



THE CANTON NEWS

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Upstairs Downtown features The Elks Lodge

By Susie A. Wolfe

Many buildings around the Historic Canton Square were built at the turn of the century and have upstairs areas that are not open to the public. The Canton Chamber/Main Street Association is hosting an event, Upstairs Downtown, on November 2, that will allow access to many of these upstairs rooms.

One building participating in the Upstairs Downtown event is the Elks Lodge, located at 3345/3346 North Liberty Street, a building that was built in 1900. The ground floor was constructed to be occupied by retail stores, while the second floor was designed as a boarding house.

It is one of the very few, if not

the only, building on the square that has a basement. It is unclear in historical records what the intended use of the basement was to be. Entry ways to stairs to the basement can still be seen at the front of the building. The stairs have long since been removed; however, the openings are still visible and are now covered by steel grates.

About 1905, Canton Lodge 458 of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks purchased the building, and it has served as the Elks Lodge Building ever since. A back porch was added to the upper floor in the 1960s, and the balcony, not original to the building, was added to the front in the 1970s. An elevator was in-

stalled in 1978.

Today, the ground floor continues

offices for the one hundred members of the Canton Elks Lodge.



Photo by The Canton News

The story of the Elks Lodge meeting room being haunted has circulated for years. Visit the Upstairs Downtown event on November 2 to find out more.

to serve as retail space, while the upstairs serves as meeting hall, recreation room, dining room and

For more information on the event or to purchase tickets, call 601-859-5816.

Holiday Inn Express to get \$1.4m upgrade

By Susie A. Wolfe

The Holiday Inn Express and Suites at 157 Soldiers Colony Road in Canton is undergoing a \$1.4 million Formula Blue franchise remodeling. A ribbon cutting for the 80-room, 21-employee new millennial hotel is set for mid-November 2017.

A part of the Holiday Inn brand, which has more than 2,500 hotels, the Canton Holiday Inn Express and Suites has been owned by Swami Shri for nine years. The hotel has more than 30,000 guests each year. The Hampton Inn is a Canton sister property, which has been number one in the market for the last fourteen years.

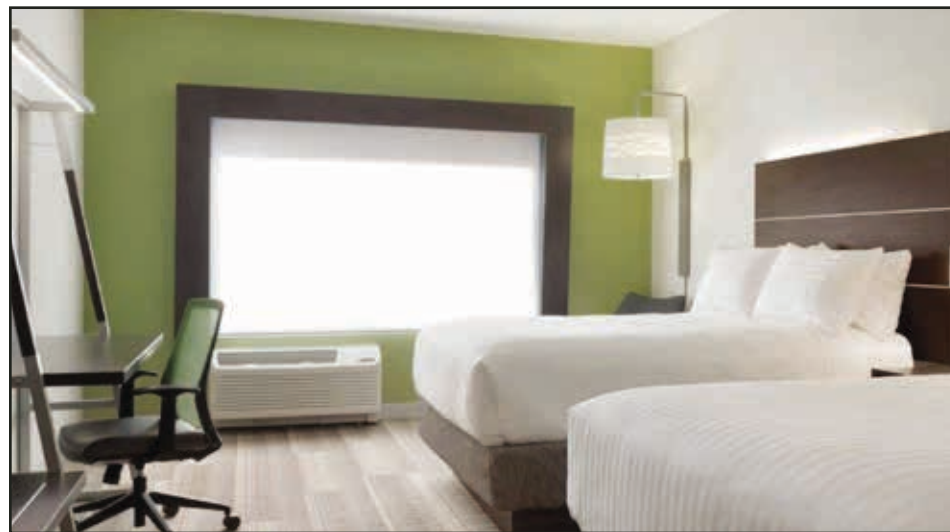
According to Director of Operations, Kenneth Stovall, who has handled the renovation for over 30 plus hotels, the new generation of guests demanded a mod-

ern, more relevant hotel offering that would be able to cater to an evolving generation of guests.

“We basically gutted the hotel to the concrete and started from

scratch. We looked at every situation to make better, and didn’t miss a beat.”

Formula Blue is meant to appeal to mid-scale guest, the “smart



Special to The Canton News

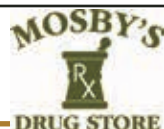
The Canton Holiday Inn Express is undergoing a \$1.4 million remodeling. The new midscale to upscale millennial look has an earth tones color scheme and more plug-ins.

traveler.” With a design that puts sleep quality, simplicity, and ease of maintenance at the center of its concept, compliance with Formula Blue has many design elements that support the smart traveler, including faster internet, a lot of plugs, and LED lighting. The headboard is designed so it minimizes noise transfer between rooms, ensuring this busy traveler is able to get a restful night sleep. A 24/7 sundry shop at front desk replaces the vending area. Quartz replaces granite in the bathrooms, and leather replaces plastic ice buckets.

