJ (Disc Jockey) services for local schools in the Canton Public School District, American Cancer Society, and Tougaloo Upward Bound program. In addition to that I also served as a

baseball/football coach for the little league teams in Canton.

My vision for the city of Canton is to improve the education system, support local businesses, healthier community, recreation for our youth and public safety. Being that I am "tech-savvy" myself, one of my goals is to move the city forward, by providing technology programs to build skills and enrich others. In addition, I will be seeking to bring more revenue and/or businesses to the city of Canton. I have a vision for our city, and I am determined to make changes towards that vision that we all can see.

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Jud Meaders, owner

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**You're invited to Walk the Square with the Mayor!**

**Come join in the launching of "Let's Move Canton"!**

**Saturday, April 8, 2017**  
**8:00 AM**

Location: The Historic Canton Square (Look for the red balloons)

Participants are asked to wear a red T-shirt to promote heart health.



For More Information Contact Kywana Davis at Canton City Hall:  
Phone Number: 601-391-7721 or Email: [mayorbolden@gmail.com](mailto:mayorbolden@gmail.com)  
or Silbrina Wright at 601-720-5564 or Email: [Staybold2017@gmail.com](mailto:Staybold2017@gmail.com)



# Microscopes donated to CA



Special to The Canton News  
Merit Health recently donated two microscopes to Canton Academy. Pictured (l to r) are Dwayne Blaylock, CEO, Merit Health River Oaks; Christie Hull, CFNP, Merit Health Medical Group; Ron Jurney, headmaster, Canton Academy; Dr. Kristi Trimm, Merit Health Medical Group and Michael Gosa, board member, Canton Academy.

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# 2017

“TOGETHER WE CAN DO BETTER...”



# Weatherspoons lead VJ to fourth 3A championship

By Susie A. Wolfe

Coach Anthony Carlyle of Velma Jackson High School (VJHS) in Camden won his fourth champion-

said Carlyle. "I was proud to see them work hard all year to overcome adversity and be able to enjoy the fruits of their labor. This was a resilient group of guys that I enjoyed

will be playing with his older brother at Mississippi State (MSU), where he has committed for 2017-2018.

Senior Nik, 18, and sophomore Brandon, 16, led VJHS's road to

At MSU, Quindary was a leader in the March 9 SEC win against LSU with 19 points. As a freshman, he was named to the SEC All-Freshman team. He had the game-win-



Photo by Susie A. Wolfe

Coach Anthony Carlyle, center, is shown with the trophy after the Falcons' fourth 3A championship win at the Mississippi Coliseum on March 11.

ship in the last five years with the help of the Weatherspoon brothers. One or two of the Weatherspoons, Quindary, Nikolas or Brandon, have been part of the Velma Jackson Falcons' state championships in 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2017.

"This fourth championship was special because of how the players responded from last year's defeat,"

coaching. This probably ranks as the best of the four, because we didn't have the big-name guys from the past championships, but we still got the same results."

The sons of Sharon and Tommie Weatherspoon enjoy playing together. Quindary and Nikolas (Nik) won back-to-back championships in 2014 and 2015, and next year Nik



Photo by Susie A. Wolfe

Pictured with Coach Carlyle in yellow; Nik Weatherspoon was named player of the championship game. He will attend Mississippi State University next year.

the championship, with Nik being named player of the game with 18 points, eight rebounds, four assists, four steals and two huge blocks. In the semi-final win over Holly Springs, the brothers had 48 of the team's 67 points. Nik had 26 points, nine rebounds, five assists and four steals, while Brandon had 22 points, four rebounds and two steals.

ning 3-pointer at the buzzer against Vanderbilt, and two plays made the ESPN Top 10.

"Quindary picked up where he left off in high school," said Carlyle. "He settled into his game as the (freshman) year went on and did great."

Carlyle has said that he will not be back next year, but has not yet announced where he will coach.

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# Nissan builds Habitat home for local Canton family

Special to The Canton News

Every year for more than a decade, the Nissan Canton Vehicle Assembly Plant has joined forces with Habitat for Humanity Mississippi Capital Area (HFHMCA) to build affordable, sustainable homes in the local community. This year, Nissan employees are focusing their efforts on building a home for a local family in the Richard Circle neighborhood of Canton.

Hundreds of employee volunteers from Nissan are taking part in an eight-day build from February through April for Mildred Daughtery and her son.

