



# THE CANTON NEWS

Good News You Can Use • May 7, 2020 • Vol. 6, No. 5 • Canton, Mississippi

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

## Canton, MS is host city for another movie filming

By Lori Lycette

Yet another movie has been filmed in Canton, the film capital of Mississippi. *Jakob's Wife*, a co-production of AMP International and Mississippi-based Eyevox Entertainment, was recently filmed under-the-radar at several different locations within the city.

The story, a supernatural horror, follows a woman (Anne) in her late 50s who, after a chance encounter with "The Master," discovers a new sense of power, a change that comes with a heavy toll.

Lead actress and co-producer Barbara Crampton said of her character Anne, "She's a long-married pastor's wife who has a dutiful and moral sensibility about life, but feels she has missed out on some potential she may have squandered in her youth."

"The overall feeling in the village

was a perfect backdrop for my character of Anne. The people you encountered on the street always gave me a smile or said hello," said Crampton. "This was a cheerful place with a long history and still full of promise and goodness, even with the nearby town of Madison seemingly taking a large portion of the new growth in the area."

"I much preferred the old-world feel of Canton," added Crampton.

The film also stars Larry Fessenden (*Stake Land*), Bonnie Aarons (*The Nun*), Robert Ruisler (*Weird Science*), Sarah Lind (*Edgemont*), Mark Kelly (*Fear the Walking Dead*), Nyisha Bell, and Phil Brooks (*Girl On The Third Floor*).

Co-producer Joe Wicker said of his experience in Canton, "For a movie like ours, it's incredibly important to have community support. Fortunately for us, Canton



Barbara Crampton as Anne in Jakob's Wife

Photo by AMP/Ava Jazlyn

proved to be full of wonderful people who wanted to help bring the movie to life.

"Jana Dear (Canton Tourism) was

the first person I met in Canton, when I scouted back in early November of 2019. Canton's annual

cont. on page 3

## Canton cancels spring flea market amid COVID-19 concerns

Special to The Canton News

The Canton Flea Market, originally scheduled for May 14, has been canceled as a cautionary measure, in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic, Canton city and tourism officials recently announced.

"Out of an abundance of concern for the health and well-being of our citizens and all participants, we have made the hard decision to cancel the May flea market," Canton Mayor William Truly, Jr., said.

This spring's market would have been the 55th biannual Canton Flea Market. The event typically draws close to 1,000 arts, crafts, and food and beverage vendors, who pack Canton's historic Court-



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house Square and several blocks leading to the Old Jail. A crowd of about 30,000 to 40,000 shoppers flock to Canton each May to snap up one-of-a-kind arts, crafts and treats.

"We are sad that this event will not take place, but the health and safety of our community, our vendors and our tourists is our top priority," said Jana Dear, Canton Tourism executive director. "We look forward to a great event in October."

The fall Canton Flea Market is scheduled for October 8. The fall market is the larger of the two, averaging more than 1,100 vendors and upward of 50,000 to 60,000 shoppers each year.

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# MDOT projects proceed in central Mississippi

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Despite the ongoing pandemic, the Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT) continues progress on several infrastructure improvements on highways across central Mississippi, including Madison County.

A project to increase capacity on I-55 northbound in Madison County is nearing completion. The project will widen the existing I-55 bridge over the I-220 northbound to I-55 northbound ramp to provide for an additional lane. The ramps at the I-55 northbound to I-220 southbound and I-55 northbound to the Natchez Trace interchanges will be modified to incorporate the additional lane.



The project also includes milling and overlaying I-55 northbound lanes from County Line Road to the Natchez Trace, the west frontage road between Old Agency Road and Steed Road, the roundabout at Old Agency, the northeast loop from I-55 to Old Agency, the northwest loop from Old Agency to I-55 and the southwest ramp from Old Agency to I-55.

Base construction has been completed for the roadway widening and paving crews have placed all but the riding surface throughout the project. Remaining work includes placement of the riding surface, sign installation, final striping and smoothing efforts. Key Construc-

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*cont. on page 16*

# Canton High School senior commits to Southern Miss

*Special to The Canton News*

Canton High School (CHS) senior Jasmine Burns recently committed to attend the University of Southern Mississippi (USM) on a track scholarship. Burns has had many accomplishments at CHS.

In 2017, she became the fastest female 100m runner in Canton High School history and competed in the 5A State Championships in long jump and 100m. Her personal records were 100m at 12.42, 200m at 26.33

and long jump 17-0.

In 2018, Burns competed in the 5A State Championships in the 100m, 200m and long jump. Her personal records were: 100m at 12.25, 200m at 25.70 and long jump 17-1.75.

In 2019, she finished the regular season in second place in the 100m, 200m and long jump at the 5A State Championships and

remained number one in long jump at the 5A level. Her personal records are 100m at 12.05, 200m at 25.70 and long jump 17-9.



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**Volume 6, Issue 5**  
**Circulation 14,000**

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The Canton News is published on the first Thursday of each month in Canton, Mississippi.

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## Canton is host city for another movie filming

‘City of Lights’ celebration was around the corner, and Jana was hard at work with her team arranging seasonal displays, stringing lights and bringing a little holiday magic to the Square,” said Wicker. “It was clear to me that she takes an active role to ensure that events are successful in Canton, and her level of dedication toward our film was no different. She was a valuable resource and a true advocate for the project. If you ever want to film in Canton, Jana should be your first call.”

