



THE CANTON NEWS

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

Hannah named superintendent of CPSD

Special to The Canton News

The Canton Public School District Board of Trustees recently selected Gary P. Hannah as the superintendent of the Canton Public School District.

Hannah, who has served as Jackson Public School District's assistant superintendent since July 2017, was the deputy superintendent of Marshall County School District from July 2012 until June 2017, where he was named Marshall County Educator of the Year in 2016. Hannah has a bachelor's degree in elementary education from Alabama A&M, as well as a Master's of Education from the University of Mississippi.

Hannah was one of two finalists for the superintendent position, which had been filled on an interim basis since May of 2018, when the former superintendent, Cassandra Williams, was fired by the school board. Former Canton Public School District Superintendent Dwight Luckett, who retired from the district in 2014, has

been serving as the interim superintendent.

This fall, the Canton Public School District Board contracted with the Mississippi School Boards Association (MSBA) to assist in the search for the new superintendent of the Canton Public School District, and, last month, Hannah and Pass Christian Middle School principal Earl Joe Nelson were named as finalists.

A brochure advertising the Canton superintendent vacancy and outlining the basic qualifications for the superintendent, which were set by the Board, was prepared by MSBA and was posted online at the MSBA website with the appli-

cation on October 15. Dr. Mike Waldrop, Executive Director of MSBA, sent an email to over 5,000 people on the MSBA mailing list

announcing the search and requesting assistance in publicizing the vacancy. He also wrote personal letters to possible applicants. The vacancy announcement was sent to the National School Boards Association, which posted it on its website. All

inquiries to MSBA regarding the position were answered, and a brochure outlining the procedures to apply for the position was sent to each. Telephone and email responses were made to those who

had been recommended or who had expressed an interest in the position.

The deadline to receive applications was set as November 9. All completed applications which were postmarked on or before the deadline were accepted and processed. In total, nineteen applications were received.

Stakeholder meetings were held on November 5 and November 20 to provide an opportunity for input on the qualifications, skills, and experiences expected in the next superintendent. Denotris Jackson, assistant executive director of MSBA, and Dr. Tommye Henderson, MSBA superintendent search consultant, held four stakeholder meetings with district office staff, principals and assistant principals, teachers and support staff (November 5), and with business and community members (November 20). Surveys were distributed to each group, and comments from each meeting were scripted. The surveys were

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Gary Hannah,
JPS assistant superintendent

Grace Episcopal food pantry lends helping hand

By Lori Lycette

Several years ago, Grace Episcopal Church began a "beans and rice ministry" in an effort to help alleviate hunger in their neighboring community. After realizing there was an even greater need, they partnered with the Mississippi Food Network, which began donating USDA products to enable the church to provide more basic food staples such as soup, vegetables and cereal. They currently serve 250 to 300 households a month and

generally open the doors of the parish hall from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the fourth Thursday of every month, with some exceptions around holidays. If the "Grace Church Food Pantry" sign is out, those in need can enter through the sanctuary to make sure they are registered and get a ticket. All who are in need are welcome. Volunteers are also welcome to help set up and/or distribute. The church is located at 161 E. Peace St., Canton. For more information, contact the church office at 601-859-2680.



Photo by Lori Lycette

Volunteers pictured (l to r) are, front row: Janice Gaillourakis and Lynn Crocker; middle row: Doris Bates, Rev. Beth Foose, Anne Meydrech, Edie Lea, Marian Durfey and Mary Lynn Robinson; and back row: Herb Keck, Steve Colston, Edward Griffin, Michael Griffin, Cecil Fox and Jim Ladner; Not pictured: Hermine Peel, Gale White, Barbara Thomas, Percy Durfey, J.B. Love, Bill and Betty Vaughan, and Lloyd and Ebbie Spivey.



