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Keep Canton Beautiful wins national award

By Susie A. Wolfe

Keep Canton Beautiful (KCB) was honored to have been nationally recognized with the prestigious Bill Nash award, the top honor for new affiliates, during the Keep America Beautiful National Conference in Dallas, Texas in January.

Keep Canton Beautiful, which is operated and managed solely by unpaid volunteers, became an affiliate of Keep America Beautiful in December 2016. The organization is primarily funded by private contributions, which are helping Canton become more environmentally healthy, socially connected, and economically sound.

“We are a group of very passionate, Canton-loving people that want to make a difference,” said KCB Executive Director Joy

Dodson.

Keep Canton Beautiful’s first event was its “Riches in the Ditches,” in which community volunteers removed more than 250 bags of trash and debris from roadsides and ditches in and around Canton. The affiliate also helped restore a highly visible historic gas station using both monetary and in-kind donations, which caused other surrounding businesses to take notice and fix up their buildings, as well. The affiliate has organized citywide trash pickup days, partnered with building owners to complete façade improvements, and worked with city and county leaders to monitor the enforcement of local ordinances.

“Keep Canton Beautiful is leveraging resources from local volunteers and partnering with its municipal leaders and the private sector to get things done,” said



Special to The Canton News

Keep Canton Beautiful Director Joy Dodson, right, is shown with Keep America Beautiful CEO Becky Lyons at the Keep America Beautiful National Conference in Dallas.

Keep America Beautiful President and CEO Helen Lowman. “This is a model new affiliate, and one

that is very deserving of receiving this year’s Bill Nash Award.”

cont. on page 4

Chamber’s Annual Award and Best of Canton recipients



Photo by Jud Meaders, Jr.

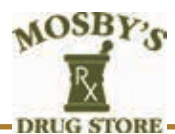
The Canton Chamber of Commerce honored local businesses at the Annual Meeting. Trustmark Bank was named Business of the Year. Pictured (l to r) are Jennifer Eudy, retail banker; Toya Veals, Chamber executive director; Mike Crandall, Canton president; Jeff Ross, vice president; Nancy Taylor, operations specialist; and Darlene Austin, assistant branch manager.



Photo by Jud Meaders, Jr.

Glenda Rushing of Piggly Wiggly was named Business Person of the Year at the January 25 Annual Meeting at The Opera House. Piggly Wiggly currently has more than 600 independently-owned stores in 17 states, with two located in Canton.

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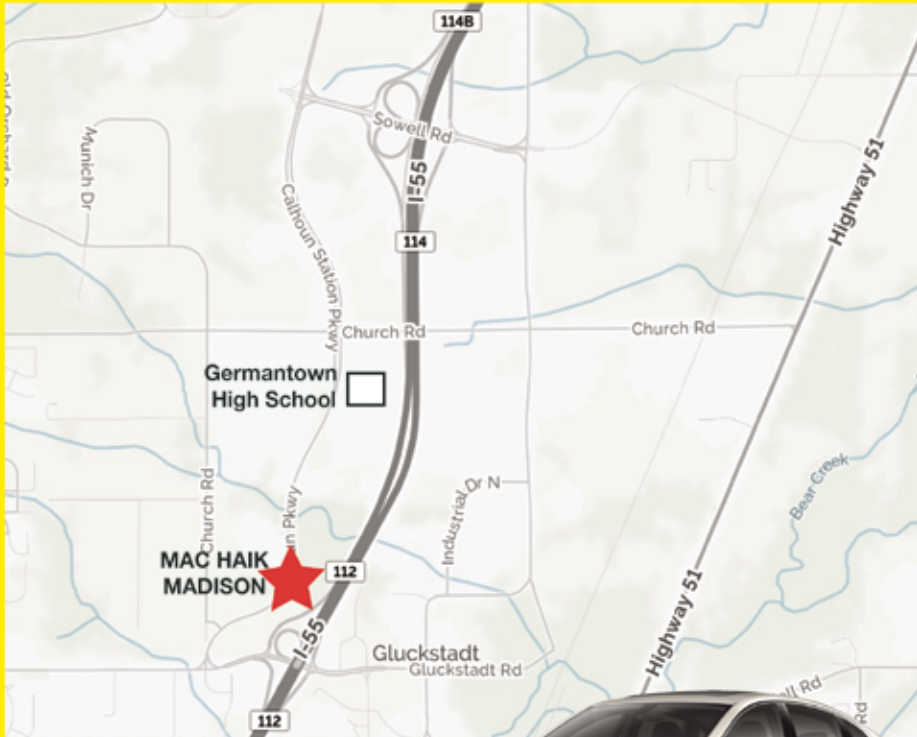
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Publisher