“Once we decided on Canton, and partnered with Rick Moore at Eyevox Entertainment, the race was on to find the right locations,” explained Wicker. “Canton has a rich film history. And we were lucky enough to film at one of the locations at the center of it all: ‘The Skip House’ (which was famously used in the film, *My Dog Skip*.) We filmed at the historic house for nearly two weeks. The home belongs to John and Suzanne, who were incredibly accommodating to us. I really enjoyed spending time with John and Suzanne - and their adorable black lab, Charlotte.”

Wicker continued: “New Bethel Baptist Church is a special place. Reverend J.P. Walker and Reverend Frederick Walker opened their doors to us, and we’re all so very grateful. 2020 marks J.P.’s twenty-fifth year as pastor of New Bethel, as well. While staying in Canton, I spent quite a few Sundays at New Bethel (and Bob came along, too). The energy in that sanctuary is like nothing I’ve ever experienced: the power of J.P. and Frederick’s words, the spirited music, the tremendous warmth of the congregation...it’s the gem of James Avenue.”

The movie filming involved some local businesses, as well as interactions with many Cantonians.

“Not only is Two Rivers Restaurant’s cuisine top notch, but so is the man behind the scenes: Johnny Stewart. The restaurant had the right look and served as great rain cover on one of the rainiest days of our shoot,” said Wicker, who also offered thanks to Paragon Gin for allowing them to film there.

“Other helpful friends of the film in town include: Chief Otha Brown (of the Canton Police Department), Susie Morgan, Robert Riddell, Brad McMullan, James Ellington,

York and Los Angeles, and we were surprised and delighted to find that a local casting director actually lives part time right in Canton! Matthew Morgan was instrumental in getting us great local actors who didn’t have to travel too far to be part of our movie,” said Crampton. “His mom, Susie, helped us, as well, with some lodging and a holding area on the Square for the cast in between shooting times or ‘takes.’”

Crampton ended by saying, “Overall, our experience was truly wonderful, and we’d love to film another movie there very soon.”

Travis Stevens, founder and CEO of Snowfort Pictures, directed the film.

“Canton, Mississippi is a treasure,” said Stevens. “The people are kind and welcoming, the film industry passionate and hard-working, and the town itself is just a gorgeous place to shoot. There’s a reason why master filmmakers such as The Coen Brothers, Robert Altman, Alan Parker and Joel Schumacher have decided to make movies here.”

“It’s an honor to add *Jakob’s Wife* to the list of films that have only been made better because of the Canton community,” said Stevens.

*Jakob’s Wife* was developed by AMP and Crampton from a script by Mark Steensland, Kathy Charles and Travis Stevens. Producers are Bob Portal and Inderpal Singh from AMP, alongside Barbara Crampton and Travis Stevens.

Rick Moore from Eyevox Entertainment serves as executive producer, alongside James Norrie and Nina Kolokouri at AMP. Co-producers are Joe Wicker, Morgan Peter Brown and Kim Barnard.

*Jakob’s Wife* is expected to be released in 2021.



Travis Stevens directing Barbara Crampton

Photo by AMP/Ava Jazlyn

Lamar Brown, Percy Bennett and many more,” said Wicker. “Thank you, Canton!”

Crampton added, “John and Suzanne Scanlan’s house of (*My Dog Skip*) was so warm and welcoming, with countless photos of their own family along the walls, a collection of Roseville pottery, with a very comfortable lived-in kitchen, multiple living rooms and a warm and inviting sunroom. This was such a pleasant place to be for my character to call ‘home.’ Our production designer and prop people only had to add a few touches to make the house a bit more personal to Anne.”

“Most of the cast came from New

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# Canton High School STAR Student, Teacher selected

*Special to The Canton News*

Canton High School senior Jamichael A. Branch was named STAR Student for the 2019-2020 school year by the Mississippi Economic Council (MEC) M.B. Swayze Foundation, sponsor of the Student Teacher Achievement Recognition (STAR) program.

Branch, along with over 330 STAR Students in Mississippi, was selected on the basis of academic excellence. Both American College test scores and scholastic averages are compared to determine the school's STAR Student. The STAR program encourages and promotes academic achievement among Mississippi's high school seniors.

Each STAR Student is asked to designate a STAR Teacher, the teacher who has made the greatest contribution to the student's scholastic achievement. Branch chose Coach Boyd "Ras" Bayles, who teaches AP U.S. Government, U.S. History and World History, as his STAR Teacher.



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*Pictured are Canton High School's STAR Student Jamichael Branch (right) and his STAR Teacher, Coach Boyd "Ras" Bayles (left).*

This year will mark the fifty-fifth anniversary of the STAR program, with over 660 STAR Students and STAR Teachers receiving the prestigious recognition from the MEC's M.B. Swayze Foundation. Established by the Mississippi Economic Council in 1965, the purpose of the STAR program is to recognize outstanding students and teachers in Mississippi.

# U.S. Small Business Admin offers disaster assistance

*Special to The Canton News*

The United States Small Business Administration Office of Disaster Assistance has made low-interest disaster loans available for renters, homeowners, non-profit organizations, churches, and businesses of all sizes, for their uncompensated damages from the flooding that occurred February 10-14, 2020. Madison County is listed as the primary county for the MS 16403 disaster declaration.

Normally, a temporary center would be opened to offer one-on-one assistance to residents; but, due to coronavirus restrictions, everything is "virtual" for now. Appointments can still be made for one-on-one assistance by phone.

The program highlights are:

- For renters and homeowners, loans are at interest rates as low as 1.563%.
- There is a five-month payment

deferment for these loans.

