



THE CANTON NEWS

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P.O. Box 1163, Canton, MS 39046

Nissan donates cargo van to Our Daily Bread

By Susie A. Wolfe

Nissan North America celebrated production of its four millionth vehicle at its Canton assembly plant on March 19, and announced that the vehicle – a 2018 NV Cargo – will be given to Our Daily Bread Ministries, a local nonprofit organization with a mission to bring awareness to healthy eating and aid in hunger relief in the community.

Our Daily Bread Ministries' (formerly Madison County Stewpot) Executive Director Shavetta LeFlore said that it was a surprise, one that is needed and appreciated. The non-profit has been serving the Canton/Madison County area by providing free meals since February, 2002, as a subunit of Stewpot Community Services of Jackson.



Photo by The Canton News

Nissan's four millionth production milestone served as official kick-off of Nissan Canton Assembly Plant's fifteenth year of manufacturing in Mississippi. Shown at the ceremony (l to r) are: Mayor William Truly; Steve Marsh, Nissan Canton VP Manufacturing; and Our Daily Bread Executive Director Shavetta LeFlore.

With the feeding program, they provide a noon meal to low-in-

come families, senior citizens, disabled, and homeless individuals in

Madison County, most of whom are in the Canton area. They also deliver 109 meals a day to home-bound residents who are elderly and/or disabled with the "Delivered Meals Program." They average about 60-80 people who attend the daily meal service at noon inside the facility.

Nissan Canton will also add a second shift to produce the NV van that will create or retain 250 hourly jobs to support increasing demand for NV Commercial Vans. The announcement came as the plant approaches the fifteenth anniversary of bringing the vehicle manufacturing to Mississippi.

"Adding a second shift for NV Van production underscores our employees' hard work and dedication to building world class, qual-

cont. on page 5

Canton HS basketball team best in 20 years



Special to The Canton News

Canton High School (CHS) recognized the CHS boys basketball team with a recognition program and reception on March 24. The event capped off a successful season, where the team won District 3-5A and made its first trip to the MHSAA state tournament in twenty years. Pictured are team members Antonio McDonald, Ashton Adams, Brandon Weatherspoon, Cedricus Caldwell, Damerius Wash, Demarquize Washington, Jacobian Morgan, Jacques Ratliff, Jamal Porter, Javian Fleming, Jaylen Lester, Kelbricko Ratliff, Montravious Esco, Rondarious Collins, Sebron Carter, Taravian Brown, Tillian Hutton, Tumel Blackmon and Zykeese Harris, as well as assistant coaches Jeremy Jackson and B. J. Townsend, and head coach Russell Evans, along with family members.

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Musee Bath releases new soap and candle products



Special to The Canton News

There are a number of new things happening at Canton’s Musee operation. On April 1, Musee released its new line of candles, after releasing a line of soaps on March

1. The United States largest bath balm manufacturer also has a new logo. Owner Leisha Pickering said that the company plans to hire 40 more people to keep up with product demand.

Canton native named new editor of The Canton News

By Susie A. Wolfe

Jo Anderson is the new *Canton News* managing editor, replacing Susie A. Wolfe, who will be moving to a sister newspaper, the *Southwest Rankin News* covering Pearl, Richland and Florence.



Photo by The Canton News

Anderson, the daughter of Bobby and Ann Hall, is a Canton native who graduated from Canton Academy (CA) in 1988. She

received a fitness management/kinesiology degree from Mississippi State University (MSU) in 1992. She worked at Methodist Rehab and with a family construction business before starting her family and becoming a stay-at-home mom. Anderson is married to Kaylan Anderson and has three children, Hayden, 20, a sophomore at MSU majoring in marketing; Will, 17, a junior at CA; and Anna Morgan, 9, a third grader at CA. To contact Anderson regarding the *Canton News*, email news@cantonnews.net or call 601-667-4667, extension five.

