



THE CANTON NEWS

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Canton News
P.O. Box 1163, Canton, MS 39046

Sixth Habitat home in Canton is complete

By Lori Lycette

Nissan Canton and Habitat for Humanity MS Capital area recently completed the sixth Habitat home built in Canton and the twelfth built in the greater Jackson area. Christina Wilder is the new homeowner of the 2019 Nissan Habitat build.

"This is an overwhelming experience," said Wilder. "I never thought this day would ever come." The Leake County native has a twelve-year old son, Carmello, and is currently raising her four-year old nephew, Chrishone, after the passing of one of her brothers in 2016.

Wilder said she's doing all of this to make a better life for her promising young son. She is a secretary at Porter Middle School in Canton and had been living with her parents in Thomastown.

"I drive thirty miles a day here and thirty miles back home," said Wilder, while the house was still under construction. "My son attends school here, the very school

that I work at. He's my inspiration. Having him, becoming his mother, my life drastically changed because I wanted to provide and show him that the streets are not for him." Her drive is now five minutes each way.

Construction on the four-bedroom, two bath home located on Richard Circle in Canton began in April and was completed in July. One hundred twenty Nissan Canton employees volunteered to work on this house and worked nearly 1,000 hours, to construct their second Habitat home on Richard Circle. Wilder met every qualification required to be considered for a Habitat home and even surpassed the hours of "sweat equity" required of every future homeowner.

"Everyone knows that we build great cars, but we also try to build great communities," said Nissan Canton H. R. Director Rodney Francis. "Our employees live here. Our employees work here. Our employees raise their families here. So it's important that we give back and that they want to be



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Pictured in front of their newly completed home (l to r) are: Bobby Wilder, Ms. Wilder's brother; son Carmello Wilder; nephew Chrishone Wilder; and Christina Wilder, homeowner.

a part of this." Habitat for Humanity Mississippi Capital Area Executive Director Merrill McKewen said the non-profit agency is hoping to branch out in the metro area.

"After this, we don't have any more property in the Canton area," said McKewen. "So if anyone wants to help Habitat, we would love to have some property so

that in two years, when they come back to build in Canton again we know that we have a safe decent affordable Habitat house."

"The relationship we have with Nissan allows us to work with wonderful individuals like Christina. Watching the Nissan employees and Christina work shoulder

cont. on page 2

Little Free Library is now in Canton, Mississippi

By Lori Lycette

In an effort to encourage literacy, Alternet Thurman's children have brought the first Little Free Library to Canton. The library is located at her daughter, Dr. Andre Hines' home located at 402 East Fulton, on the west side of the home, facing Adams Street. The children have placed a plaque on the side commemorating their mother. The ribbon was recently cut by Dr. Hines and Mayor Truly.

This library is in honor of Apos-

tle Alternet Thurman, often referred to as Mother Thurman, and her love and commitment to teaching children. She believed that given a chance, all children could learn. She was born Alternet Johnson just around the corner from the Little Library, on East Academy, and was a



Photo by Lori Lycette

Dr. Hines and Mayor Truly cutting the ribbon.

proud Cantonian. She became an ordained minister, received her bachelor's degree in education and taught in the Canton school system.

"It's our hope that this Little Free Library will bring neighbors together and a whole lot more books to our community," says Dr. Hines. "Already our Canton Library has

proven to be a great partner to the Little Free Library. It has donated many children's books and has promised to be a regular donor."

"The Canton branch of the Madison County Library System is excited about partnering with Alternet's Little Free Library. And I hope that our partnership will encourage children to visit and participate in activities at the Canton Library," says the Canton Library Manager Christine Greenwood.

Little Free Libraries are a global phenomenon. The small, front-yard

cont. on page 5

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cont. from front page

Sixth Habitat home in Canton, MS is complete

to shoulder is the best example of Habitat's belief of 'a hand up, not a handout.' We are grateful to both Nissan and Christina for their partnership with us," said Merrill McKewen, executive director of HFHMCA.

This is Christina Wilder's first new home. "This has been an overjoyed great experience," added Wilder. "I'm grateful."

Since the partnership began in 2005, Nissan North America, Inc. has donated more than \$16.9 million and 150 vehicles to Habitat for Humanity, and its employees have logged over 100,000 volunteer hours, helping build ninety-two homes across the United States.

