



THE CANTON NEWS

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Canton has strict mandates for Christmas Festival

By Lori Lycette

The City of Canton has imposed strict mandates that must be followed by all attendees of the 2020 Canton Victorian Christmas. The mandates have been issued to protect the health and welfare of the citizens of Canton, as well as all visitors, to mitigate and/or reduce transmission of COVID-19 and to make sure this event is safe.

A policy of “No mask, no entry” will be strictly enforced by the City. All who are not wearing a mask will be handed one by security before entering the Square, to be placed over the nose and mouth.

Hand sanitizer will also be available at all entry points to the Square.

Unlike last year, there will be no indoor activities. Everything, including ticket booths and visits with Santa, will take place outdoors.

A Ferris wheel has been added to the festival, but there will be no horse and carriage this year. Every ride will be

sanitized after each rider exits, and the City requires that each rider sanitizes his/her hands before and after each ride.

Every vendor is required to wear a mask and gloves.

Canton Mayor William Truly held a recent press conference to specifically address the concerns and announce the mandates and restrictions that have been put in place for the festival.

“Let it be known to all who visit or intend to visit Canton’s nationally recognized Victorian Christmas Festival, located on Canton’s Historic Square, shall not be able to enter the square without a mask. The mask must be worn to cover the visitor’s mouth and nose. All who do not have a mask shall be given a mask by security before entering the square. The City of Canton imposes this No Mask No Entry policy to parallel the Victorian Christmas to protect the health and welfare of our citizens and the health and welfare of our visitors, to mitigate and or reduce transmissibility or spread and to make sure that this



Photo by Lori Lycette

Courthouse Square during festival

event is safe,” stated Mayor Truly.

“I wish to thank all the citizens and all the visitors for coming to our community for the purpose of visiting the Victorian Christmas Festival. I wish to thank

our community for wearing a mask. I wish to thank our visitors for wearing a mask as they visit our beautiful Christmas Festival,” added Truly.

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Amazon to create 1000+ jobs in Canton, Mississippi

Special to The Canton News

Amazon plans to launch a new, state-of-the-art fulfillment center in Madison County, creating more than 1,000 new, full-time jobs, with industry-leading pay and comprehensive benefits, which begin on day one of employment.

The third fulfillment center in Mississippi will be part of the Madison County Mega Site, located at the intersection of the Nissan Parkway and Highway 22, and will be the first Amazon facility in the state to feature their innovative robotics technology.

Amazon not only pays its employees a minimum of \$15 per hour, but the company also offers full-time employees full medical, vision and dental insurance, as well as a 401(k) plan with a 50 percent match, which starts on the first day of employment.

The company also offers up to twenty weeks of maternal and paternal paid

leave and innovative benefits such as Leave Share and Ramp Back, which are programs designed to give new parents flexibility with supporting their growing families.

Safety and health of all employees is very important to Amazon, and millions of dollars have been invested in order to provide a safe workplace.

Mississippi’s first Amazon facility was launched in Byhalia in 2019, with the most recent in Olive Branch this past August.

“The City of Canton is ecstatic as it relates to a top tier Economic Development Project, Amazon, that is nationally and internationally known. We are grateful that Amazon decided to settle in the State of Mississippi, Madison County and partic-

ularity the City of Canton. I am quite sure that many of our citizens here in Canton are concerned about job availability and opportunity. My responsibility is to make available as many jobs as possible, skill and unskilled, for the citizens of Canton.

It is also my responsibility as the Mayor of the City of Canton to create a mutual and reciprocal relationship that benefits

this community as well as Amazon. I do not think that Amazon could have chosen a better home to anchor, the City of Canton,” said Canton Mayor William Truly Jr., M.D.

“The fact that Amazon has chosen to invest in Mississippi again is a testament to the unmatched work ethic and dedication Mississippians exhibit each day,”



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cont. from front page

Canton has strict mandates for Christmas Festival



Photo by Lori Lycette

Courthouse Square

The Christmas Festival takes place from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. nightly through December 23.

Back this year is the interactive Christmas Village, which 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.

The old-fashioned carousel, along with the bungee jump, sky race and the brand-new addition of a Ferris wheel, are all perched on the Courthouse lawn, waiting for eager little riders.



Photo by Lori Lycette

Mrs. Claus' front porch

As always, there are several food vendors available to supply a meal or simply a snack.

Throughout the month, several merchants around the Square will have extended 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.

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

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Canton residents salute Syracuse freshman JaCobian Morgan

By Andy Kanengiser

Plenty of Canton High Tigers fans are cheering for JaCobian Morgan's success as a Syracuse quarterback.

In his first season with the Syracuse Orange, the talented 6'4" freshman is showing why he was such a highly recruited prospect. He's advanced as the No. 2 quarterback for the Orange under Coach Dino Babers this fall.

Supporters from his hometown in Madison County enjoy watching No. 15 take snaps on national TV broadcasts. Syracuse plays ACC rivals like Clemson, Boston College, Louisville and Notre Dame, with lots of Mississippians tuning in.

"I've watched every game so far," says Canton High head football coach Calvin Bolton. "It's great to see your kids playing. This is huge for the City of Canton. It gives kids some hope to make a better life."

