



THE CANTON NEWS

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P.O. Box 1163, Canton, MS 39046

Canton ministry still following God's lead

By Lori Lycette

In 1994, In His Steps Ministries (IHS) was begun in Canton by Jasper and Carolyn Bacon as an intervention ministry to intercede in the lives of juvenile offenders and their families. IHS staff and volunteers are presently reaching incarcerated boys in nearly a dozen Mississippi counties through visitation and regular Bible studies. They hold weekly Christ-centered Bible studies at three detention centers in Central Mississippi and as a result, have helped hundreds of boys accept Christ.

In His Steps also uses specialized and creative ministries to reach at-risk children and their families. Their Prevention Ministry uses

the S.P.A.S.E. (Spiritual, Physical, Academic, Social and Emotional) Program, which enables each child to reach his or her full potential and ultimately become self-sufficient. This program offers the After-School Program, Summer Enrichment Program and Saturday Morning Reading Discovery.

The Family Ministry provides Christ-centered individual counseling, workshops, annual conferences and retreats. The Sports Ministry offers soccer, basketball and football camps, mentoring and weekly team devotionals for middle and high school athletes.

The Compassionate Services ministry is designed to bring churches



Entrance to In His Steps

Photo by Lori Lycette



Reverend and Mrs. Jasper Bacon

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together to serve the physical and spiritual needs of Canton residents and the surrounding communities. They unite to help families in need, such as minor home repairs for the elderly or furnishing Christmas gifts for a family in crisis.

Carolyn Bacon stated that they assist with determining individual giftings and help with trade vocation. "We want to give a hand

up, not a handout." They ask and truly listen to the specific needs of others, rather than telling them or just providing what they feel is needed most. Bacon said that God has called him and Carolyn to love the city through building relationships, and they desire to work closely with the local community and partner with them.

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UMMC Physicians offer services at Merit Health

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A business venture with Merit Health Madison is opening the door for University of Mississippi Medical Center physicians to perform surgeries and provide inpatient post-operative care at Merit Health's hospital in Canton, effectively expanding UMMC's adult hospital capacity and operating room availability.

The business venture has been realized through a UMMC-affiliated not-for-profit company, Healthier Mississippi Collabo-

orative, made possible by an act of the Mississippi Legislature in 2017.

The act, the first of its kind in Mississippi, paves the way for the Medical Center to engage in health care-related business relationships with public and private entities. The business venture with Merit Health Mad-

ison reflects UMMC's commitment to caring for the health and wellness of Mississippians by increasing patient access to specialty services provided by the state's only academic medical center and training

opportunities for the next generation of health care providers. "We're excited to collabo-

rate with UMMC to bring more health care resources to central Mississippi," said Steve Dobbs, regional president and chief executive officer of Merit Health, a network of nine affiliated hospitals in Mississippi. "Our facility in Canton has surgical capacity, and our staff welcomes the opportunity to work with UMMC's surgeons to expand access to care for patients from Madison County and beyond."

The business venture allows UMMC providers to be more

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cont. from front page

Canton church ministry still following God's lead

*"Boss" Hogge speaking to the VBS kids*

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In His Steps also partners with churches throughout the United States during the spring and summer to spread the Gospel through sports and math camps, Vacation Bible School (VBS) and construction projects. Jon (Boss) Hogge from Grace Church in Indianapolis, Indiana, recently brought his team to Rogers Park to lead VBS for the neighboring children. He said that his entire team has the "Palms up approach...whatever you want, God." They have faithfully traveled here to partner with the Bacons for the past twenty years. Teams from Lanes-

ville Congregational Church in Gloucester, Massachusetts, and Crossway Community Church in Orange County, California, have also traveled to Canton for many years to serve the community and creating life-long relationships with the children and their families. Reverend Bacon believes this is a wonderful opportunity to serve children physically, spiritually and emotionally.

IHS is currently situated just north of town at 3528 North Liberty Street in a large multi-purpose building which contains classrooms for homework assistance, a

*VBS kids getting a "shower" from the Canton Fire Department*

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science and robotics lab, a library, a large room for workshops, a game room and even a large garden outside that the children help maintain. They have recently been blessed to purchase additional property, which is located about one mile north at 3574 North Liberty, with the intent of creating a Christian campground. They plan to eventually build cabins and use this property for additional training for pastors, long-term interns to live on the property and retreats for married couples, as well as for fathers and sons. Reverend Bacon said that he is "excited about

building relationships and reaching fathers of the kids we serve!"

The Bacons' main objective is to invite ALL church groups, who are one in the Body of Christ, to come alongside them in demonstrating God's love through physically helping families in Canton and proclaiming the Gospel to them. In His Steps is a 501(c)(3) ministry and relies solely on donations from local churches and individuals. For more information on the Bacons or any of their ministries, visit their website at : inhissteps.org or call 601-859-5708.