THE CANTON NEWS

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Know Your Neighbor: Charles Haley

By Guest Columnist Jim Ritchie



Special to The Canton News

You may find a native Cantonian who has had more varied successful careers than this month's neighbor, but the search would be a difficult one. Meet Charlie Haley, whose parents lived directly across the street from the old King's Daughter's hospital when Charlie was born. When his time came, his mother walked across the street, checked in at the hospital and brought him into the world. Six years later, he was helping in his father's business, John Haley Wholesale Tobacco Company, by running a machine inserting pennies into cigarette packs to satisfy Mississippi tax requirements. Later he would assist in the maintenance of the company's cigarette vending machines and juke boxes, and still later substituting for company route drivers when they needed to take time off. "Actually," he says, "I really wasn't legal to drive those routes,

since I was too young to have a driver's license."

After graduating from Canton High, he attended Mississippi State, where he earned his degree, received an Air Force commission through ROTC, and during this time was fortunate enough to meet and court Miss Anne Smith of Baton Rouge who was attending MSCW. Their marriage in 1969 produced three sons and six grandchildren (to date).

His active military service consisted of three-and-a-half years as an officer with a top-secret clearance at the Air Force Satellite Center, which operated all the U.S. spy satellites during the Cold War. The knowledge of satellites acquired here was to be of value in a future venture. After his military service, he returned to run his father's Jackson office, and a chance conversation with a neighbor about a new industry called cable television piqued his interest. He quickly saw the connection that cable could have with satellites and acquired the franchise with Canton to install a cable system here. This venture expanded to a partnership furnishing cable to other locations in Mis-

issippi and Alabama. He sold his cable interests, and, in 1989, he and other Cantonians Clyde Edwards, Jr. and Ralph Barnes formed a partnership to purchase an asphalt company. That partnership and business still exists, though in the ensuing twenty-seven years the company has expanded considerably. His most recent venture is an interest in the Madison County Sport Zone, a baseball and softball coaching and instruction facility run by his son Chris in Gluckstadt.

So what's next? Who knows? With the variety of ventures in the past, there's no telling. But it would be pretty safe to bet that whatever it is, it will be successful.

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

Supervisors appoint NMED advisory board for the Sulphur Springs Project

Special to The Canton News

The Madison County Board of Supervisors recently appointed the North Madison County Economic Development Council (NMED) as the standing advisory board for the Sulphur Springs Park Urban Renewal Plan. The park is located in District Five, off Highway 17 in Camden.

NMED has coordinated several community functions to support development of the park, such as listening tours, a festival, a

small business forum, economic research projects, financial workshops, and conducted surveys to assess communal needs and opportunities.

The advisory board will make recommendations for development of policies and procedures, committees, future projects and events, and will serve as a support arm to promote the goodwill and integrity of the Board of Supervisors.

The board invites all comments and inquiries regarding the de-

velopment of the park to Doris Sutherland, board secretary, at 601-859-5255, or email dsutherland3394@yahoo.com

Members of the Advisory Board: Dr. Pollia Griffin, chair; Earnestine Bilbrew, first vice chair; Dr. Pallascene Bright Cole, second vice chair; Doris Sutherland, secretary; Dr. Mary Sims Johnson, treasurer; Diane Day, CPA, financial advisor; Ed Hightower, member; Ret. Major Willie Cline, member; and Danny Lee, MC-BOS designee.

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CPSD !!CAN Ambassadors learn proper etiquette



Special to The Canton News

CPSD !!CAN Ambassadors enjoyed learning proper etiquette during their recent visit to the Capital Club for their Dining Etiquette Session with Mr. John Hardy.