Morgan isn't just performing well as a college football player. The 203-pounder is nailing top grades as a health and exercise science major.

As late November rolled into December, Morgan says he is adjusting to life in the Empire State, more than 1,200 miles away from Canton.

"He's mostly concentrating on the playbook," Coach Bolton said. "As a student, he's doing well in school."

They talk by phone every week.

It's been a rough rebuilding year for Syracuse amid COVID-19 challenges and a blitz of roster changes. But Morgan shows he belongs to this Power 5 team.

"It's a blessing to play at this level in his first year," Bolton added. "Hopefully, he can continue to get better each week."

Morgan shined as a Canton High

senior. He threw for 2,487 yards and accounted for thirty touchdowns (twenty-seven passing and three rushing). He led the Tigers to a 7-4 record last fall.

The son of Cody Morgan and Shaleria Terrell, JaCobian was rated America's No. 77

pro-style quarterback in the Class of 2020. The outstanding student-athlete played small forward for the Canton basketball team for three seasons.

Turning nineteen on February 2, Morgan is the focus for Canton residents when Syracuse suits up at the Carrier Dome or on the road.

Representative



Special to The Canton News

(Above) JaCobian Morgan throwing a pass for Syracuse.



Special to The Canton News

JaCobian Morgan scoring a touchdown.

Edward Blackmon, Jr. and his wife, Senator Barbara Blackmon, are huge fans of the young man from their hometown.

"JaCobian stands 6'4", is athletic, has a strong arm and is intellectually gifted," says Blackmon, an attorney and star athlete back in the day in Canton. "He has all the tools needed for a Power Five Conference school looking for a pro-style pocket passer for its offense."

Morgan brings other valuable skills to the table.

"Most describe him as a leader among his peers," Blackmon said.

Morgan received significant playing time early on, as Syracuse struggled with a 1-8 record. The Canton resident was "thrown into the fire within months of his arrival at Syracuse due to a series of circumstances," Blackmon said. The Mississippian started at quarterback as Syracuse faced the University of Louisville Cardinals on November 20. It was a 30 to 0 setback for the Orange, but his future shines bright.

"No matter the outcome of the [Louisville] game, JaCobian has acquitted himself, his family, friends and the City of Canton, Mississippi, well. We are all now, for the next four years, Syracuse Orange," Edward Blackmon said.

Longtime Canton resident Steve Dickson also dished out praise for Morgan.

"We're so excited to be cheering for this fine young man," says Dickson, a local businessman. "While I haven't met him yet, I know people who are as proud of his off-field accomplishments as they are of those on the field. Canton always celebrates our hometown success stories, and we're proud to add JaCobian to the list."

Morgan is among several Canton High products getting noticed. A junior transfer from Copiah-Lincoln Community College, junior Antoine Robinson plays receiver for the Southern Miss football team.

Damien Lewis, a 2016 Canton High alum, played football for the LSU Tigers, last season's national champs. Chosen the 69th overall pick in the NFL draft, Lewis, 23, wears No. 68 as an offensive guard for the Seattle Seahawks. The 333-pound rookie opened the 2020 season against the Atlanta Falcons, then tackled the New England Patriots and the Dallas Cowboys.

As a result, Coach Calvin Bolton follows Damien and the Seattle Seahawks on TV. In a few years, the Canton Tigers head coach hopes to watch JaCobian Morgan playing on Sundays, too, in the NFL.

For more information on Syracuse football, including press conferences, visit www.youtube.com/syracuseorange.

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CPSD students receive Chromebooks



All photos Special to The Canton News

The wait is finally over. Canton Public Schools' Chromebooks arrived and have been distributed to every student. The students now have updated devices to help them continue to overcome any challenges they have faced while learning virtually during the COVID-19 pandemic.

CPSD students say they are excited about receiving updated devices, so they can continue to excel in school. Parents say they are elated and thankful that their scholars will continue to stay safe while learning virtually.

The devices were funded through MDE's Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act.

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CAMS lends helping hand to the community

Special to The Canton News

CAMS Community Development Corporation (CAMS) is a non-profit organization in Canton that began in 2017. The goal of CAMS is to serve as a one-stop community resource, education and training center for the citizens of Canton.

CAMS was created to work with individuals and families to help alleviate the economic and social challenges they often encounter in their daily lives. The organization serves as a catalyst to bridge the gap that exists in the disconnect between service providers, educational and workforce development entities and needs of the citizens.

"We believe in the beauty of our people and our city and want to help them create a better quality of life that extend throughout generations," said Executive Director Shanika Smith. "Our non-profit organization is led by a team of passionate board of directors, skilled staff members and community partners who have the vision and plan to help aid and guide our citizens in achieving their goals and aspirations."

The Center serves as a virtual learning site for kids whose parents needed assistance while they

returned to work.

"When COVID-19 hit," continued Smith, "kids were forced to attend school remotely, and we recognized the need to support the parents, grandparents, and caregivers who still had to work full-time,



Special to The Canton News

Madison Middle School seventh-grader Cameron Bilbrew

or whose child(ren) did not have reliable internet service to stay connected to their coursework."

Students are monitored in a socially distanced classroom setting with fast WiFi and without interruption. For students who need extra support, the classroom monitors are readily available to assist them.

