



Good News You Can Use • December 5, 2019 • Vol. 5, No. 12 • Canton, Mississippi

Hope Hollow Ministries fills a niche in Canton, MS

By Lori Lycette

Hope Hollow Ministries is a Christian camp, located just west of town off Highway 22, that was established solely to give individuals with special needs a place of fun, recreation and respite.

The camp was begun in 2008 by three families who had children with special needs. They felt they didn't really have the resources or a space their children could call their own. They began searching for land to purchase and found an area consisting of over twenty acres of sprawling countryside for sale.

While the families were initially looking at the property, they saw a dragonfly. The realtor told them that the dragonfly is a symbol of hope, and they felt that was a sign that their journey to help other families should begin right there. The dragonfly is a symbol on their logo to this day.

Executive Director Owen Mullen and Program Director Mary Dade Ford currently work side-by-side to keep this initial dream of a very special place for very special people going. Mullen and Ford said they accept children with special needs to a degree, such as autism, down syndrome, muscular dystrophy and cerebral palsy, who range from age five to twenty-one, but they have programs for young adults, as well.

"We'd really like to eventually build more areas, so each age group can have their own space," said Mullen.

Hope Hollow welcomes volunteers. Each camper is assigned a "buddy," a volunteer who spends time and establishes a good relationship with their camper. The children typically love their buddy and often ask when he or she will be back to see them.

"We always try to figure out how to say yes to anyone," said Ford.

"The camp is handicap accessible; wheelchairs and walkers are welcome." Mullen and Ford say they try

an area for making crafts, as well as the kitchen, dining room and office. It also contains bunk rooms for out-of-town volunteers to stay overnight.

"Our big dream is to build an indoor sports building, so we'd have that option when the weather prevents us from playing outside," said Ford.

The ministry hosts camp every summer,

pizza, watching a movie and making crafts. Thanksgiving camp was on the Monday and Tuesday before Thanksgiving, where the campers participate in games, crafts and many other sensory activities.

"Our Christmas party will take place on December 7 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. We'll eat, play games, and each camper will make a special Christmas keepsake to take home. Santa will even be here for photos," said Mullen.

The Hope Hollow Ladies' Auxiliary is a group of ladies that was formed to help support the ministry through volunteering and fundraising efforts. They hold two annual fundraisers, which help fund scholarships to the camp and also to purchase supplies.

Hope Hollow Ministries is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization.

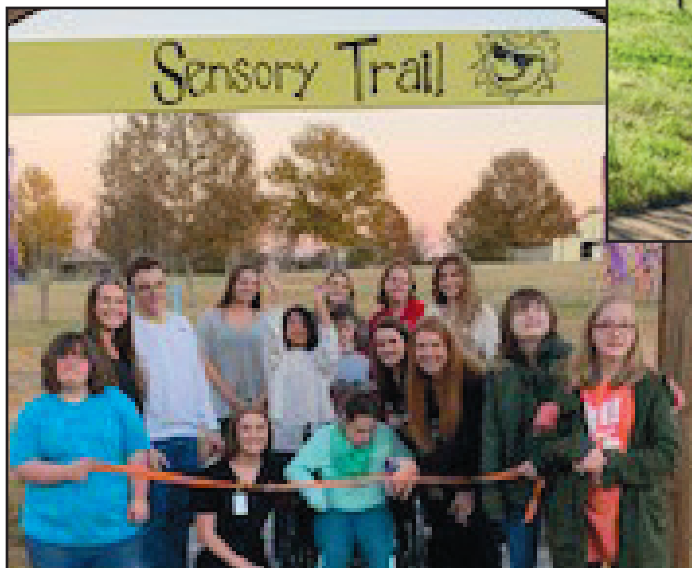
They welcome volunteer help, as well as monetary donations and supplies such as new toys, baby dolls, art supplies, snacks, individual water

and juice. For more information, visit them at 910A Catlett Road in Canton, call 601-859-5290, email info@hopehollowms.org or follow them on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram.



Special to The Canton News

Evan Rhodus, sitting in pool; Andrew Thorne, standing in front; Sarah Huff, behind Andrew; Executive Director Owen Mullen, in the back; and Dean Different, in front of pool.



Ribbon cutting for Sensory Trail

Special to The Canton News

to create a safe space for kids to be kids and have fun, while also being stimulated creatively. They have a Sensory Trail, which occupational therapy assistant (OTA) students from Holmes Commu-

nity College recently revamped for the campers.

