



THE CANTON NEWS

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P.O. Box 1163, Canton, MS 39046

CPSD plans to begin the school year with Virtual Learning

By Guest Columnist Canton Public School District Superintendent Gary Hannah

I recently made the decision, along with Board of Trustees, that the Canton Public School District will be using the virtual instructional model until further notice. This was a tough decision, but it was one that we made with the best interest of our students, families and community at heart. I'm aware that this may be an inconvenience for some parents, but it is the safest option.



Special to The Canton News

We are currently making plans to ensure that your children receive the same level of quality,



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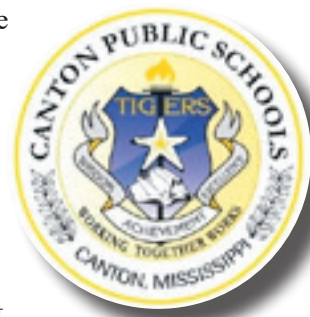
rigorous instruction that they have received in a traditional format. Our teachers, principals and other staff will be in the buildings every day, teaching from their classrooms and providing support as if your children were physically present.

In the next few days, principals will be posting information for parents about how to check out devices for children who need them. Quality teaching continues to be

our top priority, and our teachers and administrators are developing plans that will ensure that our students will continue to receive instruction that is tailored to each child's individual needs.

Despite the fact that we will not be in a traditional format when school starts, rigorous instruction and individualized learning will continue to be the driving forces of our academic plan. Additionally, we are planning sessions

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SON Valley ministers to special needs

By Lori Lycette

SON Valley is a private non-profit Christian organization that ministers to the needs of adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

In 1998, a group of families wanted an alternative to a state institution for their children, so they began meeting with a clear goal, but was difficult to figure out financially.

Bill McCormack also had an interest in starting a home for those in need of a facility designed to meet the specific needs of each individual and became executive director in 2003.

SON Valley was finally born on July 5, 2007, and sits on eighty acres north of town, at 461 Goodloe Road.

"This facility is probably the last one of this type in the nation. As soon as the home opened, the national trend became for these individuals with special needs to live independently in the community, but that doesn't work for everyone or for their parents," said

SON Valley Administrator and Director of Nursing Sarah Stowers, who has been there since day one.

SON Valley will probably never be able to get approval to expand, because that would make it an institution.

"We have a certificate of need and can have no more than twenty residents living here," said Stowers.

In order to qualify for admittance, one must be tested by the state and be identified as intellectually disabled...mild, moderate or severe. The

adaptive skills, meaning what they can really do, are also assessed.

Dr. Farhan Nafis is the medical director of SON Valley. Nafis is also an ER physician but is on call for SON Valley all of the time. He is required to do a full physical on each resident

at least every sixty days, but he typically goes every thirty days, and also talks to the nursing staff and reviews

have someone with an intellectual disability, please come talk to us. We can steer them in the right direction.

Bill and I know how to get them the help they need."

SON Valley currently consists of three different avenues to help the community.

The Intermediate Care Facility is located on the original property in Canton and consists of two large homes, which house ten residents in each.

The Community Living provides independent living through various houses and apartments in the Jackson Metro area. A member of their direct care staff is always present.

The Community Centers, located in Brandon and Ridgeland, offer

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the medications. A variety of RNs and LPNs work around the clock at the facility.

"We really ask that the community pray for Son Valley, that we can help as many people as we can," added Stowers. "If they know anyone or

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Five ways to boost bird enjoyment in your own backyard

By Sherry Lucas

When pandemic shelter-at-home orders left many stuck at the house last spring, who was still on the move? Birds.

Migrating beauties and backyard residents were about the only ones swooping by for a visit, and folks responded accordingly. Trail use at the Clinton Community Nature Center (CCNC) was up, even during the lockdown, says Audrey Harrison, CCNC board president.

"I go out there to walk and run in that neighborhood, and I have noticed people birdwatching and walking the trails with binoculars."

Bird-watching has soared nationwide during the pandemic. Apps such as eBird, to help keep a checklist of sightings, and Merlin Bird ID, with its info-packed field guide, can be a big help supporting the newfound passion.

Anytime is a good time to look for birds. But, "Typically, the best time is in the morning or the evening," says Adam Rohnke of Clinton, a wildlife biologist and an ornithologist by training who works with Central Mississippi Research and Extension in Raymond. Summers in Mississippi, "at 2 o'clock in the afternoon, nobody wants to be out there, including birds."

Because the watch targets are usually small and skittish, the first order of business is to make buddies with a pair of binoculars. Binocular problems are more often due to user error than faulty equipment, so when experiencing trouble, frustration or focus issues, consult a fellow birder or even a YouTube video for adjustment tips.