- No collateral is required for loans of \$25,000 or less.

- People may borrow up to \$200,000 to repair their homes and up to \$2 million to repair their businesses.

- Renters and homeowners may borrow up to \$40,000 to repair or replace their damaged personal items.

- Small businesses may borrow up to \$2 million as working capital if they experienced economic losses due to the flooding. The interest rate is 3.75% with



terms up to thirty years.

The disaster loan application is available at <https://disasterloanassistance.sba.gov/s/>. For more information or assistance, call Public Affairs Specialist Julie Garrett at 404-331-0333 Ext- 2176, 404-895-7345 or email [julie.garrett@sba.gov](mailto:julie.garrett@sba.gov). Garrett can also answer questions about the COVID EIDL loans, but not the PPP.

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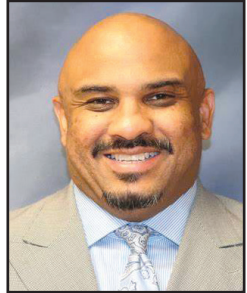
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# School closures bring challenges and opportunities

By Guest Columnist Canton Public School District Superintendent Gary Hannah



Superintendent Gary Hannah

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When school dismissed for Spring Break on March 6, 2020, none of us imagined that it would be our last time seeing students this semester. COVID-19 certainly presented our district with many challenges. We were faced with so many questions: When will school resume? What will we do about graduation? How will we meet the needs of struggling learners? How will we make sure that our proficient and advanced students don't fall behind?

After we found the answers to those initial questions, we began to try to find the silver lining in what appeared to be an unbearable situation. Our community of learners, which includes our staff, students, parents, and other stake-

holders, has been resilient in the face of this challenge. The spirit of Canton Public School District has emerged brighter than ever before.

Our students, teachers, parents, and administrators demonstrated extraordinary teamwork to make sure that the learning process continued. We utilized a mixture of skills-based packets and online learning platforms to continue to provide instruction to students. Students, teachers, and parents stretched themselves to make sure that our students didn't lose any ground while our schools were closed. Virtual meetings, online chats, and video challenges have become part of our daily routine, and we believe that we are better for it. Many of our teachers are already thinking about ways to incorpo-

rate our students' heightened use of technology into the curriculum next school year.



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We are currently making plans for reentry that will create safety nets for students to accelerate their learning once school starts. We are also developing a plan to ensure that our students and staff are safe when we return. The 2020-2021 school year will be a "new normal" for us, but we are up for the challenge.

Our seniors are currently pre-

paring to receive their diplomas in May. We wanted to ensure that even though circumstances beyond

our control changed many things, our seniors and their families will still get the chance to celebrate their accomplishments. We are ending the semester with a graduation as we normally would, and we are preparing for the next school year as we normally would.

Canton Public School District has always been a survivor, and this year isn't any different.

We look forward to seeing our family back soon!

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Mr. Gary Hannah joined Canton Public School District as superintendent in January 2019. He is a former teacher, principal and deputy superintendent. He and his wife Monica are the parents of three children, Kia, Mady and Mason.

## Links to COVID-19 Resources



**Center for Disease Control**  
[www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)



**Madison County**  
<https://www.madison-co.com/>



**Mississippi Department of Health**  
[www.msdh.ms.gov](http://www.msdh.ms.gov)



**Mississippi Department of Education**  
[www.msachievers.mdek12.org/](http://www.msachievers.mdek12.org/)



**City of Canton**  
<https://www.cityofcantonms.com/>



**Canton Public Schools**  
<https://www.cantonschools.net/>



**Canton Academy**  
<https://cantonacademy.org/>



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## G.A. Carmichael receives funding to aid COVID-19 care



G.A. Carmichael Family Health Center

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U.S. Senator Cindy Hyde-Smith of Mississippi recently announced that nineteen community health centers in Mississippi will receive a total of more than \$17.25 million in funding to support their efforts to provide care during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) awarded \$844,985 in grant money to G.A. Carmichael Family Health Center in Canton. HRSA approved the CARES Act health center funding to help improve access to health care services for people who are uninsured, isolated or medically vulnerable.

The health center funding stems from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) enacted on March 27. This historic legislation provides \$1.32 billion in supplemental funding to community health centers.

“Mississippi community health

centers are on the front lines of testing and treating patients for COVID-19. As this disease affects more Mississippians, the pressure on these centers will only increase,” Hyde-Smith said. “These grants represent an initial distribution of federal funding to support their work in these challenging times.”

The CARES Act, as well as earlier COVID-19 response legislation, also adds support for community health centers to expand access to telemedicine services. Hyde-Smith serves on the Senate appropriations subcommittee with jurisdiction over HRSA and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

The CARES Act funding is in addition to \$1.43 million provided by HRSA on March 24 to these Mississippi health centers to prepare to handle COVID-19 cases. The early grants were funded through the initial COVID-19 relief emergency supplemental appropriations bill enacted in early March.

## Grace continues its mission

By Guest Columnist Beth Foose

Like many other persons of faith, the congregation at Grace Episcopal Church is trying to learn what it looks like to love God and love our neighbor during the time of COVID-19.

We have worshipped via Zoom, but virtual outreach ministries don’t fill empty plates, so we have continued our food pantry during the past two months.

We receive most of the food for our pantry through Mississippi Food Network, and we are grateful to the staff there for continuing their work of distributing food to pantries and feeding programs throughout the state. We have served nearly three hundred Canton families during both our March and April distributions, marking an increase of 30-40 families over our past numbers.