Clay Mansell

ClayMansell@CantonNews.net

Managing Editor

Susie A. Wolfe

601-667-4667 x2

News@CantonNews.net

Sales Representatives

Leon Whitehead

601-667-4667 X3

Susalyn Bennett

601-667-4667 X4

Graphic Designer / Layout

Megan Smith

Designer@CantonNews.net

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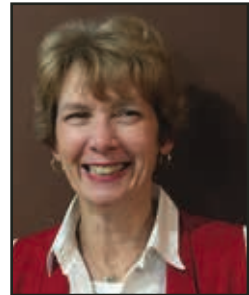
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Know Your Neighbor: Joy Brown Foy

By Guest Columnist Jim Ritchie



Special to The Canton News

She describes herself as a “People Person, the dictionary definition of which is “an outgoing, gregarious person with good communication skills.” And that definition is an exact fit for this month’s neighbor.

Meet Joy Foy, born Joy Brown in Bruce, Mississippi, and at the urging of her mother, enrolled in pre-med at Mississippi State because “she’d make the prettiest doctor in Mississippi.” Medical plans were ended, however, when she met and married James Foy.

After a short period of time in Jackson after college, they moved to Canton in 1975 to assist in managing James’ father’s farm, and the “people person’s” career blossomed. She began an occupation

encompassing varied jobs, all of which required her to utilize her vivacious skills.

She began at Gulf Finance, then managed the Credit Bureau. Then came sales at Electro National, and while working on the Flea Market Committee, was recruited by Madison County Economic Development Authority to function as the director’s administrative assistant.

She assumed the director’s duties when the director left, and subsequently worked under four MCE-DA directors. Her duties during that time were efforts in supporting existing industries, overseeing industrial land marketing and sales, recruiting prospects and working with commercial realtors and retirees.

While at MCEDA, she was one of the first five women to join the Canton Lions Club, and served as president of the club. In 2006, she left MCEDA to function as the Director of Asset Development for the Mississippi Development Authority, and held that position until

she retired last June.

Retirement, however hasn’t slowed her down much. She’s still involved in too many projects to mention here. She says that she has been blessed by being able to work with “spark plug” people from all over the state. There is no question that her efforts have made the state and Madison County better places to live, and, according to the folks who know her best, she not only has the “People Person” skills, she lives up to her namesake, since she’s just a Joy to be around.

EDITOR’S NOTE: Jim Ritchie is a published author; storyteller; entertainer and grandfather of eleven. He is amazed at the number of talented and accomplished people who live in the Canton area, and he thinks local citizens should know about some of them. Ritchie and professional artist wife, Perry, live in the Shocco community out from Canton. View their work at www.southernstories.com.

I SEE Canton for the beauty it’s become

By Pam Confer, Canton Chamber president

Canton is a very special place. Over the years, our challenges have only proven to make us stronger, more creative, and determined. Our bright, little city is beautiful. As your Canton Chamber President, we will work closely with all of our community stakeholders so that everyone will SEE what we see.



Special to The Canton News

We will:

• **Spur Economic Development:** No one comes to Canton without boasting about our Square. It is an historic, attractive space

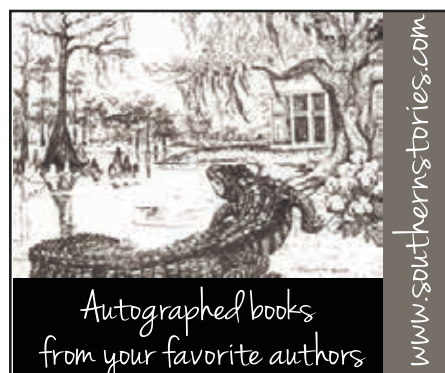
surrounded by some great places to live, shop, and fill our bellies. We will work hard to recruit other businesses that will complement those on our Square and throughout the city. Canton will prosper if it becomes a place where patrons can find an array of quality services and amenities.

• **Encourage Ownership:** The love for the city of Canton begins with us. We all must have pride in our city, and demonstrate a commitment to move forward. In the coming months, the Canton Chamber will erect two signs that welcome residents and visitors to the city. We will support Keep Canton Beautiful to keep this place we call “home” clean and confident. The Chamber will also serve as the conduit for conversations amongst community partners that create lasting collaborations.

