



THE CANTON NEWS

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

Canton, MS prepares for annual Christmas Festival

Special to The Canton News

Once again, more than 200,000 twinkling lights will sparkle and light up the city's Historic Courthouse Square, bringing the magic and nostalgia of the holidays, along with thousands of visitors, to Canton.

Decorating has already begun at the Welcome Center inside the historic Trollo Hotel on the Square. The theme of this year's Christmas tree is red, white and blue, to honor all first responders.

With social distancing in mind, the 2020 Canton Christmas Festival is set to begin at 5 p.m. November 27 and will last until 9 p.m. December 23. To take full advantage of the breathtaking nighttime views, festival hours will be from 5 until 9 p.m. every night throughout the annual event.

Everything, except shopping with the local merchants, will take place outside this year. Four ticket booths will be placed around the Square, as well as sanitation stations, and each ride will be

sanitized after every rider.

Back this year is the interactive Christmas Village, giving children the opportunity to make reindeer food for Santa's reindeer to eat on Christmas Eve. Frosty will be near his igloo handing out marshmallows to roast by his fire, and Santa's elves will pass out magical glasses that make the Christmas lights in Canton come to life in special shapes! The interactive Christmas Village is designed to allow children to take home their memories from the Canton Christmas festival while creating special memories with the characters.

Additional festival highlights include Mrs. Claus' Story Time from her front porch. She has a new front railing, so she can blow kisses to the children and hug them from afar. Princesses and superheroes will also be reading stories from her porch, from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. nightly.

Santa Claus will be outside nightly waiting for good little boys and girls to tell their biggest wish and smile for a photo.



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Canton Welcome Center decorated for Christmas

The old-fashioned carousel, fun for kids of all ages, will return to the Courthouse lawn, with several food vendors nearby.

Throughout the month, several merchants around the Square will have ex-

cont. on page 2

Canton plays vital role in struggle for equal rights

By Lori Lycette

In the 1960s, Canton played a vital role in the fight for Blacks to be considered first-class citizens, as guaranteed to them by the United States Constitution.

The law permitting Blacks to vote was passed in 1965, but it was almost impossible for them to vote due to intimidation, threats and ridiculous quizzes that were given only to Blacks while attempting to register to vote.

James Meredith began the Walk Against Fear in Memphis in early June 1966. The walk was to end in Jackson, with the primary goal of educating Blacks in Mississippi on their legal right and responsibility to vote, as well as assisting them in the process.

Meredith didn't want a march, only a walk, with no news media around.

Meredith had two goals for the Walk: To show the world that a black man

walk through Mississippi, primarily through the Delta, to encourage peo-



Special to The Canton News

Marchers in Canton include, front row, beginning second from left: Reverend Ralph Abernathy; Coretta Scott King; Martin Luther King, Jr.; Floyd McKissick; and Stokely Carmichael.

could walk down a Mississippi highway without being harmed and to

ple to vote and help them understand the process of registering and then

voting in elections.

On the second day of the walk, just eighteen miles south of Memphis, in Hernando, Mississippi, Meredith was shot in the shoulder, which required him to drop out (temporarily) and seek medical treatment.

When organizations such as the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE), the National Council of Churches (TNCC), the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party (MFDP), the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), and the Voter Education Project (VEP), which was founded by John Lewis to help local people be elected for office, and several others, learned of the shooting, they came together and decided to continue the walk.

cont. on page 20

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cont. from front page

Canton, MS prepares for annual Christmas Festival



Special to The Canton News

Canton Courthouse lawn during a past Christmas Festival

tended holiday hours and will offer a respite from the hectic, big-box-store experience. Shoppers can stroll the sidewalks and enjoy the season, immersed in lights and holiday music, as they pop into gift shops, vintage stores and boutiques for unique items, special sales and samples.

This year, the annual Sip'n Cider, a friendly competition amongst the merchants, will take place in front of each participating business, from 4 p.m. to 9

p.m. on December 11.

"As we all know, moments and memories are priceless treasures we will have forever, and the Canton's Christmas Festival allows you to capture those times with your loved ones during the special holiday season," said Canton Tourism Executive Director Jana Dear.

For more information, follow the Canton Tourism Facebook page or call the Tourism office at 601-859-1307.

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CPD awarded grant to promote awareness



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Pictured (l to r) are: Canton Police Chief Otha Brown, MCCT Chairman Barney Daly, and MCBL&F Executive Director Jan Collins.

Special to The Canton News

Madison County Business League & Foundation (MCBL&F) and Madison County Community Trust (MCCT) recently awarded a grant to the Canton Police Department (CPD) to assist in providing safety awareness materials to the local community.

CPD is currently working with the National Child Safety Council, a 501(C)3 non-profit organization, to

provide educational material, such as activity manuals, brochures, booklets and other valuable teaching aids that address a broad range of topics which affect communities all over the country.