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CPSD recognizes Board Member Walter Jones

By Cassandra Williams,
Superintendent CPSD



Special to The Canton News

On April 21, 1972, American singer-songwriter Bill Withers released his only number one single, "Lean on Me." My favorite line in the song is, "...if there is a load that you can't carry, I'm right up the road; I'll share your load, if you just call me." Here we are in April 2018, forty-six years later, and the lyrics are still as meaningful for me today as they were the first time that I heard them. At different points in my life and career, the song has had a different meaning. Lately, I often find myself humming these lyrics when I think about our longest serving school board member, Mr. Walter Jones. Mr. Jones has served on the Board of Trustees for Canton Public School District since 1986.

Jones came to the Board of Trustees at a time when the City of Canton was under a national spotlight due to the fact that the community wanted a school board that represented its vision for the district. In a time of unrest, Jones was chosen for the school board because they needed someone to bring the community together, calm the turmoil, and put the focus back on children. Jones did exactly that. One of Jones' earliest goals was to establish a growth mindset within the district (before the term "growth mindset" was even popular!) His focus on growth has applied to both academic growth and building development.

When Jones came to the board in 1986, the community expressed

a desire for a new high school; Jones and the other members of the Board of Trustees did not rest until it was done. Additionally, he has played an integral role in the development of all of our newest completed building projects, including the Reuben B. Myers Canton School of Arts and Sciences, Jimmie Goodloe Elementary School/Huey Porter Middle School, and the 9th Grade Academy; our new buildings for Canton Elementary School and McNeal Elementary School are slated to open in August, and we couldn't be more thrilled. Academically, our district has had its share of ups and downs, but through them all, it has been Walter Jones' unwavering support and calming spirit that has served as an anchor for us all.

Jones' belief in holistic education, the premise that each person finds identity, meaning, and purpose in life through connections to the community and to the world, can be seen in many areas in our district. He has been a strong supporter of our mentoring projects in which community members meet with and support our students. He often says that our walk in the community mirrors our walk in education, and it is this belief that has shaped an unprecedented level of partnerships between our district, businesses, churches, parents, and community organizations. He credits his successful partnership with the other members of the Board of Trustees through the years with helping to shape the successes our district.

There are many life experiences that have helped shaped Jones' role on our Board of Trustees, from his childhood spent in this community, his work in providing transportation and housing support for low-income families, his

background as a professional social worker, and his time spent in Canton Public Schools during his time in the Madison County Youth Court. Experience matters, and Jones' experience in the district and the community has helped us carry many loads over the years.

Our Board of Trustees has been a strong cohesive body that has led us to the following successes: a numerical increase of 52 points that allowed us to move from an F in 2016-2017 to a D in 2017-2018, 3rd Grade Gate reading scores that increased from 85% in 2015-2016 to 92% in 2016-2017, and an English II pass rate that increased from 37% in 2015-2016 to 70% in 2016-2017. We are especially proud of our Dual Enrollment Students at Canton High School who are currently enrolled in college-level courses. We went from two students in 2015-2016 to one-hundred fifty students in

2017-2018.

As we continue to battle what I call the "yo yo effect" of improving in some areas one year and falling in other areas the next year, our Board of Trustees remains our rock through it all, and Walter Jones is our seasoned rock! Jones once told me that, "education is like an onion...you have to peel one layer off at a time, and sometimes you cry." Growth is hard; but I am always reassured by the fact that there are people who are "right up the road". All we need to do is call.

EDITOR'S NOTE: With over twenty years in education, Cassandra Williams' focus as superintendent of the Canton Public School District is to increase student achievement through an invigorated emphasis on teaching, learning, and nurturing.

cont. from front page

Nissan donates cargo van to Our Daily Bread

ity vehicles for our customers," said Steve Marsh, vice president, Manufacturing, Nissan Canton Vehicle Assembly Plant. "Supporting community organizations like Our Daily Bread Ministries is extremely important to Nissan and our investment in Central Mississippi, and we are delighted to include this donation in the celebration of our 4 millionth vehicle."