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Know Your Neighbor: Sam Hughes

By Guest Columnist Jim Ritchie

The little Lone Pine Baptist Church sits where it has, near the intersection of Lone Pine Road and Barnes Road, since its founding in 1896 and counts an average Sunday congregation of around twenty-five. The adjoining cemetery is the final resting place for generations of its members, many of whom carried the names of current members.

Lone Pine Baptist Church also harbors one of the best kept secrets in Madison County. It's pastored by a man who has earned a PhD from Baylor University, has taught Greek, Church History and Theology on the college level and is conversant in both Greek and Hebrew.

Meet Sam Hughes, husband, father, rancher, confidant, carpenter, handyman, historian, voracious reader, preacher and teacher extraordinaire. Born in Meadville, Mississippi, where his father, a Baptist minister, was pastoring a church, Sam's life journey has led him to also reside in North Dakota, Wyoming, Texas, Missouri and Montana. His father, a graduate of Mississippi College and a Navy veteran, was sent by the Baptist Home Mission Board to start churches in North Dakota when Sam was two years old.

After fifteen years in North Dakota, they moved to Wyoming where he finished high school and attended Casper College. Sam left Casper college to work on a ranch in Montana and loved the job.

"I thought it was wonderful to rise early, go to the hayfield or ride fence or tend to cattle or do any of the ranch chores, while not having to deal with a bunch of people," he says, "and there was absolutely no inclination nor desire to preach. I was where I belonged...I thought." God had other plans for him.

"He was calling me to preach, and I knew it," Sam says, "but for an agonizing time I resisted, thinking that becoming a preacher was about the last thing in the world I wanted to do."

God won the argument, howev-

er. Sam quit the ranch job, drove his pickup to his parents' house in Montana and hitched a ride with a Baptist deacon who was driving his daughter to Mississippi College. The next week, he was sitting in a Mississippi College classroom beginning his pursuit of a degree in accounting. Accounting was chosen heeding the sage advice of the aforementioned deacon and Sam's parents because, as he says, "I was going to get my Bible and Church coursework at seminary, so there was no sense taking all those courses at Mississippi College. Besides, preachers sometimes need to function as the financial officer in some churches, so I figured I needed to learn something about business and accounting."

While at Mississippi College, he met and courted Miss Lola Page from Copiah County, but they parted when they graduated. After college and attending Southwestern Seminary in Texas and Midwestern Seminary in Missouri, he received his Master of Divinity degree and headed back to Montana, where he started Valley Baptist Church in a ranching community and pastored there while also teaching Greek, Church History and Theology at Yellowstone Baptist College.

A PhD was earned at Baylor University after this stint, and he returned to the life of a pastor in Montana. The old adage of God working in strange and mysterious ways was affirmed when Sam decided to return to Mississippi.

At his father's request, he relayed his father's regards to an old friend, Reverend James Bouie, the pastor at Lone Pine Baptist Church, and, at the suggestion of his mother, he became reacquainted with Lola. Both suggestions had very positive consequences.

Sam and Lola were married, and after Sam had substituted in the preaching function at Lone Pine because of Reverend Bouie's retirement, he was called by the little church to be its pastor. Sam then set about renovating the church building using the carpentry, electrical and plumbing skills he had acquired while using them to work his way through college and seminary.

While the congregation was pleased with the improvements to the building, they were and continue to be delighted with his

sermons, which can, on occasion, assume the style of a college class.

He doesn't usually preach from the pulpit. He most often stands down on the main floor, sometimes in a suit and tie and just as often in cowboy boots and western shirt and talks without notes. Adhering to a strict interpretation of the scriptures, he intersperses his messages with points of interest not usually apparent to casual readers, such as the reason why the third member of the Trinity is referred to as the Holy Spirit in two of the gospels, and as the Holy Ghost in the other two. And why Joshua's failure to obey one of God's commands to him is causing trouble today. And how, by actual measurements that were described in the scripture, there was not only enough room to house all the animals on the ark... it actually had spare space. Before a hymn is sung, he often remarks, "You might be interested that..." and launches into a brief biography of the hymn's composer.

His library (which he built) houses his hundreds of books containing information from which, coupled with his knowledge of the Greek and Hebrew languages, he laces his sermons with snippets of facts about astronomy, physics, chemistry, physiology (why cervical cancer is less common among Jewish women, as an example), or any number of other subjects he might use to drive home a point.

Pastoral duties are not neglected. The congregation's shut-ins or ill members can be sure that visits from Sam are imminent and often. Other than all of these attributes, he's just a regular, spirit filled preacher, who can repair his own guns, load his own ammunition, is an accomplished pianist and who plays a pretty good guitar.

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 his professional artist wife, Perry, live in the Shocco community out from Canton. View their work at www.southernstories.com.