According to Stovall, nothing is the same.

“The new millennial look has an earth toned relaxing color scheme that is more spacious. The hotel is going from midscale to upscale. We can compete with the surrounding market.”

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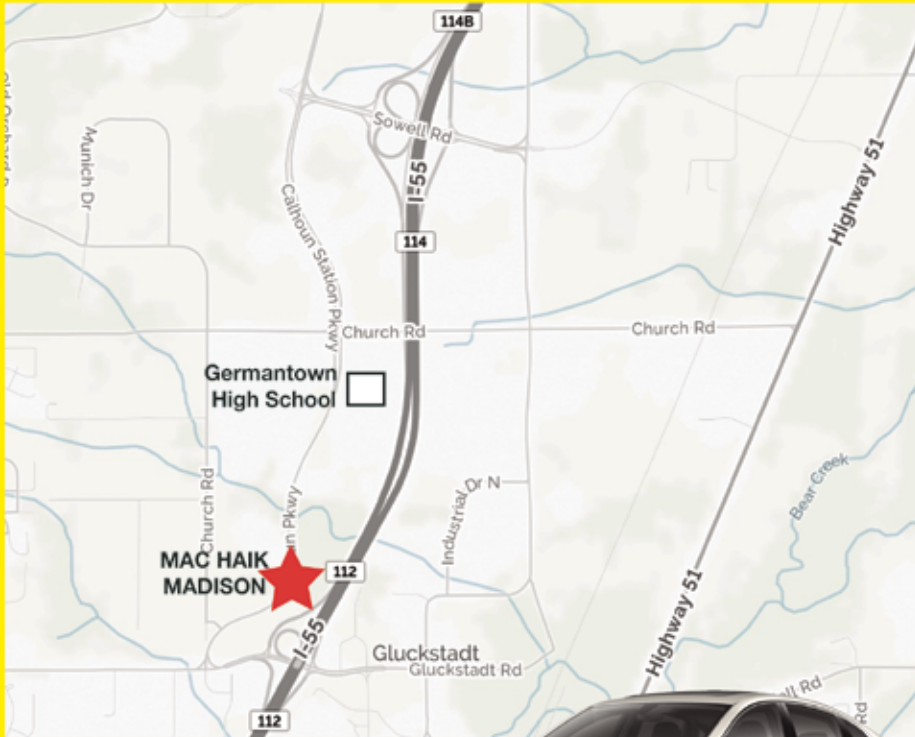
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Know Your Neighbor: Richard S. Wolfe

By Guest Columnist Jim Ritchie

How many people do you know who have a job that requires them to commute from Canton to Dallas and Baltimore and Houston and Chicago and Orlando? This month's neighbor did for twenty-eight years.

Meet Richard (Rick) Wolfe, Navy pilot, airline pilot, charter pilot, phone systems engineer and data communications engineer.

Born and raised in Olmsted Falls, Ohio, Wolfe graduated from Kent State with a degree in aerospace technology, and, while in college, earned his

private pilot's license, along with commercial and instrument ratings. His ambition was to become a commercial airline pilot, but his draft notice influenced his decision to join the U.S. Navy and become a Navy pilot.

During his stint in the Navy, he was assigned to the *USS Independence* aircraft carrier, which was based in Jacksonville. While there, he earned his master's degree in civil engineering at the University of Florida and, more importantly, had the incredible good fortune to meet and marry Miss Carlyle Cain of Canton, who was a special education teacher.

After his Navy stint, Wolfe joined Braniff Airlines; and, during the three periods of Braniff's temporary bankruptcies, worked for the Bell System in the data communications and phone traffic systems areas. After eleven years with

those companies, he piloted for Southwest Airlines for seventeen years. Wolfe now flies as a charter pilot, qualified to fly the Lear 45 and Lear 75 jets. He and Carlyle have one daughter (also Carlyle), who is a successful professional artist.

When asked whether he has had any "close calls" during his years of flying, he grins and says, "Any time you land a jet on a pitching and rolling aircraft carrier at night, it's a close call."

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.

Wicker and Harper receive Spirit award

Special to The Canton News

The Madison County Business League and Foundation (MCBL&F) Government Affairs Committee hosted a breakfast meeting on Friday, August 25, in the law offices of Butler Snow in Ridgeland to honor and present the Spirit of Enterprise awards to Senator Roger Wicker and Congressman Gregg Harper. The award is given in recognition of their support

for pro-growth policies in the second session of the 114th Congress. Ronald Eidshaug, VP of Government and Public Affairs - US Chamber of Commerce, made the presentation.