The camp currently consists of a large main building which houses a TV/playroom, sensory room and

which takes place Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., as well as Spring Break camp. Afterschool Arts Alive is once a week where painting, ceramics, dance, music and gardening are offered.

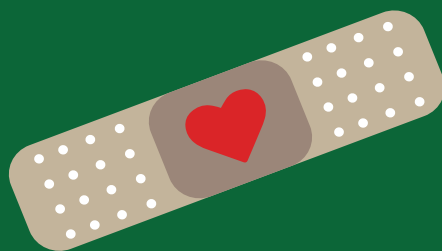
Special events include "Friday Night Fun" from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m., which generally includes eating



Sarah Huff playing with a bunny.

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Mr. and Miss CHS featured in homecoming parade



Recently crowned Mr. and Miss Canton High School, Jacques Ratliff (left) and Aaliyah Archie (right) were featured in the homecoming parade on the Square.

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The Mississippi Film Office, the Mississippi Library Commission, the Madison County Library System, and Canton Tourism are partnering to screen this Lifetime film produced by Daniel Lewis. This feel-good movie starring Jana Kramer, Faith Ford, and Barry Bostwick will set the perfect holiday mood.

Limited seating. **FREE** tickets available **November 30 - December 7** at participating merchants on the Square. Join us before the movie on Dec. 7 to Shop the Square and use your magical ticket for a 20% discount at participating merchants. Finish the evening by enjoying the movie and some holiday cheer with Door Prizes and Light Refreshments!





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Focusing on Jesus would help Canton

By Guest Columnist Joy Foy

I grew up knowing that Christmas was a celebration to honor the birth of Jesus into this world. Today, the commercial side of Christmas sometimes makes it hard to remember the real reason for the season. The humble Bible account of our Savior's birth doesn't seem to be the main focus of activities for Christmas celebration. I recognize that the commercial side of Christmas is a huge economic boost for the economy of our towns and cities and the retail owners, however, I do think there is also a positive economic impact to a Jesus-focused Christmas.

With our motivation more on Jesus, it would be more obvious that we are living by faith, hope and love. Faith based on God's love for us and the understanding that He is working on our behalf would create confident expectations, which should empower us to love each other and be more willing to help each other. By being mindful of this, we would be more likely to patronize our neighbor's businesses instead of shopping online.

We would not trash the streets and roads, because we would acknowledge that this land will be passed along to those who come behind us. We would be friendlier, more acceptable and more helpful, which would make Canton better known for its hospitality. More people coming into Canton for goods and services would occupy and provide rent for more of our historic buildings.

Truly adopting this mindset would make for a more responsible workforce of people who come to work on time and are dedicated to giving 100%. Good employees would attract more people to our restaurants, businesses and hospitals, which would bring more outside dollars into our economy. A good workforce is requirement number one for attracting industry, and more industry would require more homes, retail and services.

All of this got me wondering if my faith and love are evident to others, and this examination showed me several ways I could make improvements. I'm not saying that we in Canton need a radical change, because I do think the small-town life that Canton offers is already doing many things very well. After all, there will be hundreds who visit our City of Lights show from Thanksgiving through Christmas, and we have new restaurants and retail since this

time last year. Zoning commissioners tell me that there are three new businesses seeking permits now to open new retail in Canton. Our hospital, Merit Health, has added new services, and we have new industry. Canton's job market grew by 1% over this last year and has an unemployment rate of 3.6% (U.S. average is 3.9%), according to bestplaces.net. Our churches will host wonderful Christmas music to celebrate God's love for us, and I have personally experienced the superb generosity from so many here in Canton. However, if you are like me, I see ways to become more faithful, hopeful and loving. With attention to a few details, our actions will bring more joy to others, and we will be a city whose reputation shows that we are focused on being appreciative to God for His Son, Jesus, and I know that will produce dividends in our daily life as well as economic gains.

Merry Christmas to you all.

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

CHS presents Homecoming Royal Court



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Recently crowned Canton High School (CHS) 2019 Miss Homecoming Rivian Rivers (in white dress) is pictured with the Homecoming Royal Court.