"Helping to build a new home for a family right here in our backyard is a proud moment for the Nissan Canton team," said Erik Fields, vice president Manufacturing, Nissan Canton Vehicle Assembly Plant. "It underpins our commitment to helping build stronger communities and a stronger Mississippi for everyone."

• Nissan Canton Vehicle Assembly Plant

Nissan Canton enters its 16th

year of operation in Mississippi. Nissan has grown the Canton plant from a regional manufacturing facility to a global one, investing \$3.45 billion in the facility since its opening in 2003. The facility employs 6,000 hard-working men and women, and it currently produces Nissan Altima, Murano, TITAN and TITAN XD, Frontier, NV Cargo Van and NV Passenger Van.

• About Nissan North America

In North America, Nissan's operations include automotive styling, engineering, consumer and corporate financing, sales and marketing, distribution and manufacturing. Nissan is dedicated to improving the environment under the Nissan Green Program and has been recognized annually by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as an ENERGY STAR® Partner of the Year since 2010. More information on Nissan in North America and the complete line of Nissan and Infiniti vehicles can be found online at www.nissanusa.com and www.infinitiusa.com, or visit the U.S. media sites nissannews.com and infinitinews.com.



Ms. Wilder (center) with Nissan volunteers

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• About Habitat for Humanity Mississippi Capital Area:

Habitat for Humanity Mississippi Capital Area is a faith-based organization founded in 1986. They have built or renovated simple and sustainable homes for over 600 families in Hinds, Madison and Rankin counties. Habitat homes are sold at no profit with an inter-

est-free mortgage to families who cannot qualify for traditional bank loans. Homeownership combined with Habitat's required financial education allows these families to invest in our community and their future simultaneously.

To donate to Habitat for Humanity Mississippi Capital Area or for more information about owning a Habitat home, call 601-353-6060.

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Know Your Neighbor: Rev. Steve Bryant

By Guest Columnist Jim Ritchie

How many preachers do you know who have bowhunted in Colorado and have an elk's head on their wall as a result of those hunts? Or who have smuggled \$50,000 in cash into Cuba to assist Christian churches there? Or who have managed a multimillion-dollar organization operating in several foreign countries. These are only a few of the accomplishments of this month's neighbor. Meet Steve Bryant...pastor, preacher, guitarist, father, grandfather, woodworker, outdoorsman, gardener, world traveler and businessman.

Growing up in Greenwood, Mississippi, Steve felt a calling even as a child. He's the fourth generation of men in his family to serve as a Presbyterian minister. Steve is a member of Phi Delta Theta, graduating from the University of Mississippi in 1986 with a double major in English and Anthropology. From Ole Miss, he pursued



The Reverend Steven Speed Bryant, Jr.

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theological education at Columbia Theological Seminary, where he earned a Master of Divinity degree in 1990, with distinction as a Thompson Scholar. He has since completed numerous hours of post graduate work at various seminaries including Tantur Theological Institute in Israel.

Steve has served churches in Tennessee, Florida and Mississippi, and enjoyed a stint as an adjunct professor of Biblical Studies at Belhaven University. He is a member of the Presbytery of Mississippi and has served on a part-time basis as the pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Canton since the summer of 2015. Over the course of his ministry, Steve has been involved in facilitating mission work in India, Africa, Cuba and Mexico.

From 2013 to 2018, Steve served as the Executive Director of the Booth Leadership Initiative (BLI), the private charitable foundation of the late Dr. Alex Booth, which provided administrative leadership and funding to Christian denominations in Sub-Saharan Africa for theological education and church construction.

While directing BLI, Steve traveled extensively throughout Afri-

ca, facilitating the theological education of over 5,000 pastors, the construction of 1,431 churches and the establishment of charitable micro-financing institutions serving eleven countries of Sub-Saharan Africa.

His great passion is to both study and teach theology and to help people struggling to bring the Biblical narrative to bear upon life.

Steve is an avid guitarist, a woodworker, an organic gardener, and since March, he has been working to establish a small homestead called Five Porch Farm. He and his wife, Betsy, love making Canton their home and hope to do so for many years to come. The folks in Canton enthusiastically share that hope.

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.

Always report suspected child abuse

Special to The Canton News

Latasha Leonard was recently sentenced to serve thirty years for Felonious Abuse of a Child by Circuit Court Judge Steve Ratcliff. The case was a combined investigation of the Mississippi Bureau of Investigation, Canton Police Department and Child Protective Services.