• **Explore Our Uniqueness:** From the Canton Flea Market, to the Christmas Festival, to our rich Civil Rights history, to movies filmed here, to the entertainers that filled the air with music, Canton continues to host a colorful, multi-faceted culture. Our students in the Canton Public Schools District are being educated and uplifted with this in mind. We want them to remain part of the fabric of our community—raising their families, working and worshipping here, and investing in Canton when they’re older.

We are one of a kind, Canton. We will package our gifts. We will solidify our brand. We will SEE.

EDITOR’S NOTE: Confer serves as Nissan’s director of community/public relations, and a speaker, jazz artist, and musical director.



County increases the MS Courthouse grounds rent



Photo by The Canton News

Renting the Historic Canton Courthouse grounds for an event will now cost a minimum of \$100.

By Susie A. Wolfe

Madison County supervisors voted to increase the rent on the grounds of the Historic Canton Courthouse in their November meeting. Prior to the increase, individuals or non-profit groups could hold weddings or reunions for a \$25 deposit.

All supervisors, except District 5 Supervisor Paul Griffin, agreed to

raise the fees for holding events on the grounds from to fees of \$100-\$300. The cost to reserve the north courthouse grounds is \$100, the south courthouse grounds is \$200, and the entire grounds is \$300.

Griffin said, "I feel it's public property, so the taxpayers should be able to use taxpayer property. We have to live with it 'til another day."

cont. from front page

Keep Canton Beautiful wins an national award

"We're proud of our affiliates' work. They are rallying volunteers to energize community improvement across the state," said Keep Mississippi Beautiful Executive Director Sarah Kountouris.

Keep Canton Beautiful was one of more than 80 individuals and organizations from communities across America to receive national

recognition. Keep America Beautiful's National Awards recognize the passion, dedication and impact of Keep America Beautiful's affiliates from across the nation as well as partner organizations and individuals who share Keep America Beautiful's vision of a country in which every community is a clean, green and beautiful place to live.

Forgive your mistakes and you will not fail forward

By Guest Columnist Kathy Amos

Have you ever made a mistake? A huge mistake? The kind that makes you want to hide under a rock and never come out again kind of mistake? If so, you're not alone! We all make wrong judgment calls, bleeps and blunders, some great and some small. It's simply a price we pay to achieve success. John Maxwell says, "The fellow who never makes a mistake takes his orders from one who does."

I remember when I wrote my first book. A very short book, might I add. I thought I would never find enough words to finish it. Writers block would come, and I would leave. But I kept coming back, because I knew how important it was for me to finish. I could see "The End," and I knew that I had

to get there! I had to finish strong.

The Bible tells us that "The godly may trip seven times, but they will get up again. But one disaster is enough to overthrow the wicked." (Proverbs 24:16) This can only mean that we must be willing to fail forward. We must be willing to get back up and try again.

You may have started writing your first book, saving money for your first home or started an exercise program. You may stop, but rest up, and start again. You may become distracted, but realign your priorities and refocus. The big mistake is quitting, and quitters never win.

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.

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Canton beats Olive Branch at Rumble in the South



Photo by Jud Meaders Jr.

Canton High players holding defense again Olive Branch in the Rumble in the South MLK Classic. Pictured (l to r) in black, are: Brandon Weatherspoon, Jaylen Lester, Damerius Wash, Javian Fleming, and Jamal Porter.

By Susie A. Wolfe

Number two Olive Branch and number three Canton played in an epic matchup at the Rumble in the South MLK Classic high

school basketball tournament game on Monday, January 15, at St. Andrew's Episcopal School in Ridgeland, Mississippi. While Olive Branch had a five-star prospect, Canton

had Alabama commit Javian Fleming and many athletes with size. Canton controlled much of the game, leading by as much as 16 in the third quarter, before Olive Branch went

on a run and even took a lead in the fourth. In the end, Demarius Wash and Brandon Weatherspoon were too much for Olive Branch, leading Canton to a 74-68 win.

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Parents are the soul of Canton Public School District

By Cassandra Williams,
Superintendent CPSD



Special to The Canton News

My columns in the past have typically focused on students and teachers; these two groups are, essentially, the heart of our district. But this month, I am thrilled to discuss the soul of our district, our parents. I often reflect on the fact that our parents entrust their most prized possessions with us daily. There is a false narrative that often exists about districts that look like ours, and that false narrative is that parental engagement is lacking. For Canton Public School District (CPSD), that narrative is untrue. With each district event that we host, our parents turn out in the hundreds. They arrive eager and ready to engage with their children's teachers and administrators. They arrive excited to receive strategies that they

can use at home to help their children excel. Our parents' dedication motivates and inspires us to work tirelessly to prepare our children for what lies ahead after graduation.