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Cantonian among new Hinds CC PTK members



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The Alpha Iota Kappa Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) at Hinds Community College recently held a ceremony at the Jackson Campus-Nursing/Allied Health Center to induct new members for the fall 2019 semester, including one from Canton. Pictured (l to r) are inductees, front row: Annabeth Miller of Vicksburg, Patience Ukpebor of Clinton, Courtney Davis of Pearl, Jennifer Hammond of Brandon and Laravian Hamlin of Canton; and back row: Maria Chavez of Jackson, Annelise Ouellette of Clinton, Elizabeth Holloway of Vicksburg, Ranisha Smith of Myersville, Lillian Borden of Brandon and Natalie Adams of Madison.

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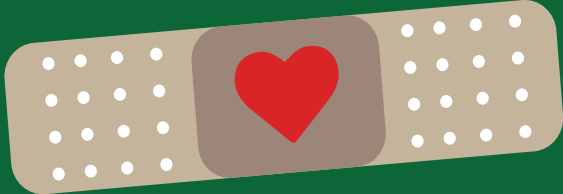


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Madison County Recognized at ACT Workforce Summit

Special to The Canton News

Madison County was recently recognized for its workforce development achievements over the past year at the ACT Workforce Summit in Charlotte, North Carolina, along with forty-eight other participating ACT Work Ready Communities. The annual summit, which brings together experts in business, education, workforce and economic development, included the ACT Work Ready Communities Awards Ceremony and Recognition. During the ceremony, representatives from participating ACT Work Ready Community counties and parishes received awards for becoming certified or completing a new set of goals to maintain their certification.

“We are so happy to recognize and award our Work Ready Communities at our annual convening of workforce experts,” said ACT President of Measurement, Suzana Delanghe. “These participating communities have demonstrated a commitment to developing a strong workforce pipeline, which

is paramount to building stronger communities and fostering business and economic growth.”

The ACT® Work Ready Communities (ACT® WRC) initiative empowers states, regions and counties with data, processes and tools that drive economic growth by identifying skills gaps and quantifying the skill level of their workforce. Participants leverage the ACT® WorkKeys® National Career Readiness Certificate® (ACT® WorkKeys® NCRC®) to measure and close skills gaps and build common frameworks that link, align and match their workforce development efforts.

“We are proud of Madison County’s designation as a Work Ready Community, which has strengthened our workforce partnerships throughout Madison County and the State of Mississippi,” said Danielle Winningham, Chief Operating Officer of the Madison County Economic Development Authority. “This designation was achieved as result of the successful efforts by community, education and business leaders working



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Pictured (l to r) are: Madison County Business League & Foundation Executive Director Jan Collins; Madison County Economic Development Authority COO Danielle Winningham; and ACT President of Measurement Suzana Delanghe.

together to strengthen workforce development in order to meet the economic development needs of our community.”

“The Madison County Business League and Foundation was extremely proud to participate and support the efforts required to achieve ACT Work Ready status for Madison County through its members’ participation,” said Jan Collins, Executive Director of the Madison County Business League

and Foundation. “MCBL&F awarded grants to local schools to facilitate ACT Work Keys assessments which led to National Career Readiness Certificates for our Career Technical students.”

The ACT Work Ready Communities Luncheon included remarks from North Carolina Chamber President and CEO Gary Salamido. Tennessee Department of Labor Commissioner Jeff McCord

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Canton music club celebrates American music



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The Canton Music Study Club recently met at the First United Methodist Church in Canton. The program was presented in celebration of The Parade of American, sponsored by the National Federation of Music Clubs and the Mississippi Federation of Music Clubs. This celebration is held each November showcasing America’s rich musical heritage. Over fifty children from the Madison Station Elementary Honor Choir and the Madison Station and Madison Middle School String Orchestras presented a concert. The repertoire included patriotic, folk and traditional music written and arranged by American composers. The choir is under the direction of Ms. Princess Thompson. The Orchestra is directed by Austra Jasineviciute. The students in the choir and orchestra were named Musicians of the Month by the club. Following the concert, the club met for a business meeting. Ann McKay was hostess for the evening.



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Transit Manager of Year awarded to Lewis-Nash



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Madison County Citizens Services Agency (MCCSA) Program Manager Mrs. April Lewis-Nash was recently recognized by the Mississippi Public Transit Association (MPTA) as Transit Manager of the Year. Nash was recognized for her display of exemplary project management skills, innovation, leadership and passion for rural transit services that resulted in positively impacting economic development in her service area. MCCSA Transit staff pictured (l to r) are: Gwendolyn C. Smith, HR/Fiscal Director; April Lewis-Nash, Program Manager; and Rickey Bouldin, Transit Support Specialist.