In 2017, Madison County Child Protective Services received a complaint on Latasha Leonard about possible neglect. Through a joint investigation of the Mississippi Bureau of Investigation, the Canton Police Department and Child Protective Services, it was discovered that Leonard had a ten-year-old son who had been severely abused and neglected. He was only 3'4" and weighed forty-one pounds, the size of an average three to four-year old child, upon admittance to the hospital. He also had an untreated broken femur bone that had healed with no apparent medical intervention.

Additional investigation revealed that the child had never been enrolled in school, had not received any medical care or immunizations since he was eighteen months old and was made to stay in a small space between a dresser and



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the wall in the family's home almost twenty-four hours a day. He was frequently tied up, beaten and denied food by Leonard. He was not allowed to go outside and play or eat dinner with the rest of the family. Leonard even attempted to deny his existence to law enforcement at the beginning of the investigation.

The child was placed in a therapeutic foster home and has received care from various prac-

tices at UMC including receiving eyeglasses, hearing aids, growth stimulants, occupational therapy and physical therapy. He also started Pre-K after coming into CPS custody, at the age of 11, and has since learned to read and write and is now getting ready to enter the seventh grade.

District Attorney Bramlett stated, "This was one of the most horrible cases of child abuse I have ever seen in all my years as a prosecutor. Thanks to the hours of work by MBI, CPS, CPD, numerous UMC pediatric units, and the devotion and love of his foster mother, this child has been able to attend school, receive medical care and receive the food, love and attention that every child deserves from their parents. As a father, I cannot image doing something like this to my own flesh and blood and am glad that Ms. Leonard will spend her foreseeable future in prison. She basically forced this child to live in a cell his entire life and now it is her turn to live like that."

Welcome back to Canton Public Schools for 2019-20

By Guest Columnist Canton Public School District Superintendent Gary Hannah

By the time readers receive this newspaper, our students will have completed their first few weeks of school. I am amazed at how quickly the summer went by, but I am excited for the opportunity that each new school year brings as we set our sights on new goals. On August 1, we welcomed our new and returning teachers to the district. At that time, we were excited to unveil our district's new motto: Perseverance Conquers All. This motto is especially fitting for our district as we celebrate gains and identify target areas for the new year.

As always, literacy will remain a primary focus. Our teachers participated in professional development August 2, 5 and 6, and improving students' reading and writing skills

was one of the most prominent topics in our training series. Our first parent event also highlights literacy as a districtwide focus area. Our 2019 District Literacy Night is September 17, from 5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m. at Goodloe/Porter.

At this event, we will provide parents with strategies that they can use at home with their children to help improve their reading and writing skills. We invite all parents and stakeholders to attend this event, and we would love to hear from you if you'd like to serve as a volunteer or donate door prizes from your business.

Our students are scoring at the proficient and advanced levels at higher rates than ever before. To ensure that we maintain or increase these students' performance levels, we will focus on increasing their exposure to rigorous content. At the elementary schools, we will supplement our proficient and advanced students' grade level content with more challenging assignments and opportunities for exploration. At the middle

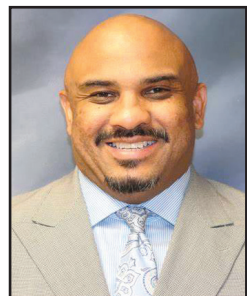
and high school levels, we are increasing our advanced course offerings, including offering high school level coursework for identified middle schoolers and college credit-bearing courses for dually enrolled high schoolers. We are proud to boast that just this past school year, one of our sixth graders scored a 27 on the ACT, and we had several high school students who graduated with twelve or more hours of college credit.

Canton Public School District will continue to focus on other areas that impact student learning as well. We are expanding our levels of support to English Learners by providing additional curricula and interventions that are designed to increase their language acquisition skills. Our ultimate goal for our English Learners is that they will become proficient in the English language while also learning grade-level content and skills. It is a daunting task, but we believe that the right layers of additional support and time will make the difference for all of our students.

Finally, we hope to expand our Pre-K program in the district to equip students with the foundational skills that they need in reading and math that will ultimately lead to their success in elementary school and beyond. We are currently exploring our resources to work towards building a Pre-K program in each of our elementary schools.