On November 30, 2017, our district hosted Family Literacy Night. Our literacy night was designed to provide parents of children in grades K-12 with strategies that they can use at home to aid in increasing their children's reading comprehension and their ability to write about what they read. Each school had a team of teachers and administrators that presented sessions to parents, many of which were standing-room-only. Parents appreciated the activities and handouts that they could use with their children to assist with their homework. Over 800 parents attended this event!

On December 5, 2017, we hosted a Parent Extravaganza for the parents of our students who are English learners. Though our English learners' parents often attend our other events, we dedicated this night solely to them.

About 200 parents received information on the services that are available to them in our district and in the community. We also provided details for our new Parent Center, which is provided through our collaboration with Families First for Mississippi. The center opened on January 18, 2018, on the campus of Canton Elementary School. Our parents were excited to hear about the resources that will be available, including employment assistance, translators, online training, technology stations, clothing donation, and parenting skills. The center will operate Monday through Thursday from 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m. and on Fridays from 8 a.m.-12 p.m. The center is open to the public.

There is an old movie that features the famous line, "If you build it, they will come." We've adopted that same sentiment when it comes to our parent sessions. Our parents' positive responses to our programs mean that we will provide even more parent-focused sessions throughout the school year. On

February 15, we will host Family Math Night at Goodloe Elementary School/Porter Middle School from 5:30 p.m.- 7 p.m. Our sessions will provide our parents with strategies that they can use at home to assist their children with math homework. On February 27, we will host a similar session for our English Learners' parents from 5:30 p.m.-7 p.m. at Canton Elementary School. We will have translators available.

I frequently revisit our district's three focus areas (teaching, nurturing, and learning) in my columns. This month is no exception. We're dedicated to making high achievement our students' priority 24 hours a day, and our parents are eager to join in 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.

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Canton holds Job Fair



Photo by The Canton News

The Career for Cantonians Job Fair was held at the Multipurpose Complex on January 18. Nissan, TempStaff, Belhaven University Madison, Families First, the National Guard and Army were among the booths interviewing applicants. Pictured (l to r) are: Belhaven Admission Advisor Tiara Keyes and Canton Chamber Ambassador Mary Johnson.

Lions honor Chandler



Photo by The Canton News

James Chandler, retired from BankPlus, was honored at the January 10 Canton Lions Club Meeting for 50 years as a Lion. The lifelong Canton resident, Chandler and his wife, Becky, have three sons, Chan, Lee and Joell. Pictured (l to r) are: Thomas Corlett, secretary; Chandler; and Webster Ford, president.

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*NOTE: All donations subject to change on an annual basis.

Bessie Alexander honored



Special to The Canton News

The Madison County Baptist Women's Auxiliary recently honored one of the oldest members of their Mission, Mrs. Bessie Alexander, for her many years of dedicated service. She is a member of the Mount Pleasant M.B. Church. The group meets every second Saturday of the month at the Family Life Center on Canal Street. Pictured (l to r) are: Bessie Alexander and Sister Jimmie Lee Davis, Madison County Mission president.

Lacy president of ECAM

Special to The Canton News

Leroy Lacy, District Five Election Commissioner, assumed the duties of president of the Election Commissioners Association of Mississippi (ECAM) for all 82 counties in July 2017.



Special to The Canton News

He was elected vice president of the Legislation in 2015 and in 2017. Lacy served on the Board of Directors for ECAM from 2013 to 2015 before being elected to vice president. He has served as chairman of the Commissioner for Madison County (2013-2014) and presently serves as vice chairman.

Lacy is the owner of Lacy's Insurance Agency, LLC in Canton, and has been in the insurance profession for 41 years beginning in 1976 as an agent for Independent Life Insurance. While working for Independent Life Insurance, he was promoted to district manager in 1987 in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. He has won many awards, including Agent of the

Year and Staff Manager of the Year. In 1990, Lacy started Lacy's Insurance Agency. In 2005, Lacy he became the pastor of the New Truelight M. B. Church in Canton.

Lacy graduated from Velma Jackson High School, and continued his education at Jackson State University and Oklahoma City University. He earned a Doctorate in Ministry in 2009 from McKinley Theological Seminary. He was inducted into Velma Jackson's Hall of Fame in 2016.

