



THE CANTON NEWS

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P.O. Box 1163, Canton, MS 39046

Good News You Can Use • September 6, 2018 • Vol. 4, No. 9 • Canton, Mississippi

Canton celebrates opening of two new schools

By Jo Anderson

Canton kindergartners through fifth graders are beginning the school year in two new, state-of-the-art elementary schools.

Late last month, City leaders, parents, children and the Canton community celebrated the opening of a new Canton Elementary School as well as a new McNeal Elementary School.

The new schools, funded by a \$33 million bond issue, which was voted by the community in 2015, replace the old buildings. The bond issue also allowed the district to make upgrades in the areas of technology, security and accessibility.

McNeal Elementary, originally named Cordelia Alfred McNeal El-



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ementary was completed sixty-six years ago on October 19, 1952, and the original Canton Elementary School was built in 1959.

The original McNeal Elementary building was demolished and as of press time, the district has not advised *The Canton News* of the plan

for the Canton Elementary buildings. Construction of the new facilities began with a groundbreaking ceremony on January 28, 2016, and the buildings were completed in August, 2018.

Both new schools boast twenty-first century learning environ-

ments with the capacity to hold approximately six hundred students each. Both schools are centered around a secure courtyard. The schools have interior physical education (P.E.) rooms with a stage, cafeterias that can open to the P.E.

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Blues artist's final resting place to be honored

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In 1978, Mississippi folklorists Worth Long and Paula Tadlock convinced Library of Congress folklorist Alan Lomax and cinematographer John Bishop to come to Mississippi and film a documentary about the state's most musical precious heritage, the blues. With the assistance of Mississippi Educational Television, PBS broadcast *The Land Where the Blues Began* the following year, and the documentary went on to win numerous awards, solidifying its place in the annals of Mississippi blues history.

One of the more remarkable performances in the film took place near Canton, Mississippi, specifically on the front porch of Clyde Maxwell in the small hamlet of Camden. On one September evening, an unknown bluesman named Mr. Belton Sutherland—armed



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with his acoustic Kay guitar—took a seat in front of the camera and claimed his rightful place among

the state's finest blues artists. According to filmmaker John Bishop, "We had never heard of him be-

fore, and never heard of him after, but his rough guitar and expectorated lyrics...is one of the most emotional moments in the film *The Land Where the Blues Began*.

Sutherland only appears for a minute in the original film, and he vanishes from the screen. He never recorded an album. He never played the music circuit. He all but disappeared, taking his phenomenal talent out of the public memory for decades.

In 2010, with the rise of the internet, the Association for Cultural Equity decided to release several performances of Belton Sutherland on video-streaming site Youtube. The first clip of his "Blues #2" exploded in popularity and received an estimated 1.5 million views. He became famous and known all over the world as one of the most mysterious and honest blues musi-

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Harris wins Blitz 16 Player of the Week from BankPlus



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Canton High Running Back Camerone Harris recently received the top votes to be selected as the week one BankPlus/Blitz 16 Player of the Week. At the time of his selection, Harris had 20 rushes, 134 yards, and 4 touchdowns in Canton High's 48-16 win over Hazlehurst. Pictured (l to r) are: Brad Gatlin, Madison County BankPlus President, Harris, Josh Jackson, WAPT Channel 16 Sports Reporter and Simon Collier, Assistant Vice President, Canton branch, BankPlus.

CPSD receives grant from Madison Co. Community Trust



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The Madison County Community Trust (MCCT) awarded a grant to Canton Public Schools (CPS) to train teachers in financial literacy curriculum that will be incorporated into the fall classes. The program is facilitated by the MS Council on Economic Education (MCEE). Pictured (l to r): Selena Swartzfager, president of MCEE; Dr. Pamela Self, principal of Canton High School; Barney Daly, MCCT Chairman; Dwight Luckett, interim supt. CPS; Victoria Johnson, executive director of CPS secondary education; and Jan Collins, executive director of the Madison County Business League & Foundation.