Cont. on page 6

Madison County Recognized at ACT Workforce Summit

shared advice with the Work Ready Communities awardees during a keynote presentation. The ACT Work Ready Community initiative

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includes 486 participating counties and parishes in twenty-nine states.

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Canton Lions Club to raffle Cowboys helmet



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The Canton Lions Club is selling raffle tickets for a chance to win a Dallas Cowboys helmet autographed by Dak Prescott. Tickets are \$10 each and can be purchased from any Lions Club member or by calling 601-842-1780. The drawing will be held on December 11, 2019.

Taylor wins runoff election



Special to The Canton News

A special election runoff between John E. Brown and Timothy Taylor was held last month to replace former Ward 5 Alderwoman Vickie McNeil. Taylor won with a vote of 115 to Brown's 113 and was sworn in on November 26.

The Canton City Council meets the first and third Monday of every month for a work session and the first and third Tuesday of the month for a board meeting, both taking place in the courtroom at City Hall. Both sessions are open to the public and begin at 4:30 p.m.

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2019-20 MCYL class participates in Lifestyles Day



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The 2019-20 Madison County Youth Leadership Class (MCYL) recently participated in Lifestyles Day. The class visited Adams and Reese, C Spire, Nissan North America, MadCaap and the Madison County Detention Center. Business leaders and law enforcement provided tours and community service projects, career opportunities, and discussed integrity as the leadership theme of the day. The Madison County Business League & Foundation and MCEDA sponsor the program. Madison County Youth Leadership’s mission is to provide students with a deeper understanding of the careers available in Madison County in an environment that develops their leadership skills and encourages graduates to take their knowledge and their experience into the community for the betterment of Madison County as a whole. Pictured (l to r) are, front row: Karen Solano-Ortega, Mary Hazel Bellan, Leah Clark, Alissa Burgess, Victoria Chough, Mika Maehata, Edrea Magee, and McKenna Hodges; middle row: Delaney Ralston, Ann Parker Baldwin, Sophia Rodriguez, Ava Kump, Sara Kennedy Lampkin, Lucy Blaylock, Kayla Young, Mary Addison Gregory, Joseph Sharp, Hanna Nowell, Hannah Scott, and Victoria Hawkins; and back row: Kyle Brasher, Ian Harris, Conner Ivey, Alex Summerford, Chadwick Collins, Will Scoggins, Terence Garrett, and Logan Nowell.

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Retired Colonel speaks to Canton Rotary Club



Special to The Canton News

Rotary Chairman and retired Army Colonel John Scanlan gave a detailed PowerPoint presentation on his experiences while attending the 75th Anniversary of Normandy Invasion, which took place this past summer. The topics included H. Quentin Roosevelt's Crash and Burial Site (the president's son), 2nd Lieutenant Samuel P. Keesler from Greenwood, Keesler Air Force Base in Biloxi, and the 100 Tank Victory by the Red Barron of Tankers, SS Lieutenant Michael Whitman. Scanlan handmade 50-year anniversary lapel pins for his special military friends to wear at the Normandy Anniversary 1973-2023. He also told of three Mississippi soldiers buried at the "Wereth 11" special gravesite off the beaten path and alongside eight other southern American soldiers, with a story of their demise.

Canton Public Library hosts MS Heart Gallery

Special to The Canton News

The Canton Public Library will host The Mississippi Heart Gallery, featuring children available for adoption through the Mississippi Department of Child Protection Services. This photographic display features children who are now looking for their new Forever Families and will be on display in Canton's meeting room from Monday, December 9, to Monday, December 16. Each child's portrait will be accompanied by a small biography card that patrons can take

to pray for the child and to find out more information about foster care and adoption in Mississippi. The library hopes to come alongside the Mississippi Department of Child Protection Services and bring awareness to the great need in the state for adoption and foster care. "Canton Public Library is honored to partner with Mississippi Department of Child Protection Services, in an effort to place these children with the loving families they deserve," said Branch Manager Christine Greenwood. For more information about this topic, contact Braley Reed at 601-859-7733 ext. 108 or email breed@mcls.ms.