We attribute the rise in participation to the economic consequences of COVID.

In addition to our food pantry distribution, with the help of Tim Wright, we are supplying weekend food bags for the children at Canton Estates.

Through our mask-making effort, we have shared over 600 masks with Canton citizens. The masks have gone to elderly people in low-income housing and to two Hispanic grocery stores for free distribution. We also gave masks to all of our food pantry clients.

The food pantry takes place on the grassy area to the east of the church on the third Thursday of every month from 10 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. Anyone living on less than 130% of the poverty level is eligible to receive food.

If you know of a group in need of masks, please call the church at 601-859-2680, and we will do our best to get them to you.

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

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# Shop local to support community vitality in MS

By Guest Columnist  
Susan Collins-Smith

Many small business owners temporarily closed their doors and sent their employees home amid efforts to slow the spread of the new coronavirus. But that does not mean they are closed for business.

"It is vital that we support our local businesses now," said Rachael Carter, an Extension economist with the Mississippi State University Extension Service Center for Government and Community Development. "These businesses need our support now to stay in business so that we can enjoy them later. Our communities also need these businesses and the tax revenues they generate to continue to provide local citizens with services, such as roads, water and recreation."

"Dollars spent at independently owned, local businesses can have a high recirculation rate in the local economy. That means much of the money spent at locally owned businesses stays in the community if the business employs locals and buys or produces the goods it sells from local or regional sources."

"These dollars impact the community in three ways," added Carter. "The first is direct impact when a customer buys goods or services at the business. The second is indirect impact when the business buys from another local business, such as a distributor or a farmer. The third is induced impact when an employee of the business or other businesses spend the money they earned in the local community."

Consumers can observe the social distancing and shelter-in-place orders while supporting local businesses. Many local businesses, including restaurants and garden centers, are essential businesses

and still operating under modified guidelines. Other local businesses may be conducting business online or over the phone and offering delivery, curbside pickup or shipping for their products.

"If you don't regularly shop with locally owned businesses, now is a great time to start," Carter said.



"Take a look at the websites for your city, the Chamber of Commerce or the Convention and Visitor's Bureau to learn about local businesses and what

they provide. Call them to see if they have what you need or see if they can order it for you."

Rochelle Hicks of the Mississippi Tourism Association said local businesses provide irreplaceable benefits to communities.

"Shopping local is what supports our communities and the small businesses that are the foundation of those communities," said Hicks. "Without our local shops and busi-

nesses, what would our community look like?"

Upcoming graduations and Mother's Day are great occasions to support local businesses. Another way to help promote local businesses is to start a community group page on social media to provide information about local businesses, Carter said.

Jim DelPrince, Extension horticulture specialist, said florists are among the many local businesses that have experienced reduced business because of the coronavirus.

"Floral shops are small businesses just like restaurants, clothing stores and others," DelPrince said. "They help form the fabric of communities. Many of these shops are offering curbside pickup and delivery for Mother's Day. But flowers are a great gift any time of year and especially right now. They lift spirits and let others know you care."

"Locally owned businesses are an important part of the economic stimulus for communities," said Jennifer Prather, director of com-

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# We learn to adjust to change and appreciate others

By Guest Columnist Joy Foy



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When change happens, especially something that changed our lives suddenly like the Coronavirus, we take more time to contemplate our thoughts and actions. I learned that it does not take all that I thought was necessary to make life fulfilling. I do just fine without all the meetings, deadlines and groceries that I had grown accustomed to. I also learned to better appreciate my rural mail carrier, the pretty weather, text messages and phone calls.

I read one day that people would now appreciate farmers, after seeing the scarcity of food on grocery store shelves. I'm not so sure that is the case with everyone. A co-worker once told me that farmers just grew cash

crops, they were not feeding America anymore. She made this assumption based on the fact that she did not see large fields of vegetables.

Like my co-worker, I believe there are many more people who think their food comes from the Pig or Walmart. They don't stop to realize that Madison County farmers are growing and feeding those supply lines.

Change has happened to the world of farming, and no, you will not see rows of peas, tomatoes, okra or snap beans to match the rows of the major cash crops, cotton, corn and soybeans, on local farms. These cash crops do, however, feed us and provide food to our food.

A large percent of soybeans and cottonseed are used as feed for our meat animals and fish. So, whether we are eating a steak, a pork chop, fried chicken or catfish, chances are that these animals have fed on Mississippi-grown corn, soybeans or cottonseeds. Of course, many oils, margarine types and specialty

foods are made from these crops. One very important way soybeans have impacted our diets is in alternative foods for food-sensitive people, for example, those who are lactose intolerant.

The landscape of farming has changed; however, these facts remain: 1) local farmers are feeding America; 2) local farmers create jobs for mechanics, distributors of farm machinery, consultants, crop processors and people in other farming support services; and 3) local farmers add to the local and national economy with their needs for banking, transportation and warehousing, all part of the farm production system.

We Mississippians, as well as people worldwide, benefit from the high-quality protein-enriched diets that allow us to have healthy bodies and minds. Change, as we are learning, does not follow the rules of convenience and certainly can disrupt our lives. These facts presented are proof that we do not always see or easily recognize the bene-

fits of change.

Even when things change gradually, like with row-crop farming, we have the option to either look for the good or to complain. Complaining only tends to make us unnecessarily frightened about what we do not understand, as we go through the changes that life presents.

Maybe one of the good things, when we look back on the Coronavirus, will be that we appreciate our farmers for feeding our food supply chain and economy.