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Publisher

Clay Mansell

ClayMansell@CantonNews.net

Managing Editor

Jo Anderson

601-667-4667 x5

News@CantonNews.net

Sales Representatives

Leon Whitehead

601-667-4667 X3

Susalyn Bennett

601-667-4667 X4

Graphic Designer / Layout

Megan Smith

Designer@CantonNews.net

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For submission information, email
news@cantonnews.net

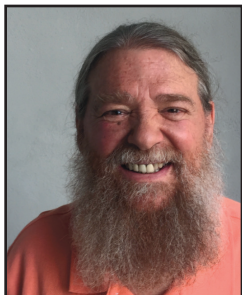
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Know Your Neighbor: Jud Meaders

By Guest Columnist Jim Ritchie



Special to The Canton News

Some folks are certain from an early age what their life's calling will be and manage to attain their goal. This month's neighbor is an example of that certainty and attainment, but the zigs and zags and side trails he experienced to accomplish his calling make for an interesting journey.

Calvin Judson Meaders, Jr. hails from Hickory, Mississippi, where he finished high school and began his preparation for the ministry, which had always been his aspiration. He attended Clarke Memorial College, a Baptist junior college, for two years as a ministerial student and then graduated from Mississippi College, where he majored in Bible and theology. He pastored at Mount Nelson Baptist Church in Neshoba County for a couple of years, then enrolled in the master's program at Mississippi College where he taught freshman English as a graduate assistant. Then, just because he felt like he needed to do it, he enlisted in the U.S. Army. After boot camp at Fort Polk in Louisiana, he was assigned to the German language school at Defense Language Institute in Monterey, California, for eight months, during which time he became proficient in German. This proficiency in German was necessary for his next assignment, which was interrogator training at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, with the Military Intelligence after which he was sent to Fulda, West Germany. Here he, in collaboration with the German Federal Border Police, interviewed people who had braved the wall

and escaped from East Germany, debriefing them on subjects such as information about East German or Russian military units or economic conditions in East Germany. Just your normal, everyday job for a preacher from Hickory, Mississippi.

After his active duty tour, he went back to Hickory and cut pulpwood for six months but decided that this type of work did not contribute to his life's calling. He then joined his brother Steve, and they worked on a pipeline survey crew surveying pipelines from Beaumont, Texas, to Tulsa, Oklahoma. It was back to Hickory after a year of surveying to try his hand as a car salesman. That job lasted for four months (but he did sell six cars). After his auto sales stint, he was employed by the Mississippi Employment Security Commission in Meridian as an interviewer, then decided to earn his Master of Divinity degree at the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. It was here that he met and married Miss Nancy Dixon, who was in the successful process of obtaining her Master of Religious Education degree from NOBTS. With the master's degrees in hand, they headed back to Hickory, and Jud worked at the East Mississippi State Hospital, first as an orderly, then as a chaplain in their pastoral counseling program. He moved on to a private psychiatric hospital, where he worked as both an adolescent and adult counselor. Two very important events occurred during this time. Their son, C.J., was born, and Jud left the Baptist Church to become an Episcopalian. The change to his new denomination dictated that in order to continue to serve the Lord in the ministry, he would be required to attend The University of the South at Sewanee for a

year of Anglican studies. When he completed this requirement, he was ordained a Deacon, and was sent to The Chapel of the Cross in Rolling Fork, Mississippi, as Deacon in Charge. He was ordained a priest in 1989 and served as Rector in Rolling Fork until he was called to Grace Church in Canton in 1995. He served as Rector at Grace Church until he retired in 2012. Retirement, however, in Jud's case is only a term and not a condition. He still serves as supply priest to Grace Church in Carrollton, St. Mary's Church in Lexington and Church of the Redeemer in Greenville, where he holds services three or four times every month. He also has formed an LLC, Academy Street Studio, which operates as his business of shooting wonderful photographs. His works are on display all over the state and his reputation as a truly gifted photographer is growing rapidly.

What's next? After a career as varied as his has been, from pulpwood to military intelligence to orderly to car sales to counseling to preacher to priest to surveyor to photographer, one might not be inclined to wager on what the next adventure will be. And did I mention that he and Nancy also find time to keep up with eight grandchildren? Stay tuned.