Nissan has grown the Canton Vehicle Assembly Plant from a regional manufacturing facility to a global one, investing \$3.4 billion in the facility since its opening in 2003. Nissan employs 6,400 at

the Canton plant, with more than 1,500 jobs added since 2013. With an annual capacity of 450,000 vehicles, the plant currently builds the Nissan Altima, Murano, TI-TAN and TITAN XD, Frontier, NV Cargo Van and NV Passenger Van.

"The City of Canton congratulates Nissan on this outstanding achievement," said Dr. William Truly, mayor of the City of Canton. "Milestones like these are not easily achieved, and we applaud the hardworking men and women of this facility who build great vehicles for the citizens of Canton and customers around the world."



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Canton Career Center students take top regional honors



Special to The Canton News



Special to The Canton News

Canton Career Center students Christopher Solano and Valerus Sanders placed third in the SkillsUSA Regional Competition for masonry in Moorhead. They advance to the state level to compete at the Trade Mart Building in Jackson on April 10 and 11.



Special to The Canton News



Special to The Canton News

Canton Career Center students Vincent Solano and Mario Gonzales won second place in the SkillsUSA Regional Competition for carpentry in Moorhead. They will compete at the state level at the Trade Mart Building in Jackson on April 10 and 11.

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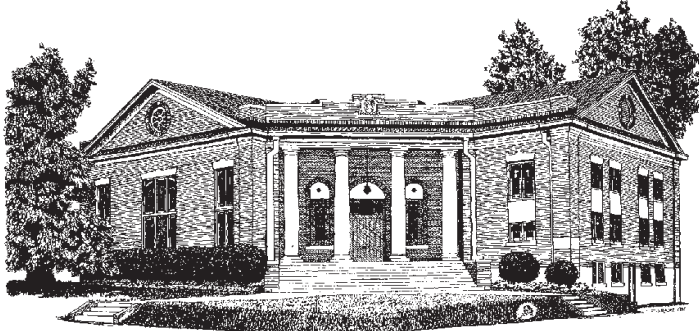
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Debra Gallaway

I am honored to be Ambassador of the Month for the Canton Chamber. I enjoy helping my fellow Ambassadors support the Chamber with its events and programs, and appreciate the hard work of Toya and Mary Carol.

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Mayor Truly addressed the Canton Chamber members with his vision for the City of Canton for 2018.

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Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Glen O'Reilly of Ebenezer, Mississippi announce the engagement of their daughter, Mary Ashley O'Reilly, to Robert Paul Dunavant, Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Paul Dunavant of Greenville, Mississippi.

The bride is the granddaughter of the late Dr. & Mrs. John Russel Durfey of Canton, Mississippi, and the late Mr. and Mrs. Nolan Hayes O'Reilly, Jr. of Ebenezer, Mississippi. The groom is the grandson of Mr. Kenneth Paul Oberle, and the late Mrs. Myrle

Grimsley Oberle, and Mr. and Mrs. Robert Earl Dunavant of Greenville, Mississippi.

Ms. O'Reilly is a graduate of Mississippi State University, where she received a bachelor of arts degree in communication and public relations. She is employed in marketing at Primos Hunting in Flora, Mississippi.

Mr. Dunavant is also a graduate of Mississippi State University, where he received a bachelor of science in agriculture engineering, technology, and business. He is a partner in Dunavant Farms, Lake Village, Arkansas.

The wedding will take place at First United Methodist Church of Canton, Mississippi on April 28.

The bride and groom will reside in Greenville, Mississippi.

Doty receives Award for National Service to Youth

Special to The Canton News

Dr. Juanita Sims Doty received the Dred Scott Freedom Award for National Service to Youth at the Dred Scott Heritage Foundation's awards dinner on March 18 in St. Louis, Missouri.

A Canton native, Sims Doty is founder of the Juanita Sims Doty Foundation. She is a self-professed "servant leader, entrepreneur, motivational speaker and community advocate." She leads the I!CAN Program at the Canton Public School District.

"Your dedication, commitment, leadership, outstanding accomplishments and passion are exemplary, and we are pleased to have the opportunity to honor you," said Lynne M. Jackson, president of the Dred Scott Heritage Foundation.