Rohnke suggests these five birds (not standard run-of-the-mill birds but often common backyard ones) to watch for, listen for and try to attract this summer:

Eastern Towhee — The robust, robin-sized ground-dweller, found from the coast to the hills, is often heard more than seen, Rohnke says. Listen for a two-part call note "chewink" or the three-part up-swinging whistle of "Drink your tea" as the birds rummage through leaves while foraging in thickets and bushes.

The striking male has a jet-black head, throat, wings and tail, and dark-orange sides and white belly. Females and juveniles present the same pattern, but with chestnut-brown instead of black. Their diet consists of native seeds, fruit, buds, insects and crustaceans.

Towhees prefer cover and forage under short bushes like azaleas and wax myrtles. They'll visit feeder stations where there are low platform feeders and scratch along the periphery of the feeding area.

Ruby-throated hummingbird —

The little ruby and emerald migratory visitor, a mark of summer, measures about the length of an adult human thumb, Rohnke says. Adult males have a metallic green back and sides with a deep ruby throat, while females and juveniles are similarly colored but lack that ruby throat. Nectar is a primary food source, but ruby-throats also prey upon insects and spiders caught in mid-air or extracted from webs. Listen for their high-speed chipping vocalization, particularly around feeders.

A hummingbird feeder filled with one part sugar to four parts water (boil, then cool, no red dye needed) is a good way to attract them, and so is providing plants they'd love to visit, such as coral honeysuckle, salvias, red buckeyes and more.

Red-headed Woodpecker —

The deep-red head, white chest and belly, and bluish-black back, tail and wings, with white wing patches, make this beaut a study in contrasts.

Appearances don't differ between males and females, and juveniles

have a mottled grayish-brown head, back and wings with a lightly streaked belly and broken white wing patches. Hear them drumming on trees, utility poles, aluminum gutters and even metal lawn art. They nest in cavities, including utility poles and dead trees, and sometimes human structures.

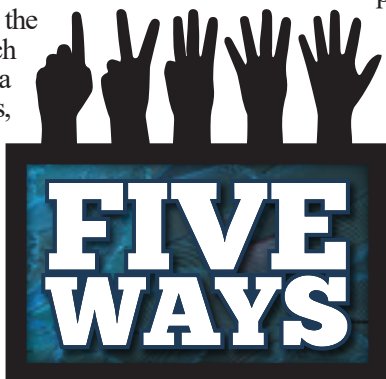
Maintaining any dead tree in the yard, safely away from structures or walkways, can attract them.

White-eyed Vireo — Small and constantly on the move in shrubs and trees of the mid-level canopy, the songbird's appearance is a contrast of overall washed yellow with gray atop its head and nape, white chest, charcoal grayish black wings and two creamy-white wing bars. It's aptly named for its bright-white iris, surrounded by yellow feathers often referred to as "spectacles," Rohnke says. Juvenile birds lack the white iris and are duller overall.

Shrubby hedgerows under mid-canopy hardwoods draw these birds, which prefer to forage and call from cover.

House Finch — Originally a western U.S. species, the House Finch has become a Mississippi resident since the 1980s and is well-adapted to living among humans. The sparrow-sized bird has brown feathers across the majority of its body, with broken dark brown streaks down the chest and belly. The male has a rosy red on the head and breast that slowly fades down the body — a coloration the females and juveniles lack.

They're easily enticed to hopper, window and tube-style feeders featuring black oil sunflower seeds and finch seed mixes.



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cont. from front page

SON Valley ministers to special needs

a day program, where they focus on spiritual growth, vocational skills and assistance in finding employment, as well as outings to shop at stores or educational field trips. The centers are intended to provide a meaningful day with a Christian focus.

SON Valley currently has 120 employees total, with over forty in Canton, which was the organization's first location. They branched out into the community in 2012 with the community center in Ridgeland, and then most recently Brandon with day services.

"The residents love living here, and they love to play basketball, soccer, softball and to swim. They play in bowling leagues and also attend camp, and they LOVE it," said Stowers.

Resident Linda Blackledge said about SON Valley, "I really like living at home, but I like SON Valley. I like shopping and to go out to eat, and I am ready to do that again. I like music and watching TV and swimming."

Son Valley's newest resident, Leah Clemons, said, "I've only been here a month, but I like living here, because I can be independent. I like to do puzzles, and I'm working to get my GED. SON Valley is good way for people to get help. They are helping me with personal hygiene, clean better, make my bed and learn how to cook. It's the best place for people to go if they have disabilities. If we have problems, we can help each other out, and I think that's a great thing."

"Since COVID, we have to follow CDC guidelines, so no

one can go out. They've talked on the phone with their families and Facetimed with them and made videos for them. It's been hard not being able to go home to visit their families, but it's been a blessing, since they've had to slow down.

"The pandemic has shut down many other facilities, but we realize there is a need for us to be available for the community. For the most part, our staff is fully invested in our resi-

dents' lives and just want to do whatever they can to help them."