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MDE selects CHS student to serve on state council

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Canton High School (CHS) recently announced that eleventh grader Andrea Tall will be representing the Canton Public School District on the 2019-2020 inaugural State Superintendent's Student Advisory Council. Tall says she is excited about this distinguished honor and the opportunity to share her innovative ideas. Tall has a background of service in her community and in her school. She has served as a Girl Scout for six years, participated in the 4H Modeling Squad (for being a model student), and volunteered at local animal shelters. At Canton High School, she has served as an ambassador in the "I CAN, We Can" mentoring program. Tall is an honor roll student as well as a member of the Beta Club and the CHS Recycle Club.



Andrea Tall

The Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) inaugural State Superintendent's Student Advisory Council includes students in grades 11 and 12 or first year of college to serve as members for a term of two school years. "I am so excited that Andrea has been selected to participate on the State Superintendent Student Advisory Council. Andrea will be a great voice representing the students of Canton High School," said Canton High School Principal Dr. Pamela Self. More than 150 students from across the state applied for membership on the council, and eighty-three were selected. Students from different backgrounds, school size and regions in Mississippi will be able to share their opinions and offer advice about educational opportunities and policy in Mississippi with State Superintendent of Education Dr. Carey Wright. "I'm looking forward to hearing directly from students on issues of importance to them," Wright said. "As our clients, we want to make sure public education provides them with the knowledge and

skills they need to be successful. The council also allows students to interact with their peers from around the state and learn from one another." The council's purpose is to provide a forum for Mississippi's students to offer diverse perspectives to Wright. The selected students will act as liaisons between MDE and public school students from across the state. Council meetings will be held twice (fall and spring) during the school year.

Youth assist MadCAAP



Special to The Canton News

The Greater Saint Matthew Missionary Baptist Church Outreach Ministry recently came alongside other youth from the area to assist MadCAAP in packing 300 boxes of food to distribute to the needy for Thanksgiving. Pictured (l to r) are, front row: Haley Johnson and Ricky Smith; middle row: Mary Johnson, Arael Brown, Layla Smith, and Nia Robinson; and back row: Jonathan Sims, Skylar Chambers, Kristin Washington, Jordan Sims, Arielle Robinson, Ashlyn Robinson, Aubrey Chambers, Linda Chambers, and Willie Robinson.



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Brown named to CPSD board



Special to The Canton News
The Canton Public School District (CPSD) Board of Trustees welcomes Mr. Peter Brown as its newest member of the board. The Canton High alumnus served as CPSD's former athletic director, football coach and teacher before retiring after twenty-eight years of service.

CMSC carol sing



Special to The Canton News
Join the Canton Music Study Club (CMSC) as they usher in the Christmas season with the annual Community Carol Sing. A Community Sing is about ordinary people joining their friends and neighbors in a public place to sing, just for the fun of it. Everyone is welcome. There will be no rehearsals or performances. This is not a concert. There is no audience. Everyone sings! The event will be held at Grace Episcopal Church, 161 East Peace Street, Canton, at 4 p.m. on Sunday, December 8. The repertoire for the afternoon will include secular and sacred traditional seasonal favorites. Members of the Canton Music Study Club and local musicians will serve as instrumentalists and conductors for the afternoon. Following the Community Sing, visit Canton's Victorian Christmas celebration on the Square.

Cochran crowned CA's '19 Homecoming Queen



Special to The Canton News
Canton Academy (CA) recently presented their 2019 Homecoming Queen Aislynn Cochran. Pictured (l to r) are: 2018 queen Jenson Williams; Aislynn Cochran; and CA Headmaster Ron Jurney.

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Canton Academy receives major technology gift



Special to The Canton News

Canton Academy (CA) recently announced the receipt of a major lead gift which will ensure the school can continue to provide “one-to-one” Google Chromebook laptops for all students in grades seven through twelve. CA patrons Olivia and Jim Harrell provided the gift as a follow up to one they made almost three years ago which set in motion Canton Academy’s “one-to-one” initiative. According to Head of School Ron Jurney, “Gifts such as this motivate others to also give, which is necessary in order for our school to maintain an essential teaching tool for our educators and a tremendous learning component for our students without having to raise tuition. Students having access to their own personal laptop allows them to become proficient in navigating through learning programs that they will see in college or in any career they will pursue in today’s society.” Pictured with several CA students are Jim and Olivia Harrell presenting a check to Head of School Ron Jurney.