The Foundation was created to honor the legacy and impact of Dred Scott in the struggle for racial equality. This year is the one hundred fiftieth anniversary of the Fourteenth

Amendment to the U.S. Constitution which overturned the Dred Scott decision, which the Foundation reports began the Civil Rights Struggle.



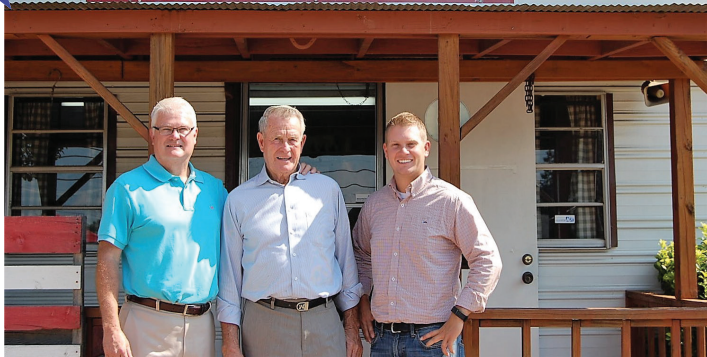
Special to The Canton News

Pictured second from the left, Juanita Sims Doty is shown accepting the Dred Scott Freedom Award on March 18 in St. Louis.

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Madison youth visit Governor and State Capitol



Special to The Canton News

The 2017-18 Madison County Youth Leadership Class visited with Governor Phil Bryant at the Governor's Mansion during Government Day on February 28. Students representing 13 of Madison County's public, private, and parochial schools, plus Jackson Academy, Jackson Prep and New Summit School participate in the program. All students are Madison County residents. The program is sponsored by the Madison County Business League & Foundation and MCEDA.



Special to The Canton News

The class also toured the Mississippi State Capitol and were introduced in both the House and Senate chambers. Several of the legislators who represent Madison County are pictured in the photograph. Shown with the class (l-r) are: Senator Walter Michel, Speaker of the House; Rep. Philip Gunn; Senator Barbara Blackmon; Rep. Cory Wilson; Rep. Debra Gibbs; Rep. Kenneth Walker; and Rep. Joel Bomgar.

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The Froghead Grill leaps into franchise options

Special to The Canton News

With a fun, “Feeling Froggy?” slogan and a quick and tasty menu, The Froghead Grill bounded into Clinton, hopped south with a second location in Ocean Springs and is now eyeing new ponds to call home.

The Froghead Grill is looking for qualified franchise partners in its quest to expand in the central Mississippi market.

The family-friendly restaurant’s casually Cajun vibe and quick “hop to it, hop through it” service have made it everyone’s favorite lilypad, earning Small Business of the Year and Restaurant of the Year honors.

“It’s a proven track record,” says The Froghead Grill founder Joshua Welch. His engineering and communications skills plus experience at the Walt Disney Company feed into a strong business model for the highly competitive restaurant and hospitality industry.

“We’ve made ourselves more than just an eatery in the communities we’re in,” Welch says, with robust community engagement, the family draw of its whimsical legend and Fred the Frog mascot, and a focus on

food, fun and friends.

The Froghead Grill’s American eclectic menu includes home-made appetizers, sandwiches, quesadillas and wraps, platters and salads, and brings in Cajun flair with po’boys, seafood gumbo, red beans and rice and more. Earth-toned decor delivers easy comfort and flow in a 3,000-to-3,500-square-foot model, adaptable for existing buildings and shopping strip locations.

The attractive price point and fast-casual service — counter during the day and table side after 5 p.m. — make it a tasty draw for lunch and dinner. In addition to sodas, The Froghead Grill offers craft and local beers (including a few hoppy ones, of course!) as well as the classics.

Franchise partners through FHG Management can rely on site selection assistance, precision training and ongoing support from the franchise development team.