After all, God is in control, and He is working a good plan for our lives even when we can't fully understand.

Stay safe and stay positive!

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

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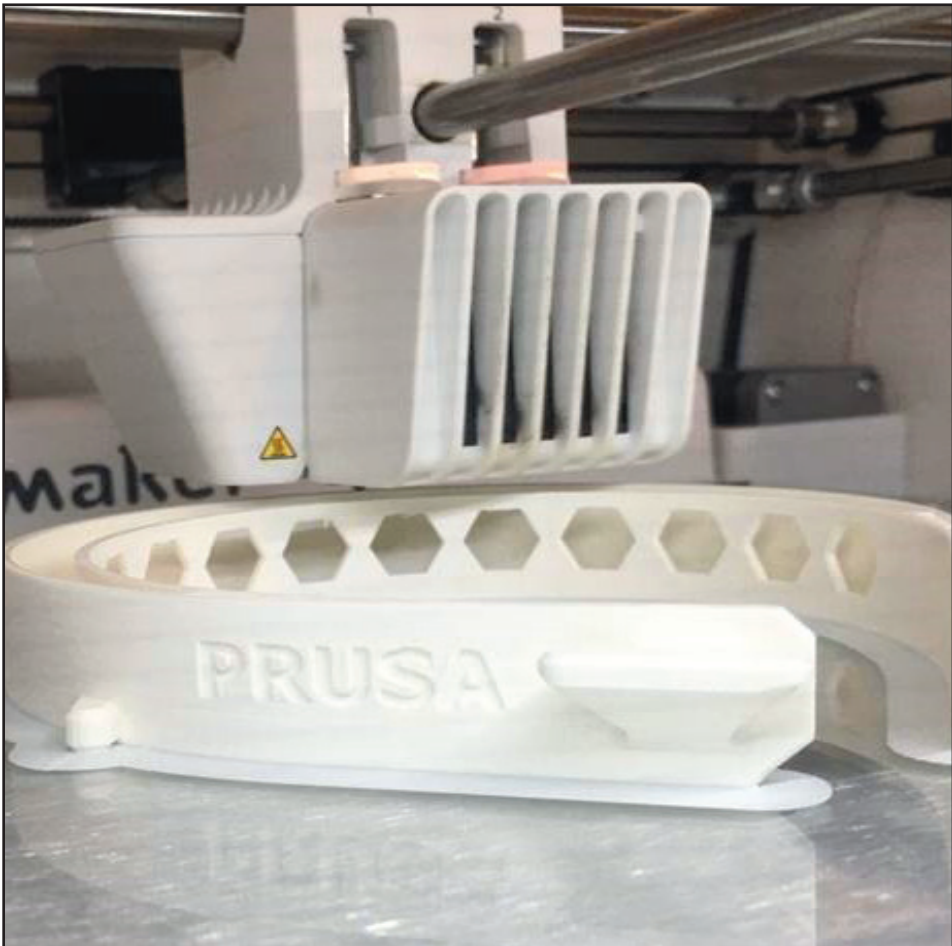
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# Nissan Canton makes gear for protection from COVID-19



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In response to COVID-19, Nissan is tapping into their spirit of innovation. Nissan Canton has begun producing headbands and face shields using 3D printing to donate to local healthcare workers who need protective gear. Enhanced safety and sanitizing measures are in place to ensure that the employees are protected, as well.

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# God is sovereign, seek Him and His solutions

By Guest Columnist  
Father Guy Wilson

Jesus is risen! Alleluia! On last month's Easter Sunday, the vast membership of our churches celebrated and renewed their faith sheltered at home. Our churches were closed and empty because of COVID-19.

None of us have ever experienced a time when our churches were off limits. Yet it called from us a personal and creative response. We did not remain silent. We praised and continue to praise God during this Easter season. Our faithful participated in the Easter proclamation at home, either through internet or televised broadcasts or gathered with the scriptures and prayers with family members.

The Easter Gospel of Matthew has guided us these days. Our own

celebration of Easter has some familiar roots in the first celebration. While we experience a worldwide pandemic of disease that shocks the world, Matthew emphasizes the worldwide impact of the death and resurrection of Jesus by earthquakes. At the moment Jesus dies on the cross, a terrifying earthquake erupts (Matthew 27:51).

On Good Friday, the world threw everything it could to silence Jesus: torture, suffering, death and finally the tomb. On Easter Sunday, God gave to the world all that He could. Life! Forgiveness! Salvation! The resurrection is announced by an angel and an earthquake (Matthew 28:2).

Instead of an earthquake that terrorizes, it is one that brings awesome hope. It proclaims a new creation. Easter is more than the vindication of Jesus. It is more than the saving event that has inspired us from 2,000 years ago. It is about the transformation of our lives today. We continue to live in the aftershocks of that Easter earthquake.

What follows the earthquake is

the message of the angel and then of Jesus himself to the women. Go! As much as the women may have wanted to cling to Jesus, they are commanded to go and tell the brothers. This remains our message today.

As much as we long to be in our churches, the goal of Easter is not to remain in our churches. It is the blessing of Easter in which we are renewed by the Holy Spirit in our churches. But the goal of Easter is to go, to be sent as witnesses after sharing the good news and participating in the sacraments of our salvation.

But where are we commanded to go? Jesus commands the women to tell his brothers to go to Galilee. Galilee is their home. It is the place where Jesus chose his apostles and with them made his home. They are sent to shelter-in-place where they are most secure and welcome.