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce honored 266 members of the U.S. House of Representatives and 55 members of the U.S. Senate with its annual Spirit of Enterprise Award.

"Businesses of all shapes and sizes need sound, commonsense policy in place in order to get off the ground, grow, and succeed," said Thomas J. Donohue, presi-

dent and CEO of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. "The Spirit of Enterprise Award recognizes those members of Congress who have done what's right for our friends, family, and neighbors running businesses across the country. We applaud these legislators for their commitment to free enterprise and economic growth."

This prestigious Spirit of Enterprise Award is given annually to members of Congress based on their votes on critical business legislation as outlined in the US Chamber's annual scorecard, *How They Voted*. Members who supported the Chamber's position on at least seventy percent of those votes qualify to receive the award.

During the second session of the 114th Congress, the Chamber scored members on eight Senate votes and 14 House votes related to access to capital for small businesses, ensuring the workforce has the skills necessary for the jobs of tomorrow, and helping American manufacturers compete in a global economy. In addition, votes in support of building the U.S. water infrastructure system, protecting intellectual property, and updating energy policy also factored into scoring. This is the twenty-ninth year that the U.S. Chamber has formally honored the accomplishments of this select group of members of Congress.



Special to The Canton News

Madison County Business League and Foundation Government Affairs Committee presented the Spirit of Enterprise Awards to Senator Roger Wicker and Congressman Gregg Harper. Pictured (l to r) are: Jan Collins, MCBL&F Executive Director; US Senator Roger Wicker; Congressman Gregg Harper; Ron Eidshaug, US Chamber of Commerce; and Phil Buffington, MCBL&F Vice Chairman.

Zebra Tent featured on the Canton Square and TV

By Susie A. Wolfe

A group of Cantonians have been tailgating at the Grove at Ole Miss home football games for years, and have been recognized by various media for their Southern hospitality and style. In September, the group was featured on the new *Pickler and Ben Show* that aired in Mississippi on CMT on September 22. Jane and Lantz Foster and Ken and Madeline Morris were founding members of the Zebra Tent group 14 years ago. Through the years, members have come and gone, but there are fourteen families who currently participate including Erin and John Noble, Bill and Karen Mosby, Noel and Rob Webb, and Jan Collins, as well as folks from Jackson, Oxford, and Texas. Noel Webb is the designer of the Zebra Tent.

"We enjoy sharing our Southern Hospitality," said Erin Noble, owner of Sulm's Gifts. "Since Mississippi has no NFL team, this is our way to entertain friends and guests. We have made many life-long friends on

opposing teams."

Noble and other members set up the Zebra Tent in front of

of the dishes that are sold in her store, provided recipes and taught guests how to make a



Photo by The Canton News

Sulm's during the last Third Thursday event on the Square on September 21 to show the local crowd that don't make it to the Grove. She had many

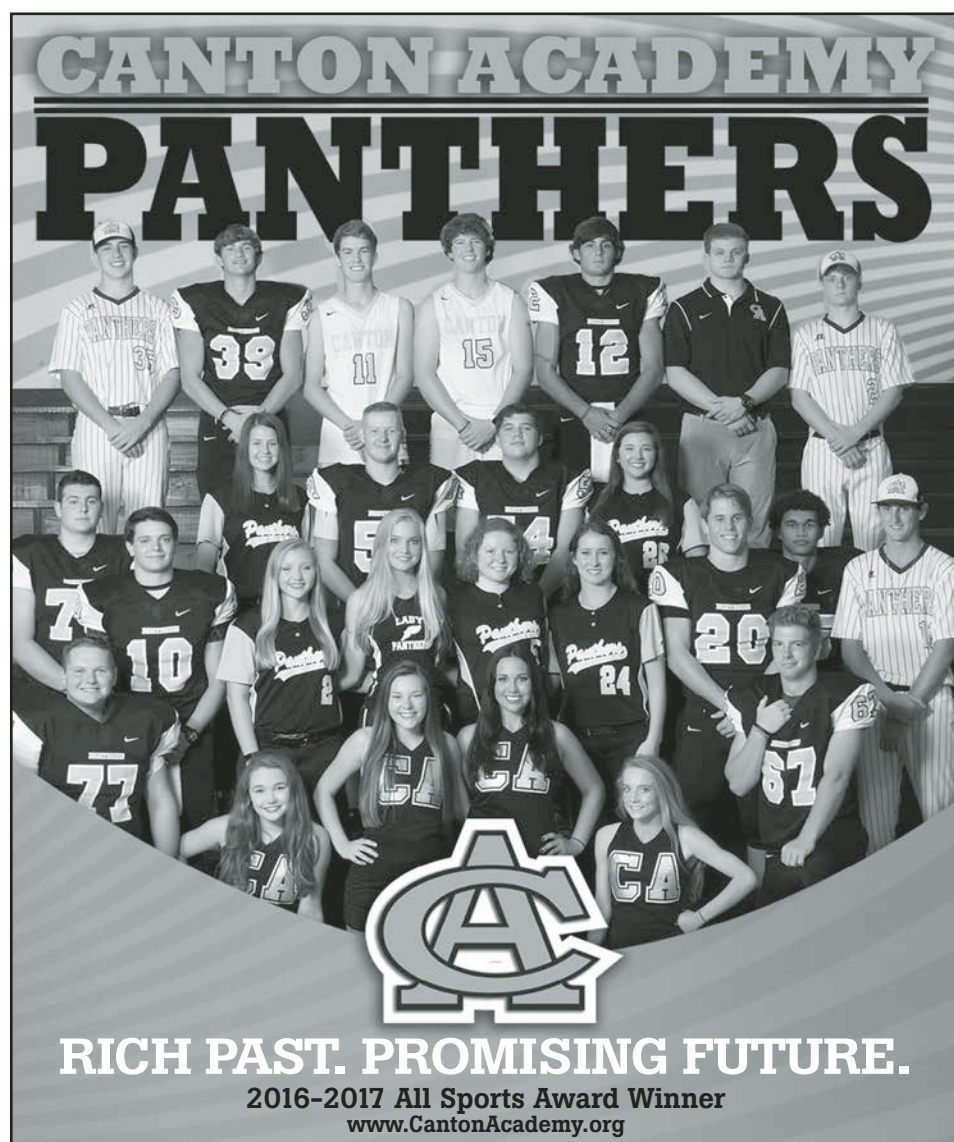
pineapple tree. They even had a Mississippi State table at the event.