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Chula Homa Hunt hosts 36th annual opening

Special to The Canton News

The Chula Homa Hunt hosted its thirty-sixth annual Opening Meet and Blessing of the Hounds at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Jim Crews in Canton. Riders and spectators from Mississippi, Arkansas, Tennessee, Alabama and Louisiana braved the first real cold weather and super slippery mud to attend, making it the largest mounted fox hunting event in central Mississippi.

The original extreme sport, foxhunting has existed in North America since Colonial days and was enjoyed extensively by night hunters, farmers and landed gentry. The earliest record of imported hounds was on June 30, 1650, when Robert Brooke arrived in Maryland with his family and pack. By the early 1700s, foxhunting was increasing rapidly.

North American foxhunting has evolved its own distinct flavor, which is noticeably different from the British. North Ameri-

can foxhunting emphasizes the chase rather than the kill. Also, hounds predominately hunt coyote, rather than foxes. The larger coyote usually provides longer and faster runs than foxes.

Even in today's casual dress world, formal attire still stands for foxhunters. Black leather boots, breeches, heavy or light hunting coat, a shirt with a tie or stock tie and a protective hat are essential. Every hunt has two seasons - cub hunting, when young hounds are introduced into the pack, and the formal season. Opening Meet signals the beginning of the formal season. When the formal season opens, the staff wears its livery, often red coats with white breeches and black boots with tan leather tops. Members wear black coats, buff breeches and black boots. Most hunts allow gentlemen to wear red coats. Lady masters and members of the staff also often wear red coats. Some ladies add to the elegance and ride side-

saddle. Mississippi's Chula Homa hunt has several members who ride aside.



All photos special to The Canton News

This year, five rode to hounds aside.

Foxhunting continues to grow, thanks to national efforts to encourage students and young adults to participate. Currently, there are 167 organized clubs in North America and Canada, three of them hunting regularly in Mississippi. Chula Homa is the only hunt with its kennels in Mississippi. The others are in Alabama

and Tennessee.

Janice Clemons and Allison Crews co-chair the Canton event. Hunt festivities began with a catered breakfast and silent auction.

Masters and staff then gathered the hounds for the blessing and stirrup cup. Once the hounds were cast, spectators followed on specially designated tally-ho wagons to experience the hunt.

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Be positive this new year of 2019

By Guest Columnist Joy Foy

Recently, there was an article in the Delta Farm Press entitled, "If the World Population Were just 100 People," and there were facts like, "If the world were only 100 people, fifty would be males, and fifty would be females; fourteen would be American; fifteen would be African, eleven would be Europeans and sixty would be Asians; eighty-six could read and write and fourteen could not; seventy-seven would have shelter and twenty-three would not; thirty-one would be Christians, twenty-three Muslim, fifteen Hindu, seven Buddhist and the rest unknown faiths."

These facts were rather surprising to me, and, if I were tested before reading this, I would have failed in guessing the percentages in all categories. This caused me to think about another statement I had heard at a recent "Fly-In" of the Mississippi legislators. At the Fly-In, Zippy Duvall, American Farm Bureau Federation President, challenged us with his



Special to The Canton News

musings that America is no longer governed by the majority of the population, but instead is governed by the majority of the people who show up to vote. I realize that this is certainly true, once I thought about what he said, but again, I have thought that we are a democracy, and in my mind, that means we are governed by the majority of the total population. After consideration, I know Duvall's statement is correct.

The quality of life in Canton can sometimes seem different until the facts are examined. For example, the Merit Health Hospital offers an outstanding seven-minute average wait time emergency room service and has multi-specialty physicians at our disposal within the city limits. Many doctor appointments can be arranged in the Canton offices instead of requiring travel to surrounding cities. We also have our own MEA Clinic. I'm not aware of anyone who has not experienced competent service at both medical facilities. However, there are still some who, "...would not go to the doctor in Canton."

Canton Tourism has just finished another successful Christmas Festival of Lights, where thousands of out-of-towners visit Canton, and yet, many locals

haven't seen the Train Museum, the multicultural museum, the history museum or one of the two movie museums, *My Dog Skip* or *A Time to Kill*. Sulms, La Di Da, Machel's Graphic Creations, Farmhouse and many others continue to offer wonderful specialty gift shopping, and hopefully, we all shop Canton first.