August is an exciting time for educators, because it provides us with the opportunity to set new goals, build new relationships, and confront our challenges. Not only is it football season, but it is learning season in Canton Public School District. The 2019-2020 school year will be our best year ever, and we see ourselves holding the trophy in the end...both figuratively and literally. Perseverance conquers all!

EDITOR'S NOTE: Mr. Gary Hannah joined Canton Public School District as superintendent in January 2019. He is a former teacher, principal and deputy superintendent. He and his wife Monica are the parents of three children, Kia, Mady and Mason.



Superintendent Gary Hannah

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Reuben B. Myers holds Open House 2019-2020



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3rd grader Taniya Jackson (left) attends with parents Nicole and Robert Jackson.



Special to The Canton News
Reuben Myers' teachers Belinda Palmer, Ivy Archie, and Jessica Beal.



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Kindergartener Demarqus Rocket is ready for school.

Special to The Canton News

Excitement was in the air during the recent Open House at Reuben B. Myers Canton School of Arts & Sciences. The staff was all smiles and armed with helpful information as they greeted students and parents. Stu-

dents visited classrooms to meet their teachers and drop off school supplies. Parents had the opportunity to sign up for PTO and purchase beautifully crafted yearbooks. Students and staff say they are looking forward to an exciting year of learning and fun at "the Reub."

CHS names Students, Teacher of the Month



Special to The Canton News
Canton High School (CHS) students Aaliyah Archie, Tyreece Estes, and Jamichael Branch each scored a level of "3" or higher on the AP US History Test. They were honored as Students of the Month by CHS Principal Dr. Pamela Self during a recent school board meeting. AP US History teacher Ms. Aleatrice Liddell was also named Teacher of the Month. Pictured (l to r) are: CHS Principal Dr. Pamela Self, Tyreece Estes, and Aaliyah Archie. Not pictured: Jamichael Branch and Ms. Aleatrice Liddell.

cont. from front page

Little Free Library is now in Canton, Mississippi

book exchanges number more than 75,000 around the world in eighty-five countries — from Iceland to Tasmania to Pakistan. Now, this new library will join the movement to share children's books, bring people together and create communities of readers.

The national Little Free Library nonprofit organization has been honored by the Library

of Congress, the National Book Foundation and the American Library Association. Reader's Digest named them one of the "50 Surprising Things We Love about America." Each year, nearly ten million books are shared in Little Free Libraries around the world. To learn more or to donate books, contact Dr. Andre Hines at: mzandre@aol.com.

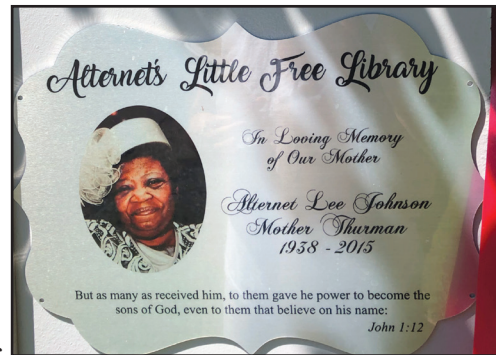


Photo by Lori Lycette

Plaque commemorating Alternet "Mother" Thurman.

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Canton Academy coach joins MAIS Hall of Fame



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Canton Academy Coach David Blount was recently inducted into the Midsouth Association of Independent Schools (MAIS). He joins five other former Canton Academy coaches who have been inducted. He was preceded by Jan Sojourner, Mike Coggins, Hoyt Carouthers, David Glasgow and Flip Godfrey. The Hall of Fame has ninety-one total members, with six of those members being associated with Canton Academy. Pictured (l to r) are: sophomore football player Jake Jurney; David's son, Coach Clay Blount; Coach David Blount; and Head of School Ron Jurney.

CA students are issued new laptop computers



Special to The Canton News

In the past two years, Canton Academy (CA) has issued Chromebooks to all students grades 9 through 12, but this year all seventh and eighth graders received ChromeBooks, as well. CA has implemented a Macbook cart in the elementary school, so students have access to twenty-five MacBooks in addition to twenty-five iPads. Every teacher in the school now has a MacBook to use for reporting and as a resource to impact learning in the classroom. Pictured (l to r) are sophomores Carli Cooper, Cole McKnight, and Corey Jackson using their Chromebooks in Journalism.