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

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Higbee-Noble



Mr. and Mrs. John Noble are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter, Lacey Elizabeth, to Christopher Chase Higbee, son of Mr. William Higbee and Mrs. Cindy Beasley. Miss Noble is the granddaughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Gus Noble and the late Mr. and Mrs. Dwight Follin. Mr Higbee is the grandson of Mr. and Mrs. William Higbee, Sr. and Mrs. Barbara Daniel and

the late James Daniel.

Miss Noble is a 2006 graduate of Canton Academy. After graduation from high school she attended Holmes Community College and the University of Mississippi. Mr. Higbee is a 2003 graduate of Madison Central High School. Upon graduation from high school he attended the University of Mississippi.

Miss Noble and Mr. Higbee are both employed at Professional Eyecare Associates.

The couple will exchange vows at Sacred Heart Catholic Church on November 10, at 3:30 pm.

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SnapShot Day captures more than just an image

By Tonja Johnson

What is it like for a Mississippi Library in One Day? Henry Ward said, “The library is not a luxury but a necessity”, and the Snapshot Day statistics show just that. *Snap-shot Day: A Day in the Life of Mississippi Libraries* helped libraries capture important elements, fundamentals, and building blocks offered in resources and services to patrons in one day. The Madison County Library System as a whole had 1,422 people walk through their doors, 1,163 books, movies, and other items borrowed from the library, 232 computers were used, 484 questions were answered, and seven programs were offered. That is 3,308 lives influenced or affected positively by the library system in just one day, not to mention the two or three thousand reached daily through our social media sites. Where else would those three thousand people a day go for free internet access, sensory programs, health education programs, research databases, job searches, job application help, and more?

The Paws to Read kick-off party was just one of the many astound-

ing programs we had with 131 participants. We are very thankful to Sam’s Club for providing the cake. There is nothing shabby about these three adorable therapy dogs; Meadow our 3-legged friend, Chance our Goldendoodle friend, and Luke our Golden Retriever friend who enjoyed meeting the parents and kids alike. There are already 32 families signed up on the interest sheet to be involved in the program and we expect more to be involved. Reading to

dogs in a fun, relaxed atmosphere actually improves reading skills. We hope this fall will encourage many children to read more! If you are interested, please call the Madison Library at (601) 856-2749.

Slime is the next best thing to YouTube, right? Well, the Flora Library shook or mixed it up we must say on Snapshot Day by making slime with their children. During this

program, we talked about recipes, measurements, and science. After reviewing our primary colors, we decided to add a few drops of food coloring to make batches of blue, red, and purple! At the end of the program, the kids took home their creation via Ziploc bags. The kids

and their parents enjoyed a great hands-on learning experiment.

The North Madison County Excel by 5 annual School Readiness/Back to School Health Fair

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was held on Friday, August 3, 2018 in Canton which was also Snapshot Day. Area businesses were invited to collaborate with the coalition in this important event designed to create awareness of services and programs available to children and families throughout North Madison County. It was our privilege to be able to participate in this activity by bringing a table with

free school supplies and activities for the kids to learn how to stay active.

Snapshot Day could not possibly capture all a library does for its community, but we hope that we shed a shimmer of light on the unlimited potential and value your library system has. Our library system is dedicated to supporting knowledge, community and imagination to build the skills for a better future. It reminds us of that MasterCard commercial: building maintenance cost: \$25,000, book and materials collection cost: \$300,000, a life changed: PRICE-LESS! You cannot put a price tag on the importance of libraries.

“Each day our libraries engage our patrons in literacy and learning by providing a safe place for them to learn, work and create, leaving a positive impact on our communities.” Tonja Johnson – Director

EDITOR’S NOTE: Tonja Jackson is the director of Administration for the Madison County Library System. For more information on the Madison County Library System, call 601-859-7733.