"It's a lot of work and takes a team effort," said Noble. "Each

family brings two or more dishes that allow us to feed around 500 people for each game."

The tent is expertly decorated and has themes such as when they went pink for Breast Cancer, of which Noble is a survivor. They raised \$750 for Susan G. Komen last year, and are doing it again this year at the October 14 game. They also raised \$10,000 for the Palmer Home for Children in Columbus. They raised \$5,000 and had a \$5,000 match.

The Zebra Tent has been featured Food Network, Gameday, SEC Nation, Travel Channel, CNN, ESPN, New York Times, Dallas Morning News and PopSugar.com, to name a few media. Jane Foster was on stage with the hosts of the new syndicated talk show *Pickler and Ben Show*, which is the brainchild of executive producer Faith Hill. The show also filmed in the Zebra Tent which was set up in the studio parking lot in Nashville. Check out: www.picklerandben.com to see clips from the show.



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AKA honors Labor Day



Special to The Canton News

The Canton Upsilon Upsilon Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority gave six area businesses gift baskets for their employees for Labor Day to show appreciation for what they do for the community. The companies that received the baskets of Starbucks coffee, foods, candies, pamphlets and other items included Walmart, Canton Poultry Market, Kentucky Fried Chicken, and Nissan in Canton and The Cookie Plant and Levi Strauss Plant in Gluckstadt. Pictured at the Walmart store that opened in 2014 are Antoyia Webb, assistant manager; Jeff Legge, manager; Vickie McNeill, sorority member; and Walter Beegle, assistant manager.

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Always be an encourager

By Guest Columnist Pastor Guy Odom,
First Baptist Canton



Photo by The Canton News

Always be an encourager. I recall as a young boy, middle aged man, and now an over-the-hill man, my mom always telling me to “kill people with kindness.” Even displaying that kind of attitude towards so-called enemies, always take the high road, instead of reacting with anger and revenge. This is absolutely hard to do this day and time for sure, but we do have a true example in the person of Jesus Christ.

Being an encourager takes guts and courage when you face difficult people. But not everyone is difficult. Dr. Jimmy Draper, a pastor for years, former president of Lifeway Christian Resources, Southern Baptist Convention president, and long-time mentor, said this in his book, *Don't Quit Before You FINISH*: “My dad always reminded me to ‘Be kind to everybody, because everybody is having a hard time.’”

Scripture teaches us to encourage people daily. Hebrew's 3:13 says, “But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called Today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness.” 1 Thessalonians 4:18 says, “Therefore encourage each other with these words.” What words? The Word of God! There are thousands of scriptures to encourage people with. It just takes a few minutes to find them and send it to people through Facebook, Twitter, Notes, texting, or phone calling. You just never know someone's situation in life.

I leave you with this thought, and let it sink in. Jesus washed Judas' feet, the man who betrayed Him. Let that sink in. Why? Because He loved His enemies. That's why. Guess what? He loves you. Unconditionally!

Have a great month of October.

You Are Loved,

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.