"We want to help the community in any way we can," added Smith. "This year, we knew a lot of families wouldn't be participating in the



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Obama Magnet IB Elementary School third-grader Kyle Paige



Special to The Canton News

Obama Magnet IB Elementary School third-grader Kason Paige

traditional trick-or-treat festivities, so we set up a drive-thru harvest

festival, to pass out a goodie bag filled with candy, hot dogs, chips and juice. Due to a donation from the local Piggly Wiggly, we were able to provide over one-hundred treat bags for the community."

This month, CAMS plans to begin conducting listening sessions throughout the community to identify needs and ways in which they can better serve the citizens of Canton.

CAMS will also be providing a financial literacy program for the youth and a workforce development program to help prepare local citizens to take advantage of training and educational opportunities that will lead to sustainable employment and a better quality of life.

"We realize we cannot achieve our goal of helping our citizens in a meaningful and impactful way without the participation and support of our community. We welcome volunteers and donations of any kind in carrying out these initiatives," said Smith.

Registration is open at this time. For more information about CAMS Community Development Organization, including how to register, volunteer or donate, call 601-859-3752 or visit www.camscdc.com.

Canton named Most Festive Town in MS by travel website

Special to The Canton News

Canton was recently named the Most Festive Christmas Town in Mississippi by Trips to Discover, a popular digital travel magazine with a monthly readership of over 1.6 million people.

The magazine said of Canton, "During the holidays, Canton, Mississippi's 200,000 sparkling lights illuminate the historic Courthouse Square.

There are animated holiday displays and lots of activities for the kids. They can enjoy an interactive Christmas village with the chance to become a "certified elf," roast marshmallows

and make reindeer food, ensuring Santa's team will be fueled for their journey. Enjoy horse and buggy rides, a carousel and story-time with Mrs. Claus too."

Claus too."

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Grace Episcopal Church still ministers to Canton

By Guest Columnist Beth Foose

In 2013, parishioner Jim Ladner came to me and said, “We need to have a food ministry here at Grace Church!” I agreed and asked him to do the research.



Reverend Beth Foose with the Spirit of Service Award, recently presented by Mississippi Food Network.

Ladner found out about an Episcopal church in Alabama that was doing a beans and rice ministry, and we decided to follow their model. We bought beans and rice in bulk, and volunteers gathered to put the beans and rice in smaller bags.

I wanted the ministry to be centered around our worship space, so, on one Saturday each month, people came in the front door of the church and received their beans and rice in the chancel area. We had widespread parish volunteer participation and a very consistent group of recipients.

Jim didn’t stop doing research. Several years later, he came to me and said, “We need to join Mississippi Food Network!”

Once again, I agreed and asked him to contact them. The next thing I knew, we were getting an inspection

and attending a class on how to order and keep records. That was in October 2016, and we have been growing ever since.

As partners with Mississippi Food Network, we are able to access USDA food, as well as food donated from corporate sources. We pick up food weekly for our monthly distribution. The staff at MFN has been very supportive of our efforts.

The funding for our food pantry comes from our Outreach budget and from individual donations. First Methodist Church, here in Canton, has a monthly food collection for the pantry; Sacred Heart Catholic Church is also a regular contributor toward our efforts.

Parish Administrator Cecil Fox does all the ordering and quite literally, all the heavy lifting. He has carried every box of food we have distributed at least three times. He unloads the boxes from the trucks of volunteers and oversees the packing of our bags for distribution...and he does it all with a smile! He is amazing!

Parishioner Jackie Mockbee coordinates a corps of volunteers from other churches (First Presbyterian, First Methodist, Sacred Heart Catholic and First Baptist) who pick up the food from MFN and bring it to Grace Church. Pre-COVID, we had volun-

teers from those churches who also helped with distribution of the food, as well.

Jim Ladner’s research still didn’t stop. In 2017, he came to me again and said, “We need to be feeding children!” And thus began our participation in the MFN sponsored Backpack Program, which provides weekend food for children who are at risk for hunger when school lunches are not available. Our first year, we took food to Canton Elementary School. In subsequent years, we have taken backpacks to Goodloe Elementary School.

This past spring, we had an opportunity to receive boxes of fresh food as part of a USDA COVID relief program through MFN. Since we don’t have a parking lot suitable for a large truck, we partnered with Sacred Heart Catholic Church to distribute the food. The Sacred Heart Hispanic community volunteered to help with handing out the food, and every week we shared three hundred boxes of fresh fruit and vegetables with the Canton community.

COVID has re-shaped our ministry in some ways. We no longer have people come to the nave to register and pick up their food. Instead, we give out the food, along with cloth masks, in our side yard. Thus far, we have given away around 4,000 masks. Volunteers

cut the fabric, and then we send the pieces to Gayle Ross in Brookhaven and Paulette White in Madison, who have made the majority of the masks.

Since some children have not been receiving school lunches due to virtual learning caused by COVID, we have been distributing Backpack food with the help of Tim White at Canton Estates and the Hispanic community at Sacred Heart.

The partnership with MFN has empowered us to expand the quantity and variety of food we are able to offer to the people of Canton. This is a ministry which is widely supported by the parish, both financially and through volunteering.

Since COVID, we have a very limited number of volunteers who pack bags on the Wednesday before our distribution on Thursday.