"They are all learning all the time. We set goals for them in areas such as hygiene, fitness, money, health, education, social skills and anything else they need to work on. We build on what they've already learned," added Stowers.

Pam Pepper, one of the first residents to move in, said, "I like to work on activities that the activities director is doing. I enjoy all of what we do. I like to write letters, organize my planner and scrapbooking. They help me do many things...get a pass to go home to see my family, cook and cope with my problems."

People volunteering their time at SON Valley is very important and helpful to the residents, as well as the staff. Church groups come from all over the country. They play Uno with them, play the piano and sing with them, bring a healthy snack, play basketball or simply walk and talk with them.

"Our goal is to help as many people as best as we can, and we're going to do it in a Christian way, and that will not change," said Stowers.

SON Valley is the only 501(c)3 nonprofit organization of its kind in the state. It is Medicaid funded, but monetary donations are also accepted. More information may be found on the website sonvalley.net or the Facebook page.

For more information on volunteering opportunities, call Sarah Stowers at 601-859-3200 or email shs@sonvalley.net.



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Candi (left) and Ursula (right) during a recent luau



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Matthew tie-dyeing his shirt



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Mike making his own stepping stone

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Canton's Saab Park gets a facelift



Photo by Lori Lycette

Saab Park concession stand

By Lori Lycette

Despite delays due to the COVID-19 virus, the Saab Park Improvement Plan is still moving forward. Saab Park, just north of the Square, is receiving its first overhaul in thirty-five years.

Included in the plan is a total restoration of the baseball fields, including new scoreboards and bleachers, resurfacing of the tennis court, a pavilion for rentals, amphitheater for concerts, etc., and improved landscaping.



Photo by Lori Lycette

Saab Park splash pad

Also included is a brand-new splash pad and playground for the kids, which are complete, and a new concession stand, which is almost complete, with the exception of some supplies that have been delayed due to the virus.

Key Construction will be revamping the basketball court as a donation to the residents of the City of Canton. Canton Parks and Recreation Director Alvin Davis said they are always looking for sponsorships to improve the community.

The entire project should be complete and ready for use by the summer of 2021.

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Old jail designated as landmark



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The old Madison County Jail, located at 234 East Fulton Street in Canton, was recently designated as a Mississippi Landmark by the Board of Trustees of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History. Mississippi Landmark designation is the highest form of recognition bestowed on historic properties by the State of Mississippi. The structure was built in 1870 and served as a fully functioning jail for ninety-nine years, until closing its doors in 1969. The building is now the home of The Canton-Madison County Historical Society.

Hannah joins MASS Board of Directors



Special to The Canton News

Superintendent Hannah in a CPSD classroom.

Special to The Canton News

Gary Hannah, superintendent of the Canton Public School District, has been appointed to the Mississippi Association of School Superintendents' (MASS) board of directors.

Since its founding in 1969, MASS has grown into a nationally-recognized coalition that provides state-of-the-art training and mentoring programs for educators throughout Mississippi, while advocating year-round for improved public schools. The association regularly evaluates the composition of its board to ensure it includes the appropriate skills, experience and perspectives necessary to improve outreach and efficacy.

Selected to serve as one of the board's District 2 representatives, Hannah brings twenty-two years of experience in education to MASS. As part of his board duties, he will work with fellow directors to provide resources and services to improve the quality of public education in Mississippi.

Hannah joins the MASS board at a pivotal time when districts are facing multiple challenges, including the reopening of schools amidst growing coronavirus concerns, teacher shortages and rapidly changing technology needs.

"We are excited to welcome Gary to our board of directors," said Dr. Phil Burchfield, executive director for MASS. "His knowledge and experience will be key assets in helping guide our future operations and strategies, with the ultimate goal of ensuring that Mississippi's public schools are equipped to provide a world-class education for all

students."

Last year, MASS launched the "Unleash Possible" campaign to address the state's teacher shortage by encouraging service-minded Mississippians to consider careers in education.

MASS also is aggressively working with state leaders to develop more robust recruiting and hiring practices for Mississippi's public schools as well as better pay, stronger certification standards and other incentives to build and strengthen Mississippi's teacher workforce.

In recent months, MASS hosted weekly webinars as part of its ongoing commitment to assist members as school districts begin the reopening process in the wake of closures tied to coronavirus concerns.

"It's beyond inspiring to see firsthand the impact MASS is making on public education in Mississippi and how its leaders are working to create more inclusive, connected and healthy schools for all," said Hannah. "I look forward to working with the board of directors and the entire MASS team to keep the momentum moving forward."

The Mississippi Association of School Superintendents and the Alliance of Educational Leaders of Mississippi is a non-profit association whose membership is made up of 139 public school superintendents and more than 2,000 public school administrators. Its mission is to provide resources, advocacy, leadership, policy information, training, support, renewal and public relations services that improve the quality of public education.