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Canton grandmother earns her master's degree

By Lori Lycette

Mary Henry was born and raised in Camden, Mississippi, in 1953 and grew up working in the cotton field, as well as milking cows and feeding hogs. She and her four siblings were raised by their mother, Ezell Ross, and their grandparents who lived right next door. She says it wasn't easy, but it instilled in her the work ethic and determination needed to take good care of her family and to be involved in making her community a better place to live.

She graduated from Velma Jackson High School in 1971 and attended Valley State University in 1972, until her grandparents both became ill. Years earlier, she had made a promise to take care of them so they wouldn't have to move to a nursing home, and she dropped out of college to return home.

She eventually married Charles Johnson and gave birth to six daughters and two sons. She was very involved in all their schooling and extracurricular activities,



Mary Johnson graduating with master's degree

Special to The Canton News

stating that she never missed any of their ballgames and usually showed up with food and drinks

for all the players.

Over the years, she has served her community in many ways, such

as feeding the homeless at Our Daily Bread, Friends of Children policy counselor, commissioner for Canton Tourism, fourteen years with the Canton Chamber of Commerce, as well as assisting the Lucy C. Jefferson Federal Club in raising money for scholarships. In 2016, she received the Honorary Mayoral Award to commemorate her years of service to the city of Canton.

Mrs. Johnson is also very involved in her church, Liberty Baptist, and caters for special events. She has stayed busy over the years taking care of her seventeen grandchildren whenever needed, and actually raised four of them while their parents attended school.

Despite Mrs. Johnson's extremely busy life, she recently made the time to earn her Bachelor's in Business Administration in 2018 and then her Master's in Criminal Justice earlier this year. Johnson believes that she has been blessed and is living proof that you can do most anything you set out to do in life, with a little faith and determination.

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Madison County enables equipment donations

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To further workforce development initiatives in Madison County, the Madison County Business League and Foundation (MCBL&F) and the Madison County Economic Development Authority (MCEDA) have defined the process to enable companies like Nissan to donate excess and idled equipment to workforce development training centers and career and technical education centers at public schools and colleges located in Madison County.

The Madison County Business League and Foundation, private sector partner for Madison County Economic Development Authority, has worked with Nissan Canton to create and establish a donation agreement between the two parties that allows the donation of vehicles, engines, robots, equipment and components to public schools.

“This new process provides access to valuable training assets that previously were inaccessible to our Madison County Public Schools,” said Cecil Harper,

Chairman of the Madison County Business League and Foundation. “Nissan will donate the surplus equipment to the Madison County Business League & Foundation and the MCBL&F will donate the assets to the schools.”

“Workforce development and support of existing businesses are key components of economic development,” said Joseph P. Deason, Executive Director of the Madison County Economic Development Authority. “The partnerships we have built are providing a foundation for more opportunities in Madison County by enhancing technical education for our emerging workforce.”

The Madison County Business League & Foundation was created in 2008 by the Madison County Economic Development Authority and the Madison County Board of Supervisors as a 501(c) 6 non-partisan economic development support organization which connects chief executive leadership with elected officials, on all levels, to promote economic planning and development. As the leader of



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Seated (l to r) are: MCBL&F Chairman Cecil Harper and Canton Public Schools Superintendent Gary Hannah. Standing (l to r) are: Canton Public Schools Director of Career Technical Education Rodney Harris; MCBL&F Executive Director Jan Collins; MCEDA COO Danielle Winningham; and Chairman of Canton Public Schools Board Johnny Brown.

economic development for Madison County, MCEDA’s mission is to encourage the growth of the county’s existing business and industry, attract new investment and higher-paying jobs, and to increase Madison County’s com-

petitiveness leading to a diverse, vibrant economy benefitting all the county’s citizens. For more information contact Jan Collins, MCBL&F executive director, at 601-832-5592 or collins.jan01@gmail.com

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CA kindergarten enjoys new improved playground



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Canton Academy's (CA) K5 students enjoyed the new shaded playground on the first day of school. As a result of a very successful drawdown fundraiser and help from the Canton Academy Parents Association, CA was able to make huge improvements to the playground. Rubberized filler has been placed in the play areas, so that the children can play in a safer and more comfortable area for years to come. A screen cover was placed over the larger play area, a new sidewalk was installed and five trees were removed.