Another fact that everyone may not know is that the Madison County Public Library in Canton will have a new Bookmobile this spring. And did you know that one can edit photos, make a movie, use the 3-D printer and many other neat things while at the library's digital lab?

The Garden Club hosted the second Upstairs Downtown Event and showcased beautiful second-floor apartments on the square. I hope you all have noticed that the ditches coming into town and along Feather Lane have been cleaned by Lawrence Morris and his Canton Public Works Department crew.

The City Parks and Recreation Department also hosted a large, fun Christmas parade. Keep Canton Beautiful has established a "Canton Beautification Award" to recognize new enhancements and facelifts around town as

cont. on page 4

Cantonians called to fellowship

By Guest Columnist Guy Odom

To say that I am going to miss writing in *The Canton News* would



Special to The Canton News

be an understatement! This is my last article to write as Pastor of First Canton. This is very difficult simply because I will truly miss the encouragement this article has brought to so many. Many people have told me how much these articles have meant over these years.

Canton, Mississippi, is indeed a wonderful place to live. One of my favorite community places is the Canton Square. It is the heartbeat of the city, the centerpiece where so many things run together - especially when it comes to people.

Just having the opportunity to cross paths with all walks of life

has been incredible. Whether it is telling someone good morning or good afternoon, to praying with individuals in public, it has been a blast.

As most people know, November and December are two of the favorite months in Canton with all of the decorations and excitement that builds up to Christmas. I won't ever forget it. With First Canton being so close and in walking distance of the square, it is a Pastor's delight.

For just under seven years, I, along with my family, have been privileged to be a part of First Canton. We will cherish some of the greatest relationships in our lives. There are some great people here at First Baptist and in the community. We will never forget those and will hold them dear to our hearts.

I am truly grateful for what the Lord has done here, not only at First Baptist, but in our communi-

ty. 1 Corinthians 1:9 says, "God, who has called you into fellowship with His Son Jesus Christ our Lord, is FAITHFUL."

I can rest my head on my pillow knowing that God called my family here to love on people! That is the number one reason the Lord called us here to Canton. Now, my family looks forward to what 2019 holds for our ministry. With that, I personally want to wish each of you a happy new year! I truly hope 2019 will be the best year for you spiritually. God will never forsake you or abandon you.

May God bless you. You are loved,

Pastor Guy

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

Kids present musical at Thornton Chapel UMC



Photo by Lori Lycette

The Thornton Chapel UMC children recently presented a Christmas musical. Pictured (l to r) are, front row: Maddie Ditzenberger, Eve Slay and Serenity Mallett; middle row: Lillian Murphy, Rowan Murphy and Trek Slay; and back row: Cade Slay, Landyn Murphy, Brendon Murphy and Rylie Swihart. Not pictured: Jason Cain and Holt Slay.

By Lori Lycette

The Thornton Chapel United Methodist Church children's program (T.C. Kids) recently presented the musical *What An Awesome God We Serve*. A live Nativity scene was depicted, including Mary entering the sanctuary on an actual Shetland Pony, owned by Danny and Camer-

on Murphy. The children sang "Away in a Manger" and "What a Mighty God We Serve," among others. Music Director Kathy Hammack and fellow church member Joy Foy, along with many parents and volunteers, said they worked to make the production a very special experience for the children as well as the audience.

cont. from page 3

Be positive this 2019

well as the many businesses that have maintained a groomed look for years. AT&T worked with the Canton Lions Club and the Grace Episcopal Church to make improvements on their grounds, which are located on the east side of the square. The Canton Library and the Canton Music Club joined forces to host a sing-along on the Saturday after Thanksgiving. Many of our local churches, as well as In His Steps Ministries and the local Boys and Girls Club, have programs to help with caring for those in need. Based on the recent support of locals at the Mayor and Aldermen meetings, the citizens of Canton are prepared to protect the Historic District. If you are looking for positive things about Canton, there are plenty to change our minds about the quality of life in Canton, and YES, there are still many opportunities for us to "show up" and get involved.