When The Froghead Grill lands in your town, it says this about your community: It’s healthy, happy and hoppy go-lucky, and committed to the Froggy way. Live life to the fullest.

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Whisenton given Legacy Award at Tougaloo College

Special to The Canton News

On February 25, 91-year-old Samuel H. Whisenton was honored with the Legacy Award at the joint Black History Program of Rho Epsilon of Tougaloo College, and Epsilon Kappa Kappa, Canton chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity. The event, which took place at the historic Woodworth Chapel at Tougaloo University, is an annual celebration of achievements by African Americans and a time for recognizing the central role of blacks in U.S. history.

“The Legacy Award honors one extraordinary individual for his inspiration, dedication and significant contribution to the advancement of Omega and EKK chapter,” stated the Epsilon Kappa Kappa chapter, the first African-American Greek letter organization located in the “City of Lights. This award not only acknowledges inspiring leaders, and mentors, but those leaders who are or have created a legacy by passing on their vision to men of the future.”

Whisenton, who was born November 30, 1927, in Canton, crossed into Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Incorporated through the Eta Chapter of Alcorn College November 18, 1949. He and

eight other students became the first members of Eta Chapter at Alcorn College, where Whisenton was the chapter’s first Keeper of Records and Seals. After joining Omega Psi Phi, he became very active in recruiting new members and upholding the principles the fraternity was built on: Manhood, Scholarship, Perseverance and Uplift. Upon graduating, Whisenton realized he wanted to dedicate his life to uplifting students; so, he became a chemistry teacher for the Canton Public School District. It was there he developed a passion for mentoring at risk boys who were attracted to gangs and drugs. He was able to reach many of them through his teachings. He instilled character traits of commitment and dedication to thousands of students throughout his teaching career.

“I wanted to uplift students. In fact, that’s what I did with my life; I tried real hard to uplift students from a life away from the streets, gambling, etc.,” said Whisenton.

Since that time, he has been extremely active and involved in various activities sponsored by Omega Psi Phi. On a national level, he encourages Omega Psi Phi to continue recruiting respectable young men and for membership.



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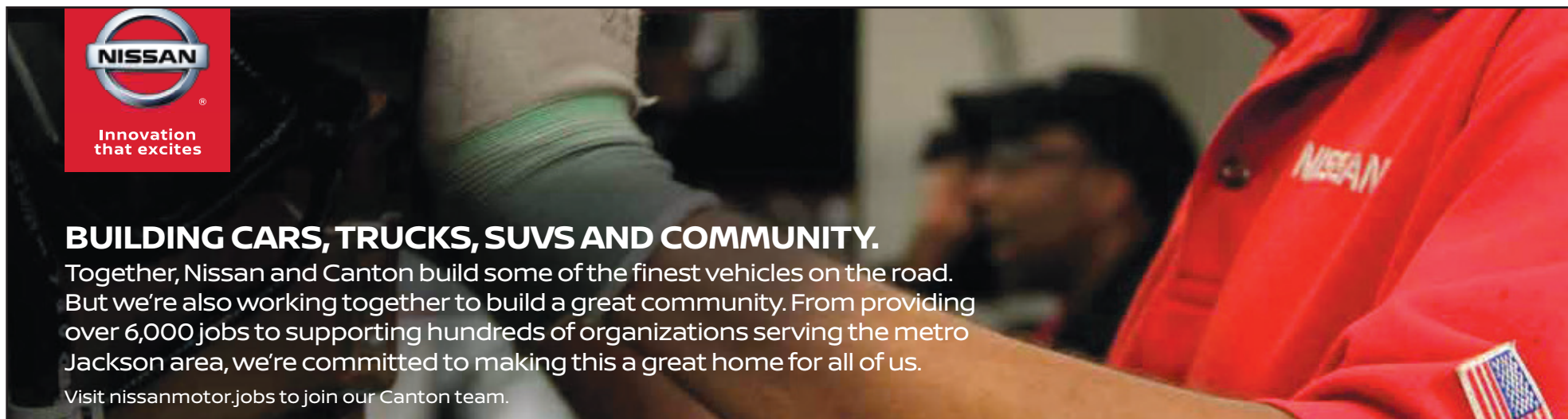
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Visit nissanmotor.jobs to join our Canton team.