Lacy has served on many boards, past and present. He's a member of the Chamber of Commerce of Canton and has served on their Board. He presently serves on the Canton Planning Board for the City of Canton since 2005; President of the Inter-Denominational Ministerial Alliance, Associate Dean for the Madison County Baptist Association of Churches, McKinley Theological Seminary Board; President of the 100 Black Men of America, Inc. Canton Chapter from 2004 to 2013. He is also a mentor at Luther Branson Elementary School. Currently, he serves as Executive Director of the 100 Black Men of America.

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Annual Meeting Award Recipients

Ambassador of the Year - Tamika Liddell, Renasant Bank

Business of the Year - Trustmark National Bank

Business Person of the Year - Glenda Rushing, Piggly Wiggly

Community Service Award - The Canton News

Merchant of the Year - Love Story 1979

Retired Board Members - Chan Chandler, Canton Discount Drugs
Ken Morris, Barnett Phillips Lumber
Tammy Watkins, TempStaff

Best of Canton Awards

Best Accountant/Attorney: Montgomery McGraw

Best Auto Services: Kraft Auto Parts

Best Child Care Provider: Canton Academy

Best Engineering/Construction: Canton Concrete

Best Financial Service: Trustmark National Bank

Best Food Service: Marlo's Backyard BBQ

Best Health Service: Canton Discount Drugs

Best Insurance Service: State Farm - Arnel Bolden

Best Professional Service: Jones Cleaners

Best Retail: WalMart



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R.O.S.S. holds a seminar



Special to The Canton News

Pictured (l to r) are: Shannon Griffin, financial coach; and upper right: Terry Germany, Patricia Hubb, Helen Jefferson and Robert Jefferson

Special to The Canton News

Many people are focused on getting in shape, eating better, living better, and starting fresh during this time of year. This can also be an important time to assess your financial health. Are you fit, financially, that is? How's that credit score? Do you have a savings account? Are you debt free? These are some questions to ask when trying to determine what you should be working on to become financially self-sufficient.

The R.O.S.S. Program of the Canton Housing Authority continues to promote self-sufficiency for its residents in many areas. Angela Carson, program coordinator, recognizes the role that managing finances plays in becoming independent. Shannon Griffin, financial coach, works with residents monthly to discuss budgeting, credit repair, saving and other finance-related topics.

Becoming financially self-suf-

ficient requires taking steps to create a stable income, build savings, and stay out of significant debt. As tax refunds come in, consider these tips:

1. Opening a bank account
2. Paying off a bill or two
3. Stocking up on regular household supplies
4. Saving at least 10% of the refund
5. Putting money in an emergency fund

If Cantonians are looking for ways to get finances in order, there is a free five-week Financial Boot Camp to be held at Priestly Chapel M.B. Church beginning Monday, February 5, at 5:30 p.m. Learn about getting finances on track, reducing debt, and establishing credit. For more information, contact Ernestine Bilbrew at 601-559-7131.

Carson invites persons and agencies to partner with the R.O.S.S. Program to continue meeting the needs of residents. If interested, please contact her at 601-859-4032.

He will not break a promise

By Guest Columnist Pastor Guy Odom,
First Baptist Canton

What is your initial reaction when someone breaks a promise? Or what about the other side of the coin, when you make a promise and then don't follow through?



Special to The Canton News

For me, it just hurts both ways. Unfortunately, I have been on both sides. It is downright embarrassing and frustrating. Yes, as humans we may or may not intentionally want to break promises.

Here is an idea, how about not make a promise only to break it? Yeah, I now better said than done. However, when a promise is kept and followed through with, how does that make you feel? Yeah, I know the answer to that as well. You know, God's Word is full of promises. Guess what? He will never break a promise! Psalm 145:13 says, "Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and your dominion endures through all generations. The Lord is faithful to all his promises and loving toward all he

has made."

I recently preached a message on the "Promises of God". It was fabulous. Hey, I needed to hear it, let alone preach it! God's promises are both conditional and unconditional. When you read a promise in the Bible that has a consequence, good or bad, that is a conditional promise. When you read a promise in the Bible that is a declaration of God that never changes, that is an Unconditional promise. John 3:16 says, "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten son, that whosoever believes in Him will not perish, but have everlasting life." This is an unconditional promise!

Finally, here are a few promises you can stake your life on: God loves you unconditionally, Christ died for your sins so that you can have eternal life, anyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved! This can never be tampered with! Have a great month, and happy Valentine's Day!

- 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.