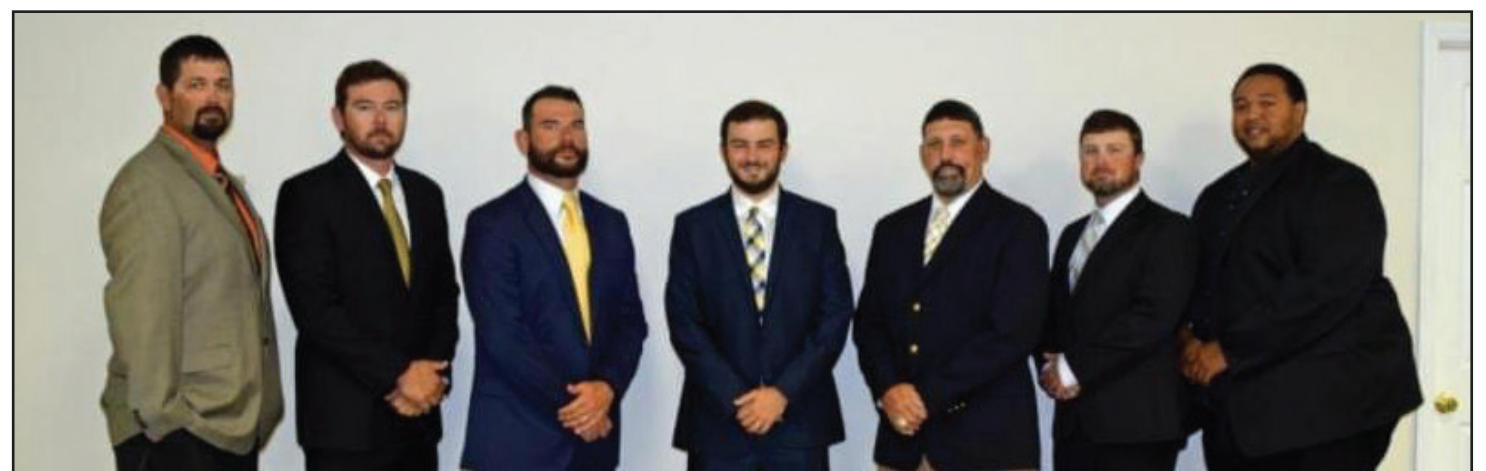
The material will be distributed to the schools and throughout the community through presentations and programs, as well as community events and activities. The information is a tool to help parents, teachers, and the com-

munity better understand and respond to the challenges and temptations that youth face daily.

The police department is requesting financial support to ensure the success of this program and says that any amount is greatly appreciated. Every donation is tax-deductible and will be used to educate the children of Canton and its community members.

For more information, call 601-859-2121.

CHS Bolton selected to coach All-Star game



Special to The Canton News

Canton High School Head Football Coach Calvin Bolton was recently selected to coach in the 2020 Bernard Blackwell North/South All-Star Football Game, scheduled for December 19. Pictured (l to r) are: Clint Hoots, Itawamba AHS; Wade Tackett, New Hope; Ty Hardin, Tupelo; Chris Cutcliffe, Oxford; Stan Robertson, Oxford; Casey Orr, Kosciusko; and Calvin Bolton, Canton.



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Canton, MS 39046
601-667-4667



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Publisher

Clay Mansell

ClayMansell@CantonNews.net

Editor in Chief

Stephanie Tracy

Editor

Lori Lycette

601-667-4667 x5

News@CantonNews.net

Office Manager

Doris Bynum

Sales Representatives

Clay Mansell

Lori Lycette

Graphic Designer / Layout

Megan Smith

Designer@CantonNews.net

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news@cantonnews.net

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FIRE DEPARTMENT AWARDS PROMOTIONS



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The Canton Fire Department recently held a promotion ceremony at City Hall, in which Nathaniel Nichols, Joshua Millsap, and John Jones were each promoted to lieutenant, and Andy Devine was promoted to captain. Pictured (l to r) are: Deputy City Clerk Debra Brown, Fire Marshall Joe Davis, Assistant Fire Chief Kelvin Lockett, Mayor William Truly, Fire Chief Kenna Pierce, Lieutenant Nathaniel Nichols, Lieutenant Joshua Millsap, Lieutenant John Jones, Captain Andy Devine, Deputy Chief/Training Officer Timothy Dixon, Alderwoman Daphne Sims, Alderman Fred Esco, Alderman Tim Taylor, and Alderman Lafayette Wales.

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Canton is approved for new charter school

By Lori Lycette

During a recent meeting of the Mississippi Charter School Authorizer Board, a new charter school was approved for the City of Canton.

SR1 College Preparatory and STEM Academy (CPSA) is expected to open in August 2022. It will initially consist of kindergarten and first grade, serving 150 students, with plans to eventually add second grade through fifth grade, with a maximum enrollment of 450.

The Canton academy will be SR1's very first school and will be the first STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) academy at the elementary level in Mississippi.

"We are a non-profit, and we focus on K-12 students in Central Mississippi," said SR1 Chief Operating Officer Dorlisa Hutton. "We have an award-winning robotics team and have been providing in-school and out-of-school services for our students. We're taking what we've done for the last ten years and are now creating a school."

SR1 already had a strong presence in the Canton community and knew they would be well-received.

"We have been serving the Canton community throughout the years, and actually the parents and community began requesting that we start a charter school in Canton," added Hutton.

The location of the new charter school in Canton has not been determined at this point.

"We are currently working with the authorizer board to get everything finalized, including the location of the school," said Hutton.

SR1 will begin accepting applications on their website during the spring of 2021.

"When the enrollment process begins, we'll have online enrollment and will also provide door to door enrollment," added Hutton. "We will also do community events for recruitment."

Hutton said there will be certain eligibility requirements in order to attend the new school.

"In Mississippi, charter schools operate as public schools, so students zoned for Canton Public Schools will be eligible to attend, and also students who are in school districts rated C or below will be able to cross district lines to attend."

"As always, we are looking for students eager to learn as well as parents ready to invest in their student's education," said Hutton. "We're looking at building a positive and robust program which provides a solid academic foundation for our students there."

This past school year, Mississippi had six operating charter schools, which included one in Clarksdale

and five in Jackson. A seventh, LeFlore Legacy Academy in Greenwood, opened this fall.

Charter schools are public schools that do not charge tuition. Though they are funded by local school districts based on their enrollment, charter schools operate independently from the district in which they reside but are held to the same academic and accountability standards as traditional public schools. By law, charter schools have the capacity for more flexibility for teachers and administrators when it comes to student instruction.