“Nissan is very proud and fortunate to call Canton our home for the last 14 years,” said Steve Marsh, vice president of Manufacturing, Nissan Canton. “We are honored to again have this opportunity to partner with Habitat for Humanity Mississippi Capital Area and to work alongside the Daughtery family so that they can call Canton home, too.”

Nissan’s national partnership with Habitat began in 2005, in re-

sponse to hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Nissan donated \$1 million, provided 50 Nissan Titan trucks to

employees to assist in home building. Since 2006, Nissan employees have helped to build more than 60

teer hours.

“Nissan Canton’s sponsorship this year of a house in Canton is the latest in a long and generous history of their partnership with us,” said Merrill McKewen, executive director, HFHMCA. “Nissan employees demonstrate the highest ideals of volunteerism, putting their hearts into action as they work alongside partner families, helping them build their new homes. We are proud to be their partner.”

Daughtery is looking forward to working with Nissan employee volunteers on her house.

“I can’t wait to get to know the Nissan volunteers and work with them,” she said. “This is a wonderful blessing that Nissan and Habitat for Humanity are doing for my family. My late husband and I had dreamed of owning a home. I know he is looking down from heaven, smiling, and he is grateful to everyone who is helping me and my son.”

To learn more about becoming a HFHMCA donor, volunteer or homeowner, please call 601-353-6060 or visit [www.habitatmca.org](http://www.habitatmca.org).



Photo by Matthew Jackson

Day four volunteers from Nissan pictured (l to r) are, front row: Joseph Flowers, Angie Miggins, Helelaine Osborn, Ryne Bouffanie, and Teresa Lopez; middle row: Tanesha Moody and Dawn Polo; and back row: Viera Rosenburgh, Brad Montgomery, Rodney Francis, Rahmatullah Faizi, and Jenny Crawshaw.

assist Habitat’s response efforts in the Gulf Coast and mobilized em-

homes across the United States, logging more than 70,000 volun-

# Holmes CC inducts locals into honor society



Special to The Canton News

The Alpha Lambda Sigma Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa at Holmes Community College in Ridgeland recently inducted 27 new members into the honor society for two-year college students, including four students from Canton. Pictured (l to r) are, front row: Phi Theta Kappa Adviser Blair Booker; Aundria Price of Oxford; Leslie Ann Fleming of Canton; MacKenzie Danaher of Madison; Elizabeth Palmer of Jackson; Vice President of Outreach Jaci Murphy of Gulfport; President Payton Earley of Pearl; Vice President of Campus Activities Ashley Wicker of Madison; Lelani Jones of Vicksburg; Teandra Averett of Jackson; Morgan Hannah of Clinton; and Ridgeland Campus Vice President Dr. Don Burnham; middle row: De’Andria Green of Canton; Lacey White of Ridgeland; Tamyrria Meeks of Canton; Gabriel Bridgeman of Canton; Laura Ann Kelley of Madison; Ashley Bergeron of Madison; Monica Wilkins of Madison; Charles Switzer of Clinton; and Jonathan Fuss of Brandon; and back row: Willard “Chip” Wells of Columbus; Davis Dunn of Pass Christian; Slade Allgood of Carthage; Michael Boyte of Brandon; D’Morris Walker of Jackson; Brian Flaherty of Brandon; Tyler Brown of Madison; Adam Richardson of Union; Thierno Bell of Milwaukee, Wisconsin; Drew Kincaid of Brandon, and Cody Tompkins of Madison.



# Farm boy John Wallace returns to hometown roots

By Guest Columnist Maureen Simpson

John Wallace, retired General Manager of Canton Municipal Utilities, Commander of the Mississippi Air National Guard, and Chairman of Madison County Economic Business Association

an electrical engineer in Jackson, and flew with the Air National Guard in Meridian for three years before transferring to the Jackson Guard unit.

While employed at MP&L, he was heavily involved in civic affairs, including the Chamber of

locating a number of projects during his tenure on the MCEDA board, the first being Levi Strauss with over 600 jobs, and the last, 20 years later, was Nissan which now employs 6,000. In addition to MCEDA projects, Wallace was instrumental in creating and fund-

the 50 states and 26 foreign countries. He served as the State Assistant Adjutant General for Air, Chief of Staff, and Commander of the Mississippi Air National Guard, and retired with the rank of Major General (2-star).

He retired from CMU in 1998,



Special to The Canton News

Maureen Simpson with John Wallace at her most recent retirement party.

(MCEBA), grew up on a Madison County farm about 15 miles east of Canton.