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CGMA to present black history concert to public



The Utica Jubilee Singers

Special to The Canton News



Canton High School Concert Choir

Special to The Canton News



Reuben B. Myers School of Arts & Science Choir

Special to The Canton News

By Guest Columnist Cynthia Goodloe Palmer

The Canton Gospel Music Association (CGMA) will host its 4th Annual Black History "Sound of Celebration" Concert on Sunday, February 25, at 3 p.m. at the Mt. Zion M.B. Church, located at 514 W. North Street. Dr. W. L. Johnson, Sr. is the pastor.

Guest choirs include the Canton High School Concert Choir (Mr.

Harry Wayson, Director), The Reuben B. Myers School of Arts & Sciences Chior (Mrs. Jessica Beal, Director), and The Utica Jubilee Singers from Hinds Community College, Utica Branch (Dr. Bobby Cooper, Director).

This event is free and open to the public, but an offering will be collected to support the Scholarship Fund. For more information, contact Cynthia Goodloe Palmer at 601-918-7809.

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Workforce Development: Why it will work in Canton

By Speaker of the House Philip Gunn



Special to The Canton News

When we first began recruiting businesses to Mississippi, incentives played a big role. Many companies wanted to know, “What will you do for us?” That is changing. The number one thing businesses want to know now is, “Do you have a trained, reliable, educated workforce?”

If Mississippi is to prosper, we must be able to provide a solid answer to that question. A strong, educated workforce is the backbone of Mississippi. It directly impacts our level of prosperity. If our workforce is strong, we prosper. If it is weak, we suffer.

Over the last six years, your legislature has focused on workforce development. We have passed legislation to create:

- Mississippi Works Fund,

which provides training to unemployed people, giving them skills to prepare them to enter the workforce.

- Mississippi Works Dual Enrollment Option, allowing potential or recent high school dropouts to dually enroll in



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their local school district and the local community college in dual credit programs.

- MDA Job Training Grants that authorize MDA to make grants to colleges to pay a portion of the costs associated with training or retraining employees for businesses that expand or locate their operations in Mississippi.

- Districts of Innovation, allowing local school districts to implement innovative ideas in their schools to increase performance and explore different ways to prepare students for either college or careers. Many of these districts have

teamed up with manufacturers to ensure that they are teaching the appropriate curriculum and training the students on quality equipment.

- Appropriations and bonding. In 2012, we appropriated \$38.5 million for the Workforce Education Program and Industrial Training. We have steadily increased the appro-

priation for the program over the last six years, and this year we appropriated \$51 million, an increase of 32%. We also appropriated \$4 million in bonds for the MDA Workforce Training Fund.

As industry changes and progresses, so must education. We want to be responsive to the needs of industry. We want to be nimble. We want to provide that skilled workforce. This is one of the motivations behind our efforts to seek a new K-12 funding formula. Our goal is to move to a student-centered formula, one that provides funding tailored to the specific needs of the student. I have also recently appointed Sean Suggs, Vice President of Manufacturing for Toyota Mississippi, to our state board of education. He will bring a much-needed perspective to the role education plays in our workforce.

Your legislature believes a strong workforce is the backbone of Mississippi and that the prosperity of our state hinges on how well we put forth a trained and educated workforce.

CMU OFFERS TIP TO CUT YOUR ENERGY BILL

At CMU we are always working to keep your utility rates the lowest in the area. Our rate payers have the lowest electric, gas and water rates in the metro area and we are proud to be your utility provider!

Energy Tips to Cut your Energy Bills This Winter

- **Whether you live in a mobile home, an apartment, or a multi-level house, your first steps for reducing energy costs will be similar. Start with a room-by-room tour. Take notes as you tour each room, list any supplies you will need, and prioritize bigger projects. As you implement your plan from these easy, low-cost energy improvements you will see a difference in your utility bills.**
- **Start with the entrance to your home. Change your outside lights to energy-saving bulbs. Check to ensure that air is not seeping into your home. Most homes have gaps around the windows, doors, and edges where walls and floors meet. You can purchase supplies such as foam weather-stripping from many home improvement stores to quickly fix these problems.**
- **Appliances can also consume a tremendous amount of energy. You can save on your utility bill by making a few minor adjustments. Such as scraping dishes instead of rinsing before loading them in the dishwasher. Run the dishwasher with a full load and use the air-dry option if available. Try to wash most clothes in cold water and always rinse cold. You can save hundreds of dollars on water heating each year. Remember to keep that lint trap clean! Keep the condenser coils clean on your freezer and refrigerator.**

Discover more at:
www.cmu.com



CANTON MUNICIPAL UTILITIES ■ Where Utilities Power Possibilities

Confer debuts “Mississippi Beautiful” song at Capitol

By Susie A. Wolfe

Canton Chamber President Pam Confer debuted her song, “Mississippi Beautiful,” at the Mississippi Capitol Rotunda on December 4. The song plays in the “Where Do We Go From Here?” gallery at the Mississippi Civil Rights Museum that opened marking the state’s Bicentennial on December 9, where she sang her song.