We distribute on the third Thursday of every month from 10 a.m. until 12:30 p.m.

Our numbers have been gradually increasing since March, and people seem to be suffering from growing food insecurity. We had our largest numbers ever in November.

EDITOR’S NOTE: The Reverend Beth Foose is the Rector of Grace Episcopal Church in Canton.

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Church holds dedicatory service, ribbon cutting



Photo by Lori Lycette

Harvest of Hope Christian Center and Campus, located at 3091 South Liberty Street in Canton, recently celebrated their one-year anniversary with a dedication of the new church building to God and a ribbon cutting. After a dedicatory service of thanksgiving and prayer, Pastor James Allen and First Lady Eyvette Allen cut the ribbon to the main entrance, with members of the church and community looking on. A reception followed inside.



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United Way, Foot Print Farms promote healthy eating and literacy



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The United Way of the Capital Area recently teamed up with Foot Print Farms in Jackson and Mississippi Public Broadcasting (MPB) to help families in the Canton community. They distributed bags packed with fresh fruits and vegetables and gave away books to promote literacy to the families of students at Huey Porter Middle and Goodloe Elementary Schools.



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Sulm's Gifts is celebrating thirty-five years

By Guest Columnist Joy Foy

In 2020, Canton has celebrated long-time industry, welcomed new retail and endured the COVID-19 pandemic. It is very encouraging to end the year with this successful story of Sulm's Gifts on the Square.



Joy Foy

Erin Noble, the owner of Sulm's since 1985, has been a positive part of the city's economics for thirty-five years! Erin learned the retail business from the best. She was a student of the trade as a teenager, while wrapping gifts at both Buttrick and Saab's Department stores.

She purchased her business from longtime friend, Janet Dowdle, who was the first to use the Sulm's name as a gift shop. Janet was known for her shopping skills at market, which requires knowledge of what will sell in the upcoming season.

Erin honed that skill, along with her natural decorating talents, and always has surrounded herself with talented staff members, which ensures that Sulm's will have the trending items that we will all

"need" for our homes and gift-giving opportunities.

Through the years, Erin has shopped the Dallas and Atlanta markets and really likes the Mississippi market to scout for the newest trends in keeping her stock up-to-date and ever-changing. Erin's sales staff includes Alix Gowdy, Noel Webb, Elaine Cochran and Erin's sisters, Babs Crosswhite and Karin Stewart. They each have their individual talents and expertise to help customers with gift selections or home décor recommendations.



Erin Noble

Noel is a remarkable local artist, and she paints the beautiful artwork sold in the store.

In years gone by, Erin's mother, Barbara, could also be found helping out in the store on special occasions.

Erin was born in Ohio but moved to Canton when she was in the fifth grade. Her dad, Dwight Follin, owned property and the crop-flying service on the east side of town.

John and Erin Noble are parents to twins, Lacey and Brooks, however, these twins are all grown up now. Lacey and her husband, Chase Higbee, have given

the Nobles their first granddaughter, Avery.

Merit Health asked Erin to open a gift shop at the Canton hospital.

Erin said, "Merit Health has been a good fit for me to expand my business right here in Canton."

Allison Spivey owns LaDiDa, next door to Sulm's, and says that the cluster of their gift shops has enhanced her business.

Being a local girl and taking on opportunities to help others explains why Erin's business has thrived on the Square for all these years. The people coming for the flea markets and Christmas festivals flock to Sulm's for the unique gifts, unusual decorating ideas and the adorable gift wrapping.

For us locals, it would not feel like Christmas without getting to go by Sulm's the weekend after Thanksgiving to take advantage of Erin's annual Christmas sales while visiting with neighbors and friends in the Christmas atmosphere of the store on the Square.

Sulm's is a great resource for wedding gifts, graduation favors or just a gift for yourself year-round. However, it is the holidays that I most value Sulm's. Just a stop in the door to visit and browse puts you "in the

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Canton Academy has chapel service to honor veterans



Special to The Canton News

Private First-Class Lane Martin and Sergeant Ronnie Welch



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USMC Veteran Travis Lambert speaking to elementary students

Special to The Canton News

During Veterans’ Day chapel at Canton Academy, Sergeant Ronnie Welch spoke about the benefits of becoming a part of the Mississippi Army National Guard and

all the career opportunities available. While on campus, Welch presented Canton Academy with a plaque to be hung at the school, listing recent graduates who have enlisted in the Mississippi Army National Guard. 2020 CA gradu-

ate Lane Martin is listed first on the plaque and was recognized during the chapel service. Marine Corps Veteran Sergeant Travis Lambert spoke to CA elementary students at chapel about his time in the military, which he

said he joined because his father and grandfather both served, and he wanted to serve his country, as well. Lambert explained how they are all in the army of God and had some of his original gear there for the students to see.

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CA's Calloway signs with Hinds



Special to The Canton News

Canton Academy senior Kendall Calloway recently signed a softball scholarship with Hinds Community College, with her parents and softball coaches looking on. Calloway has been featured on WJTV Sports News for her pitching skills. She has been on the school's varsity team since the eighth grade and has been a significant contributor, both as a pitcher and center fielder, for the Lady Panthers. Two seasons ago, she had more than one-hundred strikeouts and finished last year with ninety-six. Head Coach Chad Smith said that Calloway has an ERA of under two and a total of 117 strikeouts so far this season. After the team lost their initial South State playoff game without her in the circle, she threw fourteen straight innings with twenty-one strikeouts to help the team earn a spot in the state tournament. Calloway is also a member of the National Honor Society.