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Developments have been made in City of Canton

By Guest Columnist Joy Foy

For a quick update on new things happening in Canton, let's start at the intersection of Highway 51 and Nissan Parkway. The heavy steel frames visible between the corn field and the jail will become the Key Contractors' office complex. People's Construction is due to complete these offices by November, 2019. The new construction at back of the Mississippi Army National Guard Armory will house a second guard unit. Delta Auto has turned the lights back on at the old Harrel Chevrolet building, offering expert mechanic and towing services and are selling used vehicles. On the east side of town, the demolition of the old Madison County Hospital will be completed within a couple of months, and the site will be reclaimed and redeveloped as a beautiful walking



Joy Foy

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trail. Father Mike O'Brien said the Sacred Heart Catholic Church is adding twenty-four new parking places and redoing the sidewalk along Peace Street. These changes will also incorporate a new design for one-way traffic across the church property, with vehicles entering from Center Street and exiting on the Peace Street side. Ora's Closet Boutique has increased foot traffic and sales have improved with a new location in the J & J Outfitters building on the Square at the east corner of Liberty Street. Hudson Construction is building a new Burger King on the west side along Highway 22 at the interstate. Toby Lacy's renovations of the building at the corner of Hickory



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and Peace Street will soon house a new clothing store. Newer food and drink options around the square include Bettina's Soul Food Café, Square Nutrition (which advertises that they are fast food for healthy people), Zoe's Restaurant is operating in one of the National Register of Historic Places on the Square; and Cup Overflows is a Panini café and coffee shop in the Hollow. These newer restaurants, along with the Subway and the numerous other restaurants away from the Square, offer customers more diverse menu selections. Other new things to Canton include a small wedding venue, thanks to a recent decision by the Grace Episcopal Church to offer

their church and parish hall to the public. Episcopal Rector Beth Foosse said, "We look forward to the ministry of sharing our hospitality and our historic surroundings with wedding couples and their families and friends." Canton's event venue business expanded first with the opening of the Opera House, and then this summer with Sterling Hall. Canton, like all small cities, has its challenges; however, I am so thankful that so many are dedicated to making Canton better. It is very encouraging to see people coming to take advantage of the opportunities available in our city. These new additions to our community and the events that are being planned, with our historic city as a backdrop, are all reasons for us to stay positive and supportive. *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*



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Outdoor classroom structure is now complete



Outdoor structure at Short Hickory and Fulton Streets

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Keep Canton Beautiful (KCB) is proud to announce that the outdoor classroom structure has been completed, thanks to the hard work and dedication of Clarence Travis Construction and many

others. Keep Canton Beautiful leaders say they want to thank all the local businesses that supported this project. There will be a plaque permanently installed to commemorate their supporters.

KCB hopes that the addition of this beautification project will



Children enjoying the neighborhood reunion.

Special to The Canton News

enhance the city of Canton and allow people to enjoy the outdoors at this space for years to come. The garden beds will be installed soon, and the process of planting flowers, vegetables and herbs will follow.

Recently, a reunion was held

at the location to celebrate the friendship of the neighbors who grew up on Short Hickory and Fulton Streets. When the garden area is completed, information on reserving the structure will be announced. Email joydodson@hotmail.com with any questions.

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Seek medical professional if hearing loss suspected

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You're in a crowded restaurant with a group of friends, it's pretty noisy, and you're having trouble hearing well enough to follow the conversation.

You can hear your coworker speaking to you, but you just can't make out the words very well, and that low, persistent buzzing in your ears has been going on for months – maybe years.

Some might say you're having trouble hearing. But would you?

A new study led by Dr. Christopher Spankovich, associate professor of otolaryngology and communicative sciences at the University of Mississippi Medical Center, has found that about half of the people represented in a national hearing health survey report they can hear just fine – although they actually have at least a mild degree of hearing loss.

The study was published online June 6 in the *Journal of the American Medical Association Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery*. "It's easy to blame external factors: That person was mumbling,

or it was really loud in there," Spankovich said. "But the data showed reports of self-perceived good hearing is pretty high, even though all of the people in the study had some level of hearing loss."

Spankovich, Dr. Steven Curti, a fourth-year otolaryngology and communicative sciences resident, and Elliott Taylor, a School of Medicine student, analyzed data from a group of adults between the ages of 20-69 who took the U.S. National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey. The analysis was conducted between September 4 and November 30, 2018. Joining them was Dan Su, a former UMMC biostatistician.