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Sprucing up local image will upgrade visitor experience

By Guest Columnist Joy Foy



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Recently, my husband and I drove to see our son and his family in Dayton, Wyoming, while making a big loop through nine different states, not counting Mississippi. Even though we took the back roads, they all seemed to be in excellent condition, but we did see miles and miles that were under repair. Many of the roads had very low traffic volumes, and most had speed limits of 75 to 85 miles per hour, but all were well maintained.

The bridges in Arkansas each had an outline of the state etched into the stone, while the windmills in Kansas seemed to go on forever. The Sandhills of Nebraska were very unexpected, there was a Starkville, Colorado, and it was silage time (storing food in silos for the cows) in Texas. Each state was so different, and we enjoyed each for its uniqueness. However,

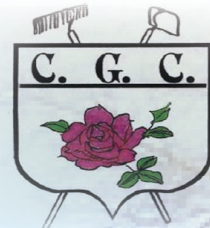
the one thing that caught our attention more than anything, was the cleanliness of these other states' roadways.

A first-time visitor to Canton might notice our big industrial parks and all the Nissan businesses. They may admire our tree lined streets leading into town, which contains the historic Canton Square, as well as the beautiful homes, many framed by Magnolias and Crepe Myrtles. Maybe it would be the school building projects or the Canton Multipurpose Center that is noticed. Maybe they are in town for the flea market, the hot air balloon races, a concert, or a ballgame. Whatever brings people to Canton, or whatever they notice, their experience could be upgraded if our city was neater and cleaner. I am delighted to see that Mayor William Truly and his staff are working diligently to spruce things up. Hopefully, you have noticed the drainage ditches behind Culinary Cowboy are being cleared, as well as at the north entrance into town. They have also killed the grass that was growing at the intersection of Highways 43 and 16 and also in some of the sidewalks

around town. Kathy Hammack of the Keep Canton Beautiful Committee reported new mulch being placed around City Hall. The Lions Club has recently adopted the library as a service project and has plans to enhance and maintain the work that others have begun in front of the library and on the side facing Peace Street. The Keep Canton Beautiful committee is challenging property owners in Canton to compete for the "Canton Beautiful Business Award." According to many studies, litter is the first sign of social decay. Mr. Leland Speed, previous Director of Mississippi Development Authority, often said that dealing with minor crimes like litter and graffiti, in addition to keeping the grass cut, would help reduce larger crimes and improve public safety. Canton has several good partners working towards becoming a neater, well-groomed city including a city recycling program, a Keep Canton Beautiful program, a Garden Club, a Chamber and Main Street, and many merchants serving as volunteers to beautify and pick trash up in their area. This year marks the twentieth anniversary

of the Keep America Beautiful Great American Cleanup program. I sincerely hope that more of us will be inspired to support Mayor Truly in his efforts to make a positive impact on our beloved town. If residents of other states can do their part to help "Keep America Beautiful," then we can certainly work together to ensure that Canton, Mississippi, ranks very high among the Great American Cleanup 2018 winners. If you are interested in getting involved, contact Canton Tourism at 601-859-1307 for information on any of these ongoing programs. Keep Canton Beautiful has also suggested that if you see something that needs to be cleaned up, call Public Works at 601-859-3245. Let's all do more in 2018 to show that we love Canton!

EDITOR'S NOTE: Joy Foy is married to James Foy and has recently retired from the Mississippi Development Authority where she was Director of Asset Development. Foy is an active volunteer in the Canton community.



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Blues artist's final resting place to be honored

cians ever to be captured on film. Sutherland, however, would never know of his eventual fame or that his music lives on, even to this day.

Belton Sutherland passed away on October 10, 1983, and he was buried in the St. John Missionary Baptist Church cemetery off of Mt. Pilgrim Road with only a metal place-holder to mark his final resting place. And for over 35 years, it has remained undisturbed, unchanged and undiscovered until historian T. DeWayne Moore, of the Mt. Zion Memorial Fund, asked a local transplant to Canton named Joe Austin to visit the cemetery.