While Canton's population for 2018 was estimated as 12,725, I offer to you, if we were a city of

100, in 2019, we could have 100 involved in making Canton a better place for everyone to live and visit, and zero pointing out what has not been done. One hundred people talking about good things going on in Canton, and zero saying what is wrong. One hundred supporting local zoning regulations and zero looking for quick fixes. While you may be thinking, this is pie-in-the-sky, I can tell you that when I am part of the clean-up, the pride I feel when I ride through town is real and very rewarding. When I am in the Christmas parade with the Canton Lions, the fun I have inspires me to begin planning for the next Christmas parade. I have found that getting involved and being part of the solution will change the facts in your mind just like it has in mine.

It's a new year! Will you show up and be a part of the majority of those who love and support our town, or will you choose to let others decide what Canton will be in 2019?

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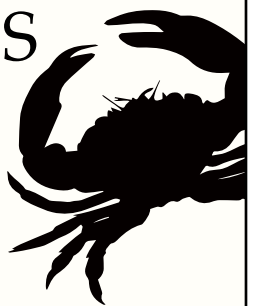
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CA Kindergartners hold LSHM canned food drive



Special to The Canton News
Robin Hunt's K4 class at Canton Academy recently collected fifty-three cans of food for The Lord's Supper Homeless Ministry. The ministry takes meals to the homeless every Saturday. Pictured (l to r) are, front row: James Sumrall, Kort Lyon, Ty Perry and Kylee Knight; and back row: Sloane Montgomery, Emoree' Dease, Cassie Goodloe, Aiden Broome, Daniel Lundy, Anderson Anton and Abbie Lacey.

Writing students comp. 10,000+ word challenge



Special to The Canton News
Courtney Warren's seventh grade creative writing class at Canton Academy recently participated in National Novel Writing Month by challenging themselves to write 10,000 words in a month during class hours. The students met their goal. Gaby Valdes exceeded her goal and wrote her entire manuscript in Spanish. Pictured (l to r) are: Gaby Valdes, Delta Davidson, Ashlyn Thompson, Anna Claire Mabry, Riley Lambert, Finley Ezell, Summer Hederman, Alexis Lewis and Hannah Dill.

Canton Parks and Recreation Youth Basketball Registration Open

Divisions for ages 5-16

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Huey L. Porter Middle School given honor



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National Beta recently announced Huey L. Porter Middle School in Canton as a 2018-2019 National School of Distinction. The award is an honor for Beta Chapters striving towards academic achievement, exemplary character, demonstrated leadership and service to others. With an ongoing

quest to instill these qualities in more students, the National Beta School of Distinction Award is designed to award those schools that show an increase in membership for the current school year.

Award recipients received a National Beta School of Distinction banner to display as a symbol of their accomplishment. In addition, National Beta School of

Distinction recipients will be publicized at the 2019 National Beta Convention in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, this June.

"This prestigious honor is a true indication of Huey L. Porter's dedication to academic excellence, leadership development and commitment to celebrating their students' achievements," said National Beta's Chief Executive Of-

ficer Bobby Hart.

National Beta is the largest independent, non-profit, educational youth organization in America. Since its beginnings in 1934, National Beta has been committed to providing students with a positive experience in a supportive manner in grades four through twelve. For more information about National Beta, visit betaclub.org.

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Canton's police officer, Overby, receives award



Special to The Canton News

Canton Rotary President David Overby recently presented an "Officer of the Quarter" certificate, along with a gift, to Canton police officer Richard Cate (right) to honor his service to the Canton Police Department. Officer Cate patrols on the evening shift and works to assist those in the community. Canton Police Chief Otha Brown (left) received an "Officer of the Quarter" plaque.