Canton Academy classes visit the State Capitol



Special to The Canton News

Ms. Lucy Johnson's twelfth grade government and economics classes visited the State Capitol recently. Ms. Johnson and her students met with Representative Cory Wilson. Senator Buck Clarke and Representative Edward Blackmon recognized them on the floors of the Senate and House.



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CANTON ACADEMY PANTHERS

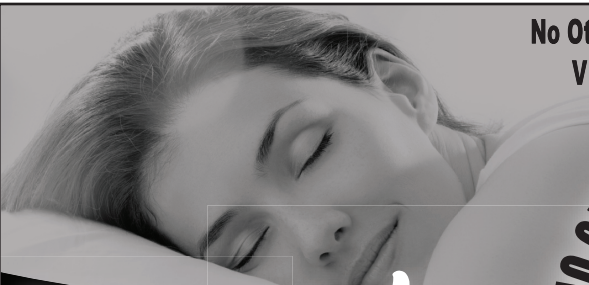
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www.CantonAcademy.org

Nineteen inducted into Canton Academy honor society



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Canton Academy recently held its annual National Honor Society banquet welcoming 19 new members: Nick Foreman, Drew Goza, Cole Graham, Josh Harris, Conner Thompson, Alex Mabry, Lane Martin, Nick Tant, Miller Burnside, JT Feduccia, Chase Cooper, Kathrine Coward, Bethany Biggers, Prestley Smith, Emerald Ravenstein, Taylor Rosamond, Ann Maclain Lawrence, Wonderful Lin, and Beau Barr. They join the current members Sydney Thomason, Ava Dickerson, Macy Gordy, Betsy Pace, Ana Sanderson, Kate Bowen, London Hunt, Cate Simpson, Leah Brooke Irby, Mia Riley, Virginia Grace Lavender, Jenson Williams, Garret Clack, Ryan Lindsey, Joseph McLean, Jordan Windham, Brayden Brumfield, Jacob Carter, Ely Odom, Harris Coleman, Chris Clanton, Joseph Price, Sarah Grace Thomason, and Tyler Turnipseed.



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CA students compete in 2018 Math Competition



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Mrs. Kathleen Penn took a group of seventh and eighth graders to compete in the 2018 Math Competition at Holmes Community College in March. Pictured are Samuel Wadford, Chance Persac, Reese Willis, Mrs. Kathleen Penn, Chaney Hale, John Hollis Hutchinson, and Zan Ellis.



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Where is your hope?

By Guest Columnist Pastor Guy Odom,
First Baptist Canton



Special to The Canton News

Who do you put your hope in? Sadly, as a pastor, over the years I have counseled men and women who have put their hope in drugs, alcohol, love of money, materialism, and countless other things. It just breaks my heart to see so many heading down a dead in road.

Easter will always remind us where you and I can put our hope. Hope in the now, hope in the future, and the biggest, hope in the eternal. My absolute favorite passage to read at a funeral is John 11, especially verses 25-26. This is what it says: "Jesus said to her (Martha), I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me, even if he dies, will live. Everyone who lives and believes

in me will never die-ever. Do you believe this?"

In other words, all my hope is in Jesus! As a matter of fact, there is a song out entitled just that. Youtube "Crowder- All My Hope ft. Tauren Wells." It will bless your socks off for sure, because it's more than a song. It's about a relationship with Jesus Christ!

So, I want to encourage each of you, that if you have not put your faith and hope in Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, by God's grace please do. You and I are not guaranteed tomorrow! Acts 4:12, Romans 10:9-10, 13. I want to personally invite you to First Baptist Canton. Everyone is welcome!