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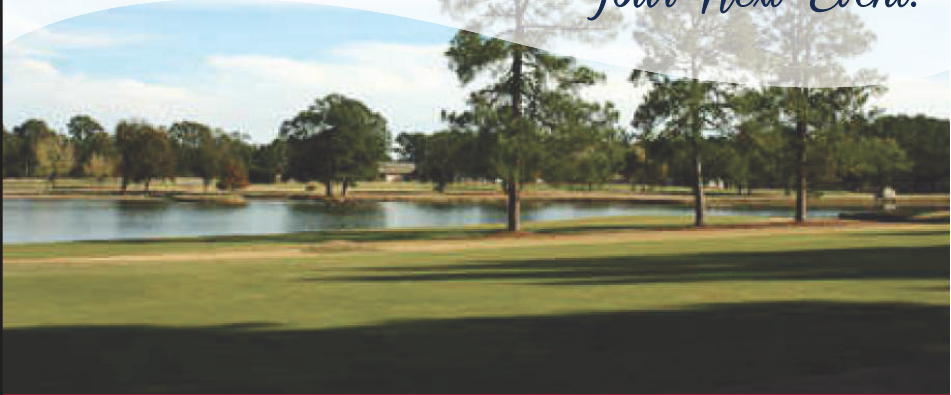
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Canton Academy pairs with First Grade Buddies



Special to The Canton News

The Canton Academy seniors were recently paired up with their First Grade Buddies. Throughout the year, the First Grade Buddies meet with their senior to do different activities like making crafts and playing games. Pictured are Miller Burnside and Taylor Rosamond, paired with their First Grade Buddy, Zola.

Canton couple crowned Mr. & Mrs. Black America



Special to The Canton News

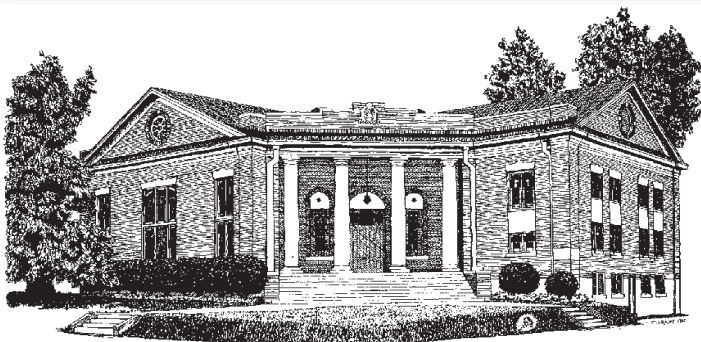
Mr. Joe and Mrs. Kathy Amos of Canton have recently been crowned as the 2019 Mr. and Mrs. Black America, Sr. They are the former Mr. & Mrs. Mississippi. The Mr. and Mrs. Black America Pageant (MMBA Pageant) is "the premier pageant for the confident, educated and poised leading women and men who are change agents, influencers and leaders in their respective communities." The MMBA Pageant platforms are: Strong Marriages, Strong Families, Strong Communities and Strong Economy. They can be in any of the areas of Wellness, Humanitarian, Economical Wealth, Faith, Purpose, Community Development, Building Legacies and Creating Dynasties. The Amos are available to make an appearance and/or be interviewed as part of the National Royal Tour Stop as they represent the National Pageant and promote their platform. Learn more about the couple at www.mmbapageant.com and follow their journey at www.facebook.com/mmbapageant.

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Canton Academy competes in annual Brain Brawl



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Special to The Canton News

The Canton Academy (CA) Quiz Bowl Team recently competed against several large public schools, including Germantown and Pontotoc, in the “Brain Brawl” at Ole Miss. CA team sponsor Dan Bradshaw stated, “Our kids have shown great heart constantly competing with giant public schools, despite being such a small school. It’s really fantastic, especially for our seniors, that after years of hard work, we can be competitive now. It’s pretty special to be able to get a win over a local rival like Germantown. Our kids have a lot of friends there, so they definitely appreciate having the local bragging rights.” Pictured in left photo (l to r) are: Wonderful Lin, Bethany Biggers, Alex Mabry, J.T. Feduccia, and Dan Bradshaw; and right photo: Carter Martin, Heaven McNalty, Ephraim Hill and Dan Bradshaw.

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