Faith calls us to a deeper level as we answer God's call

By Guest Columnist Kathy Amos



Katy Amos

A little over a year ago, faith called my family to another level. When I say another level, I'm talking about another level of love, faith, unity, prayer and ministry. God has a way of bringing us into new territory. He has a plan to get us from one dimension of His glory to another. His plan is to make us stronger in our faith and love-walk to impact His kingdom in a greater way. Many times, we become comfortable and complacent in our various lifestyles until God challenges us to come higher and propels us to a new level of faith.

In April 2018, my daughter Jessica suffered a psychotic breakdown. A twenty-six-year-old ambitious, young lady pursuing her dreams, whose life was literally ripped out of her body. In

a matter of seventy-two hours, I saw my daughter go from crying out for answers to get through a tough time in her young adult life to spiraling into a deep, dark sea of confusion and delusion.

When this happened, it shook the entire framework of our family structure. Everyone in the household was shaken and awakened by this traumatic attack!

As we all shuffled around trying to get help for her, several other tornadoes spun off this catastrophe. Ebone' (our family RN) was currently pursuing her Masters of Science degree in Practical Nursing and stepped in to help. During final testing, Ebone' failed by one point. She was so hurt by this, but she

wasn't prepared to receive the news of being kicked out of the nursing program. This was yet another devastating blow to the family structure. At this point, I knew as a mom and a woman of faith that it was time to level up and go into the enemy's camp. I turned over my plate for forty days and went on a liquid fast and began to cry out to God.

Ebone', Jessica and my husband, Pastor Joe, fasted in their own way, as well. Lastly, my daughter Tameka, who was with child at the time, began to develop unusually high blood pressure that spiraled out of control. With four other small children to care for, this had be-

come extremely challenging with Jessica's and Ebone's situations at hand. As a result, she was hospitalized and delivered seven weeks early.

It's a true statement: "Never underestimate the power of a praying mother." As a result of fasting and prayer, declaring God's Word over my family and loving them through their pain, Jessica was totally healed and delivered within eight weeks of her traumatic breakdown. Ebone' and I drove to Nashville to appeal her case, and she was reinstated into the program. She graduated with honors and was inducted into the Sigma Theta Tau International Nurses Honor Society. Our story had a great ending because we answered the call of God to enter a new level of faith.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Kathy is the reigning Mrs. Mississippi 2019 and has been executive pastor of Turning Point Fellowship Ministries International Church, alongside her husband Joe, for the past fourteen years.



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Canton teacher always will be fondly remembered



Ms. Edmonds with some of her Velma Jackson students.

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On July 2, 2019, Martha Camp Edmonds, one of the most patriotic persons to ever teach first grade, died. When students left Ms. Edmonds' class, they had learned they lived in the best country in the world. They knew this because Ms. Edmonds had taught them about the value of being a citizen using a song she wrote entitled "The ABC's of America," and they learned as they embodied historic American heroes through a patriotic play that she also authored. Her first graders dressed the part, learned the scripts and became George Washington, Betsy Ross, Benjamin Franklin or one of the other historic legends. They learned about the cost of freedom from soldiers of all branches of the armed forces, as well as State Legislators, and were taught standards that not only honored others but actually brought honor to themselves. Yes, her students at Canton Academy and at Velma Jackson understood what it meant to be a proud American. They learned because Ms. Edmonds loved them, nurtured them and modeled a good American citizen for them.

Most anyone you talk to has a funny "Martha story," and not all are very flattering. For example, one time she was uptown shopping with her blouse inside-out. Then there was the time she put her car in drive instead of reverse to leave her carport. (Local contractor Glenn Cook made those repairs!) There are hundreds of stories, and Martha was as quick as anyone to tell these stories on herself. She had the gift of laughter and taught us all to not take life too seriously. The reason so many people have a "Martha story" is because she had that special unique trait/personality that made everyone feel like her best friend. Dicky, her husband of fifty years, summed Martha up perfectly when he said, "It was a fun marriage." Yes, indeed! Students loved first grade because Martha devoted herself to them, friends in Mississippi knew each other better because Martha was always getting them together, and friends from Colorado (Martha and Dicky's home for the past few years) said they felt a sisterhood with Martha because she was the type of person that made you feel you had known her forever. She was known as a special and fun lady!

cont. from front page

UMMC Physicians offer services at Merit Health

easily accessible, in many cases, by patients and families, said Dr. Charles O'Mara, UMMC associate vice chancellor for clinical affairs. Merit Health Madison "is a beautiful facility that is relatively new and has been very well maintained," he said. "We're extremely excited about the opportunity for having it as a venue for providing services and education. We will also have a presence in the adjacent clinic building to conveniently see patients on site."

UMMC physicians' initial use of Merit Health Madison's operating room space is for select short-stay surgical procedures. Moving those procedures to Madison County allows more high-acuity cases and specialty procedures to be scheduled at University Hospital located on UMMC's main campus in Jackson.