For charter school operators who wish to open in a district with an

A, B, or C

rating, approval must be obtained from the local school board. However, for those wanting to open in a district rated

D or F, an application can be placed directly with the authorizer board.

The authorizer board does a screening and review process of potential operators each year that typically takes several months.

Initial applications were submitted in June, and the board announced the schools that would be moving forward in the process in July. The 2020 application cycle was slightly delayed due to the pandemic, but final decisions were made at the October 12 board meeting.

After looking at eligible applications to review the financials, operations and educational programs of each operator, the new academy will be making a home in Canton.

The mission statement of the SR1 College Preparatory and STEM Academy is to ensure all elementary students have access to a positive and robust learning environment that infuses science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) across content areas.

According to documentation about the process on the SR1 (charter school operator) website, the applicant has identified a proposed school leader, a proposed director of operations, and a proposed academic specialist who will provide expertise in academics (specifically curriculum and instruction), operations, and school leadership. Additionally, the current Executive Director of SR1 (the existing non-profit) will leave SR1 and transition fully to the Executive Director role at the school, where he will oversee the school and the school leader.

In the application and the interview, the applicant described

the school's intended educational program and provided evidence around how it will meet the needs of the anticipated student population.

SR1 noted a tentative plan for facility acquisition and the partnership with Millsaps College for additional space utilization. The existing non-profit for SR1 will be converting to a governing board that oversees charter school management and, as such, should develop a strong plan for conversion that is transparent.

The board's transition process to a charter school board is supported with Board on Track, who will support the board in

assuming its new duties in addition to continuing duties related to the existing SR1 organization. Operational capacity

experience is noted for the Executive Director, who has operated SR1 as a non-profit educational program for several years.

The applicant also described plans for several operational areas, including transportation, food service, facilities management, and safety planning.

The SR1 organization has existed for several years, and the Executive Director has experience in non-profit financial management. The financial plan included \$450,000 in revenue explained as State and federal grant writing without clarity on what types of grants to support what goals.

In the interview, they indicated that they project \$300,000 from the CSP grant and \$150,000 from fundraising and other grants. Additionally, the SR1 organization has \$600,000 in contingency reserves; a letter of commitment from Symbiosis Investment Group (SIG) shows that SIG will provide \$150,000 to the school each year of the five-year charter term. Further, the applicant noted that SR1 has received a United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm to School Grant.

For more information about Mississippi charter schools, call 601-359-9199 or visit www.charter-schoolboard.ms.gov.

For more information about SR1, visit SR1tech.org.



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The City of Canton receives all new banners



All photos Special to The Canton News

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Volunteers pull together to beautify Canton, MS

By Lori Lycette

A new Canton Beautification Committee was recently established by Canton Tourism and several volunteers for the sole purpose of cleaning up and beautifying the City of Canton.

So far, they have pruned, mulched, planted and done basic cleanup all around town, including the train depot, the police station, the area around the recycling bins, the south entrance to town on Highway 51, the

5-points intersection just north of town, the intersection of Highways 16 and 43, as well as the Square.

Fall displays with cornstalks, hay bales, scarecrows and pumpkins were also constructed at several locations to create a festive feel.

"We want our town to be attractive to visitors," said Tourism Director Jana Dear. "You want them to have a positive experience. When it's clean, they feel good and safe and want to spend

their time and money here. We have focused on the entrances to town, because that's what people see first."

The volunteers mostly bring their own tools and supplies, but Tourism has some trash pickers and bags for anyone wanting to help with cleanup. The Lions Club has purchased some supplies, and the Canton Garden Club is assisting with planting flowers.

Dear said they're asking people to join, but wants people to know

it is an actual working committee made up of volunteers who are giving their time, talents and using their own tools.

"We're also asking churches and businesses to adopt a street and help pick up litter and maintain cleanliness of that street," added Dear.

Follow them on the Canton Tourism Facebook page or call 601-859-1307 to be added to the list. The committee meets monthly to make a plan for the following month.



Canton's
BEAUTIFICATION
COMMITTEE




CPSD community donates

Special to The Canton News

Some Canton Public School District community partners recently donated computers to several schools in the district to be distributed where most needed. Family Memorial Funeral Services in Canton donated twenty Chromebook laptops and cases to needy students in the Canton Public School District. Michelle Goodloe delivered ten devices to McNeal Elementary and ten devices to Jimmie Goodloe Elementary School.



Special to The Canton News

Michelle Goodloe and Dr. Monique Lastique, Jimmie Goodloe Elementary School principal.

Canton Alderman Lafayette Wales and the Rogers High School classes of 1968 and 1969 donated a total of eight computers and tablets to help needy students in the school district. School leaders are identifying the students who are most in need of a device to help them excel in virtual instruction. The principals of McNeal, Goodloe and Nichols said they are so appreciative of this generous donation, and that it will make such a positive difference in increasing the effectiveness of virtual learning for CPS students.



Special to The Canton News

Pictured (l to r) are Michelle Goodloe; Dr. Shannon Whitehead, McNeal Elementary School principal; and Brangelia Brooks, Instructional Specialist.

Ribbon cutting for new sidewalk project



Special to The Canton News

The City of Canton helps keep Canton Public School students safe with its new Safe Routes to School Sidewalk Project. City officials, along with Transportation Commissioner Willie Simmons, recently held a ribbon cutting for brand new sidewalks in town. The \$1.2 million sidewalk project added nearly 4400 linear feet of new sidewalks connecting Nichols Middle and McNeal Elementary schools. The project was funded in part by the Federal Highway Administration and the Mississippi Department of Transportation. Pictured (l to r) are: Alderman Tim Taylor, Alderwoman Daphne Sims, Willie Simmons, Mayor William Truly, and Alderman Lafayette Wales.