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New opportunities open up for Canton

By Guest Columnist Joy Foy

With all the focus on the coronavirus, sometimes the good things going on around us go unnoticed. Director of Building and Development for the City of Canton Jimmy Smith tells me that there are some very good businesses coming to Canton.



Special to The Canton News

One of the businesses began months ago with a building pad on the corner of Peace and Canal Streets. Rav Bedi, the developer for the C-Store at Gluckstadt, has purchased that site and the old Valero gas station site, on the south side of Peace Street at the Interstate. Bedi's plans for the Canal Street site will be named the Canton Market. It will be a 7,100 square foot Exxon Store similar to the convenience store at Gluckstadt. He has torn down the Valero service station, leaving the gas pumps in place, and plans to relocate the new building deeper into the lot, making room for more parking. Due to backups on other projects, these sites have taken longer than he had hoped for the buildings to be started; however, on July 15, 2020, the construction finally got underway. Both stores are expected to be open in the first quarter of 2021.

The health care sector is one of the growing economic engines in Mississippi. Madison Merit Health continues to add to their investment in Canton with new services and equipment, like the new mammogram machine that offers the best technology for breast screening available in our state. On the hospital's website, CEO Brit Phelps says that Merit Health considers the location one of the advantages of being in Canton, because it is more convenient than more crowded areas. Another health care sector business, Fast Pace Urgent Care, has recently opened in a new office building along Peace Street in the Canton Industrial Park. The newest health care project to Canton that was recently approved by the Zoning Commissioners is a concept for long term health care designed by Hollomon Architecture. The new facility will be named Parkway Health and Rehab and will be located west of the Madison Merit Health Hospital. The owners are SHNC Property, LLC, a group that has served as a nursing home management group for years, but this proposed eighty-seven bed facility will be built, owned and managed by the LLC. The building will be a single-story structure built with a residential design to look like a home and not a medical

facility. Residents will enjoy nicely landscaped lawns, sidewalks and raised gardens. The gardens are intended to allow the residents to grow their own vegetables and flowers. The LLC partners decided to make this investment in Canton to tap into the retirement environment of Madison County. While it is obvious to anyone driving Peace Street, John Deere has moved. The new John Deere location is still within the city limits along Sowell Road, just north of Gluckstadt. In this same southernmost part of the City of Canton, Developer Blake Cress has received approval from the Canton Zoning Commissioner for a major commercial development on the north side of Sowell Road. Phase one will be called the Calhoun Station Travel Center, which will feature a 4,500 square foot convenience store and 2,500 square feet of additional retail space built to attract food service and restaurant type development. While this development is part of a thirty-one acre commercial site, the architects have designed the development to have a community feel. This desire to blend into the area is accomplished by using brick, stone, stucco and glass building materials already in use in that area and will represent a \$2.5 to \$3 million investment.

The Perlinsky's Building is now home to the Ace of Grace Boutique, a women's clothing store, which outgrew their first store on the north side of the square. This business is owed by Misti Cochran, and she, along with the other merchants on the square, pulled together to host a different version of the July 4th Independence Day and Hot Air Balloon Festival. It was very successful. Canton had hot air balloon activities on the square and visitors came to shop and be entertained. The coronavirus pandemic has had an impact here; however, our merchants are being creative and working hard to overcome the trials. Jana Dear, Canton's Tourism Director, reminds us to shop local and support local business. For us who love and live in Canton, these new announcements and plans give us more reasons to be proud of our hometown! Many thanks to our city officials who are working hard to continue growing opportunities.

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 Canton Lions Club and on the Keep Canton Beautiful Committee.



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Sheriff's Department receives blessing



Photo by Lori Lycette

Dunamis Power Ministries of Canton recently blessed the Madison County Sheriff's Department with words of encouragement and support from Pastors Dexter and Sheryl Washington, prayer for the officers and the entire department, and lunch provided by the church. Pictured is Sheriff Randy Tucker with members of the church and the community.

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Select CPSD students receive laptops



Dell Chromebook

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A United Way grant has issued a laptop to two students per school in the Canton Public School District (CPSD), dependent on various stipulations being met. The computers will help students continue remediation and enrichment initiatives. They will

also get to use the laptops as long as they are students in CPSD. Upon leaving the district, students may return the laptops or purchase them at their used value the year that they are returned. The students say they are grateful to the United Way for giving them this opportunity to enhance their learning.



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CA's Davidson receives award



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Canton Academy (CA) sixth grader Knox Davidson was this year's recipient of the Peter B. Green Award. The award is presented every year in honor of Peter B. Green, a former well-loved principal of Canton Academy Elementary School. It is the highest award that a sixth grader can receive and represents the epitome of what an ideal student should be, not just in the classroom, but in every aspect of life. The student is required to have attended CA since kindergarten and is voted on by the entire elementary faculty. Pictured are Knox Davidson and CA music teacher Ms. Harris.