Canton Music Study Club recognized five musicians



Special to The Canton News

The Canton Music Study Club (CMSC) recognized five students as Musicians of the Month for November 2018. Pictured (l to r) are: Kaho Suzuki, Taketo Suzuki, Julia Kim, Kenny Suzuki and Adrianna Mahone. They are all students of Tammy Luke, Audra J. Hristove and Princess Thompson.

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McCoy lights up square

Special to The Canton News

The Canton Festival of Lights has just concluded its thirty-first year. What began in 1987, a project of the Canton Redevelopment Authority, as a blow-up snowman in the gazebo, has certainly grown. The focal point in the southeast corner of the square is a beautiful tree in the same gazebo where the snowman stood that first year.

Canton Municipal Utilities (CMU) is responsible for the lights of the square, and employee Eric McCoy has been the talent behind the gazebo tree for the past five years. McCoy and co-workers Sammy Brown, Jermond Green, Toby Lacey and Clyde Brown work on and off for a month to accomplish the finished product, because their normal jobs must go on while constructing the tree. McCoy's process begins with finding a tree, stripping away the leaves and painting the branches.



Special to The Canton News
Pictured (l to r) are, front: Eric McCoy; and back: Sammie Brown and Jermond Green. Not pictured: Toby Lacey and Clyde Brown.



Additional branches are added to make it perfectly balanced. McCoy likens his process for crafting the gazebo tree to putting together a puzzle and says that he keeps adding branches until it looks picture-perfect. The desired tree is then assembled using screws and wire. The 2018 tree required ten gallons of paint and was wrapped with 14,400 lights! This enchanted tree has become so popular over the years as a backdrop for popping the question of marriage that it is now referred to as the "Engagement Tree."

McCoy has recently completed an Applied Business Degree from Antonelli College and plans to continue his studies at Belhaven in January. Local officials agree that he has certainly earned a place among the creative fabric that has set Canton apart for many years with his dedication to doing a good job, in addition to the gazebo tree.

CA shoots for the win

By Jack Ferguson

Canton Academy's clay shooting team had their first tournament on November 2.

Their success qualified the team for the state shoot in December in Sardis, Mississippi.

The weather was great with a slight breeze and bright blue bird skies, allowing athletes almost perfect conditions.

One of the biggest CA victories of the shoot was Noah Smith, a sophomore, who shot a 94 out of 100, which was the HOA, or Highest Overall Score.

"While the team didn't shoot our full potential, I think we did very well in the tournament. I also think we are going to exceed our expectations in the next shoot," said Smith.

Canton Academy benefited, with all squads advancing to the next shoot.

"We have to continue to practice. Only fifty shooters can advance to the state shoot," said Smith.

The squads included seniors

Wes Patrick, Andrew Galloway, Braden Oberle, Will Smith and Joseph Price; junior Lane Martin; sophomores Noah Smith, Case Lambert and Jack Ferguson; freshmen Holden Chandler, Taylor Pratt, Aaron Lindsey and Barnes Wadford; and eighth

graders grade Samuel Wadford, Jerry Baker and Daniel Spivey.

"This year is going to turn out good for the shooting team, because it has many good shooters that are improving the team. Next year will be even better, with hopefully some new shooters; and there will be

many experienced shooters still on the team," said Smith.

Participating teams were Tri County Academy, Pillow Academy, Central Hinds Academy, East Rankin Academy, Winona Academy and Canton Academy.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Jack Ferguson is a student at Canton Academy and a staff writer for the school's journalism publication, the Panther Post.



Special to The Canton News
Sophomore Noah Smith shoots for the Canton Academy clay shooting team.

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Bouldin honored for his transportation excellence



Special to The Canton News

The Mississippi Public Transit Association recently recognized Rickey Bouldin of Canton as the Bus Operator of the Year. Bouldin works with the Madison County Citizens Services Agency (MCCSA) to provide transportation for the citizens of Madison County. Affectionally known as "Big Rick," Bouldin was recognized for over thirty-two years of outstanding performance, going over and beyond the call of duty to provide safe, reliable, and efficient transportation services. Pictured (l to r) are MCCSA staff Gwendolyn C. Smith, HR/fiscal director; Dr. Mary Sims-Johnson, executive director; Rickey Bouldin, transit support specialist/operator; and April L. Nash, program manager.