Special to The Canton News

Pictured (l to r) are: Nichols Middle School Principal Tina Manning; Nichols PTO President Kajwana Davis; Jessica Jones and Jayla Jones, recipients; and John Brown, Georgia Sims, and Rev. Cleotha Williams, representatives of Rogers High Class of 1968.



Special to The Canton News

Nichols Middle School Principal Tina Manning; Nichols PTO President Kajwana Davis; Jessica Jones and Jayla Jones, recipients; Canton Alderman Lafayette Wales; Dr. Juanita Sims, Doty Foundation; and R. L. Johnson, representative of Rogers High Class of 1969.



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Always remember to be thankful for good friends

By Guest Columnist Joy Foy

Among the many things I have to be thankful for this year is my friendship with Jean Cook. She assured me every time I visited that she loved me and prayed for me.



Joy Foy

Jean Watts Cook died early morning on October 21, 2020. It was a Wednesday, and, on a normal Wednesday, I would have gone by for a visit after Lions Club. She was always watching for me to come in her back door.

Jean loved every flower and bird in the world and had lots of both in her backyard. There were flowers of every color and species, but she always wanted one more. Her bird-feeders were never empty, and she spent hours, especially in this last year, watching them eat and fight with the squirrels.

Jean loved chocolate and was not timid about asking for one of my chocolate meringue pies. Jean was 94 years old, but she was young at heart. On her last birthday, she rode the golf cart to look at flowers after her guests, Merle Albritton and Dot

Riddell, left. Jean loved people and was always so glad when someone came to visit her.

She never understood the COVID pandemic, and it did not stop her from going to Belk's or to get her hair done at Linda Lott's. Jean and her next door neighbor and lifetime friend Lettie Ruth Williams spent every afternoon together watching Paul Harvey and drinking coffee, before Lettie's death. She looked forward to having her nails done by Hope Galloway, who so kindly and faithfully came for in-house manicures.

The last ride we took on the Sunday before she died, as we turned back onto Semmes Street, she said, "We have got to go see Ann Smith the next time we are out."

Jean loved and appreciated Linda Washington and Laterica Harris as her sitters. She adored Jennifer Janson and her son Dallas, who lived next door and would pop in to see "Cook."

Jean's children Lane, Roger and Betty were so special to her. Roger was the last one that visited before she died, and she talked about him like he was her little boy. She said he looked so good all dressed up in his suit. In her mind, they were her babies.



Special to The Canton News

Jean Cook (seated), Dot Riddell and Merle Albritton (standing)

This Thanksgiving, as we reflect on all the wonderful things that we have to be thankful for, let us not forget those ordinary things like

good friends. Jean Cook would be reading this if she was alive, because it was something I wrote. I so miss her.



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6243_D

New three-way stop installed on Dinkins Street



Photo by Lori Lycette



Photo by Lori Lycette

The City of Canton recently installed a new three-way stop at the intersection of East Dinkins and Cedar Streets, in an effort to alleviate speeding on Dinkins Street and help keep the neighborhood children safe. A cone with a reflector has also been placed near each sign on Dinkins Street to alert motorists to stop.



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- Look for electrical system damage once power is restored.
- Stay alert for natural gas leaks.
- Check for sewage and water line damage.

CA awards great attitudes



Special to The Canton News

Canton Academy recently recognized elementary students during chapel for showing great attitudes. Recipients of the “Keeping a Great Attitude” award (l to r) are, front row: Jalani Thompson and Berit Warren; middle row: Emma Kate Turner, Rory Johnson, Londyn Smith, and Greyson Burwell; and back row: Bentley Coleman, Addy Reams, Amber Martin, Mary Alice Holmes, and Bryton Robinson.

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CA Players of the Week



Special to The Canton News

Three Canton Academy seniors were each awarded Farm Bureau Player of the Week for their performance in three consecutive games: Alijah Otis, against Greenville Christian; Ty Townsend, against East Rankin; and Semaj Peel, against Winston Academy. Pictured (l to r) are: Alijah Otis; Ty Townsend; James Smith, Farm Bureau; Semaj Peel.

9th Annual



Holiday Hustle 5K

Get your holiday season off to a healthy start at the annual Holiday Hustle, a 5K trek through Canton, MS. Race proceeds go to further academic excellence at Canton Academy.

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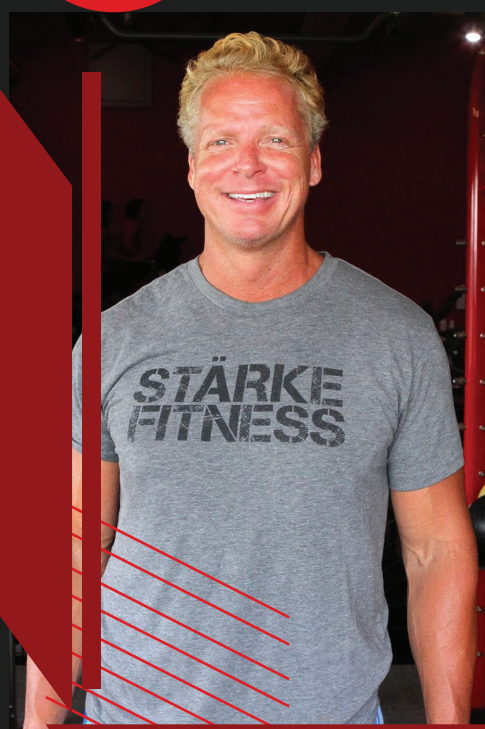
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Lions resume speakers

Special to The Canton News

While the weekly Lions Club meetings are still not at the attendance level prior to the pandemic, the Lions are slowly getting back to business as usual. The new meeting space in the ballroom of the Canton Country Club gives ample space to spread out and conduct meetings safely.