CA defeats at Tri-County



Senior Joseph McLean runs for a touchdown.

Special to The Canton News

Special to The Canton News

The Canton Academy (CA) Panthers brought their record to 2-2 by defeating the Rebels of Tri-County on Friday night, September 15.

Canton Academy combined secured turnovers with a balanced offense, along with a sound kicking game, to take home the win. On defense, Shelby Johnson had two interceptions, Ryan Lindsey had one interception, and Christian Rainer had a fumble recovery, for a total of four turnovers secured by CA. Joseph McLean led the Panthers with six tackles and three assists. Nathan Earnhart was a close second, as he had six tackles and two assists.

The Canton Academy offense started a little slow but picked up steam as the game moved on. CA Quarterback Kade Pigg had two rushing touchdowns as he rushed for 176 total yards and passed for 151 yards and one TD. Joseph McLean helped open up the passing game by securing a pass and rambling 90 yards for a TD. Patrick Sandridge had a rushing TD from six yards out. Ryan Lindsey had his usual good game, kicking the ball as he made all four extra points and kicked a 20-yard field goal.

Canton Academy games are live streamed on the internet and can be accessed by going to the CA website. The games are also carried on WMGO.

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CPSD dual enrollment, another successful story

By Guest Columnist Cassandra Williams, CPSD Superintendent



Special to The Canton News

In the 2016-2017 school year, Canton Public School District (CPSD) embarked upon a mission to increase the number of dually enrolled students at Canton High School. A dually enrolled student is a student who is enrolled in a community or junior college or state institution of higher learning while enrolled in high school. Upon completion of each dual enrollment course, the student will receive college credit. Through an agreement with Holmes Community College, Canton High School was able to offer this program to our students. Students who take and are successful in these courses are more prepared for college, because they are

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.

As a result of increasing our efforts to enroll students in college-level courses, the number of students enrolled in credit-bearing courses increased from two in 2015-2016 to over 70 in 2016-

2017. Canton Public School District reached out to local business and community leaders to form a foundation, the Canton Public Schools Educational Foundation, to raise scholarship funds to offset the costs for students' enrollment.

Students who were recipients of the scholarships performed community service hours as a condition of their award.

As we begin the 2017-2018 school year and set our goal at enrolling 150 students, we are very pleased to tout our successes:

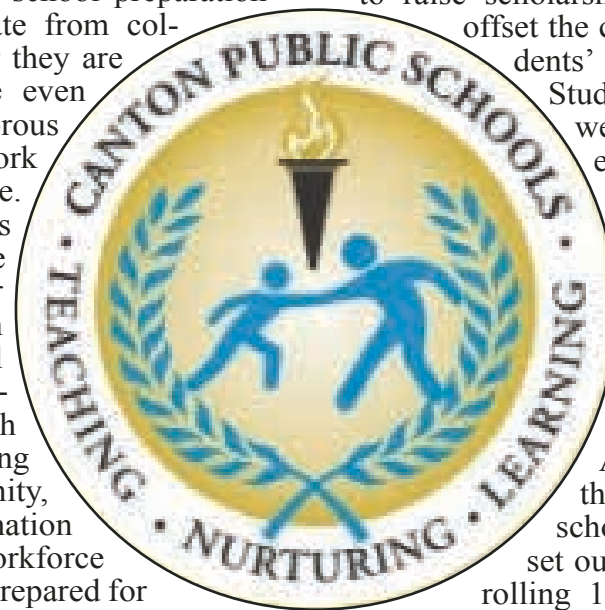
- 84% of our Dual Enrollment Students returned to the program to take additional courses
- 72% of our Senior Class Dual Enrollment Students went to

4-Year Colleges

- 28% of our Senior Class Dual Enrollment Students went to 2-Year Colleges
- 100% of our Senior Class Dual Enrollment Students went to College
- 96% of all of our Dual Enrollment Students received a grade of C or higher
- 72% of all of our Dual Enrollment Students received a grade of B or higher

We are extremely proud of our students and the effort that they put forth in college level work. These stories of success now make it possible for even more of our students to be encouraged to not only attend college, but to enter with advanced standing.

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 Gospel Music Association hosts 14th annual Scholarship Awards & Gospel Music Celebration



Co-sponsors in attendance included Pastor John Woodard, Jr., Mrs. Flonzie Brown Wright, Mrs. Jimmie Mae Goodloe, Mrs. Patricia Parker (CGMA), Ms. Georgia Sims (CGMA), Ms. Pamela Confer, and Mr. Claude Nichols.



Mayor William & Mrs. Wassie Truly and Pastor Willie & First Lady Margelet Clemons enjoy the evening's festivities.