But, also, they are sent to give testimony to the ones most important in their lives. They are instructed to begin the worldwide transformation with their own

families and neighbors before returning to Jerusalem to await the Holy Spirit.

Christianity is a family movement. For the first three centuries of our faith history, worship did not take place in churches. Because of persecution, Sunday celebration took place in the believers' homes. At its inception, Christianity is a family-based religion.

The Coronavirus is throwing everything it can at the world. However, our Easter hope is leading us to ground ourselves even more profoundly in the life and mission of Jesus. This may be the most renewing Easter that we have experienced.

Hopefully, when it is safe to return to our churches, we will be even more committed to the transformation of our families and communities.

*EDITOR'S NOTE: Father Guy Wilson is the pastor of Holy Child Jesus Catholic Church in Canton and Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Camden.*



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## Things That Have Become Exciting

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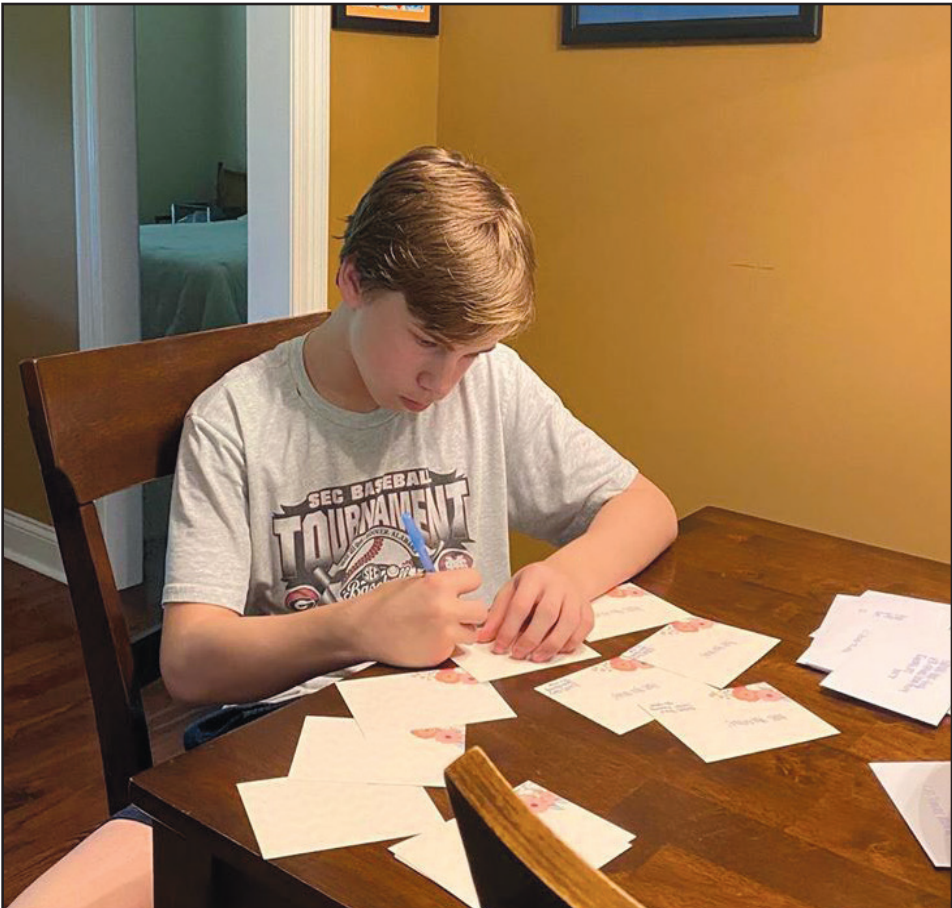
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# Canton Academy students are making a difference



Special to The Canton News



Special to The Canton News

*During the COVID-19 quarantine, Canton Academy (CA) students, sixth-grader Knox Davidson and ninth-grader Nik Bobst, have been making a difference in their community. Davidson (left photo) stayed busy making and donating masks to area medical staff, while Bobst (right photo) has been writing letters to residents of local nursing homes.*



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# Canton Academy adjusts to distance learning

*Special to The Canton News*

While many students around the country are faced with new learning challenges due to COVID-19, Canton Academy (CA) students and teachers are finding different and unique ways to stay connected.

From dressing in costume to having themed backdrops, CA teachers are delivering their best in order to educate their students.

CA has been one-to-one with Chromebooks for some time and had the ability to easily transition to online learning within one day of the school closing.

Sophomore Starr Spivey said this form of online learning has given her a different view of her teachers.

"I have learned how much the teachers really do care for us. They are really making sure that we understand things before moving on. They are also not piling assignments on us, because they know how hard it is to learn right now, since we are away from them," said Spivey.

Sophomore Gaston Walker said he's grateful for the time teachers are putting in.

"They are doing live classes to help learn what is going on in class every day. They help with tutoring people, if they are having trouble on one of the assignments," said Walker.

On average, over thirty hours of online teaching is happening per week at Canton Academy.

Marcus Goodloe, another sophomore, said he wasn't surprised when CA went to online learning, because Canvas was established for students prior to the virus.

"For me, it is definitely way harder to be completely online. We are used to Canvas, so, in a

way, it is preparing us for college courses that we may have to take online. I am glad for our teachers, who make extra time to help us.

They even have tutoring hours where we can get on live and ask questions," Goodloe said.

He also mentioned he was surprised about how he felt and said, "I never thought I would say it, but I really miss school. For those of us that go to CA, we are

blessed because we have Chromebooks and teachers that are willing to do a little extra to help us out and make sure we succeed and do what we need to do."