God Bless,
Pastor Guy Odom

EDITOR'S NOTE: Guy Odom has been pastor at First Baptist Church of Canton since 2012. He and his wife, Tommi, have two sons, Ely and Cy. He is originally from Vicksburg.

We have Baby Chicks!



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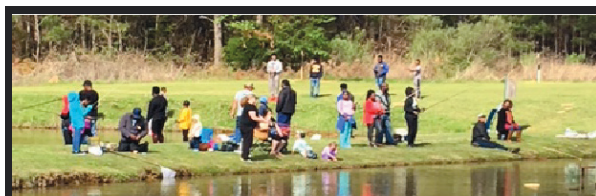
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CATFISH RODEO



Pictured (l to r) are: William Hall, Unusual Fish; Joe Davis, third place (4.7 pounds); Markario Brooks, first place (9.3 pounds); Jakial McDonald, second place (5.4 pounds); Sherry Hazelwood, Jonathan Lucas, Mississippi Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks; Rilanda Reaves, Canton Parks and Recreation; and Ethan Nichols, Smallest Fish.



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Brown-Wright honored by Mississippi Legislature



Photo by The Canton News

John Horhn, Mississippi State Democratic Senator from District 26, submitted Senate Concurrent Resolution 550 to the Mississippi Senate on March 20 to honor Flonzie Brown Goodloe Wright on the fiftieth anniversary of her election as the first African American office holder in the State of Mississippi on November 5, 1968. Shown are Brown-Wright in the center with Sen. Horhn surrounded by family and friends. She was also recognized in the House.

Dunigan enjoys helping make a difference at CHS

Special to The Canton News

Edward Dunigan, the Coordinator of Instructional Support at Canton High School (CHS), says he is excited about the opportunity and committed to giving back to his alma mater and his community.



Special to The Canton News

The CPSD alumni graduated from CHS in 1998. He received his B.S. degree in music education from Alcorn State University, and a masters degree in music education from Jackson

State University in May 2013.

Dunigan has received numerous awards, including Teacher of the Year (2008-2009) (2012-2013), Outstanding Service Award, and a Grammy nomination.

Dunigan was Canton Elementary School (CES)'s "Mr. Music Man" and the Title I Teacher from 2003 to 2015. He was the leader and founder of the CES Choir and the CES Marching Band.

Dunigan served on the Board of Directors for the Notre Dame Educational Center. He also served as Instructional Specialist at Goodloe Elementary School from 2015 to 2017.

He is the married, proud father of three children.

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Keep Canton Beautiful seeks to eliminate blight

By Guest Columnist Joy Dodson,
Keep Canton Beautiful

Spring has sprung in Canton! Keep Canton Beautiful (KCB) recently donated five hundred daffodil bulbs to the Canton Parks and Recreation Department. The bulbs were planted at many of the signs, parks, and community areas around our city, and they are already coming up to add beauty to our surroundings.

As we strive to beautify our town, we know we have to address blighted areas. Keep Canton Beautiful has solicited the help of ESRI, which is a company that manages geographic software all over the nation. This software al-



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lows for streamlined record keeping, photo documentation, and tracking of all communications in regard to property violations and ordinance enforcement. We hope that the City decides to use this valuable tool, so we can start

moving forward to address our blighted areas in a proactive fashion.

In the meantime, I would like to ask for your participation. If you see a property that you believe is causing a negative impression on

our city and needs to be reported, please do so. The process of enforcing ordinance violations has to begin somewhere, and that starts with an initial report. The Canton Building and Zoning Department has a process for following up on those reports, and they initiate a case if in fact there are confirmed violations.

To report property violations, contact the Canton Building/Zoning office at 601-859-4331. The office can also be reached by email at buildingandzone@bellsouth.net.

KCB can be reached at: joydodson@hotmail.com.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Joy Dodson lives in Canton with her husband Gary and their two sons.



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