CA's Cochran signs with EMCC



Special to The Canton News

Recently graduated from Canton Academy, Aislynn Cochran has signed with East Mississippi Community College (EMCC) to play softball during the 2020-21 school year. Cochran was a five-sport athlete during her senior year and was named All-District Softball. She plans to pursue a career in occupational therapy or pediatric nursing at EMCC.

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Canton teacher Maggie King wins MDOT message contest

By Andy Kanengiser

Canton teacher Maggie King loves working with students at Luther Brandon Elementary.

Teaching at the school in the Madison County district “has been one of the biggest blessings in my life,” says King, a Canton resident. “I love getting to know each student and their family and forming those bonds each year.”

Cherishing her assignment teaching at the school off Highway 16 East, King is also passionate about improving road safety for motorists. She recently was among the five Mississippians winning a Mississippi Department of Transportation contest designed to step up driver safety.

MDOT’s statewide traffic safety message contest ran from May 11 until June 11. MDOT officials recently selected five winners out of more than five hundred entries across the Magnolia State.

What was King’s message to drivers? “Drive boozy, and your ticket could be a doozy.” Her message will begin appearing on Mississippi roads in early August, along with those of other contest winners.

“MDOT received so many clever entries throughout the contest, and we are so grateful for everyone’s participation,” said Melinda McGrath, the agency’s executive director. “Safety remains MDOT’s number one priority. This contest is another way to help us promote safety and decrease the number of crashes.”

The messages will appear on digital message signs showcased on highways and interstates throughout Mississippi.

How did Maggie happen to enter the contest?



Special to The Canton News

Maggie King

“I saw a friend post about the contest on Facebook, and decided to enter a few of my ideas,” said King, a Birmingham, Alabama, native. “I was tickled that I was one of the five out of five hundred entries that got chosen by MDOT.”

Others winners are Hannah Duke of Jackson, Tommye Henderson of Clinton, Jim Miller of Madison and Sherry Burrough of Tupelo.

Newly married, King is starting her fifth year of teaching at Luther Branson Elementary. The home of the Falcons serves 213 students. She moved to Canton after graduating at the University of Mississippi.

King is a big fan of Canton, from the historic town square to the businesses and schools across the Madison County community. Not far away is the huge Nissan manufacturing plant.

“I love the character and beauty of the town and how most people have been living here their whole lives,” King says. “You can see how deeply connected people are to this special place.”

The Cantonian is also appreciative of working with such a wonderful group of teachers and staff at Luther Branson Elementary. “The students are taught under an incredible community of supportive teachers and staff.”

The goal, from one year to the next, King said, is for the students to leave school “with one of the strongest foundations of learning you could ask for. And that level of excellence happens every year.”

MDOT officials may sponsor a similar message contest next year. MDOT’s traffic safety contest adds to messages produced by agency employees year-round. The messages are often related to current events and pop culture to encourage better driving habits.



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Excel By 5 receives grant



Special to The Canton News

North Madison County Excel By 5 recently received a grant from the Madison County Community Trust to assist with backpacks for their annual Back to School event. Excel By 5 is a community-based certification designed to improve a child's overall well-being by age five. The first-of-its-kind in the United States, this program emphasizes the important roles communities play in educating their children during their most formative years, birth to five, and helps prepare them for kindergarten. Realizing the importance of early education, the Madison County Business League and Foundation (MCBL&F) has collaborated with North Madison County Excel By 5 since its organization in 2010. MCBL&F Director Jan Collins (right) is shown presenting the check to Excel By 5 Chairman Dr. Mary Sims Johnson (left).



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Lions Club installs new officers



Special to The Canton News

Past President Mark Hopkins recently installed the new officers for the Canton Lions Club for 2020-2021. Pictured (l to r) are: Secretary/Treasurer Daniel Logan, Vice-President Moses Thompson, Incoming President Darlene Austin, and Mark Hopkins. The club is now meeting at the Santa Fe Grill after the closing of Penn's Fish House.



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Webinar series helps businesses navigate COVID-19 in Madison County

Special to The Canton News

Unprecedented times call for unprecedented measures. During this time of COVID-19 quarantines, the Madison County Business League and Foundation has been working to help businesses in Madison County through a series of informative Zoom webinars featuring business experts and elected officials.

“The MCBL&F is a very hands-on organization,” says Executive Director Jan Collins. “We are used to connecting with our members at regular meetings and events; however, this pandemic has forced us to get creative on ways to do that safely.”

A series of business briefings have been held, with topics that deal with the impact of COVID-19 on various aspects of business in Madison County.