He attended Farmhaven High School, where he excelled as a basketball player, and graduated with several honors, including salutatorian of his senior class. Immediately after graduation, Wallace enrolled in summer school at Mississippi State College, majoring in electrical engineering. He also participated in four years of ROTC with the goal of becoming a fighter pilot in the Air Force. After graduation and while waiting to enter flight school, he accepted a position as an electrical engineer with Gulf States Utilities in Beaumont, Texas, where he soon met his bride-to-be, Barbara Cobb.

Upon graduation from Fighter Interceptor School with no fighter assignment available, he was assigned to Craig AFB, Alabama, where he served four years as flight instructor and academic instructor. While waiting to attend the Air Force Institute of Technology, he was contacted by the Meridian Air National Guard and was offered a pilot's position in the unit, thus, resigning his regular commission and returning to Mississippi, where he joined Mississippi Power and Light (MP&L) as

Commerce, Little League baseball and the Jackson Redevelopment Authority. During his 12 years at MP&L, Wallace headed up several national disaster recoveries for the company. It was after helping Canton Municipal Utilities (CMU) recover from a disastrous tornado, that Wallace was asked to come to Canton and manage CMU.

He started his job in Canton in January, 1977, after the coldest November on record and a natural gas shortage. Wallace immediately became involved with the Chamber of Commerce and became friends with Ken Oilschlager, who was new to the Chamber. For the next two years, Wallace and Oilschlager put their heads together to get things done with no funds, no authority and very little interest. The result was the creation of the Industrial Development Authority of Madison County, now MCEDA, with Oilschlager as executive director, and Wallace as the chairman of a seven-member board for the next 20 years. Wallace's dad was a county supervisor for 16 years, which afforded Wallace much insight into local politics. The support of the supervisors was crucial to the success of MCEDA. Wallace was instrumental in



Special to The Canton News

Wallace is shown with Donna Henry of Bank Plus presenting Jewelry Johnson of CMU with the Ambassador of the Year award.

ing the Canton Redevelopment Authority, the Canton Film Studio and the Canton Commercial and Industrial Center.

He was also deeply involved in the creation of the Municipal Energy Agency of Mississippi, the Municipal Gas Authority of Mississippi, the Mississippi One call system, and the Mississippi Natural Gas Association. He also served on a number of boards, including the Jackson Chamber of Commerce, Red Cross, United Way, Boy Scouts and the Rotary Club to name a few.

Wallace retired from the Air National Guard in 1996 after serving seven years active duty, three years in the Meridian unit, 18 years in the Jackson unit, and 11 years at state headquarters for a total of 39 years. During his tenure, he landed an aircraft in 36 of

but was asked to return in 1999, after the termination of his replacement, where he served for an additional 16 years with final retirement on June 30, 2016.

Wallace said that the last two years has been perhaps his most enjoyable, being able to do some of the things that time did not allow before. He is now back at CMU for a third time, assisting the new general manager when needed.

John and Barbara Wallace will celebrate their fifty-ninth wedding anniversary in April. They have three children, Elizabeth, Gary, and Gregg, and five grandchildren.

*EDITOR'S NOTE: Simpson is the recently retired director of the Canton Redevelopment Association, and a former teacher at Can-*

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# Thea's Turn will play in Canton this April 2017

Special to The Canton News

A stage production celebrating the life of Canton's own, Sister Thea Bowman, premieres at Can-

school students.

The stage production also features MADDRA and Jesse Primer, Sr. Dr. Mark G. Hender-



Special to The Canton News

Thea's Turn is about Canton's Sister Thea Bowman, written by Canton playwright Mary Queen Donnelly. The poster artwork was provided by Donnelly's son.

ton High School Auditorium on Saturday, April 22, at 7 p.m. The play, titled *Thea's Turn* was written by Canton's Mary Queen Donnelly and sponsored by the Canton Tourism, has free admission.

A matinee will be held at 1 p.m. on Friday, April 21, for the high

son is the executive producer. It is partially funded by the Mississippi Humanities Council. The play has been performed in New Orleans in 2014, and at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Jackson in 2015.

For more information, visit Canton Tourism or call 601-859-1307.

# Sacrifice or entitlement? It is always your choice

By Guest Columnist Kathy Amos

Have you ever had something very valuable you had to give up for the sake of a great cause? Here's a personal story to help you



Special to The Canton News

to see what I'm saying.