2017 Music Scholarship Award Recipients include Kaleb Bullock, Inesha Jackson, Leila Slaughter, Tyrione Scott, Myeshia Smith, Cortez Dunigan, Makalya Francis, Isaiah Smith, Wendolyn Towner and Jayla Smith. Awards were presented by Minister Jearlean Jones, Veda Archie and Daisy Ellis.



Minister Jearlean Jones (CGMA Vice President), presents a medal to Jocelyne Strickland, who performed a praise dance.



The Canton Community Fellowship Choir were presented with a Lifetime Music Achievement Award.



The Brothers in Christ were presented with a Lifetime Music Achievement Award.



Michael Adrian Davis (95.7 Hallelujah FM Radio), served as host and is pictured with Cynthia Goodloe Palmer, Founder and President of the Canton Gospel Music Association.



The Rembert Washington Memorial Chorale were presented with a Lifetime Music Achievement Award.



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Jewelry Johnson, Customer Relations Director, is a long time employee of Canton Municipal Utilities. She currently serves on the Canton Chamber of Commerce Main Street Association Board of Directors and serves on many other community organizations. She enjoys serving the residents and businesses of Canton, and is excited about the future growth of Canton.

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Coffee with a Cop

October 4th

7:00am-9:15am

Location: Chamber Office

Breakfast with Mansell Media

October 10th

8:30am-9:30am

Location: Chamber Office

Canton Flea Market

October 12th

Location: The Square

Annual Friendship Golf Tournament

October 20th

Location: Country Club of Canton

Scare on the Square

October 28th

10:00am-5:00pm

Location: Downtown Canton's
Shopping Event

Upstairs Downtown

November 2nd

4:00pm-8:00pm

Tour begins at The Opera House 1853

MORNING MIXER



The Chamber held a Morning Mixer at Canton Visitor's Bureau Welcome Center. Chamber members and prospects came out to network before work. Thanks to Renasant Bank for sponsoring breakfast.

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'Tigers for Texas' benefit for Red Cross disaster relief

By Lamon Wells, American Red Cross

A Mississippi high school challenge named "Tigers for Texas" came to an end on September 1, and a check was present-

would be able to raise the most money to help aid Harvey survivors in Texas.

They collected donations in classrooms throughout a week and on the day of the football game.

Word, Canton's basketball coach, expressed that both parents and students were eager to support Texans. Canton's final amount raised was \$2,253.

Harris, Jim Hill's cheer coach and counselor described how students expressed great interest by not only donating money to Texas but also collecting canned food and clothes.

"Students were happy that we were having this challenge, because they were really concerned about the event, since some of them have friends and family members in Texas," said Harris.

Even though Jim Hill came in second to Canton with \$414, Harris felt that the challenge still served as a good way to get students involved in giving to others.

Word said she picked the Red Cross to receive the donation, because she is familiar with how the Red Cross supports those who were involved in natural disasters.



Photo by Barbara Davis, American Red Cross
Tamika Harris of Jim Hill High School and Melissa Word of Canton High School coordinated a friendly contest between the schools to raise money for Red Cross relief to Hurricane Harvey survivors in Texas.

ed days later to American Red Cross Hurricane Harvey disaster relief.

The Canton High School Tigers and the Jim Hill High School Tigers recently competed against each other on the gridiron, but that was not the only competition amongst these big cats.

Melissa Word of Canton and Tamika Harris of Jim Hill coordinated a friendly contest between the schools to see who

The Great Canton Clean-Up takes place on October 20

By Guest Columnist Joy Dodson, director, Keep Canton Beautiful

Keep Canton Beautiful (KCB)'s next city-wide event will be "The Great Canton Clean-Up!"

The date set for this event is Friday, October 20, and it is an all-day event. The purpose of this event is to help everyone in our city do a big clean-up.

Keep Canton Beautiful will provide bags and tags, and those will be available for pick up at the following locations: Canton Welcome Center, Canton Chamber office, and CMU on the Square. We want you to bag and tag any items that you want to have picked up from your home or business, and have them ready by 7 a.m. on October 20. We have partnered with Waste Pro and the City of Canton to make this possible, so thank

you to both.

More information will be mailed to everyone who lives in Canton in October; but, in the meantime, start thinking about what you have wanted gone but didn't have time or room to haul it off to the dump. Get rid of that old ugly couch, say goodbye to all of

the seasonal decorations that are taking up room in a closet, clean off your front porch and yard, maybe you need an old washer and dryer picked up, a junked car perhaps — whatever it is, chances are, we can help.

Please mark your calendars now for Friday, October 20. Don't forget - our official Keep Canton Beautiful t-shirts are available at Buttrick Department Store on the Square. If we see you on October 20 wearing our shirt, we will have a fun surprise in store for you.