"This collaboration allows the Department of Surgery to expand its capacity at additional locations," said Dr. Christopher Anderson, professor and James D. Hardy Chair of the UMMC Department of Surgery. "We can now improve patient access to our specialized services in Madison County, which will allow growth of some of our services and foster our building of new surgical specialties."

"We look forward to working with Merit Health to improve access in Madison County and Canton, and to increase services at the hospital," said Kevin Cook, chief executive officer of the UMMC Health System. "We're proud to be serving that community in ways we haven't in the past."

The Healthier Mississippi Col-

laborative is a vehicle through which UMMC can affiliate or partner with private and public organizations, including community hospitals, that seek such a relationship. It also allows the Medical Center to deploy its unique health care capabilities in a more agile and efficient manner, enabling it to lower costs while improving quality of and access to health care.

"We see this as an opportunity to give University Physicians another location where they can practice and train future physicians," Cook said. "We can bring unique and new services to the community by having our physicians establish practices there."

"The Merit Health Madison collaboration gives us a site where we can enjoy the efficiencies of a community hospital while preserving and strengthening our infrastructure to care for the most complex patients on the main UMMC campus," Anderson said.

UMMC leaders say the cost of the business venture with Merit Health Madison is a much lower investment than if UMMC chose to expand its current operating room space or build its own facility to address adult hospital capacity needs.

"We are very constrained on our main campus for operating room space, hospital bed space and ambulatory clinic space," said O'Mara. "We will ultimately need to build those, but the quickest pathway to achieving increased capacity is to collaborate with health systems in the area that have the space physically available."



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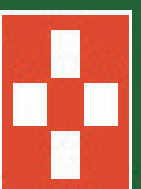
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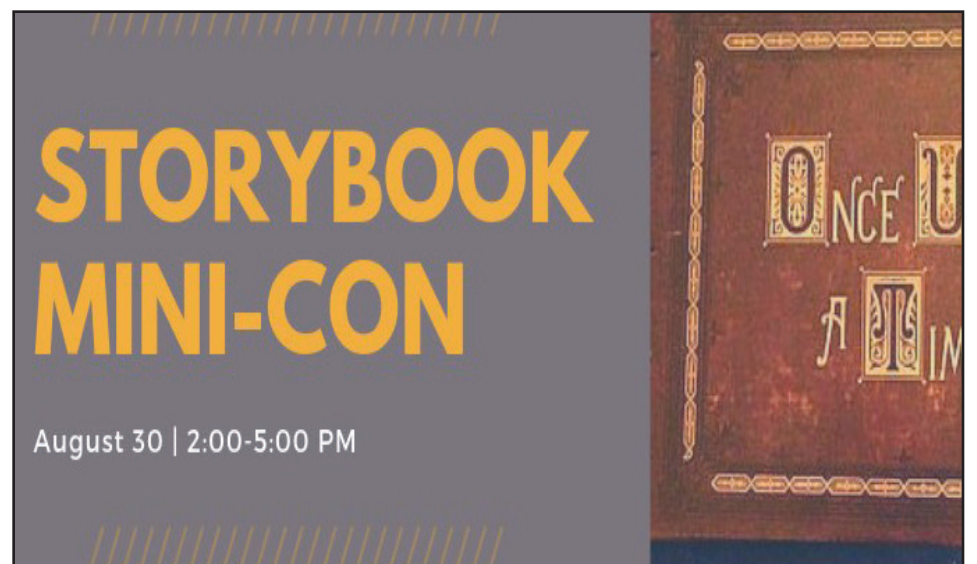
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Canton Library to host Mini-Con on August 30



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The Madison County Library System has partnered with Magically Perfect, LLC and Mississippi Metavillains to host a special Story Time on August 30 at the Canton Public Library.

The facility will hold a Storybook Mini-Con, where children can dress as their favorite storybook

character and attend an afternoon loaded with fun.

The event will be held from 2 until 5 p.m. and will include crafts and activities. Attendees will even have the opportunity to meet and greet with princesses and villains.

For more information, call 601-859-7733. The Canton Public Library is located at 102 Priestly Street.

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Historic jail preserved in Canton, Mississippi

By Dave Griffin



Madison County Jail, located a short walk from the Canton Square at 234 East Jackson Street, is not the first jail in the county, but it certainly served its purpose longer than any other in the county. Madison County was established in 1820, and it is believed that the jail was the original jail and was used in 1824 by state legislator John L. Lusk. The structure, with its two-story square of concrete and brick, has a 40-foot-tall tower at the top of the square of concrete and brick. The tower, which was built after the Civil War, is 100 feet high and has a spiral staircase leading to the top. The tower is made of brick and has a spiral staircase leading to the top. The tower is made of brick and has a spiral staircase leading to the top.

the prison. The jail served its purpose well until, during the 1950s, when the new, current jail was built on Highway 23 south of town, with only one inmate remaining during the early years of operation. Even after closing the doors, the building was in such disrepair that it was in danger of being demolished and the property developed.