They came to a number of interesting conclusions from the study group:

- Those who didn't have other health issues, such as diabetes or obesity, were more likely to report they had good hearing, even if they actually had hearing loss.
- Women are more likely than men to report they have good hearing despite having mild hearing loss.

- Married couples are more likely to report hearing loss and less likely to report good hearing.

"That's the 'nag' factor," Spankovich joked.

The study also gave insight into the reported use of hearing aids.

"In the United States, there's a fairly low uptake of hearing aids in people with hearing loss," Spankovich said. "Only about 30 percent of people in this country who could benefit from hearing aids actually get them."

"The vast majority of those individuals have what's defined as a mild loss, but they don't see their degree of loss as big enough for a hearing aid."

And while some people cite cost as the reason they don't get a hearing aid, "even if you look at the countries that have health care that is free or low cost, the uptake of hearing aids is similar," Spankovich said.

Being unaware that you've suffered hearing loss "is a big thing, especially with people who developed hearing loss over a period of time," said Curti, who sees patients in the fourth-floor ear, nose

and throat clinic at the University Physicians Lakeland Medical Building in Jackson. "They may not realize they're losing their hearing."

Sometimes, family members who accompany patients to an appointment can anecdotally help the patient make the connection that their hearing is not what it should be, Curti said.

"They might say, 'We have to turn up the TV really loud for him to be able to hear it,'" Curti said.

Spankovich said the data has greater bearing than just perceived loss of hearing.

"Some of the other things related to hearing loss are social isolation and depression, and there are now studies on the relationship between hearing loss and cognitive decline," he said. "And eating healthy and exercising is good for your body, but also good for your ears."

He said the conclusions demonstrate that providers need to do a better job of detecting hearing loss early in hopes of averting further damage or so that treatment

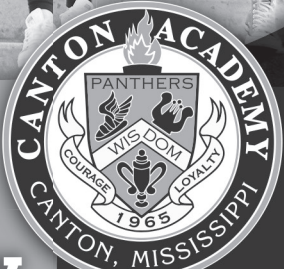
cont. on page 14



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Knights of Pillar Nurses assists adult daycare



Special to The Canton News
Pictured are Ms. Johnnie Johnson, cook; and Ms. Irene Stokes, operational manager.

Special to The Canton News

The Knights of Pillar Nurses Association (KPNA) presented a

microwave to the staff and clients at Desmond Puller Adult Day-care Center. KPNA tries to give back to the community by serv-



Special to The Canton News
Pictured is Ida Thomas (right) calling out numbers for Bingo.

ing and helping the elders. Mrs. Annie Smith is the owner of the adult daycare center. On different occasions, members of KPNA get

involved with the clients by hosting Bingo and providing gifts. Bertha McGruder assisted with Bingo but is not pictured.

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cont. from page 12

Seek professional help if suspect hearing loss

can begin promptly.

“Just because a person self-reports good hearing doesn’t mean there aren’t any issues,” he said.

When a patient goes to a clinic visit – including to their primary care provider – “we need to extend the question beyond ‘How’s your hearing?’ We need to ask if they have trouble following a conversation in a loud environment or if they have a ringing or buzzing in their ears.

“Those are telltale symptoms of hearing loss.”

Spankovich said a serious medical problem is rarely the cause of hearing loss. Often, hearing loss reflects a person’s life health history, repeated exposure to loud sounds or perhaps genetics.

“But if you have sudden hearing loss, ear pain or drainage or significant ringing, those are medical concerns and you would want to get a referral to an ENT,” he said. “As primary care and family physicians see their aging population

is starting to experience small difficulties, it’s a good time to make referrals for those patients to have their hearing checked.

“We want to catch those mild issues before they get too severe.”

A campus of the University of Mississippi, UMMC is the state’s only academic medical center. Located in Jackson, it encompasses seven health science schools, including medicine, nursing, health related professions, dentistry, pharmacy, graduate studies and population health. The Medical Center’s health care enterprise includes the state’s only Level I trauma center and its only children’s hospital. UMMC’s education, research and health care missions share the objectives of improving the health of the state’s population and eliminating health disparities. For more information, visit <http://www.umm.edu> and <https://www.umm.edu/PublicAffairs/Office-of-Public-Affairs.html>.