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CA's Thanksgiving program



Special to The Canton News

Canton Academy elementary students recently presented a program for Thanksgiving. Students in K3, K4 and K5 (left photo) sang several songs and recited poems that all relate to Thanksgiving. The sixth grade (right photo) played the handbells, and their music teacher Mrs. Harris said she was super proud of them because they are learning to read music.

cont. from front page

Amazon to create 1000+ jobs in Canton, Mississippi

their strong support in making this project possible.”

The Mississippi Development Authority is providing assistance for infrastructure needs, and Madison County is also assisting with the project. The project is being developed by Trammell Crow Company.

“Amazon’s significant investment and creation of 1,000 jobs in Madison County presents tremendous opportunity for Central Mississippi and the entire state. As a globally renowned leader in the e-commerce and technology industries, Amazon’s decision to locate a third fulfillment center in Mississippi places our state in the world’s spotlight and lets other industry leaders know we are a great place for business,” said MDA Interim Director John Rounsaville. “MDA appreciates the hard work of the Madison County Economic Development Authority and the Madison County Board of Supervisors, which has been instrumental in bringing these new jobs to our great state.”

Amazon offers highly competitive pay, benefits from day one, and training pro-

grams for in-demand jobs. The company has also pledged to invest over \$700 million to provide upskilling training for 100,000 U.S. employees for in-demand jobs. These programs will help Amazonians from all backgrounds access training to move into highly skilled roles across the company’s corporate offices, tech hubs, fulfillment centers, retail stores, and transportation network, or pursue career paths outside of Amazon.

Amazon’s fulfillment network supports millions of businesses of all sizes worldwide through its Fulfillment by Amazon offering, and many of those local businesses are based in Mississippi. There are more than 7,500 authors, small and medium-sized businesses, and developers in Mississippi growing their companies and reaching new customers with Amazon products and services.

Amazon conducts their own hiring through their Amazon Jobs website and will begin hiring six to eight weeks prior to the start of production. September 2021 is the target start date, in time for the peak Christmas shopping season next year.



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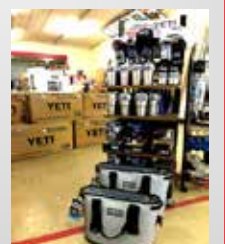
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MCLS receives donation for Little Free Libraries

Special to The Canton News

The Madison County Library System (MCLS) recently received a \$5,000 donation from Atmos Energy to go towards the purchase of books and materials for the Little Free Library (LFL) project throughout Madison County.

A Little Free Library is a neighborhood book exchange where everyone is invited to take a book or share a book. Founded by Todd H. Bol in 2009, the Little Free Library is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that inspires a love of reading, builds community and sparks creativity by fostering neighborhood book exchanges around the world.

Little Free Libraries is now one of the world's largest book-sharing movements. These little libraries increase book access, improve reading motivation and deepen community connections.

LFL has received recognition from the Library of Congress, the National Book Foundation and others for its dedication to expanding book access for all. There are 100,000 Little Free Library book-sharing boxes worldwide; through them, more than 165 million books have been shared.

When children grow up in book-rich environments, literacy rates can skyrocket. Access to books is cited as

the number-one predictor of a child's ability to thrive in school. But for many kids, books are hard to come by. Two out of three children living in poverty have no books of their own.

Everyone deserves a book to read. Little Free Library's Impact Library Program places neighborhood booksharing boxes in areas where books are scarce. Thanks to the generous donation by Atmos, little libraries full of books can be placed where they're needed most.

Four new little libraries have been installed so far, including two in Canton: Thornton Chapel United Methodist Church, located at the intersection of Way and Davis Cross-

ing Roads, and New Truelight MB Church, on John Day Road. Kerney Park Community Center in Flora, and the North Place neighborhood in Madison have also received little libraries.

The MCLS said they would like to say a special thank you to District 1 Supervisor Sheila Jones for her efforts in making this possible as well as Chip Estes, David Westbrook and Jerry Robertson for building these libraries and donating to the community.

Watch for more libraries popping up throughout the county.

To learn more, visit LittleFreeLibrary.org, mclms.org, or call the Canton Library at 601-859-7733.



Special to The Canton News

New libraries include, clockwise from top left: New Truelight MB Church in Canton; Kerney Park Community Center in Flora; North Place neighborhood in Madison; and Thornton Chapel United Methodist in Canton.

cont. from page 9

Sulm's Gifts is celebrating thirty-five yrs.

spirit," regardless of the holiday.

We may never have an accurate impact analysis of what a homegrown, profitable gift shop has meant to Canton, but isn't it nice to live where such outstanding talent is appreciated and supported by locals?

Congratulations, Erin, and thank you for all the positive impact you have been for Canton the City and for the many ways you have made Christmas merry for us, your friends and customers, for these last thirty-five years.

We hope you will be around for many more Christmases.