However, with new learning comes new challenges. Some students were originally concerned

they would not be able to receive the one-on-one instruction they are used to.

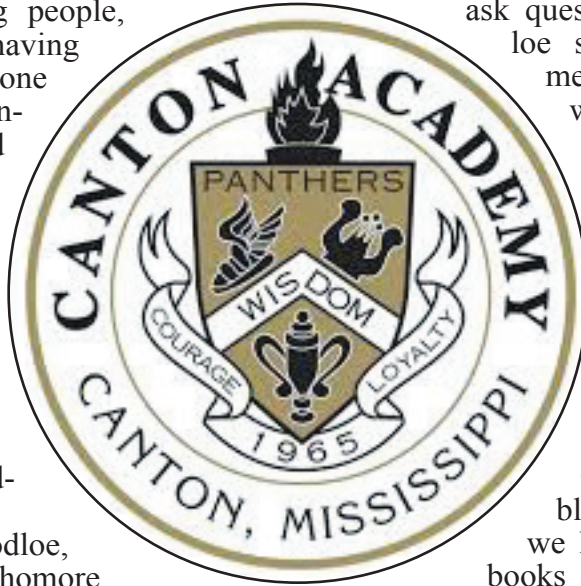
Canton Academy has a Directed Studies program, which provides accommodations to students who have current medical/psychoeducational evaluation results indicating there is a moderate learning disability.

With those needs in mind, the teachers and directors have put in place specific Zoom meeting times to ensure those students receive the assistance they need.

Freshman Kellie Brasher said, "We've been calling and Facetime. They'll also text me. I just miss school and need to learn in person. I like to talk about what we've read." She said that while she misses in-person classes, some of her teachers are doing silly things to keep them engaged.

"One of my teachers dresses in costumes for books. She also has backdrops that match what her classroom looks like. I still miss all of my friends and actually being in school," said Brasher.

*cont. on page 15*



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# Hinds CC announces academic team

*Special to The Canton News*

Nineteen Hinds Community College students, including one from Canton, were named to the 2020 All-Mississippi Community College Academic Team. The list includes: Sarrah Bell of Jackson, Jackson Campus-Academic/Technical Center, elementary education; Adrianna Chambers of Jackson, Raymond Campus, chemistry; Adrianna Childress of Jackson, Jackson Campus-Academic/Technical Center, early childhood development technology; Veronica Epps of Jackson, Utica Campus, business and office technology; Michael Evilsizer of Brandon, Jackson Campus-Academic/Technical Center, culinary arts technology; Jennifer Hammond of Brandon, Jackson Campus-Nursing/Allied Health Center, nursing; Jordan Hariel of Brandon, Rankin Campus, computer engineering; Donald Hughes of Jackson, Utica Campus, nursing; Phoenix Jackson of Crystal Springs, Utica Campus, broadcast television production; Shelby McLaurin of

Brandon, Rankin Campus, biology; Kevin Michel of Florence, Raymond Campus, business; Cordarrayl Nichols, of Canton, Raymond Campus, diesel equipment technology; Nicholas Niolet of Vicksburg, Vicksburg-Warren Campus, electrical technology; Lona Perret of Pelahatchie, Rankin Campus, educational psychology; Maria Serratos of Clinton, Raymond Campus, civil engineering; India Robinson of Jackson, Jackson Campus-Academic/Technical Center, nursing; Rachel Shirley of Brandon, Rankin Campus, marketing management technology; Anna Speights of Vicksburg, Vicksburg-Warren Campus, general studies; and Devin Trunnell of Clinton, Raymond Campus, electrical technology.

The All-Mississippi Academic Team, begun in 1994 as the first state-level academic recognition program for community and junior college students, recognizes the scholarly achievements and leadership accomplishments of students enrolled in community and junior colleges across the

state. Team members were selected following several rounds of judging from education officials, business leaders from across the United States and a distinguished panel of representatives from federal agencies and national education associations based in Washington D.C.

Students named to the First Team received \$1,000 scholarships. First and Second Team members receive special medallions, certificates and printed resolutions from each chamber of the Mississippi Legislature. They are also eligible for scholarships at many four-year universities designed exclusively for All-Mississippi Academic Team members.

The All-State Academic team is coordinated by the Mississippi Association of Community and Junior College, the Mississippi Community College Board and Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society. The team recognition program is an outgrowth of the All-USA Community College Academic Team, administered by Phi Theta Kappa.

*cont. from page 7*

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community development with the Mississippi Main Street Association. "When you shop with a locally owned business, not only are you supporting them directly, but in turn, you create an indirect impact by contributing to the employment of fellow community members and create additional commerce through the businesses' support of additional locally owned businesses such as service providers like local farmers, food and beverage distributors, and other local businesses who support the community's tax base."

*EDITOR'S NOTE: Susan Collins-Smith is a media relations writer with the MSU Extension Service in Raymond.*

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## Canton Academy juniors complete MCYL program



Special to The Canton News



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Canton Academy juniors Kyle Brasher (left) and Sara Kennedy Lampkin (right) recently completed the 2019-20 Madison County Youth Leadership (MCYL) Program. The MCYL program provides students with a deeper understanding of the careers available in Madison County, while also developing their leadership skills and encouraging graduates to help better the Madison County community with the knowledge and experience they have gained from the program. Brasher and Lampkin were both nominated for this program.