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Tailgating tips and tasting



Photo by Lori Lycette

Erin Noble (left) and Jane Foster (right) tell the history of the Zebra Tent and share recipes of the food they prepared.

By Lori Lycette

Jane Foster and Erin Noble spoke at the recent Lions Club “Canton After 5” event at the historic Trolie Hotel on the Square. Foster told how she and her husband began with one tailgating tent in The Grove at Ole Miss about fifteen years ago. She knew that she wanted something different that would stand out among the sea of red and blue tents, so she chose zebra print. Erin Noble and her husband, friend Noel Webb, and up to twelve couples eventually became involved and pitch in for most every game.

They have now grown to three tents and have a different theme each week. It takes ten to twelve hours of many people preparing the food and beverages, setting up the “Zebra Tent” and creatively displaying for each ballgame.

Every October, which is Breast Cancer Awareness Month, they set

up a pink Susan G. Komen tent, to raise funds for the breast cancer foundation. They have also promoted the Palmer Home for Children located in Columbus, Mississippi, and have raised as much as \$17,000 in one day for that organization.

Foster and Noble said they never know who’ll enter their tent from week to week, including celebrities. Tim Tebow has brought Make-A-Wish children by for a visit. They welcome everyone into their tents, including the visiting teams.

The Zebra Tent has been named the best tailgating tent in the country by *USA Today*. They have also been featured on the *Pickler & Ben* talk show, ESPN, Fox News, the Travel Channel, the Food Network, Pop Sugar and many other media outlets, as well as magazine and newspaper articles.

Stop by the next time you’re in The Grove!

MadCAAP holds fundraiser



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Tuesday, October 1, 2019

Special to The Canton News

Madison Countians Allied Against Poverty (MadCAAP) will hold its annual fundraiser, Food For Thought, on Tuesday, October 1, from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Special to The Canton News

MadCAAP is a 501(C)3 non-profit agency that has partnered with individuals, churches, businesses and civic groups since 1985 to meet the varying needs of its brothers and sisters who are hungry and thirsty, in need of clothing and safer homes, as well as those who are lonely and in need of emotional support.

The event will be held at the

Town of Livingston and will include food and drinks from over thirty-five local eateries, as well as live music provided by Double Barrel and a silent auction in the chapel.

Tickets are \$60 per person and can be purchased at madcaap.org. Attendees must be at least twenty-one years old.

For more information, call (601)407-1404 or email madcaap@bellsouth.net.

CORRECTION

In the August issue of *The Canton News*, we omitted the last word in the article about Canton teacher Martha Edmonds. It should have ended with “lady!” We apologize for this error.

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VJHS principal, coaches speak to Rotary Club

By Lori Lycette

Velma Jackson High School (VJHS) Principal Carey Kirkland attended and spoke at a recent Rotary Club meeting. He had been honored at the Mississippi Association of Secondary School Principals (MASSP) conference with its highest annual recognition, the Secondary School Principal of the Year. This month, he will represent Mississippi at the national conference in Washington, D.C.

Principal Kirkland attributes his success to putting people in the right place and building relationships with the students. He believes that “unhappy children are not successful.” He credits the

dedicated teachers who truly care about the students for the success they have had at Velma Jackson and said the award really belongs to the teachers. Kirkland has been an educator for twenty-six years and just began his fourth year at Velma Jackson.

His athletic director/head football coach, Bernard Euell, and basketball coach, Chris Love, also attended the Rotary meeting that day. Love stated that his goal is to help every student be a champ in classroom as well as on the court. The majority of his players are on the honor roll. Euell said that he tries to help his students prepare for future opportunities such as college and to be successful in life.



Photo by Lori Lycette

Pictured (l to r) are: Rotary President David Rich; Rotarian Bob Montgomery; Velma Jackson Athletic Director/Head Football Coach Bernard Euell; Velma Jackson Principal Carey Kirkland; and Velma Jackson Basketball Coach Chris Love.

Kirkland stated, “Our number one goal is to graduate every student, and make sure they are prepared for the workforce or college.”

Velma Jackson improved two letter grades, earning a B in 2018

under Kirkland’s leadership, and he went on to say, “Our goal is for Velma Jackson to become an A. It’s a new school year and time to roll up our sleeves, get back in there and make a difference.”

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