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



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Former boxer and wife return home, restore Vanity Castle

By Lori Lycette

After forty-four years of living in the North, former professional boxer James Shavers and his wife Shirley returned “home” to Canton to enjoy family and their newly renovated 1896 Victorian “Vanity Castle.”

James Shavers was born in 1955 in Canton. At three months old, he became sick, and his aunt took him to her home in Farmhaven to care for him.

He went back home for a day, and then his uncle came back to get him and take him back home with him. And that’s where he lived until he was twenty-one years old.

James attended Velma Jackson High School, where he met Shirley. She was from Pickens and was three years younger than him.

“The first time I saw Shirley, I told my friends that I was going to marry that girl one day,” said James Shavers.

“I was in the eighth grade, and James was in the eleventh,” said Shirley Shavers. “The bell rang at the end of the day, and everyone was lining up for the buses. He said he saw me, this cute little girl with her books in her hand, and told his friend I would be his wife. He offered to carry my books to the bus. Later on that week, there was a record hop at the school, and he asked me if I was going. We both went, had our first kiss, and the rest is history. We courted for the next five years.”

James graduated from Velma Jackson in 1974 and attended Jackson State University for a semester but decided college wasn’t for him, at that time.

After doing some odd jobs, in late 1976, Shavers and a friend headed north to find work...Detroit, Kansas City and then St Paul, Minnesota. He had a sister in Minnesota who he asked to stay while he searched for a job.

James made \$4.68 an hour at a flour mill, mandatory seven days a week, and was able to save money for the wedding.

Six months later, he returned to marry his girl.

“I was trying to graduate from high school and plan a wedding all at the same time. I graduated on a Friday, got married on Sunday, and moved to Minnesota on Monday,” said Shirley.

“One day, I passed by a boxing gym in St. Paul and walked in out of boredom,” said James. “I was twenty-four at that time, which is old in boxer years, but they said I had a natural talent. I was fearless, you couldn’t knock me out.”

Shavers became an amateur boxer in 1978, competing as a middleweight in Golden Gloves tournaments for two years, and then professionally for seventeen years.

“I travelled all over the world to box greats such as Michael McCallum and Charles Williams, two world champs.

I boxed in London, Paris, Italy, Spain, Canada...all over,” said James. “And I flew to all these places alone. I didn’t have the money or the backers, so it was just me.”

Shavers added that he even fought a main event match at Madison Square

school and graduated in 1983.

“I worked at a nursing home four and a half years and then a big hospital in St. Paul,” said Shirley. “Our first child was born in 1980, the second in 1987, and the last in 1996.”

James received his associate degree

ways work hard and to treat people the way I want to be treated.”

After James’ retirement, the couple’s goal was to move back to Mississippi.

“We had always wanted to move back home to Canton. Shirley and I both have family still here,” said James. “We own acreage, with a lake, east of here and had planned to build a home on that property. In 2014, we were riding down Peace Street and saw that this house was for sale. We called the realtor and found out it was \$300,000, which was more than we wanted to spend. The home had been vacant for six years. Several months later, the realtor called to say the price had been reduced by \$40,000, so we decided to purchase it.”

The Shavers went back home to St. Paul, with the confidence that their future home in Canton would be just fine until they could eventually move in.

“Our utility bill suddenly shot up really high from one month to the next,” said Shirley. “A water pipe had burst and was running in the house for about two months while we were still in Minnesota. We came back to mold... it was everywhere. We had to replace most of the ceilings, walls and floors. They were able to salvage most of the moldings and the fireplaces but had to replace a lot of the original hardwood floors. The house was full of mold. It was a complete disaster.”

They began a total renovation of “Vanity Castle” in 2018, doing much of the work themselves, and officially moved in early this year.

The couple both say they are glad to be back in Canton.

“Canton has changed a lot since we moved away, said James. “It seems so much more open now, with a lot of businesses and homes being torn down. We love Canton. We are very glad to be back home.”

“I loved Minnesota...it was a great place to raise children, to educate the children, a beautiful place with a lot to offer,” said Shirley. “The only thing I didn’t like was the weather. November was VERY cold there. The weather here is like paradise this time of year.”

The Shavers have three children and five grandchildren, and they love hosting family gatherings at what is now their forever home.

Shirley works as a nurse at Merit Health Madison, here in Canton, while James is enjoying retirement and daily keeping up their pristinely manicured property. He even installed a punching bag under the porch gazebo, to help him stay fit, as well as a sentimental reminder of days gone by.

Shirley added, “We could’ve bought a house in Madison, but we love this house and this town, and we want to do whatever we can to accent the town and make it better. It’s right in town, close to everything, and it’s beautiful. Everything we wanted in a house.”

And James agreed. It was always their goal to move back “home.”



Photo by Lori Lycette

Shirley and James Shavers



Photo by Lori Lycette

Kitchen



Photo by Lori Lycette

Study



Photo by Lori Lycette

Shavers with oldest son Rocky in 1986



Photo by Lori Lycette

Shavers on front porch

Garden in New York, back in 1987.

Shirley added, “I didn’t like when he would be gone for sometimes two weeks at the time. I couldn’t travel with him out of town, because we couldn’t afford it, and I couldn’t leave the baby. He went to Amsterdam, Canada, Spain, the Netherlands, Italy, and all over the country. I wish now that I had known and had made a way to go with him.”