“Webinars offered by the MCBL&F have provided an efficient means of communication and engagement in these unprecedented times,” says Phyllis Johnson, Director of the Mississippi Board of Nursing. “The information presented has been beneficial in keeping abreast of safety guidelines and economic implications that have been utilized in safely returning to our office environment.”

Johnson was a speaker, along with Tim Moore, Executive Director of the Mississippi Hospital Association,

for the first business briefing held on April 15. The theme of that webinar was “Where are we now? Impact on Madison County Workforce/Workplaces.” Other briefings include an April 22 update from Speaker Philip Gunn on “The Impact of COVID-19 on Madison County and the State.” On April 29, the topic was “COVID-19: Impact on Our Schools,” featuring Gary Hannah, Canton Public Schools superintendent; Charlotte Seals, superintendent of Madison County Schools; and Termie Land, Madison Ridgeland Academy’s Head of School.

On April 30, the regularly scheduled Coffee with Congressman Michael Guest was instead presented as a Zoom webinar. As businesses settled into the “new normal” during COVID-19, a webinar was presented on May 6 by Dr. Darrin Webb, Mississippi State Economist, on “What Happens Now? The Economic Outlook in Light of COVID-19.” By the end of May, businesses that had been closed were looking at reopening. Sharon Nichols, state director of Mississippi Small Business Centers, presented a webinar on May 20 titled “Relaunch, Restart, Resilient – Building Resources and Tools for Small Businesses to Survive and Thrive.”

United States Senator Cindy Hyde-

Smith presented a Webinar on June 3 to give participants a national perspective to the pandemic. As businesses began reopening, safety for employees and customers was a valid concern. On June 11, Dr. Chris Powe, president/owner of Global Train-

decision makers to address these topics.”

Participation in the webinars has been strong, with more members logging on for each business briefing. Phil Buffington, who serves as the chairman of the MCBL&F Government Affairs Committee, says the webinars provide timely and beneficial information to members.

“The wide range of topics have provided our members with an excellent opportunity to stay informed and receive valuable information,” said Buffington.

More webinars will be presented in the coming months, as the COVID-19 pandemic continues to limit gatherings.

“We are constantly assessing the situation and how it is affecting businesses,” says Collins. “We will be planning webinars that will be helpful to businesses during this time. It’s a very effective way for the Madison County Business League and Foundation to stay true to our mission while using technology to connect people. We are grateful to all of our presenters, and to those who log in to participate in the webinars.”

For more information, contact Jan Collins at collins.jan01@gmail.com or www.madisoncountybusinessleague.com.



ing Institute, presented a webinar on “Back to Business – Creating a Safe Work Environment.”

The most recent webinar was held on June 23, with Jamie Nichols, Deputy Director of Governmental Affairs/CIO with the Mississippi Development Authority presented an “Overview of the Back to Business Mississippi Grant Program.”

Barney Daly, chairman of the MCBLF, says that each of the webinars has been very informative and timely. “I feel like we’ve been able to connect with our membership in a meaningful way during this pandemic. Jan has done a great job lining up the right



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McDonald receives Surgical Tech award

Special to The Canton News

The Foundation for Surgical Technology (FFST) awarded Holmes Community College student Rebecca “Lauren” McDonald of Canton a \$1,000 scholarship. In addition to the scholarship, McDonald will be recognized in the August issue of *The Surgical Technologist*, the Foundation website and in an upcoming issue of *ASTSA News* and the *Instructors Newsletter*. McDonald is a student on the Ridgeland Campus of Holmes Community College.

McDonald, who earned a bachelor’s degree in business management from Mississippi State University in just three years prior to attending Holmes Community College, will be working as a full-time surgical technologist at the University of Mississippi Medical Center. She is aspiring to work on the cardio-thoracic and heart transplant teams at UMMC. McDonald said that one day she would love to ascend to become a first assistant, which is the next advancing position upward,



Lauren McDonald

Special to The Canton News

demanding a more hands-on approach when scrubbing in the procedures.

“I want to be a surgical technologist because working in surgery is the most challenging, exciting experience,” McDonald said. “It is so satisfying knowing that I can be a vital part of life-saving procedures and working on a team that is dedicated to bettering the health of our patients is the most rewarding occupation I could ask for. The world of surgery is constantly evolving more than ever before with more revolutionary techniques and devices and being a surgical technologist allows me to support that mission of surgeons and their teams everywhere.”

“I am so proud of Lauren and all of her accomplishments in the surgical technology program,” said Ridgeland Campus Surgical Technology instructor Shea Coleman. “She is the epitome of a hard worker and a studious student!”

McDonald was named Holmes Surgical Tech Student of the Year for Ridgeland and was voted Class President.



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IHS INVESTS IN STUDENTS & FAMILIES

All photos special to The Canton News.