## Murphy acts in Westerns

By Lori Lycette

Cantonian Nick Murphy recently spoke to the Canton Lions Club about his involvement in a film-making project called 12 Westerns in 12 Months. The series of movies is an endeavor of Running Wild Films, based in Mississippi and Arizona, and the goal is to make one full-length Western movie each month of 2020. Travis Mills is the director of the Westerns and co-founder of the film company.

At least five of the Westerns are being filmed in Mississippi, which include *Bastard's Crossing*, *Texas Red*, *Turn and Burn*, *Wilderness Road*, and *Tales of the Natchez Trace*. Murphy will be an extra in *Turn and Burn*, to be filmed in Meridian this July, but expects to have a more substantial role in *Wilderness Road*, which will be filmed along the Natchez Trace later this year.



Photo by Lori Lycette

Nick Murphy (front) in Texas Red

*Texas Red* was a true story shot in the Brookhaven and Meadville areas earlier this year. Much of the filming was in the Homochitto National Forest, the location of a community called Free-woods, where the story took place in 1940. Murphy had a leading role as Deputy Sheriff Graham Herring, which was based on a real person. He supported Blues legend Cedric Burnside, who starred as *Texas Red*.

Murphy said that the Coronavirus has affected filming somewhat, but they are still on target to release the first movie, *Bastard's Crossing*, in January of 2021.

For more information, visit [www.runningwildfilms.com](http://www.runningwildfilms.com) or the Facebook page, 12 Westerns in 12 Months. The movies are being funded primarily through donations on the GoFundMe page, [www.gofundme/12westerns](http://www.gofundme/12westerns).

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Corona doesn't care about gender or skin cover;  
You bravely risk your lives to take care and nurture others.

Thanks to all the doctors, nurses, healthcare workers and staff  
For allowing so many sheltered in the freedom to laugh.  
You are the first to grieve the COVID victims and the first to celebrate,  
A witness to death totals at an astronomical rate.

We know that your bodies are tired and mentally challenged, too;  
You all are persevering, like true champions do.

Praying for your stamina on a daily basis  
And for you to see the humans' hearts and not just their faces.  
We know that the journey is bumpy and the road gets rough.  
There's no way, we could ever say "Thank You" enough.

We know you can't fight this battle alone;  
We all have to do our part, until this virus is gone.  
It takes all pieces to make a puzzle complete;  
God is the missing piece. Without Him, Corona we cannot beat.

By Ruby Dixon Coleman

cont. from page 12

CA adjusts to distance learning

Sophomore Carli Cooper mentioned her English teacher making some memorable videos.

"Miss Morris made a funny video to discuss part one of *Fahrenheit 451*. She dressed up and everything, and she even used her dogs to help her make the video. It was very entertaining and helped me understand what we've been reading," said Cooper. She added that, because of the quarantine, she has gained a new perspective, as well.

"Honestly, I feel that I took going to school for granted before this quarantine thing. I am thankful to be able to go to a school in a small setting and in a one-on-one environment with my teachers," Cooper added.

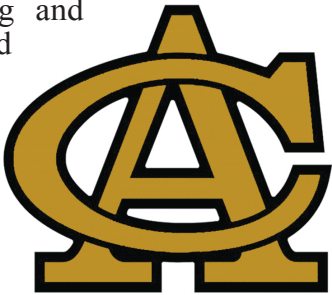
Senior Bethany Biggers said she misses several things she didn't even realize mattered to her.

"I realized that I miss getting the

opportunity to complain about track practice, stress about tests, and miss waiting on class to end," said Biggers. "I miss getting to do the announcements every morning and seeing people in the hallways. I also miss the fact that we are missing out on senior class things, like our play, senior buddy play dates, senior parties and our last few weeks together as a class."

CA faculty and staff delivered personalized signs to each senior to place in their yards, congratulating them on a job well done. Each day, a senior is spotlighted on the school's Facebook page, to show how much the class of 2020 is loved.

With the 2020 school year looking quite different, Canton Academy officials say staff is doing what it can to ensure students stay engaged and still feel that CA family "Panther Pride."



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## IHS provides meals for children



Special to The Canton News

With the closure of the school district due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Jasper and Carolyn Bacon, of In His Steps Ministries (IHS) in Canton, knew that many of the students in the Canton area would be going without breakfast and lunch. With the help of friends at Fellowship Bible Church, Madison Heights PCA, First United Methodist Church Canton and Broadmoor Baptist Church, In His Steps began Operation Feed the Children, which has provided over fifty lunches three days a week and a snack on the weekend to families in need. For information on serving alongside the Bacons, call 601-859-5708 or visit [www.inhissteps.org](http://www.inhissteps.org). Pictured is Carolyn Bacon of In His Steps Ministries.

cont. from page 2

## MDOT projects proceed in central Mississippi

tors, LLC, was awarded the \$12.4 million project. It remains on track to be completed by the summer.

"As we enter spring and summer—the prime seasons for road construction and maintenance—I'm asking all Mississippians to pay extra attention while traveling, especially in and around work zones," said Melinda McGrath, P.E., MDOT executive director. "You can make work zones safer by slowing down, paying attention, avoiding distractions and obeying all posted

advanced warning signs."

Work zones present new traffic patterns and configurations that may be unfamiliar to motorists. For information about how to navigate highway work zones safely, visit [GoMDOT.com/drivesmartms](http://GoMDOT.com/drivesmartms).

For more information about these or other MDOT maintenance and construction projects, visit [MDOTtraffic.com](http://MDOTtraffic.com), download the free MDOT Traffic app or like and follow @MississippiDOT on Facebook and Twitter.

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