Since 2010, Moore has been at the sharp end of a mission to find, memorialize, and bring recognition to the musical heritage of African Americans in Mississippi. And through his tireless efforts and persistent social media updates he captured the attention and interest of Austin. A previous search through the cemetery had failed to locate the grave of Sutherland. But in April 2017, on



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an overcast and rainy day that was spent methodically checking each grave in the cemetery, Austin located the grave of this epic blues artist beside the graves of his family members.

Thanks to the contributions of

dozens of supporters, the Mt. Zion Memorial Fund plans to install a memorial headstone on his grave on Saturday, September 22, 2018, at 4:30 p.m. at the St. John's Missionary Church Cemetery. The pastor of the church, members of

the blues artists' extended family, and a host of dignitaries, researchers, and blues enthusiasts will all hopefully be in attendance at the memorial service. The Mt. Zion Memorial Fund would like to extend an invitation to all readers of the *Canton News* to attend this special event honoring one of Madison County's long-observed but now world-famous sons and maybe learn a little more about preserving Mississippi's musical heritage. The musical and special guests taking part in the ceremony will make it quite an event to witness, too.

After the ceremony, the public is invited to the Legends of Mississippi Sports Bar on the Canton Square for the reception, which will feature music, fellowship, and refreshments.

More information can be found at the MZMF website:

www.mtzionmemorialfund.org or by contacting DeWayne Moore, Director at: tmoriver@gmail.com by calling Joe Austin at 662-701-8636.

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Canton's resident honored as doctor of distinction

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Dr. LaToya Mason-Bolden recently graduated from the 2018 Physician Leadership Academy and was recognized by the Mississippi State Medical Association as a Doctor of Distinction. Dr. Mason-Bolden underwent an in-depth, nine-month long program which provides training in core aptitudes, prepares physicians to excel as future leaders in their own practices, in organized medicine, and in the public policy arena. Comprehensive sessions included training in conflict resolution, contract negotiation, media and communication skills, and collaboration.

By taking on leadership responsibilities, Dr. Mason-Bolden believes in embracing the ever-expanding role of the physician, not retreating from it. She sees it as the legacy given to her by her mother, who worked for thirty-six years as a teacher and mentor.

"It has always been an inherent desire of mine to pursue a career that affords me opportunities to share my knowledge gained while positively impacting the lives of



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Pictured are William Grantham, MD past President of the Mississippi State Medical Association presenting the award to LaToya Mason-Bolden, MD.

others," Dr. Mason-Bolden said. "Etymologically speaking, the word 'doctor' means 'to teach' but the role of a doctor does not terminate there."

As a practicing physician for over twelve years, and now an Associate Professor of Anesthesiology and Director of Obstetric Education at the University of Mississippi Medical Center, Dr. Mason-Bolden has opportunities to influence medical students and resident physicians while managing her profession and conducting

research. It's a busy life, but she wouldn't have it any other way.

"I regularly help educate physicians-in-training, thereby directly impacting the perpetuation of quality anesthetic care in the state of Mississippi," she said. "I have edited a major textbook of obstetric anesthesia and written several articles in peer-reviewed journals. I also have played various roles on a myriad of clinical investigations."

While owning her role as a physician-teacher-educator-mentor,

Dr. Mason-Bolden is also fully aware of how the physician's role is ever expanding. Rather than shy away from this trend, she is dedicated to keeping current.

"In this era of modern day medicine, the role of the physician must also encompass business concepts, given that healthcare reform and improved access to healthcare are forefront in the minds of many," Dr. Mason-Bolden said. "More than ever, the physician must be cognizant of both best medical practices as well as wise business and practice management decisions as our nation struggles to navigate the economics of health care. For these reasons, I am proud to be a graduate of the academy."

By placing no limits on herself, Dr. Mason-Bolden hopes to continue to grow as a physician and an educator, as well as a servant leader. A participant in several community organizations, she and her husband, State Farm Agent and former Canton Mayor Arnel Bolden, and daughter Ari-Elle Grace are members of Canton United Methodist Church, where she is the pianist.