Weekly programs resumed in October, with the first speaker being Kylie Warren of Kylie's Melons, located at the intersection of Highways 16 and 43. Warren told of God's faithfulness in growing his business from selling only watermelons outside to a storefront, containing much more farm-fresh produce, homemade casseroles, etc., to offer the Canton community.

Celia Miller, the information and education specialist for the Madison County Soil and Water office, was the guest speaker for the following week. Miller told about services offered by her office, and she showed the group the new book of property ownership for Madison



County. Miller shared so much useful information that she has been invited back to show the historical maps of Madison County.

Another speaker, Anson Walker of Stark Fitness, bared his soul and gave inspiring encouragement to push one's body and mind to move to the next level of fitness and peace.

Also included in the October speaker lineup was Madison County Chancery Clerk Ronnie Lott. He told what the chancery clerk's office does and answered questions on county-wide concerns.

The Lions agree that resuming guest speakers has made the meetings more fun and is the first step in getting back to "normal."

For anyone who is civic-minded and wants to get involved in making Canton a better place to live and visit, consider becoming a Lion.

President Darlene Austin welcomes one and all to the 11:45 a.m. meeting every Wednesday.

For more information, follow the Lions on the Canton Lions Facebook page.

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Dunamis Power Ministries fed CPD



Special to The Canton News

Dunamis Power Ministries of Canton recently expressed their appreciation to the Canton Police Department by preparing lunch for the entire department. They also spoke words of encouragement to the employees and prayed over them. Pictured (l to r) are: Chief Otha Brown, church member Niccori Brown, Pastors Dexter and Sheryl Washington, and Assistant Chief Terrance Ware.



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MCBL&F announces three newly-elected board members

Special to The Canton News

The Madison County Business League & Foundation (MCBL&F) Board of Directors recently announced the election of three new business leaders to serve a four-year term on the board of directors.



Alveno Castilla

Alveno Castilla, partner in Butler Snow law firm, was born in North Madison County and currently resides in Gluckstadt. He earned his BA and MBA degrees at Millsaps College and the University of Virginia School of Law. He is a Certified Public Accountant. His law practice concentrates primarily on federal, state, and local taxation matters, including tax planning as well as handling contested matters with the IRS and the Mississippi Department of Revenue. He also handles a variety of corporate, transactional, and financing matters and generally serves as a trusted tax and business advisor. He is a member of the Mississippi and District of Columbia bars and has been in-

ducted as a Fellow of the Mississippi Bar Foundation.

Castilla has been listed in Best Lawyers in America and Super Lawyers for many years. He received the *Mississippi Business Journal* "Leadership in Law" award in 2010, was named a Legacy Lawyer by *Portico Magazine* in 2014. He has twice been named Mississippi "Lawyer of the Year" in Litigation and Controversy (Tax) by Best Lawyers in America—in 2013 and 2019 - and has the highest possible peer rating from Martindale-Hubbell. Castilla has served in several law firm management roles, including as practice group chair and managing partner.

Castilla has a long record of service in civic and community circles and has served or is serving on numerous boards, including the Jackson Arts Council (past president), Mississippi Board of Bar Commissioners, Capital Area Bar Association (past president), Mississippi Volunteer Lawyers Project, Community Foundation of Mississippi, Downtown Jackson YMCA, Middle Mississippi Girl Scouts Council, Mississippi Symphony, Jackson 2000 (past co-chairman), Leadership Jackson Alumni Association, Metro Jackson Chamber

of Commerce, Millsaps College, MINACT, Inc., Mississippi Economic Council (past chairman), Mississippi Baptist Health Systems and Baptist Memorial Health Care Corporation, Mississippi Center for Education Innovation (chairman), Medgar & Myrlie Evers Institute, E-Center Foundation of Mississippi (chairman), Jackson State University Development Foundation, Alliance for Mississippi's Future, New Lake Church Trustee Board (chairman), and as a volunteer in many other capacities. In 2018, Mr. Castilla was named as one of Mississippi's Most Influential African Americans by Legend Publishing.

James N. (Nicky) Cobb is Madison County Market President for Renasant Bank. He is over operations in the Madison County markets, including Madison, Ridgeland, and Canton, and is also responsible for the Clinton market. Cobb has over thirty years of experience in the banking industry. He received a BS from Mississippi State University



Nicky Cobb

and a Master of Business Administration from Texas A & M University. He also graduated from the Southeastern School of Commercial Lending at Vanderbilt University and the Graduate School of Banking at LSU.

Cobb has been a resident of Madison County for the past eighteen years and is active in the community. He currently serves on the Board of the Ridgeland Chamber of Commerce. He is a former member and president of the Board of Trustees for Madison



Stan Wright

Ridgeland Academy. He and his family are long-time members of Highland Colony Baptist Church, where Cobb has served on the finance committee and as a Life Group leader.

Stan Wright is a Vice President for Neel-Schaffer, Inc., the largest Mississippi-based engineering, planning and construction management firm in the Magnolia State.

Wright manages the firm's Madison office, overseeing work on a

cont. on page 19

America's tech giants are not the problem, and an antitrust lawsuit is not the solution

By Chip Pickering

America's tech giants are not the problem, and antitrust is not the solution. As we enter into a new age of competition and rivalry with China on strategic, on national security, on economic grounds, we have a lot of people in Washington who are wanting to now either break up or heavily regulate the internet companies just at the wrong time and in the wrong way. As you look at every measurement of consumer welfare - lower prices, more innovation, greater investment across all parts of the economy - American tech companies are creating greater growth, lower prices, better services - and that's a hallmark of a very competitive market and not a concentrated monopolistic market.