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The goal is more important

By Guest Columnist Kathy Amos

Did you know that Habitat for Humanity was founded in 1976 by Millard and Linda Fuller with



Special to The Canton News

a mission to eliminate poverty housing and homelessness in the world? Their goal was to offer home ownership to the neediest people able to make a house payment, build low-cost housing using volunteer labor, involve the future homeowner in the building process, and create no-interest loans to finance the houses.

The Fullers called on former President Jimmy Carter with a list of fifteen roles of which they were hoping that he'd at least agree on two. To their surprise, the former president rolled up his sleeves and agreed to do all fifteen items! Habitat for Humanity is the brainchild of the Fullers,

but it was former President Jimmy Carter who put it on the map.

The Bible declares, "Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 3:13-14)

President Carter reminds us today of the importance of the greater goal by which we are to lay hold of for our great city, laying aside positions, titles and levels of influence. We must see the same "big picture" if we're to reach our goal for a greater Canton, Mississippi.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Kathy Amos is a coach, speaker and teacher with The John Maxwell Team. She serves as executive pastor of the Turning Point Fellowship Ministries International Church, along with her husband Joe. Amos is also the president and founder of the Empowering Progressive Women's Association.

Eight receive certification



Special to The Canton News

Mastermind Certification Program is part of a free seven-week personal growth initiative to create intentionality, awareness and momentum using The 15 Invaluable Laws of Growth, by John C. Maxwell, to empower its participants. Eight women successfully completed training and certification with The Turning Point Community Development Center, Inc. in August. Pictured (l to r) are, front row: Fentry Draper, Michelle Johnson, Doris Gillum and Clara Thompson; and back row: Jessica Singleton, Tameka Amos, Arine Blackman and Angel Yancey.

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Johnson joins Reunion

Special to The Canton News

Ernie Coward, chief financial officer for David Nutt & Associates, announced the appointment of



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Larry Johnson will oversee all promotion efforts for the Reunion, Inc. real estate development, as well as new the Golf and Country Club.

as marketing coordinator for the expansion of both the Reunion Golf and Country Club, as well as the next phase of residential development. David Nutt & Associates is the parent company of Reunion, Inc.

Johnson has served as the managing principal of The Advisory Group of Mississippi, LLC, based in Canton.

In that capacity, he has been associated with David Nutt & Associates as manager of Equity Financial Service, LLC, since 2010. In addition to his new responsibilities, he will continue his advisory role to David Nutt & Associates.

"Larry's tenure with our firm, his proven track record on behalf of David Nutt & Associates, made him the obvious choice for our ongoing business development and marketing strategy moving into this exciting new phase at Reunion," added CFO Ernie Coward.

Larry Johnson will serve as the point person for all Reunion marketing development, including the publicity and media marketing campaigns structured by Joseph Dera Media Marketing, LLC.

Prior to his association with The Advisory Group of Mississippi, Johnson served as president & CEO of the Central Bank for Savings in Winona, Mississippi, and senior vice president at Homestead Savings of Jackson.

Dunigan named honoree

By Susie A. Wolfe

Dr. Linda Johnson Dunigan, a native of Canton, was incorrectly listed as CEO of Merit Madison is the September article on the honorees. Dr. Dunigan has served as CEO of the Claiborne County Medical Center and assistant CEO of Madison Rivers Oaks, which is currently

Merit Hospital Madison.

Dr. Dunigan is currently very active through her church and community with senior citizens, youth ministry and mentoring. She served as trustee for Canton Public School District, a painter for Habitat for Humanity, and on the Board of Multicultural Affairs.

Cantonian Club retraction

By Susie A. Wolfe

Hattie Green was mistakenly listed as deceased in the August 2017 story on the Can-

tonian Club on page 16 of the August *Canton News*. Mrs. Green, who founded the club, is alive and living in Chicago.

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NBA superstar recruits Canton's Javin Fleming

Special to The Canton News

Making a final decision just keeps getting tougher and

Spurs team that won the NBA Championship against the New York Knicks. He made the championship-clinching



Special to The Canton News

NBA great Avery Johnson (right) was in town hoping to recruit Javian Fleming (left) to play on the Alabama Crimson Tide men's basketball team, where he is currently the head coach.

tougher, when you have so many great opportunities knocking at your door. That's the great spot the state's top basketball recruit Canton High School (CHS)'s Javian Fleming finds himself in, as yet another former NBA Superstar comes knocking at his door. This time, NBA great Avery Johnson was in town, hoping to recruit Fleming to play on the Alabama Crimson Tide men's basketball team, where he is currently the head coach. To help him make the case, he brought several members of his coaching team: Associate Head Coach John Pelphrey, Assistant Coach Antoine Pettway, and Assistant Coach Yasar Rosemond. After visiting at Canton High, the group sat down at a local restaurant to talk and enjoy a meal with Fleming and his mother, Kijwanna Davis.