The Shavers bought their first house in 1979, Shirley enrolled in nursing

in Law Enforcement and then earned a bachelor’s degree in Corrections in 1996. He became a juvenile corrections officer for five years and then a supervisor at Hennepin County Juvenile Detention Center for fifteen years, until retiring in 2018.

“Working at the detention center was the best job, because I felt I was really making a difference in those kids’ lives, trying to steer them in the right direction,” said James. “I’ve always tried to live by two principles: To al-

Goodwill offers free training

Special to The Canton News

Goodwill Industries of Mississippi was recently awarded the Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act (WIOA) Governor's Reserves, which expands the Digital/Computer Training Program to serve seventeen counties in Mississippi.

Madison

County

is among

the coun-

ties to re-

ceive the

Free to

the Public Digital/Computer Training Program, and training will be offered at the WIN Job Center, located at 152 Watford Parkway Drive in Canton. Training will take place from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays.

Due to COVID-19 guidelines, all training appointments must be scheduled in advance. Online training is also available once appointments are established.

The training will cover Basic Computer, Internet Basics, Using Email, Social Media, Windows 10, Microsoft Word, Information Literacy, Excel, PowerPoint, Career Search, and MAC-OS.

The program is billed as an easy instructional program that offers the ability to learn how to use and apply skills for digital/computer usage.

Students must be eighteen years or older and may be trained virtually or at a Digital Training Center. The

Goodwill
Industries of Mississippi



classes are self-paced and certificated upon each section that

is completed.

"It is our goal to provide a quality digital skills training program that will enable people to have the skills necessary to accomplish an online job application, to broaden their computer expertise and to have a better understanding of how digital skills enhances our everyday life," said Vicki Burton, Vice President of Workforce Development at Goodwill of Mississippi. "We would like to encourage everyone to take advantage of this opportunity."

For more information or to schedule an appointment, call 601-708-1188, or register online at goodwillms.org.

Lions Club announces programs

Special to The Canton News

Canton Lions meet every Wednesday, unless otherwise noted, from noon until 1 p.m. at the Canton Country Club for lunch and a speaker. December 9, 16 and 23 will be the upcoming meeting dates.

The Canton Lions tapped into the new ministers of Canton as a source for this month's programs.

Reverend James Allen of Harvest of Hope Ministries provided the first program in December, on December 2. Reverend Allen holds weekly worship services at the Physical Therapy Work's building on Highway 51 South, across from the old Harrel Chevrolet building, now Delta Auto. Harvest of Hope Ministries recently purchased the building.

The second program, on December 9, will be Dr. Jay Cook, the new pastor at First Baptist Canton. Dr. Cook and his family moved to Canton and began service at First Baptist on August 17, 2020.

The program for the third week of December comes from Lions Club member Mark Hopkins. His subject will be trains in Canton.

The December programs will wrap up with entertainment from Frazier Riddell playing Christmas music. Riddell sings and loves for his audience to participate in the fun.

Lions Club President Darlene Austin invites the public to attend any or all of the meetings. The cost is \$15 per person. RSVP on the Canton Lions Facebook page to reserve a meal.

OBITUARY

Edward Frank Meydrech
Madison, Mississippi

July 21, 1943 - November 5, 2020



Edward Anton Meydrech

Edward Frank Meydrech, 77, died October 30, 2020, at home in Madison County, Mississippi. An outdoor memorial service will be held at 1:30 p.m. Thursday, November 5, 2020, at Grace Episcopal Church in Canton.

Ed was born on July 21, 1943 in Oak Park, Illinois, the son of the late Anton Kaspar Meydrech and Frances Marie Meydrech. He graduated from Apopka High School in Apopka, Florida, where he was active in sports and served as his class president. He continued his education, earning a Bachelor of Statistics in 1965 and a Masters of Statistics in 1967 from the University of Florida and his PhD from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1972.

Ed served our country's military in the Public Health Service Commissioned Corp from 1967 to 1969. Dr. Meydrech began his academic career as an Assistant Professor of Biometry at the Virginia Commonwealth University, serving from 1972 to 1975. In 1976, Dr. Meydrech joined the faculty of the University of Mississippi Medical Center, where he worked as assistant, associate and full professor of Preventive Medicine. Dr. Meydrech became Chief of Biostatistics

and Chairman, Preventive Medicine. Dr. Meydrech, tenured in 1982, co-authored over seventy-five scientific papers and participated in eleven research grants.

Ed loved children and coached numerous teams in his children's youth. He spent his retirement days at Deerfield Golf Club and was on the course for his first 18 holes before most people were awake. During his last years, he worked out at The Club in Madison and was physically fit up until his glioblastoma was discovered in 2018. After his wife, children, and granddaughter, two of his greatest loves were chocolate and the Florida Gators. Ed was a communicant of Grace Episcopal Church.