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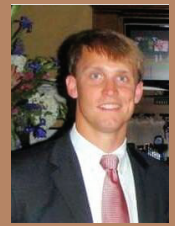
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RIBBON Cutting



Dan and Michelle Myers are the owners, and this is their seventh store. The Canton Chamber of Commerce recently held a ribbon cutting ceremony on August 16, for the newly renovated Save A Lot grocery store. During the grand opening celebration, Save A Lot officials offered \$20.00 coupons to the first 100 shoppers of the morning. The store also gave away free drinks and food to the community and city leaders and held a drawing for a grand prize of a 55" TV. Save A Lot is located at 1050 E. Peace St, and is open from 7:00 am to 9:00 pm daily.

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MS National Guard announces Free Tuition Program

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Mississippi State University and the Mississippi National Guard announced a new program recently that will ensure free tuition for Mississippi National Guard service members enrolled full-time at MSU.

MSU President Mark E. Keenum and Maj. Gen. Janson D. “Durr” Boyles, Adjutant General of Mississippi, both signed a memorandum of agreement establishing the Bulldog Free Tuition program during a ceremony at MSU’s G.V. “Sonny” Montgomery Center for America’s Veterans at Nusz Hall. The Bulldog Free Tuition Program builds on current National Guard education benefits to create a unique opportunity for eligible Mississippi Air and Army National Guard service members.

“Readiness is our force’s top priority and this tuition program will help to attract personnel who will staff our future state and federal missions,” Boyles said. “The students receiving this tuition benefit will contribute tremendously towards our preparedness and be among those ready to answer the



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call during state emergencies and overseas contingency operations.”

“We have a long, proud history as one of the nation’s most military-friendly college campuses,” Keenum said. “Among our alumni are the late U.S. Sen. John C. Stennis, father of the modern nuclear Navy, and the late U.S. Rep. G.V. “Sonny” Montgomery, author of the modern G.I. Bill. This innovative tuition program we launch today with the Mississippi National Guard continues MSU’s pro-soldier legacy and directly invests in those brave, bright men and women who serve and protect our great nation.”

Over 12,000 service members are in the Mississippi Army and Air National Guard’s ranks. For

the Guard, higher education is a critical component of efforts to improve service members’ ability to solve complex problems at home and abroad. While the National Guard has a beneficial tuition program for eligible service members at all Mississippi colleges and universities, MSU support through the Bulldog Free Tuition program will make MSU the only state university where Mississippi National Guard soldiers can attend college without paying tuition.

To be eligible for the Bulldog Free Tuition program, service members must be full-time undergraduate students, in good standing with their unit and cannot be within a year of their expiration of term of service.

Through its Montgomery Center for America’s Veterans and university faculty and staff, MSU supports National Guard service members as they navigate classes, basic training, drill and deployments. Approximately 650 U.S. Armed Forces veterans and service members attend MSU, a population that increases to more than 2,600 when including dependents.

MSU is nationally recognized for its support of veterans, service members and their dependents. In 2015, MSU was designated as a “Purple Heart University” by the Military Order of the Purple Heart for its support of the military community. For more on MSU’s services available to veterans, service members and their dependents, visit www.veterans.msstate.edu.

The Mississippi National Guard is a relevant and ready force that stands ready to deploy for any contingency in Mississippi and overseas. Since 9/11, the force has one Silver Star recipient and approximately 1,400 Bronze Stars have been awarded to its Soldiers and Airmen. For more information, contact Col. Rodney Harris at 601-313-6215.

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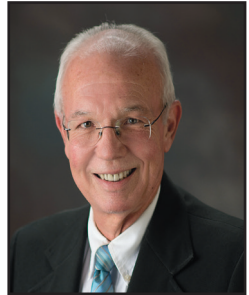
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McKinley announces run for Circuit Court Judge

By Bruce McKinley

Madison County Justice Court Judge, Bruce McKinley, announces his candidacy for Circuit Court



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Judge for Madison and Rankin Counties. Judge McKinley has served as Justice Court Judge since 2011, being unopposed in 2015.