Denton lauded by CPSD for her dedicated service



Special to The Canton News

The Canton Public School District recently honored Sherry Denton (left) with a Dedicated Service Award. Superintendent Dwight Luckett, Sr. (right) presented the award. Luckett says the award is for grateful appreciation and distinguished recognition of Denton's hard work, devotion and commitment to volunteering over the years in the Canton Public School District. He thanked her for giving of her time and for always going above and beyond.

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MCBL&F announces Board of Directors and officers



Special to The Canton News

The Madison County Business League and Foundation (MCBL&F) recently announced the 2018-19 Board of Directors and officers. Pictured (l to r) are, front row: Samantha Lofton, Barnett's Body Shops; Vice Chairman Barney Daly, Trustmark; Chairman Cecil Harper, Harper Rains Knight & Company; Secretary-Treasurer Renee Rice, BankFirst; and Immediate Past Chairman Phil Buffington, Adams and Reese; and back row: Doug Hederman, Brunini; Bill Senter, Atmos Energy; Doug Jones, Madison County Economic Development Authority (MCEDA) Appointee; Wesley Goings, C Spire; Johnny Brunini, Butler Snow; Brad Gatlin, BankPlus; Rodney Grogan, MMC Materials, Inc.; and Jan Collins, MCBL&F Executive Director. Not pictured are Sam Scott, St. Dominic Health Services; MCEDA Appointee Ed Gardner, Entergy MS; and MCEDA Appointee Dwight Luckett, Canton Public Schools.

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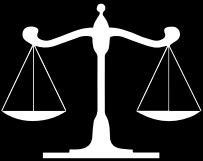
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Canton District Reading Fair winners announced



Special to The Canton News

The Canton Public School District recently named its District Reading Fair winners. First Place winners will advance to the State Reading Fair, which will be held February 1. Participants say they look forward to sharing their love for reading while competing for top honors. First place winners include (l to r), front row: Alexandria Luckett; John Woodard, Jr.; Jeremy Harris, Jr.; Jakayla Washington; Monterious Coleman; Arnage Golston and Angel Williams; and back row: Pricilla Jeffries, Family First Tally Judge; Tyarian Carson; Aureilla Nash; A'miyah Matlock; Makayla Smoots; Ashunti Johnson; Dwight Luckett Jr.; and Shoney Harris, District Reading Fair Coordinator. Not pictured are Reading Fair judges Rene' Johnson, Dr. Kala McCullouch and Dawn Collins.




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SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:30 A.M.



Seniors join ACT 25+ Club



Special to The Canton News

Canton High School seniors Kelan Edmond and Jayla Colton were recently recognized for becoming members of the ACT 25 and Above Club. Edmond scored a 29 on the ACT. He is Canton High's Mr. Senior, a member of the Superintendent's Advisory Council, and a member of Jobs for Mississippi Graduates (JMG). Colton scored a 27 on the ACT. She is a Canton High cheerleader. Their banners hang in Canton High to celebrate their success and encourage other students. Edmond and Colton say they are working to score even higher as they prepare to take the ACT a few more times before they graduate.

MCNH receives blessing



Special to The Canton News

The staff at The Links and Greens of Madison County Apartment Community and Golf and Country Club wanted to reflect the meaning of the phrase "the reason for the season" by placing an Angel Tree in The Links' clubhouse, with gift requests from each of Madison County Nursing Home's ninety-five residents. The apartment staff, residents, neighboring business owners and many others rallied together to make sure that every resident had a gift to open on Christmas Day.