With the opening of the \$90 billion two museums, the Mississippi Civil Rights Museum and the Mississippi History Museum on the state’s Bicentennial, Confer said she wanted the lyrics to the song to ask: “Who are we?” She said she knew she wanted to dedicate it to the historic change that she felt was coming.

“I hope this song is impactful for history,” said Confer. “People need some glue to bring something inspirational and positive to carry us to the next destination.”

Confer is an accomplished singer and song writer. Performing with her group, “Jazz Beautiful,” she was voted “Best Local Jazz Artist” by the *Jackson Free Press* for 2012 and 2013; the Jackson Mu-

sic Awards’ 2013 and 2015 “Jazz Group of the Year;” and, the MS Jazz Foundation’s 2015 “Jazz Ambassador of the Year.” She is also one of the *MS Business Journal*’s 2015 “Top 50 Leading MS Businesswomen;” a 2016 Girl Scouts of Greater Mississippi “Woman of Distinction;” and, the *Jackson Advocate* newspaper’s “2017 Woman of the Year.”

In addition to serving as the director of community and public relations for Nissan Canton, Confer also directs the Nissan Canton Gospel Choir, the only choir in the automotive industry in the Country.

“Mississippi has such a rich and complicated history, but we’re all Mississippi, so we can’t escape it,” said Confer. “I want those who visit to keep the positive spirit of the Museum. The lyrics say ‘Let’s take each moment; Who are we? To touch and lift our fellow man; For we know; No one can love quite like we can; Mississippi, who are we?’ ”

The song’s lyrics matched many of the themes in the museum, so it became a part of the message. “The song just fits perfectly there,”



Mississippi Beautiful was written and is sung by Pam Confer. Special to The Canton News

said Confer, “and I really hope that it helps to send the message when people leave that you’re not leav-

ing to get in your car and do the same thing you did when you arrived.”



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Nichols Middle School 2017- 2018 yr. Honor Roll

Special to The Canton News

Second Nine Weeks

Sixth Grade

• Superintendent List (All A's)

Sabraida Harris and Selwyn Ware

• Principal List (A's and B's)

Demorrison Brown, Kirsten Coleman, Kayla Davis, Channing Fulton, Terrance Griffin, Ny'keria Hobson, Ariaunna Luckett, Aad Obaid, Tamarrian Robinson, Kelsey Sutton, and Sienna Walker

• Honor Roll (B average)

Jacolby Bouldin, Kamari Brooks, Dekarious Clanton, Devarious Clanton, Yuri Felix- Perez, Christopher Hunter, Jayla Jones, Alexis Lewis, Jessica Orozco-Tema, Deshea Otis, Tyler Primer, Diamond Riley, Samara Shelton, Tykeria Small, Lakorey Smith, Refreeshia Smith, Malajah Tucker, Jer'niyah Vanburen, and Rahanna Ward

Seventh Grade

• Principal List (A's and B's)

Patria Carson, Alex Contre-ras, George Garcia-Roblero,

Asiyon Hudson, Kaithylnne Jones, Jh'kiyah Matlock, Kanyla McMorris, Ahniya Myers, Erin Nichols, and Adan Sanchez-Castaneda

• Honor Roll (B average)

Tiyunka Anderson, Aaliyah Baldwin, Asah Blair, Errion Brown, Sharosalyn Brown, Isaiaha Clairbush, Seany Cruz, Ambria Esco, Mari-ah Esco, Kevin Griffin Jr., Teraneshia Jackson, Brooklyn Maldonado, Joseph McLaurin, JiQuamane Miggins, Amira Mormont, Charlencia Sanders, Jayla Stamps, Keith Starks, and Quinn Woods

Eighth Grade

• Principal List (A's and B's)

Greicy Felix- Perez, Cedria Griffin, Dontavious Jones, Darrah McGruder, Nicholas Miller, Lorrin Nichols, Bushera Obaid, Azairya Shields, LaMya Taylor, LaNya Taylor, Jessica Vanburen, and Equanyae Warren

• Honor Roll (B average)

Madison Archer, Tina Carter, Christopher Collins Jr., Alaysia Freeman, Arianna Hunter, KiMarione Luckett, Jakiah McDonald, Markayla Miller, and Jontravius Smith.