Johnson is best known for his time with the Spurs and his integral role on the 1998-99

shot in game five to win the championship. He was also inducted into the San Antonio Sports Hall of Fame in 2009. Johnson spent sixteen years in the NBA as a player, and subsequently served as the head coach of two NBA teams, the Dallas Mavericks and the New Jersey/ Brooklyn Nets. He led the Mavericks to their first NBA Finals appearance and to three consecutive 50+ win seasons. During his playing days, Johnson was known as the "Little General" for his small stature (by NBA standards), and his leadership skills as a point guard (floor general).

Fleming said he is carefully weighing his options and will make the decision that is best for him and his family. His mother said she is just extremely proud of her son and seeing how all of his hard work is truly paying off. She encourages other students to stay focused and never give up on their dreams.

Belk, United Way donates uniforms to local CPSD



Special to The Canton News

The Canton Public School District officials have expressed their thanks to Belk and the United Way of the Capital Area for donating school uniforms to students who need them. Elementary school principals will identify and distribute uniforms to students who need assistance and use the remainder of the uniforms to begin a clothes closet at their schools. To donate, call 601-859-4110.



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ASSET Engineering: Canton-based, community-focused

By Matthew E. Jackson

As many fledgling businesses do, ASSET Engineering began as essentially a one-man operation in a small home office. Neal Rich, soon joined by Ben Barnette and a few drafter/designers, founded ASSET in 2000 in Madison, Mississippi. They quickly grew into a rented space in Madison, and then began looking for a long-term permanent home office.

As Rich and his team looked at various possible office locations in Jackson, Madison, Ridgeland, and the surrounding area, something kept drawing them back to Canton. They finally took the leap, and the move was made complete when they purchased an old house on the grounds of the original hospital in Canton. The home had been abandoned and was derelict, so the first order of business was a complete renovation. Just a few years later, in 2007, that space had been outgrown, as well. ASSET then located an underused building just off the square, and that is where the company is still located today.

In addition to their award-

ees became involved with the iCan/weCan mentoring pro-



Special to The Canton News

Neal Rich, left, and Ben Barnette, right, founded ASSET Engineering along with a few drafter/designers in 2000.

ing-winning building restorations in Canton, team members at ASSET have also been active in the community at large. Through their participation in the Canton Chamber of Commerce, particularly the Education Committee, several ASSET employ-

gram. ASSET also helped start the monthly prayer luncheon at Greater Refuge Temple in Canton, and several team members have participated in the Rotary Reader Program, where they read books to preschool students in the city. Working with young

people is a focus for ASSET's giving back to Canton, both in exposing students a little to the world of engineering, and helping them improve the skills they need to be successful in school.

"Canton moves at a slower pace," Rich said, when asked why ASSET loves being located in the town. "We enjoy the small town feel and community. It's a quality that only small towns have."

ASSET Engineering is a consulting firm known especially for their expertise in power system design and analysis. For more information about ASSET Engineering, visit their website at: assetcompany.com, or call their main offices at 601-351-3270.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Matthew E. Jackson is a writer, married, father, VP of client services for a marketing agency, and contributing editor for a magazine publishing company. He has written and worked in most genres, but some of his favorite pieces to create are reflections and essays, short fiction, poetry, and virtually any type of article.

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Canton Flea Market draws thousands twice a year

By Susie A. Wolfe

In Canton, Mississippi, and throughout the South and the nation, they call it "The Flea Market." An event, which is nationally famous, the Canton Flea

Market Arts and Crafts Show is held on the lawn of the historic Madison County Courthouse. This has become one of the largest outdoor craft markets in the South.

The Canton Flea Market is always held on the second Thursday in May and October. It began in 1965 as an art show with local artists hanging their paintings on the iron fence surrounding the

grounds of the Courthouse.

Voted one of the Top Twenty Events in the southeast, this Show attracts up to 1,000 artists and craftsmen from across the country.



The Canton Depot was built in 1926 and now houses the Canton Train Museum and the office of the Canton Chamber of Commerce/Main Street Association. For more information on the museum, call 601-859-3815.



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Grandparents go to school



Special to The Canton News

A number of grandparents came out to celebrate Grandparents' Day by having lunch with their grandchildren at Canton Elementary. The students say they love when their grandparents show their support and encourage them to excel in school.

Deason named the MCEDA board executive director



Special to The Canton News

The Madison County Economic Development Authority (MCEDA) Board of Directors announced the selection of Joseph (Joey) Deason as the organization's new executive director beginning October 1. Deason assumes the position from Ken Oilschlager who has been serving as interim director over the last year. The selection was made after a national search.



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