MCYL plans work program



Special to The Canton News

Members of the Madison County Business League and Foundation 2018-19 Youth Leadership Committee provide leadership skills training and plan the program of work for Career Day, Lifestyles Day and Government Day. The mission of the Madison County Youth Leadership (MCYL) program is to provide students with a deeper understanding of careers available in Madison County in an environment that develops their leadership skills and encourages graduates to take their knowledge and their experience into their community for the betterment of Madison County as a whole. Pictured (l to r) are, front row: Suzanne Sullivan, Belhaven University, and Amanda Fontaine, Families First of Mississippi; and back row: Pat McNulty, Ballew Wealth; Becky Morgan, Brown Bottling; Dr. Don Burnham, Holmes Community College; Rumeal Bell, Trustmark Bank; Jan Collins, Madison County Business League and Foundation; and Nathanael Pritt, Parkway Church.

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CMSC provides music

Special to The Canton News

The Canton Music Study Club (CMSC) recently hosted two community events for local residents. A Community Carol Sing was held on November 24 at the Henry/Har-gon Auditorium, inside the Madison County Library's Canton location. Members of the community were led by club members in singing Christmas carols and seasonal songs. Several club members accompanied the songs: Charlyne Jones, Jennifer Lariviere, Princess Thompson, Cindy Addison, Sarah Waters and Kathy Hammack alternated playing piano; hand chime accompanists were Patricia Breeland, Marian Durfey, and Zach Mitchell; Ellen

Mathews played the French horn, and Angela Teasley the flute.

The club also held an interactive Christmas party on December 4 for the residents of Season Assisted Living located on the campus of the Madison County Nursing Home. The residents enjoyed singing seasonal songs and learning to ring hand chime accompaniments. Club members leading the activities were Cindy Addison, Patricia Breeland, Marian Durfey, Cecil Fox, Jr., Charlyne Jones, Kathy Hammack, Jennifer Lariviere, Ann McKay, Ann Stubblefield and Angela Teasley. Residents and club members enjoyed a reception following the program. Hostesses for the evening were Patricia Breeland and Charlyne Jones.



Special to The Canton News

cont. from front page

Superintendent named

also available through online submission for parents and other stakeholder groups. In addition, the members of the Board were surveyed to determine the qualities the superintendent should possess. Results from all surveys were compiled by MSBA and provided to the Board members.

Following a review of the stakeholder feedback results, the Board members agreed on the criteria to be used for the interviewing process. The Board began interviewing in December.

Among the nineteen applicants were two superintendents, three assistant superintendents, four directors, five principals, one assistant principal, one teacher, and three consultants. Five of the applicants had a doctorate degree. Thirteen of the applicants were male, and six are female. Fifteen applicants were from Mississippi, two were from Louisiana, one was from Iowa, and one was from Michigan.

Each application was reviewed, analyzed, and evaluated accord-

ing to the established criteria, and references were checked. Applicants who had not previously been interviewed by the MSBA search team were interviewed in the MSBA office in Clinton or by telephone.

Reference letters for each applicant were received. Telephone calls and personal contacts were made to gain additional information about each applicant. A determination was also made as to whether each applicant met the qualifications to be a superintendent in Mississippi as defined in the Mississippi Code of 1972, 37-9-13, which went into effect on July 1, 2017.

A detailed report was made to the Canton Public School District Board on November 27 by Waldrop and Henderson.

The board hosted a public forum on December 17 and encouraged stakeholders to meet and ask the finalists questions, and, the following evening, announced Hannah as the new superintendent.



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Happy New Year

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CRA honors board members who are retiring



Photo by Lori Lycette

The Canton Redevelopment Authority (CRA) recently recognized their retiring board members with a reception and awards ceremony at the Canton Historic Train Depot and Museum. Many past and present members were in attendance. Pictured (l to r) are: retiring Commissioner James Parker, retiring Co-Chair Pauline Watkins, retiring Commissioner Martin Hegwood, Canton Mayor William Truly, Chairman Arthur Tate, Jr., CRA Director Dorothy Nelson, Co-Chairman Toby Lacey and Commissioner Curtis Thompson. Not pictured: retiring Chair Hurstine Wells, Commissioners John Brown and Yashika Estes.