Judge McKinley has presided over thousands of civil and criminal cases, including pre-indictment felony cases. As a practicing attorney for thirty-seven years, McKinley has represented clients across the state in Federal, Circuit, Chancery, Justice and Appellate Courts. McKinley is former General Counsel and Hearing Examiner for the Mississippi Public Service Commission and is a Financial Industry Regulatory Authority Arbitrator. For thirteen years, Judge McKinley has served on the National Asso-

ciation of Regulatory Commissioners' staff sub-committee on law and is a past president of The National Regulatory Attorneys Conference.

Judge McKinley is a graduate of Millsaps College and the University of Mississippi School of Law. He is married to the former Melanie E. May, and is the father of five children and has one grandchild. The family is active in St. Columb's Episcopal Church, where MrKinley serves on the vestry.

Judge McKinley has served on the Board of Directors of the Central Mississippi Planning and Development District and on the Board of Directors of the Magnolia Speech School. He is a former Chairman of the Mississippi Dual Party Relay System Advisory Committee and is former Legal Advisor for the Jackson Jaycees.

Judge McKinley feels that his seven years service as a Judge, plus his thirty-seven years of diversified practice as an attorney, have uniquely prepared him to serve as Circuit Judge of Madison and Rankin Counties.

Merit Health Madison gets Beautiful Business Award



Photo by Jud Meaders

Merit Health Madison was recently honored with the inaugural Canton's Beautiful Business Award.

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Merit Health Madison, located on River Oaks Drive in Canton, was recently selected as the first winner of Canton's Beautiful Business Award. The award, voted on by volunteer members of Keep Canton Beautiful, the Canton Garden Club and Canton Tourism, is designed to recognize a business within the city limits of Canton that "goes the extra mile" for exterior beautification.

"Merit Health Madison is proud to receive this inaugural award from Keep Canton Beautiful," said Merit Health Madison CEO Brit Phelps. "As the only hospital in the county, conveniently located right here in Canton, we are happy to do our part in ensuring our community is aesthetically pleasing to our patients and their families. And, as always, remember we are close

by and ready to care for you and yours, should the need arise."

Members of the award committee presented Phelps with signage and a locally grown floral arrangement.

Merit Health Madison is a full-service facility that also includes emergency care services for everything from cuts and broken bones to life-threatening conditions such as heart attack or stroke.

Community members are encouraged to nominate businesses for the Beautiful Business Award. Forms for the next round of nominations are available at www.cantontourism.com. Any business in the city limits of Canton can be nominated, and the winner will be chosen based on criteria that include curb appeal, landscaping and façade. The committee will also take into consideration if there have been any recent upgrades to the business.

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KCB awarded with Community Improvement Grant

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Keep America Beautiful, the nation's iconic community improvement nonprofit organization, recently announced the organization is providing Keep Canton Beautiful with a \$10,000 grant as part of the 2018 Keep America Beautiful/Lowe's Community Partners Grant Program.

The 2018 Keep America Beautiful/Lowe's Community Partners Grant Program engages local volunteers, working alongside Lowe's Heroes volunteers, to take action on projects that focus on critical, local needs.

Keep Canton Beautiful's grant will help to build a natural outdoor learning area that can be utilized by schools, youth groups, churches, or just simply act as a relaxing place to read a book and enjoy the outdoors. This area will also include several raised garden beds, which will feature herbs, vegetables, pollinators, and cut flowers.

"I am beyond excited about this project and extremely grateful for companies like Lowe's and Keep America Beautiful, who make it a priority to give back in their communities. This grant will positively impact the entire City of Canton for generations to come," said Joy Dodson, the director of Keep Canton Beautiful.

In addition, Lowe's is supporting more than forty other Keep America Beautiful grant-funded community service projects in 2018 as well as Keep America Beautiful's Great American Cleanup. Since the partnership began in 2011, Lowe's has contributed nearly \$8 million, with more than 2,100 Lowe's Heroes volunteers helping Keep America Beautiful improve local communities.