THE CANTON NEWS

Students make gains on statewide assessment

Special to The Canton News

The results of Mississippi's statewide assessment of learning in pre-K and kindergarten show that the majority of the state's youngest students continue to make significant gains during the academic year.

Kindergarteners take a Kindergarten Readiness Assessment in the fall and spring of each school year. In fall 2018, 36.9% of Mississippi students scored kindergarten ready. When kindergarteners were retested in the spring of 2019, 65.6% of students met the end-of-year target score. Canton's Early Learning Collaborative scale score average increased by 85 points from 482 in the fall to 567 in the spring.

"Mississippi kindergarten teachers are continuing to do an outstanding job helping students build the foundational literacy skills they need to be successful in their education," said Dr. Carey Wright, state superintendent of education. "Reading instruction must remain a major focus through the 3rd

grade so that all children complete elementary school with strong reading skills."

Every district in the state showed progress among their kindergarten classes, though student achievement varied. Average scores among schools ranged from 603 to 808. The target end-of-year score for kindergarten is 681. This score categorizes students as transitional readers. Students scoring at this level are beginning to read unfamiliar words and easy reader material but are not yet independent readers.

Progress in kindergarten remained steady from 2016-17 to 2018-19, with more than 65% of kindergarteners meeting the end-of-year target score each year.

The Kindergarten Readiness Assessment evaluates skills such as

the ability to recognize letters and match letters to their sounds and a student's recognition that print flows from left to right. The exam produces reports for parents and teachers that detail each child's

early reading skills. Teacher reports also include diagnostic information and instructional plans for every student.

Pre-K students in the state's Early Learning Collaboratives (ELCs) and other public pre-K classes for 4-year-olds also maintained gains on the Pre-Kindergarten Readiness Assessment.

Among ELC students, 76.9% met the end-of-year target score, compared to 69.4% of students in other public pre-K classrooms, which include a variety of class configurations, including Title I, self-con-

tained special education, and other school district pre-K programs.

The National Institute for Early Education Research (NIEER) first recognized Mississippi for its ELC program in 2015 as one of only five states that meet all 10 of its quality standards. In subsequent years, NIEER continued to recognize Mississippi as one of only seven states that meet all or most quality standards for pre-K.

The success of the ELC program helped the MDE secure a \$6 million grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation to expand its effort to develop an early childhood education infrastructure in Mississippi. The grant supports a team of early childhood coaches who help teachers statewide in a variety of pre-K settings to implement developmentally appropriate practices in their classrooms.

"Research consistently shows that high quality early childhood education is one of the most powerful ways to make a positive difference for children throughout their education and life," Wright said.



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Canton Academy cheerleaders win awards at camp



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Pictured (l to r) are, front row: Seniors Aislynn Cochran, Scarlett Follin, and Taylor Rosamund; and back row: Emma Grace Poquette, Abbie Parkinson, Edi Craft, Starr Spivey, Sara Kennedy Lampkin, Molly Patrick, Madi Cochran, Maggie Claire Thomas, and Allie Parkinson.

Special to The Canton News

The Canton Academy (CA) Varsity cheerleaders recently attended cheer camp and won two blue ribbons, two spirit sticks, the second-place trophy and the banana. The banana award is given

each night for the most spirit, and the squad that receives it the last night gets to take it back to their school. CA has won the banana three years in a row. Seniors Taylor Rosamond and Scarlett Follin and junior Sara Kennedy Lampkin each received the All-Amer-

ican award. Rosamond also received the Pin It Forward award.

Sophomore Starr Spivey was awarded with Pin It Forward from another squad. Pin It Forward recognizes and praises cheerleaders who promote the values fostered through cheerleading...specifi-

cally leadership, spirit, commitment, kindness and motivation. The goal of the campaign is to recognize standout cheerleaders and encourage them to pass on a kind act to fellow athletes. CA cheer is sponsored by Mary Morgan Reams.

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CA welcomes new coach New fire chief takes oath



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Canton Academy (CA) is excited to announce that Coach Melanie Aldridge has accepted the position of girls' basketball head coach. She received her Bachelor of Science Degree in Kinesiology from Mississippi College in 2013 and her Master of Science in Sports Administration from Arkansas State this year. She served as an assistant girls' and boys' varsity basketball coach at The Veritas School from 2010 to 2015 and has served as the head girls basketball coach at Christ Covenant since leaving Veritas. Coach Aldridge is a USA Basketball licensed coach as of 2017-18. She was also named Coach of the Year in 2011-12 while serving as the head junior high girls' coach at The Veritas School.



Photo by Lori Lycette

Assistant Fire Chief Kenna Pierce was recently sworn in as the new chief of the City of Canton Fire Department. Shown (l to r) are: Mayor William Truly, Chief Pierce, and Alderman Fred Esco.