Ten years ago, when Joe and I were newlyweds, we had dreams of having a nice home, a couple of cars, a thriving business and ministry, pretty much in that order. Well, we moved into our nice suburban home in Madison. By the time we were settled and working the business, God spoke to us about the ministry. His audible voice compelled us to move back to Canton. This was huge! It meant that we'd have to find a smaller home. My goodness! We downsized from a 2,700 sq. ft. home to a

two bedroom apartment. I was broken from the transition, because I felt as though we were entitled to a little bit of happiness. But, when I came to myself, I realized that Jesus had already made the ultimate sacrifice so that we could have an abundant life. And, whatever he was calling us to do in our great city, he was going to restore back everything in abundance.

Esther was called to the palace to become queen. She had to leave her family and friends and embrace a whole new lifestyle. She also sacrificed her life to save her nation. The Law of Sacrifice says, "You have to give up to go up." — John C. Maxwell. Are you ready to go up?

*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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# Canton Tourism hosts Third Thursday Party

*Special to The Canton News*

Canton Tourism will host the Third Thursday Square Party each month beginning April 2 on Union Street by The Canton Welcome Center from 6 to 9 p.m. The theme for April 20 is "Mudbugs on the Square," and will feature Band Snazz. The merchants will have handmade and homemade vendors out front. There will be a crawfish boil, and quilts will be displayed in each stores' windows representing the quilt show.

The May 18 theme is "Take me out to the ball game, take me out to the square." Steele Heart Band will perform with each business having baseball themed foods. Marlo's will be selling hot dogs, and plans are to have the Braves mascot and staff onsite. "Beef! Its what's for dinner" is

the June 15 theme. Burnham Road Band is scheduled to perform, and it will be Fathers' Night Out.

July 20, is the "Christmas in July" with Acoustic Crossroads Band performing. Plans are for carnival and kid style foods.

The trolley will ride around town, and the Tourism office will give away a Christmas Package.

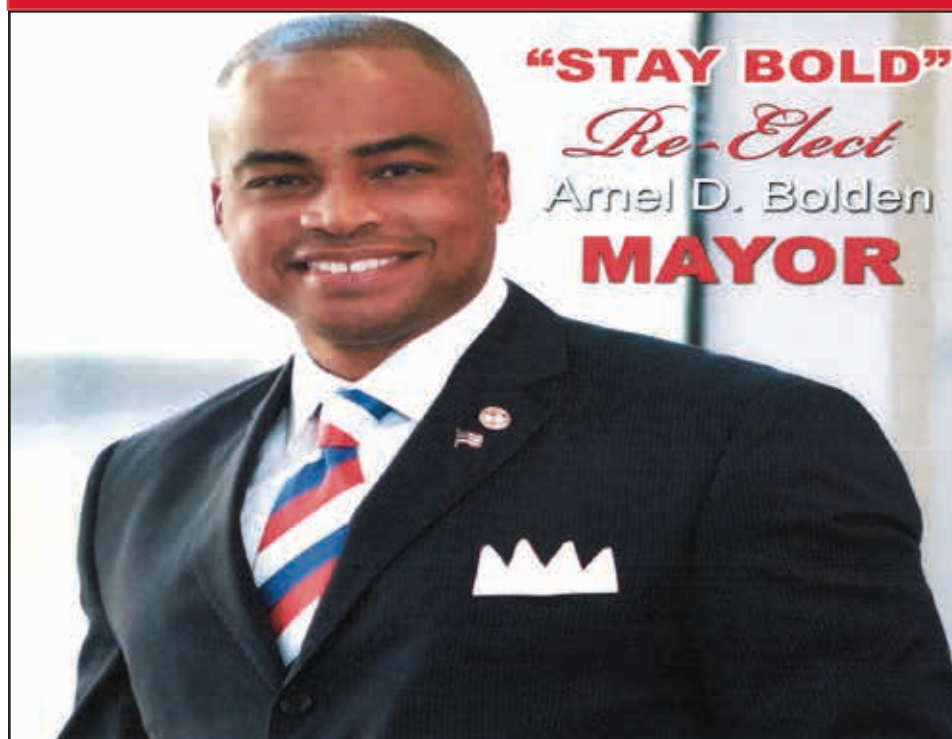
August 17, is "Back to School BBQ on the Square" with the Jason Turner Band.

Plans are for bar-b-que foods and activities for kids. Merchants are planning Support the Teacher Night and will have items for teachers. September 21, is getting ready for "Tailgating on the Square." The Jason Miller Band is scheduled to perform, and merchants will have recipes for tailgating foods.



## Stay Bold in 2017-Re-Elect Arnel Bolden-Mayor

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