"These targeted grant projects will provide significant benefits in many areas of the country,

both urban and rural, that often are neglected," said Keep America Beautiful President and CEO Helen Lowman. "Our network of affiliates has been particularly creative in using these grassroots grants to develop and deliver programs that embrace their community members, while transforming often neglected public spaces into beautiful places."

"The best way to keep up with this project and others is to like our Keep Canton Beautiful Facebook page," says Dodson, "Once all of the architectural plans are finalized for this area, we will certainly need volunteers to help us bring the vision to life! The City of Canton has already approved the land to be used and the location chosen will be easy to access from the historic Hollow and the Square. We hope this area will serve not only its literal intentions but possibly be a catalyst that encourages others in various ways."

"At Lowe's, we want to help people love where they live in the communities where our employ-

ees and customers live and work," said Julie Yenichek, Lowe's director of community relations. "Our commitment to community investment doesn't stop at charitable giving. We're proud of our Lowe's Heroes volunteer involvement and the difference they have made nationwide. Loving where you live extends beyond walls and fences, and we applaud Keep America Beautiful's vision."

Lowe's, a FORTUNE® 50 home improvement company, has a 60-year legacy of supporting the communities it serves through programs that focus on K-12 public education and community improvement projects. In the past decade, Lowe's and the Lowe's Charitable and Educational Foundation together have contributed nearly \$300 million to these efforts, and for more than two decades Lowe's Heroes volunteers have donated their time to make our communities better places to live. For the latest news, visit Newsroom.Lowe.com or follow

@LowesMedia on Twitter.

Keep America Beautiful, the nation's iconic community improvement nonprofit organization, inspires and educates people to take action every day to improve and beautify their community environment. Celebrating its 65th Anniversary in 2018, Keep America Beautiful strives to End Littering, Improve Recycling and Beautify America's Communities. Behavior change – steeped in education, research and behavioral science – is our cornerstone. We empower generations of community stewards to deliver measurable environmental, economic and social benefits. The organization is driven by more than 600 state and local affiliates, millions of volunteers, and the collaborative support of corporate partners, social and civic service organizations, academia, municipalities, elected officials, and individuals. Join us on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and YouTube. Donate and take action at kab.org.



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cont. from front page

Canton celebrates opening of two new schools

area for large events, participatory media centers with a high focus on technology, computer labs, and support spaces for special education, art and music.

The updated facilities also help improve safety, security and accessibility. Students say they

feel inspired to achieve as they prepare to compete globally for twenty-first century jobs, and district officials say that the new schools are an integral part of the district plan for “Elevating Minds and Empowering Possibilities.”



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Learn from others' legacies: Be the difference

By Guest Columnist Pastor Guy Odom, First Baptist Canton

Recently, I attended a funeral of a very special lady by the name of Alana Rushing Weston. I first met Alana and the Rushings at Morrison Heights Baptist Church in 1989. Alana was in high school at Clinton High School and was very active in the student ministry there. The youth minister at the time was Hal Kitchings, who is my long-time



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friend and mentor to this day. It was through Hal that he offered me the opportunity to serve in my very first official youth ministry position as the Student Ministry Apprentice. Through my years of working at Morrison Heights, I was able to develop a relationship with Alana and her family. Let me tell you, they are, "one of a kind," meaning they are, "very Godly" and some of the "greatest people I have ever met in ministry."

The wonderful lady, Alana, went home to be with the Lord on August 13, 2018 after a four year battle with breast cancer. She left behind a wonderful husband, Wade, and two children, Loni and Lucas. I would invite you to look

up her Facebook page to see what kind of legacy she leaves behind. I do not have enough words to write in this article, for it would take a whole page and then some. But, I share with you her last words before going home, "May these words capture all of our hearts to impact other's lives for the kingdom."

Her parting words before dozing off: "Watch your words and actions towards other people. Don't take your bad day out on others. People are fighting battles that are unseen. Your words can build or destroy. At the end of the day, you can be the difference between making someone feel special or making someone feel discarded. Be the dif-

ference in their life. Be the Light. You have no idea how dark their day might be."

Be the Difference; Be the Light.
- Pastor Guy

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

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