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New residents impact quality of life with joint venture

By Guest Columnist Joy Foy



Joy Foy

Special to The Canton News

Summertime in Canton included both unique and quite ordinary quality of life activities. This year, we enjoyed hot air balloon races, contests on the square, Bible School at our local churches and several educational programs at the Canton Library. As a matter of fact, these fun times have been repeated and relished for years, but this summer's quality of life factor got a huge enhancement. Gayla Meyer-Buckner moved to Canton from just outside the Washington, D.C., area and saw great potential in bringing together the youth of the Methodist Children's Home (MCH) and the animals from the Mississippi Horse Rescue group, founded by Stephanie Billingsly. The MCH in Jackson serves the state's youth who need a place

to stay when things in their lives don't go as hoped. Mississippi Horse Rescue, which survives wholly on donations, works with law enforcement and individuals to provide a safe haven for unwanted horses and to keep the horses from going into the slaughter pipeline. Gayla's idea has volunteers and the MCH youth working to rehabilitate each horse by teaching them new skills and in turn builds character in these youth.

Gayla's program teaches the youth safe and gentle methods of handling horses in a fun and relaxed environment. Lessons literally start with the basics. They learn everything from the parts of the horse to equine behavior, equine health and effective teaching methods that quickly show the horses what is desired of them. The horses, which have sometimes come from abusive environments, are taught through these children and volunteers that they can trust humans. Some become cutting horses, barrel racers, children's mounts or steady trail

riding mounts, which transform these animals to a useful purpose, thus making them more likely to be adopted.

Communication is key to MCH's success and includes not only communication between the youth and horses, but also between volunteers and youth, and youth with other youth. As each becomes knowledgeable in the technique that he or she has been taught, they are encouraged to mentor (with supervision) other students who are newer to the program by teaching them what they have learned. By doing this they not only refine their horse handling skills, but in the process, learn to care for others which communicates a sense of responsibility. They learn appreciation of others, and have pride in their successes, as well as pride in the fellow students they have helped.

So far, Gayla and Stephanie have used these rescue animals in working with twenty to thirty youth. They say it's very rewarding to see these insecure, timid, young people come to the Mississippi

Horse Rescue farm located at 12 Oaks Road, Canton, and quickly gain confidence in this encouraging and loving environment.

In the economic development world, there isn't a good measuring stick for quality of life, however, it is the bedrock of what makes a community succeed. How does one report the benefits of dedicated, caring people? How do you grade emotional well-being? The results of kind, giving citizens and the positive impact on children who grow into contributing adults may not make that site selection request for quote list of questions, but these caring ways are very relevant to everyone in the community.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Joy Foy is married to James Foy and is a retired Economic Developer with the Mississippi Development Authority. Foy is an active participant in the community of Canton. She is a member of the Lions Club and on the Keep Canton Beautiful Committee.



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The return of the youth football 2019-'20 champs

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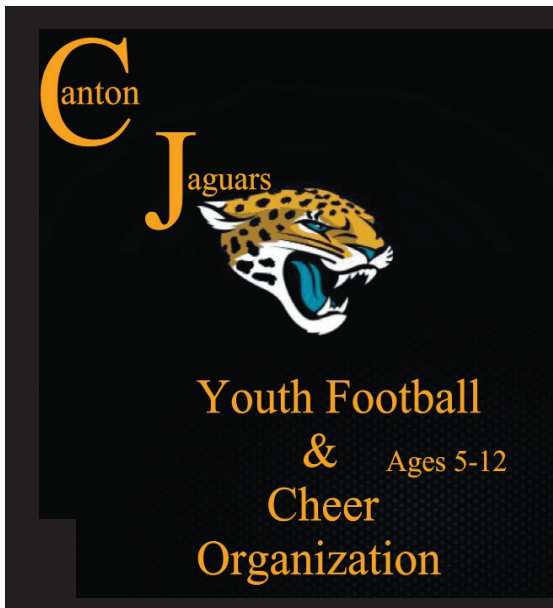
It's almost that time of year again...undefeated Canton Jaguars Youth Football and Cheer is returning for the 2019-2020 season. The kids have been well rested. In January, a registration rally was held to sign up new and returning players. So many of the parents quoted, "This is my son's first time playing football, and he doesn't know anything about football." The coach's favorite response is, "We're going to get them well

acquainted to the wonderful sport of football, and he will be just fine." During spring break, Coaches held a Jaguar Training Camp, which included drills to help get them prepared for football. It was old to some but new to many and was a very intense camp, but they said they enjoyed

every minute of it. As soon as the coaches realized the players had gotten very familiar with football, a Meet the Jag Scrimmage game was held. The fans and supporters really came out and supported them. All of the coaches say they have been very dedicated during

practice. With the dynamic cheering squad cheering them to victory, they expect to have another successful season. The first game will be August 17 against the Fast Life Ducks out of Vicksburg. The game will be held at 2221 Boling Street in

Jackson. The head coaches are: Coach Kimberly Archie, cheer-leading; Coach Damien Gill, A Team; Coach Deondre Fleming, B Team; and Coach Amos Varnado, C/D Team. The Jaguars say they appreciate all of the support that has been shown to them over the years.