Survivors include: his wife of 55 years, Anne Regan Meydrech of Madison County; daughter, Laurel Anne Meydrech of Gulf Shores, Alabama; son, Edward Anton Meydrech of Chattanooga, Tennessee; granddaughter, Harlee Regan Meydrech of Chattanooga, Tennessee; brother, Anthony Leo Meydrech (Judith) of Naperville, Illinois; niece, Leigh Meydrech of Lisle, Illinois; distant cousin, Maria Meydrich Bourgeois (Guy) of Hammond, Louisiana; brothers-in-law, John (Wanda) Regan of Jackson; Bill Regan of Daytona, Florida; Frank Regan of Gainesville, Florida; sister-in-law, Lee Mikell (Ron) of Orlando, Florida, and four nephews and one niece.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to glioblastomafoundation.org or Grace Episcopal Church, 161 E. Peace Street, Canton, MS 39046.



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KPNA holds Thanksgiving food drive, raffles quilt



Omega Brothers distributing food boxes

Photo by Lori Lycette



Photo by Lori Lycette

KPNA members who worked the drive (l to r) were, front row: Ida Thomas, Ermalene Guydon and Ruby Johnson; and back row: LaShonda Lyles, Mary Johnson, Cassandra Cannon and Bertha McGruder.



Special to The Canton News

Corine Hart was the winner of the African quilt.

Special to The Canton News

The Knights of Pillar Nurses Association (KPNA) recently held its first food drive for the rural Madison County area. Each family that participated received a box consisting of Cornish hens, vegetables, potato salad and rolls, enough to feed four to five people.

KPNA said they wanted to extend

their blessing to those in need on the outskirts of town and would like to thank Father Guy Wilson and Sacred Heart Church for opening their doors to use as the delivery site. Alonzo McGruder, Supervisor Paul Griffin, Lennie Conway, Paul Conway and Jordan Sims also assisted in making the event possible.

Prior to the giveaway, the boxes were prepped by Rachiel Johnson,

Alyshia Johnson, LaShonda Lyles, Katie Hamlin and Mary Simes.

KPNA said they also would like to thank their spouses for standing behind them, as well as the Sacred Heart men, who helped direct traffic that day. Members of the Omega Fraternity who also joined in to make the event successful were Derrick Garner, Lamarcus Lyles, Jarvis Blackmon, Gene Sheriff, Dwight Rawls,

Melvin Bonds and K.O. Martin.

Over two hundred families were blessed to receive Thanksgiving dinner that day.

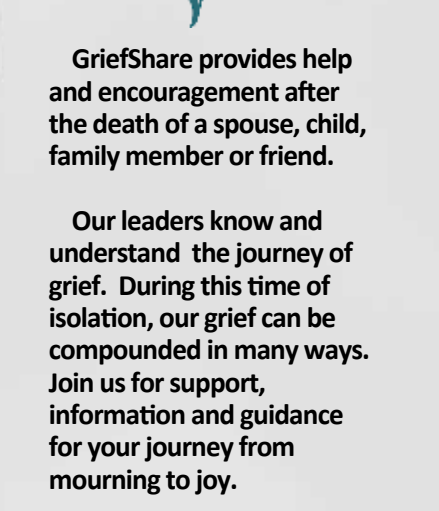
Corine Hart was the winner of the African quilt that was recently raffled, made by member Mrs. Ruth Gray.

KPNA continues to live up to their motto: WE CARE, WE CAN, WE WILL.





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Medicare has changed. Find out how it can affect you.

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God calls us to love Him and our neighbor

By Guest Columnist James Allen

Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us, and sent



Special to The Canton News

His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought to love one another. (1 John 4:10-11)

We can never hope to take in the entirety of this magnificent vision in one article. What I am hoping for is a glimpse that will challenge us to see more of His love.

God's love is a conqueror. Conquering and loving might seem like two opposite ideas. Yes, it is both a

ruler and a servant at the same time.

As a ruler... love demands that we forgive others, no matter what the circumstances may have been.

As a servant... love demands that we not only give all that we can to others but be willing to sacrifice if necessary.

Jesus' ministry was filled with extraordinary acts of love, but the greatest of all came at Calvary. We also know the cross as God's triumph and ultimate defeat of Satan.

The Lord calls us to walk in His steps. We, too, are to overcome with love. We see our marching orders in the Sermon on the Mount. We are told to love our enemies, an idea very foreign in that day - and still in ours. Jesus said that we are to bless those who curse us and do good to those

who hate us. Such ideas are other-worldly to us, but they are divine.

1 Corinthians 13 teaches us that, "If I speak in tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. Love is patient... love never fails... if I give all I possess to the poor and do not have love, I gain nothing. And now of all these things, three remain... faith, hope and love, but the greatest of these is love."

The Bible tells us to love our neighbor as ourselves, and, when we ponder those words, we should really think of how much we really do love ourselves and how much of our activities center around the care and comfort of self. Then we should try to imagine what it would be like if we showered that same love on our

neighbors. And, after that, just do it!!! Such behavior is not natural; it is supernatural. This is living out the true meaning of being a Christian.

So, let us follow the example of our Lord Jesus and live a life filled with love and not hatred, and, in doing this, we will let the world see more of Jesus and less of us.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Pastor James Allen is married to Eyvette Allen. Pastor Allen is a native of Canton who returned home after fifty-seven years in North Carolina, where he met his wife, a native Delawarean. They established Harvest of Hope Christian Center and Campus and are the proud parents of a blended family of six children and fourteen grandchildren.


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