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Jenny Wadford, Director of Admissions

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| - Canton Discount Drugs | - Season Assisted Living | - Chinese Dragon's Garden |
| - Penn's Fish House | - Canton Villa Apartments | - The Links |
| - Picantes Mexican Restaurant | - Big Daddy | - Sante Fe Grill |
| - Family Dollar | - Mosby's | - El Sombrero |
| - Canton Plaza | - Wok 2 Go | - China Buffet |
| - Phillips Lumber | - Bumpers | - Canton Donuts |
| - Seafood King | - Penn's To Go | - Marlos |
| - Legends on the Square | - Canton Chamber | |
| - Canton Manor | - Mississippi Discount | |

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- Econolodge
- Relax Value Inn
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- Canton Tourism

Convenient Locations in Canton (Read while you wait):

- | | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| - Superior Tire | - Canton Community Dental Clinic | - Elite Physical Therapy |
| - Canton Coin Laundry | - Funtime Coin Laundry | - Dasjeva |
| - Mallory Women's Health Clinic | - Valvoline | - Renasant Bank |
| - MEA | - Professional Eye Associates | - Madison County Tax Collector |
| - Goodloe Dental | - Trustmark | - WIC Office |
| - Davita Dialysis | - Dr. Lampkin's Office | - Wasco Town Laundry |
| - Manning Tire | - Foot & Surgery Clinic | - Madison Spec. Clinic |
| - Merit Health Medical Office | - Region 8 Mental Health Center | - Wash Depot Laundry |
| - City Hall | - Family Financial | - MH Madison Hospital |
| - Bank Plus on the Square | - Health Department | - Hicks Gynecology |
| - County office & Chancery Clerk | - Families First | - Source of MS |
| - Smile Builders | - Fresenius Medical Care | - Canton Post Office |
| - Peace Street Coin Laundry | - Tatum Medical Clinic | - Madison Canton Medical Clinic |
| - Dental Solution (Ruth Morgan) | - Sunshine Clinic | - CMU |
| - GA Carmichael Family Clinic | - Canton Healthplex | |

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- Capitol Body Shop

FLORA

- Livingston Mercantile
- Los Molcajetes
- Sullivans Grocery
- Railroad Pizza (Flora)
- Flora Post Office

Human trafficking to be top priority in 2019

By Speaker of the House Philip Gunn

Human trafficking was brought to my attention last year while attending a conference. I always assumed this was a problem other states experienced, not Mississippi. I did not fully understand that this issue takes place all around us; and, like many of you, I was unclear on the definition of human trafficking and what it actually encompasses. For that



Mississippi Speaker of the House Philip Gunn

Special to The Canton News

reason, I have made addressing human trafficking in Mississippi a top priority for the 2019 legislative session.

In October, we hosted a one-day conference in Jackson on the issue and brought in experts from around the country. Human trafficking is compelling a person to do any type of work against their will. This includes any form of labor with a commercial exchange accompanied by some type of force, fraud or coercion.

Human trafficking is a \$150 billion a year industry in our coun-

try. Globally, approximately 24.9 million people are enslaved. It is essentially free labor. With trafficking, unlike drugs, you can sell a product (human) repeatedly. If we can remove the profit from this industry, we can perhaps disincentivize traffickers and save lives.

Mississippi has strong laws and penalties on its books regarding human trafficking and has a B ranking overall, making it among the top fifteen states with the strongest laws addressing child sex trafficking. We want to

do everything we can to get Mississippi to an A rating like our neighboring states of Louisiana, Tennessee and Alabama.

My goal this session is to increase awareness about all forms of human trafficking—labor and sex trafficking. We can achieve this in several different ways. We must strengthen our agencies to empower survivors and treat them with dignity. We must have consistent identifying measures (among law enforcement, educators, etc.) and responses to exploitation situations. We must remove barriers to identification—exploitation is not inevitable.

The national human trafficking hotline number is 888-373-7888.



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