Good things are on the retail horizon for Canton

By Guest Columnist Joy Foy

Mississippi State University Extension Service has very helpful analysis data.



Special to The Canton News

One such data base is available online from Dr. Alan Barefield at a public website <http://extension.msstate.edu/economic-profiles>. He and a group of graduate students compile data from the Mississippi Department of Revenue and the U.S. Census Bureau to offer these evaluations.

The history of Canton's sales from this website shows 2014 retail sales of \$214,217,372. In 2015, that amount rose to \$225,541,254, and again in 2016, progressed to \$234,176,371. Canton is moving in the correct direction with retail.

The 2015 sales from an estimated population of 13,481 people only captured 8,637 shoppers. Population in Canton has grown in these three years from 13,321 in 2014 to 13,481 in 2016, and the retail

trade population trade area capture showed a bigger percentage of growth than the population. Using the established formula for calculation, the potential for retail sales in our population is \$365,504,059.

The City of Canton is off to a good start in 2018 with the huge crowds the Canton Tourism Office brought in for the 2017 City of Lights Festival. The new construction at the old school, the continuing updates at Buttross Department Store, the new Farm House store, the Rich Grain Distilling Company and other Redevelopment Authority's projects have added to the well-established businesses like Sulm's Gifts, La Di Da and others that have operated on the Square for years. The new hospital, Merit Health Madison, is bringing additional health care jobs and investments to Canton. Good things are on the horizon for Canton.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Joy Foy is featured in the Know Your Neighbor column this month. She is now retired from the Mississippi Development Authority.

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10:15 a.m.

Wednesday Nights
6:00 p.m.

Prayer Meeting
Children & Youth Activities
Choir Rehearsal

Martin Luther King Jr. Parade held in January



Photos by The Canton News

Bands from as far away as Hattiesburg joined local churches and businesses in marching in the January 15 Martin Luther King Jr. (MLK) Parade around the Historic Canton Square on a breezy 40-degree morning. A service was held in the Community Center afterwards.

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Canton, MS

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Friday, February 2, 2018

6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Canton Community Center
337 North Union Street • Canton, MS

This event is **FREE** and open to the public

Dr. Joyce Jenkins, President
For more information contact: Bertina Rice at bsrice74@gmail.com

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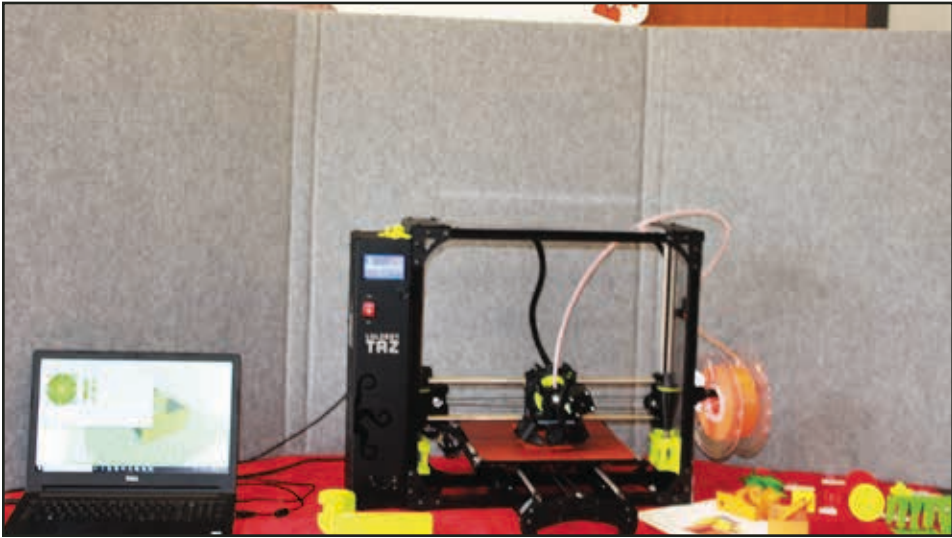
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MCLS offers 3D printer Snow covered backdrop



Special to The Canton News
3D printing will be available at the Canton Branch starting February 1. Also, there will be a free demonstration of the service given at each of our branches. Cantonians are encouraged to check out the library's February calendar at www.mc-lsms.org.



Photo by Jud Meaders, Jr.
Canton received its second snow of the season on January 23, and kids extended their Monday holiday for a few more days. The Historic Canton Square, one of the most recognizable scenes in the state, is shown with Christmas decorations still displayed.



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