Deontaye Potts with a food box for his family



Antonio McDonald and Jamia Davenport holding their gift baskets, Sports Director Christin Howard, center



Sisters Anjennette, Ashlee, and Emily Sullivan each holding a new Bible from IHS.

Special to The Canton News

As In His Steps Ministries (IHS) entered the summer months with COVID-19 still a concern, they began looking for alternative ways to run their Summer Enrichment Program. After much prayer from the program's director, Mrs. Carolyn Bacon, and coordinator Ms. Jasmine Thompson, the Lord directed their paths to develop the Stay at Home Summer Enrichment Program. The program is currently serving fifteen students from second grade to tenth grade. Every Monday for five weeks this summer, Mrs. Bacon and Ms. Jasmine are dropping off packets focused on Bible study, reading and math skills, as well as a memory verse for the week focused on salvation. The students are given the opportunity to recite the memory verse the following week for a prize, and the packets are picked up by Mrs. Bacon and Ms. Jasmine to check for progress and where additional help is needed. To celebrate the Class of 2020 graduating athletes, IHS Sports Director Christin Howard

decided to give gift baskets to all the senior athletes at Canton High School. Howard said, "We wanted to give them something to remember us by and to show our appreciation for all their hard work." The baskets were filled with items for college such as dryer sheets and laundry detergent, as well as fun things like snacks, Gatorade and a gift card. To encourage them, the baskets also included a Bible, a salvation tract and a personal letter from Howard. "We hope that this placed more seeds in their lives, and that it's another changing point for them. We believe that this resembles the love Christ shows us every day in giving us gifts and blessings," added Howard. "We look forward to seeing where these young men and women go in life, and we ask you to pray over them with us as they enter into college or the work force."



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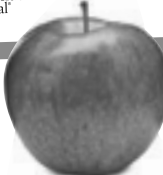
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cont. from front page

CPSD plans to begin the school year with Virtual Learning

for our parents on topics such as how to keep your child engaged online, strategies to help your child stick to a schedule and the basics of the online platforms that we are using.

We are also planning to provide breakfast and lunch to students. In the next few days, we will announce bus stop locations and procedures for children to receive breakfast and lunch. Our focus continues to be on nurturing our children and making sure that we continue to meet their needs, even when they are not physically in the building.

The first day of school will be

here before we know it. We plan to do weekly updates via Facebook and our district's website to keep our parents and the community aware of our plans in the midst of ever-changing information.

Many of our students participated in the district's summer enrichment, and I know that many others kept their minds alert this summer by reading, writing and thinking critically.

We are eagerly awaiting another opportunity to nurture our scholars, and we can't wait to see their faces online on August 17!

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.



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Canton chapter awards scholarships

Special to The Canton News

The Canton Epsilon Kappa Kappa Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc., Uplift Incorporated, recently awarded a book scholarship in the amount of \$500 to Calli Ainsworth, a graduating senior of Germantown High School.

These book scholarships are awarded to college or trade school-bound high school seniors in the Canton Public School System and the Madison County School System. Ainsworth's packet scored the highest out of approximately thirty entries from Madison County school districts. In addition to winning this scholarship, she also won second place in the essay contest for a \$500 scholarship. Other Uplift Book Scholarship winners are Joseph



Calli Ainsworth

Miller, Madison Central High School, who won second place in the amount of \$300, and Skylawn Thompson, Velma Jackson High School, who won third place in the amount of \$200.

The Uplift Incorporated, a 501(c)3 organization, has long been a proponent of academic excellence as evidenced by its generous financial donation to college bound high school seniors who have demonstrated excellence in academics, achievement, leadership and community service.

High school seniors should ask their school counselor or the Uplift scholarship chairperson Bro. Frank J. Branch (fbranch3815@gmail.com) by February 1, 2021, for the 2021 Book Scholarship application.

Special to The Canton News

Canton Nissan produces top SUV



The Nissan Murano, produced at the Canton plant, ranked highest in the Midsize SUV segment in the 2020 J.D. Power Initial Quality Study, the industry benchmark for new vehicle quality.

Special to The Canton News

Canton boxers shared a special bond

By Lori Lycette

During the late 1930s and early 1940s, Canton High School produced several outstanding boxers who shared a special bond...a love for boxing and for each other.

Abie Levy, Jimmy Rimmer and Robert McDonald attended high school together, were on the school's boxing team and remained lifelong friends to the very end.

Levy was said to be the best, small in stature but "fast as lightnin'," a star boxer for CHS who led the team to win the state championship in 1940.

Standing at five foot, eight inches tall and weighing in at 126 pounds, left-handed amateur boxer Abie Levy fought against Sugar Ray Robinson in the 1941 Western Division Golden Gloves tournament at Chicago Stadium, in the featherweight class. Levy had misplaced his mouthpiece and lost on a technical knockout when his jaw was dislocated. He did not want to stop fighting but was required to due to his injury.