Ask yourself, is it not the American way to encourage innovation with our brightest minds? Do we want to stifle our ideas and productivity, which is what I would argue is the very thing that has put us on top. Fourteen of the world's top twenty tech companies are American; we are in a new age of competition and rivalry with China. The U.S. tech industry's global market position is at risk and has huge ramifications for re-starting the American economy and our long-term prospects. It's clear the American technology and e-commerce sector drives U.S. growth. States are aggressively competing on a daily basis for good technology jobs. Our universities and colleges are investing in more and more technology and public-private partnerships. Lawsuits will definitely damage our fastest growing industry and threaten these American jobs.

With a global pandemic threatening the entire world, again ask yourself where would we have been over the last six months without technology to assist our businesses to continue to operate, to educate

our children with distance learning, and to provide much needed health care by the use of telehealth? In a recent nationwide survey by the Connected Commerce Council, 93% of small businesses reported they were disrupted by COVID-19 and nearly three in four increased their use of digital tools with COVID-19. A majority of small businesses found digital tools more helpful during COVID-19 than before it. Most also plan to continue to use more digital tools after the pandemic.

By attacking U.S. companies like Amazon, Apple, Facebook and Google, the Justice Department, members of Congress, and some state attorneys general have taken a step back in time and are forgetting the hard work that has been done on the issue of antitrust. Companies being too large or successful is not a violation of antitrust laws. Antitrust was established to focus on the consumer and there is a robust consumer welfare standard in our antitrust laws now. Plus, many of the technology companies that are currently being attacked provide free services to our families, services that we use every day in our lives. Comments have been made about political bias within our technology companies from both sides of the aisle. There are solutions to political bias, but mistakenly using antitrust is not the right way to encourage free speech.

Politicizing antitrust by attacking our technology companies and filing federal and state antitrust lawsuits are not the way to go for our country's future. Lawsuits are a distraction from real issues that need to be addressed and a waste of taxpayers' money. Solutions are out there; decision makers and our technology companies can find them together. Lawsuits will only cause delay, distraction and economic losses. Our technology jobs and our future are at stake.

Pickering currently serves as CEO of INCOMPAS.

Youth Leadership Class of 2020-21 announced



Special to The Canton News

The Madison County Business League & Foundation and the Madison County Economic Development Authority recently announced the Madison County Youth Leadership Class of 2020-21. Madison County Youth Leadership (MCYL) is a select group of high school juniors from across Madison County who come together to learn about being servant leaders and working together to meet community needs through volunteering and assuming leadership roles. Pictured (l to r) are, front row: Ana Gonzalez, Canton High School; Alaela Middleton, Velma Jackson High School; Dami Oluwatade, St. Andrew's Episcopal School; Gabrielle Funches, Ridgeland High School; Hunter Thompson, Madison Ridgeland Academy; Julia Van Lake, Madison Central High School; second row: Annalee Willson, Jackson Academy; Carsyn Day, Velma Jackson High School; Win D'Antonio, Jackson Preparatory School; Liza Lominick, St. Andrew's Episcopal School; Kennedy Maloney, Jackson Preparatory School; Emma Jenkins, Tri-County Academy; third row: Cooper Word, Germantown High School; Dwayne Nelson, Jr., Canton High School; Camille Boles, Madison Central High School; Eliza Lightheart, Canton Academy; Anna Crout, St. Joseph Catholic School; John-Hollis Hutchinson, Canton Academy; and back row: Christopher Watson, St. Joseph Catholic School; Will Triplett, Madison Ridgeland Academy; Sandon Guild, Jackson Academy; Essence Baker, Germantown High School; Tyler Jackson, Ridgeland High School; and Aidan Barker, Tri-County Academy.

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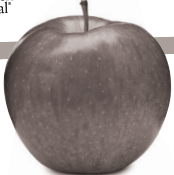
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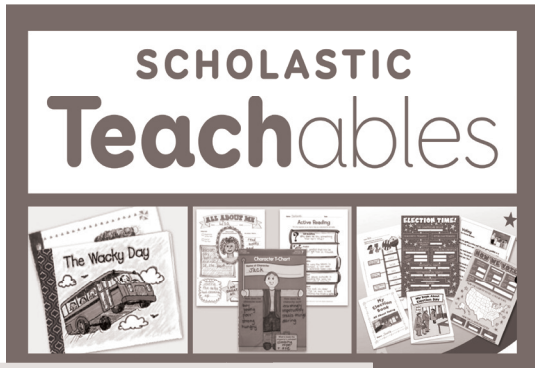
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MCLS offers new databases

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Newspapers.com is an extensive database that provides online access to over 10,000 historical newspapers from nearly sixty locations in



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the United States and worldwide. Dating from the late 1600s into the 2010s, the Newspapers.com Library Edition contains full and

partial runs of regional, state and local titles from the United States and other countries.

Scholastic Teachables is an online hub of 30,000 ready-to-use printable learning resources for every subject from Pre-K through sixth grade. Scholastic Teachables gives the user instant, unlimited access to thousands of skills sheets, activities, lesson plans, crafts and a printable library of leveled mini-books.

Patrons have access to both databases within the library or remotely. Visit mclsms.org and

click on the icon at the bottom of the home page.

For more information, contact the library at 601-859-7733.

cont. from page 17

Board members announced

wide variety of civil engineering, water/wastewater and transportation projects. He earned a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from Mississippi State University and has worked in the Central Mississippi area for twenty-five years, where his clients have included the City of Ridgeland, the City of Madison, the Town of Flora and the Madison County Board of Supervisors.