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State Auditor addresses Rotary Club of Canton



Photo by Lori Lycette

Shad White, the 42nd State Auditor of Mississippi, spoke at a recent Rotary Club function at Rich Grain Distillery in Canton. He explained that his office audits county and state agencies to make sure that public money is spent the correct way under the law. His department averages over a hundred active investigations at all times, and they rely heavily on whistleblowers to help them catch the perpetrators. Checks and balances are also crucial in preventing people from embezzling from their employer. He also told how computer hacking is a constant struggle, and they must always stay one step ahead of them. White added that his department is very important and essential in helping protect the public from fraud, and that since he has held this position, he has learned the value of public service and how important it is to always do the right thing, even when it's difficult.

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Canton’s GOPO flagpole gets a new facelift



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After more than one hundred years, the original sixty-five foot flagpole which stands tall at Canton’s Grand Old Post Office (GOPO) has been refurbished to its near original condition. The building was completed and dedicated in 1915 by William McAdoo, United States Secretary of Treasury at that time. It served as the Canton Post Office for many years before being offered as private property. In 2016, Crumley Properties, LLC, located on the Square, acquired the building and the adjacent magnolia tree lot. Senior Architect David Crumley said they had been wanting to refurbish the pole from the time they purchased the property, but either scheduling or equipment issues wouldn’t allow. After their new lift was recently delivered, they sanded and repainted the entire flagpole. David’s son, Bo, runs Crumley Properties and oversaw the renovation. With help from the Canton Historic Preservation Commission, Crumley Properties intends to begin work on the old Gowdy building and then on to their other properties on the Square.



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MDE plans literacy summit

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The Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) will host a two-day literacy summit on September 13-14 for parents, guardians, educators, community partners and policy makers to support efforts to improve student achievement.

The theme for the summit is "A Shared Commitment to Literacy: Improving Literacy Outcomes for ALL from Birth to the Workforce."

Local and national experts will present ways educators, parents, communities and policymakers can enhance opportunities for children, from birth to high school, to become better, more proficient readers. Improved educational outcomes for children will enhance Mississippi's job-ready workforce.

Summit attendees will engage in relevant sessions to support literacy success. Session strands and outcomes include:

- **Parents/Guardians** – Explore



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practical strategies, supports and resources that will assist children in meeting grade-level expectations and being ready for college and career.

- **Educators** – Identify, employ and evaluate high-quality resources and best practices to ensure the success of all students.

- **Policy Makers** – Understand how policy and legislation promote statewide literacy efforts and impact employment and economic development.

- **Community Partners** – Understand

how community partner and stakeholder collaboration can impact child/student outcomes to increase economic and workforce development.

For more information, visit <https://www.mdek12.org/LitSummit2019>.

To learn how to become a 2019 Mississippi Literacy Summit sponsor, contact Briana Stewart at bstew@olemiss.edu.

County gets MDEQ grants

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The Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) awarded the Madison County a solid waste assistance grant of \$21,257 that will be used by the county for a household hazardous waste collection program and a \$50,000 two-year waste tire grant to continue the local waste tire collection program for small quantity generators of waste tires.

"The Solid Waste Assistance Grants support a variety of useful solid waste management activities for cities and counties, and this grant will assist Madison County's efforts in improving their management of solid waste," said Gary Rikard, MDEQ Executive Director.

Funding for waste tire grants is provided by a waste tire account

funded from a fee charged on the wholesale sale of every new motor vehicle tire sold in Mississippi. This fee provides the funds to ensure and encourage the proper

management and disposal of waste tires.

Cities and counties may apply for Solid Waste Assistance Grants through the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality. These grants are used by local communities for

programs to prevent and clean up unauthorized dumps; to aid in hiring local solid waste enforcement officers; for public education efforts on solid waste disposal and recycling; and to establish programs for the collection of white goods, bulky wastes and recyclables. Information about this grant program and other initiatives is available online.



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2019 Young Filmmakers' Workshop was successful



Lake Dodson teaches his students about filmmaking.

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The Madison County Library System partnered with Canton Tourism to host the 2019 Canton Young Filmmakers' Workshop during the weeks of July 8 and July 15. This was the second year in a row that

their Digital Innovation Lab helped give young minds a place to create, explore and flourish with their filmmaking skills. David Jackson, Technology Programming Specialist with MCLS, and Dr. Wilma Clopton with NMHS Unlimited Film Production were the instruc-



Canton Tourism Director Jana Dear with student Patrick Collins.

Special to The Canton News

tors who worked with two groups: Ages 8-12 and 13-18. They learned to write scripts, design props, shoot film, edit and much more. On top of honing their moviemaking skills, several groups took advantage of the sound booth in the Digital Innovation Lab to record custom

music for their productions. The instructors could not have done it without the help of Anna Harrison, Lake Dodson, William Lindsey, and Destiny Dorsey. For more information about this topic, contact Braley at 601-859-7733 ext. 108 or email at breed@mcls.ms.