Sugar Ray Robinson is considered to be one of the best boxers in history. Robinson held the world welterweight title from 1946 to 1951, won the middleweight title five times and won 175 of 202 professional fights, 109 of them by knockout.

At that time, boxing matches usually had 1,500 to 2,000 in attendance

and brought in more money than football games.

Out of 150 fights as an amateur boxer, Levy lost only two: one was a decision in a high school match, which Levy later won in a rematch. The second loss was the TKO in Chicago. Robinson was the only man to ever knock Levy out.

After high school, Levy joined the Navy.

"Abie said he joined the Navy so he'd have a clean bed every night. He attended college and also boxed while in the Navy," said his wife of thirty-one years, Imogene (Gene) Levy.

"When he returned home from the Navy, he was working at a men's clothing store on the Square named Hart's, and I was a legal secretary," said Gene. "My coworkers and I would walk by his store while going for coffee, and Abie would tell his coworkers, 'I'm gonna marry that girl.'"

And he did just that. Abie married Gene in 1949, and they were married until his death in 1980.

Levy eventually became part-owner and manager of Perlinsky's Clothing Store on the Square for twenty-four years. His boxing trophies were displayed in a case inside the store, and

he loved to tell his stories about winning them, especially to the kids who would come in.

"Abie was a special person...he liked everybody, and everybody liked him. And he was just a natural athlete. He ran the touchdown to defeat 1939 Central High in Jackson. He was six years older than me, so I never saw him box," said Gene Levy.

Robert McDonald, like Levy, boxed at Canton High School and in the Golden Gloves, but he went on to play football at Delta State, then joined the Army and became a career soldier.

"All three friends (McDonald, Levy, Rimmer) went to Canton High together...Jimmy was the largest of the three," said Robert McDonald's daughter, Marsha McDonald Mabry. "Daddy was five foot eight at his tallest."

Robert McDonald's father Roy coached the threesome, as well as many other youth boys in Canton. He knew boxing well and had made much progress building the Vicksburg city boxing program from the ground up, before moving his family to Canton, where he began coaching at Canton High School and volunteering at the

Boys Club in town.

"My grandfather, Daddy Mac, did a lot with the Boys Club. That's where he trained Abie and the other young men. He worked with them a lot and helped get Abie ready for the Golden Gloves. Daddy Mac helped a lot of boys through sports and boxing at the Boys Club. He was a tough old bird who kept them on the straight and narrow. He really cared about those boys, and they would periodically come back to see him after they were grown. He did a lot of good for those young men," said Mabry.

Jimmy Rimmer was also a boxer for Canton High School and competed in the Golden Gloves before joining the Army.

"I remember that Daddy and Abie were very good friends," said Rimmer's daughter, Boopie Rimmer Winstead. "Daddy had the Smart Shoe Store on the Square for a very long time, until he retired, and Abie had Perlinsky's. I remember that they saw each other and visited with each other a lot."

The three were friends all through high school and remained good friends until Levy's death in 1980. McDonald passed away in 1997 and Rimmer in 2004.

"On the day of Abie's death, Jimmy Rimmer bought three cemetery plots...one for himself, one for Abie and one for Robert McDonald," said Gene Levy. "That's how close they were."



Abie Levy

Special to The Canton News



Special to The Canton News
Robert McDonald



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Jimmy Rimmer



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GriefShare program to be offered by Zoom

Special to The Canton News

It eventually happens to everyone. It may be sudden or due to long-term illness; but, inevitably, everyone will have to deal with the feelings of sadness, loneliness and isolation following the death of a loved one. Community members who have experienced the death of a family member or friend are invited to register for the GriefShare program at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church. During this time of isolation, grief can be compounded in many ways. The program is designed to help provide support, information and guidance in participants' journey from mourning to joy. The 13-week non-denominational

seminar series features Christ-centered, biblical teachings which focus on grief topics such as Living with Grief, The Journey of Grief, The Effects of Grief, Why?, The uniqueness of Grief, and God's Prescription for Grief. The seminar features nationally-respected grief experts and real-life stories of people, followed by a small group discussion and personal reflection. Many grieving people find they are only starting the work of healing when friends or family have returned to their daily life routines. Past participants have related how helpful the information and follow-up discussions were to

them. Whether the bereavement experience is recent or long-past, participants will find encouragement,

ries will provide an opportunity to be around people who understand feelings of loss. Participants will learn valuable information about facing a "new normal" in life and renewing their hope for the future. Grief-related books/materials are made available for participants. GriefShare will be held on Tuesdays, beginning August 11 through November 3, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. using the Zoom application. It is hosted by Our Redeemer Lutheran Church. To register or for questions, call Cindy at 601-924-9999.



comfort and help in grieving the death of a spouse, child, parent, sibling, other family member or friend. No matter what the cause of the loved one's death, the se-

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