Wright has managed several significant transportation improvement projects in the Madison County area, including Lake Harbour Drive, Old Canton Road, East County Line Road, Gluckstadt Road and currently Hoy Road and Bozeman Road. He was involved in developing transportation plans for the City of Ridgeland and South Madison County. In addition to providing engineering and planning services for clients, he has also assisted many in securing funding for their projects.

Wright has lived in Madison County for over twenty years and is active in the community. He has coached over twenty different soccer, softball and Upward basketball teams in the Madison County area over the last fifteen years, and he was part of the Mayor's Youth

Council Scholarship selection committee. He and his wife Paige are actively involved with their church, Madison United Methodist, where he has served on the Board of Trustees, as an usher and as a Sunday School teacher. He is also a member of the Mississippi Walk to Emmaus group and Why Not Now, a ministry that funds meals for the homeless in Jackson.

The Madison County Business League & Foundation was created in 2008 by the Madison County Economic Development Authority (MCEDA) and the Madison County Board of Supervisors as a 501(c)(6) nonpartisan economic development support organization. The mission of the Madison County Business League & Foundation is to bring together, under one organization, the voice of numerous entities in order to establish a clear and concise message for the future. This organization, which is comprised of elected, appointed, business and individual leaders of Madison County, will enable all partners in business and economic development to participate collectively in bringing together the overall vision for Madison County.



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cont. from front page

Canton plays vital role in struggle for equal rights

ue the walk, which then became the March Against Fear.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., was selected as the leader of the March. They still followed Meredith's schedule to encourage people to register to vote.

King never saw himself as a leader, and wasn't sure if his own people would accept him because he came from "the other side of the tracks," but followed the Lord's lead in speaking Truth and continuing to create unity among all people. "About three days before the marchers reached Canton, my phone rang, and I heard, 'Is this Flonzie Goodloe?' 'Yes, it is,' I said," said Flonzie Brown Wright, formerly Goodloe.

"This is Martin King," said Dr. King. "I heard that if I need something done in Canton, you're the one to call. We'll be arriving in three days, and about 3,000 of us will need food and housing."

"I went to every café in the Hollow and told the owners that the marchers were coming to our hometown, and we've got to feed them and find places for them to sleep," said Wright. "I talked to Father Luke at Holy Child for people to sleep in the gymnasium. Local people couldn't house everyone, so they slept on porches, in yards, etc. With much pride, we fed and slept all marchers."

"We had our strategy meetings in the home of Mr. and Mrs. George Washington, Sr., and I am still humbled to have witnessed this meeting with these national leaders," said Wright. "The reason I'm still doing this work today is because of what Dr. King said, 'My days are numbered (death threats, crosses burned in yard). I won't be with you very long, but I want the twelve of you local people to make me a promise that when you see hatred, racism, segregation, I want you to call it out. Some of us will be killed, but you must continue this movement non-violently.'"

"In that meeting, I raised my hand and made a promise that I was willing to do all I could to make things better for people, and I'm still doing that to this day. We joined hands and prayed. Dr. King asked me to lead the song, 'Oh Freedom,'" added Wright.

That night, a rally with several speakers was held on the grounds of McNeal Elementary School with thousands of people. The main purpose of the rally was to bring people together and validate that they had the right and power to register to vote.

Civil Rights Leader Stokely Carmichael began a fiery speech to the crowd and asked, "Why house thousands of people all over Canton, when we have a tent that we can erect for people to sleep under?"

Dr. King's message was always one of reconciliation, but Carmichael was younger and more aggressive in how he thought people should respond to the movement.

He also used the term Black Power,

which was first shouted out in the Delta by fellow-marcher, Willie Ricks. It was never intended to be used as a negative term, only that black people should have the freedom of speech and to vote, but was misconstrued by the press as a negative term, relating it to exclusive Black

gan firing tear gas canisters, forcing hundreds of people to the ground screaming and gasping for air. Many were trampled and injured.

The leaders met the next morning at the Washington's' home, just across from the Freedom House to pray, sing and re-

he had not intended it to be such a large media event. He did eventually rejoin the March on June 25, the day before it arrived in Jackson and walked on the front line next to Dr. King and other leaders.

The marchers arrived in Jackson on June 26, 1966.

"During that time, I was the branch manager for the Canton Branch of the NAACP, which was under the State NAACP office, led by Charles Evers. We rented an empty space in Levi Goolsby's furniture store. Cards that said, 'The Eyes of the Klan are upon you' were often slid under the office door," said Wright.

"It was not unusual for me to walk out of my home or office only to see three or four men brandishing their AR 15s. I got threatening calls every night, even threatening the lives of my children."

At that time, Madison County had a 70% population of Blacks. Only about 100 Blacks were registered to vote out of a potential of approximately 10,000.

In 1968, the Madison County Election Commissioner's position became available.

"Mrs. Annie Devine, considered the Mother of the Canton Civil Rights Movement, 'told' me to run for that position," said Wright. "When I qualified to run, the establishment changed the rules because 'I paid a skin tax'...the current election commissioners required that I run in all five beats of the county. I did and still beat incumbent Tom Riddell."

Over the next four years, Wright reviewed and helped correct the registration books where many Black voters had been discriminatorily marked as deceased, moved or invalid. In that position, she registered hundreds of citizens to vote and taught classes to educate all people about the importance of voting, as well as the process.

Wright gives credit to all the soldiers in this fight for equal rights for all people, but especially to local people, and to Dr. King.

"Dr. King's strength ignited us to continue in the struggle because it was the right thing to do. His life was one that taught us that the struggle was worth it, and we would be victorious. His message was how to eradicate injustice," said Wright. "Dr. King felt that God would give him what he needed to help liberate people from the outhouse to the White House, and we've seen that happen."