Notable Alumni are honored

Special to The Canton News

The Alcorn State University School of Agriculture and Applied Sciences will host its 4th annual Alumni Hall of Fame Banquet on Saturday, August 17, at 7 p.m. The annual semi-formal affair and flagship event for the University will be held at the Jackson Marriot, 200 E. Amite St., in Jackson, Mississippi.

The Alumni Hall of Fame is designed to honor distinguished Alcorn State University (ASU) alumni and community leaders whose character and accomplishments exemplify outstanding achievement in the field of agriculture, family and consumer sciences, industrial technology or related community affiliation. This prestigious award honors individuals who are visionary and inspirational leaders who have made significant contributions in their field of specialization or in



service to the community.

The 2019 Alumni Hall of Fame Class will honor eleven outstanding alumni, including one originally from Canton: Eugene Brown, Jr., '73, Mound Bayou, MS; Annie Greer-Bennett, '65, Carthage, MS; Dr. Jesse Harness, Sr., '67, Fayette, MS; Jewell Lockhart, Sr., '56, Greenville, MS (posthumously); Dr. Ivory Lyles, '80, Forest, MS; Pearlean McReynolds, '69, Louisville, MS; Dr. Llewellyn Peyton, '70, Bay Springs, MS; Eunice Powell, '19, Hattiesburg, MS (posthumously); James Sardin, '73, Terry, MS; Dr. Kenneth Simmons, Sr., '56, Lorman, MS, but originally from Canton (posthumously); and Dorris Collins-Smith, '69, Mt. Olive, MS.

For more information, visit www.alcorn.edu/halloffame or contact Dr. Gwendolyn L. Gordon, director of alumni and staff development, School of Agriculture and Applied Sciences, at 601.877.6253.

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MS Teacher Recruitment Campaign is launched

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Mississippi has launched a teacher recruitment campaign, TeachMS, to encourage high school/college students and professionals seeking a new career opportunity to consider teaching. The campaign's theme, "TeachMS – Empower and Inspire Generations of Change," is designed to appeal to an array of potential educators who want to impact the more than 470,000 students in Mississippi. As part of the campaign's development, high school and college students provided insight into what's important to them if they are to consider a career in educa-

tion. Also, current teachers from across the state shared stories about what motivates them to commit to the profession.

We have been asked by current educators and school and district leaders to assist in teacher recruitment, and this initiative

ty of students in our state attend public school, and they depend on us to prepare them for college, the workforce, military and life. Our students deserve caring, effective teachers in their classrooms, and recent gains in student achievement prove that over time, a dedicated professional can transform one student, one classroom and one school at a time."

To find out more about the campaign, visit teachms.org and follow TeachMS on Instagram, Facebook and YouTube. Teachers are encouraged to send their inspiring stories toteachms@mdek12.org, and they may be shared as part of the campaign.



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"We know that Mississippi, like every state in the nation, is facing a teacher shortage.

is one way to do that," said Dr. Carey Wright, state superintendent of education. "The majori-

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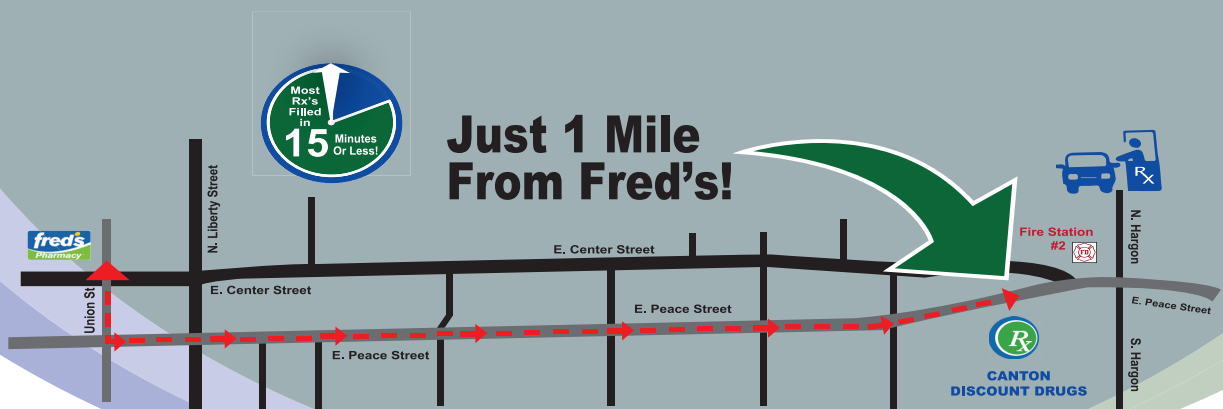
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