Flonzie Brown Wright, who has spoken at events all over the nation and received hundreds of awards for her work, is still active in the fight for equal rights and fair treatment of all people. She knows this is her God-given purpose for her life.

"I feel like my cause has been right and just and for the edification of those who need to hear the call of God," ended Wright. "When I lie down at night, I have to know that I've done the very best for that day. Keep the Faith..."



Special to The Canton News

Flonzie Goodloe (on left, under camera) announcing King (second to the right of her, in front of the officer) to the crowd from the Madison County Courthouse steps.



Special to The Canton News

Marchers and rally attendees being tear gassed at McNeal Elementary.



Special to The Canton News

Meredith at his final destination, the State Capitol in Jackson.

oriented organizations.

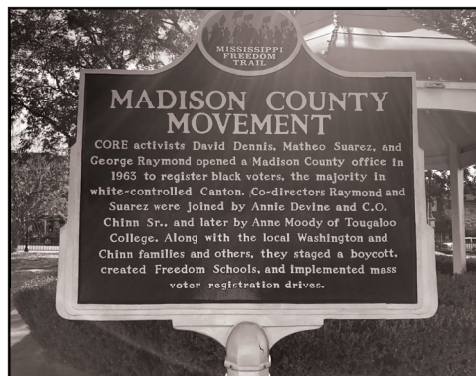
Carmichael began chanting, "We're gonna pitch the tent," and others chimed in.

Marchers had a permit for the march, but not for the tent. When the leaders began to raise the tent, state troopers be-



Special to The Canton News

King (left) and Meredith (right) after Meredith rejoined the walk.



Special to The Canton News

Mississippi Freedom Trail marker on the Courthouse lawn.

group before continuing the March the following day to Tougaloo College in Jackson for a big concert, and then their final destination, the State Capitol.

After a short hospital treatment, Meredith was released. He planned to rejoin the march, then withdrew for a time, as

Canton Academy students take Bibles to school



Special to The Canton News



Special to The Canton News

Canton Academy students recently took their Bibles to school in observance of national “Bring Your Bible to School Day.” CA teaches the students that Jesus loves them and to always share His love with others. Pictured with Bibles are elementary students (left photo) and high school students (right photo).



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Despite this year's events, are you thankful for 2020?

By Guest Columnist Dr. Jay Cook

Are you thankful for 2020?

I am. But please hear me out, because you could be, as well.



Dr. Jay Cook

2020 has been one for the record books (and not because it has been good). We've seen devastation in its rawest forms this year: a worldwide pandemic, an economy shut down, feelings of isolation and depression soaring, opinions and preferences turned into hate and violence, atrocities brought to light, hurricanes, murder hornets, a shocking football season, and on and on we could go. To say the least, it's been a tough year.

How could anyone be thankful for 2020?

I am. I have seen some attitudes change for the better this year. I have witnessed the generosity and kindness of people this year. I have watched many families reconnect as families for the first time. I have seen the simplest things of life (often

overlooked) become important and valued once again. And on a personal level, my family has moved into an amazing city and become part of an incredible faith community. So, yes, I am thankful.

Long ago, the Apostle Paul wrote to a bunch of Christians in the capital city of the Roman Empire. Those Christians were seen as second-class citizens, were maligned and in the very near future would be persecuted and killed for sport. Life was far from easy, but Paul pointed out a truth that each of us could hold onto when he wrote, "We know that all things work together for the good of those who love God, who are called according to his purpose." (Romans 8:28)

Think about that. God never said that life is always good. God never said that circumstances are always good. God never said that dealing with people is always good. But He did say that He can work anything and everything together for good – for those who love Him and who are living for Him.

This year isn't over, and we have already seen how a lot of bad things can be packed into a



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short period of time. We know that animosity will increase as the nation deals with the November election and its aftermath.

But we also know that in a few weeks, we will sit around tables eating with friends and family while supposedly giving our thanks. Could it be that how we choose to face whatever comes next really matters? Could it be that the attitudes we choose to have really matter? Could it be that living for a God who loves us and wants only the best for us really matters? Could it be that every one of us could be thank-

ful in spite of what 2020 has become?

I challenge you to consider the wise words of a wise man who had seen God take a people from slavery into a land of opportunity and was about to leave this life – to choose whom you will worship/serve: "As for me and my family, we will worship the Lord." (Joshua 24:15)

EDITOR'S NOTE: Dr. Jay Cook is pastor of the First Baptist Church of Canton. He, his wife Kristi, and his two children live in Canton (and love it).

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Nissan Canton recognized for energy awareness

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In recognition of the fifth Annual National Energy Efficiency Day on Wednesday, October 7, 2020, Mississippi's Central District Public Service Commissioner Brent Bailey joined regional and national organizations, businesses, utilities, universities and individuals in promoting energy efficiency, by naming October 7 as a day of energy awareness also in Mississippi.

"On September 22, I signed a proclamation proclaiming today as Mississippi's first Annual Energy Efficiency Day," Commissioner Bailey said. "I encourage citizens to join us in supporting our clean energy goals and moving toward more energy efficiency now and in the future in Mississippi."



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Nissan Canton was among Mississippi businesses recognized for continu-

ing to be proficient in practicing energy efficiency in the state. The plant

has overhauled their paint process to minimize drying time, cutting energy usage by more than thirty percent, and has also switched to all LED lighting. Just those two changes together save enough energy each year to power 511 homes.

"There are many ways you can practice energy efficiency in your own home and business," Commissioner Bailey said. "Reducing the energy used by manufacturers, homes and businesses benefits everyone—especially energy bill-payers. The average household saves almost \$500 yearly thanks to efficiency standards that apply to new appliances such as dishwashers, refrigerators and water heaters, alone."

Learn more about the vital benefits of energy efficiency at www.energyefficiencyday.org.

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