



THE CANTON NEWS

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

Canton Public School District names Williams superintendent

Special to The Canton News

“At the Tuesday, January 12, 2016, board meeting, the Canton Public School District (CPSD) Board of Trustees formally hired Mrs. Cassandra Williams as the CPSD Superintendent,” said School Board Attorney John Christopher. “Prior to that, she had been serving as the interim superintendent since her appointment in November.”

Williams has spent over 20 years in the field of education. She began her career as a mathematics teacher. Soon after, she began to climb through the leadership ranks, serving as mathematics specialist, director of secondary curriculum and instruction, director of curriculum and instruction for K-12, principal, and assistant superintendent.

As principal at Davis Magnet School, Williams led the school from a level three status to a level five status in just two years. Davis Magnet School was labeled a “Blue Ribbon School” as a result of the successful academic gains under Williams’ leadership.

After serving as principal, Williams was appointed to serve as Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and In-

struction in the Jackson Public School District. In this role, Williams led the curriculum and instruction process for 58 schools in the district.

She also served as Assistant Superintendent for Elementary Schools; where she supervised 19 out of 38 elementary schools. In that role, she supervised the principals and led the management of instruction, school operations and other pertinent areas in the schools division.

Williams has also worked as a Mississippi Department of Education trainer for the Mississippi Mathematics Framework, Mississippi Framer Training, Understanding by Design Training, Response to Intervention Training, and has served on numerous standards setting committees for state testing and accountability.

Williams believes that once an educator commits to teaching, he/she has a moral, ethical, and professional responsibility to provide the very best educational experience for all children.

Dedicated to serving children, she has already begun working with teachers, principals, parents, and community leaders to increase student achievement for all children in the CPSD.

Married to Anthony Williams, they have one child, Peyton.



Photo special to The Canton News

Merit Health Madison holds groundbreaking for medical specialties office building

By Susie A. Wolfe

Merit Health Madison held a groundbreaking ceremony for its new medical office building, designed to include primary care, obstetrics/gy-

Madison CEO, Brit Phelps; and Madison County Economic Development Authority Executive Director, Tim Coursey. Other local leaders attended, along with members of Merit Health Madison’s medical staff and hospital



Photo special to The Canton News

From left: Joe Baugh, Managing Partner, Capital Growth Medvest; Mike Poore, Vice President, Division Operations, Merit Health; Steve Dobbs, Chief Executive Officer, Central Mississippi Region, Merit Health; Brit Phelps, Chief Executive Officer, Merit Health Madison; Mayor Arnel Bolden, City of Canton; Governor Phil Bryant, State of Mississippi; Marty Bonick, President, Division Operations, Merit Health; Dr. Vibha Vig, Chief of Staff, Merit Health Madison; Steve Alby, Vice President of Healthcare, Goodwyn, Mills and Cawood, Inc.; Tim Coursey, Executive Director, Madison County Economic Development Authority; and Lynn Jones, Senior Manager, Brasfield & Gorrie.

necology and orthopedics, among other medical specialties. The 3,500 sq. foot building will also include an outpatient physical rehabilitation clinic, which provides occupational health and speech pathology therapy services.

Presenters during the groundbreaking ceremony included Mississippi Governor, Phil Bryant; Mayor of Canton and Merit Health Madison Board Member, Arnel Bolden; Merit Health

employees.

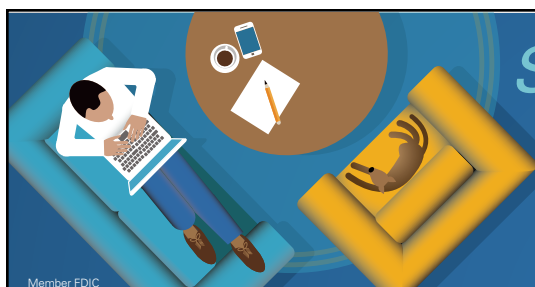
Merit Health Madison will enhance access to quality healthcare for those living and working in the area by providing this new location, as well through the addition of medical specialties and physician practices, said Phelps. The facility is the only hospital in Madison County, where the community has seen extensive population growth, residential development

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Jana Padgett named executive director of Canton's growing CVB and film office

By Susie A. Wolfe

Canton has made a name for itself with the Canton Flea Market and the Victorian Christmas Celebration, thanks in part to the direction of the Convention and Visitors Bureau. Jo Ann Gordon led that department until she retired this past November. Now, an eight-year veteran of the department is in charge.

Jana Padgett has worked her way up from a ticket taker to managing the big events and planning ways to continue to promote Canton's unique offerings. A Tupelo native, she first learned of Canton while attending Hinds Community College, where she studied business and marketing management. Her class was doing market research for the Canton Flea Market.

Padgett said, "I have hit the ground running and plan to continue many of the programs started. I also want to introduce new programs that will benefit



Photo by The Canton News

the city as a whole."

The Canton Flea Market is now held twice a year, and last October, the event had 1100 booths. Christmas in Canton, named the 2014 large event of the year by the Mississippi Tourism Association, has grown ev-

A number of movies have been filmed in Canton in the last few years, and scouts come to town often to scout locations for films and commercials, according to Padgett.

New events she is working on include the Third Thursday Art & An-

"Jana was a natural to hold this position because of her willingness to work and her desire to make a difference,"
-former executive director JoAnn Gordon.

ery year, adding new components to draw visitors, such as parades and miniature cars.

Canton is nicknamed "a backlot of Hollywood," said Padgett, because the town is ready to film without additional preparation. "It looks like it did 100 years ago, and film makers know this. We are a great destination for films. And Madison County has the prettiest land."

tique Walk, and the Allison Wells Art & Filmmakers Summer Camp. The Allison Wells complex has a history, according to Padgett, and she is considering other possibilities there.

In addition to accepting her new position, Padgett also recently accepted a marriage proposal, so her life is changing and growing like the Canton's film and tourism industry.

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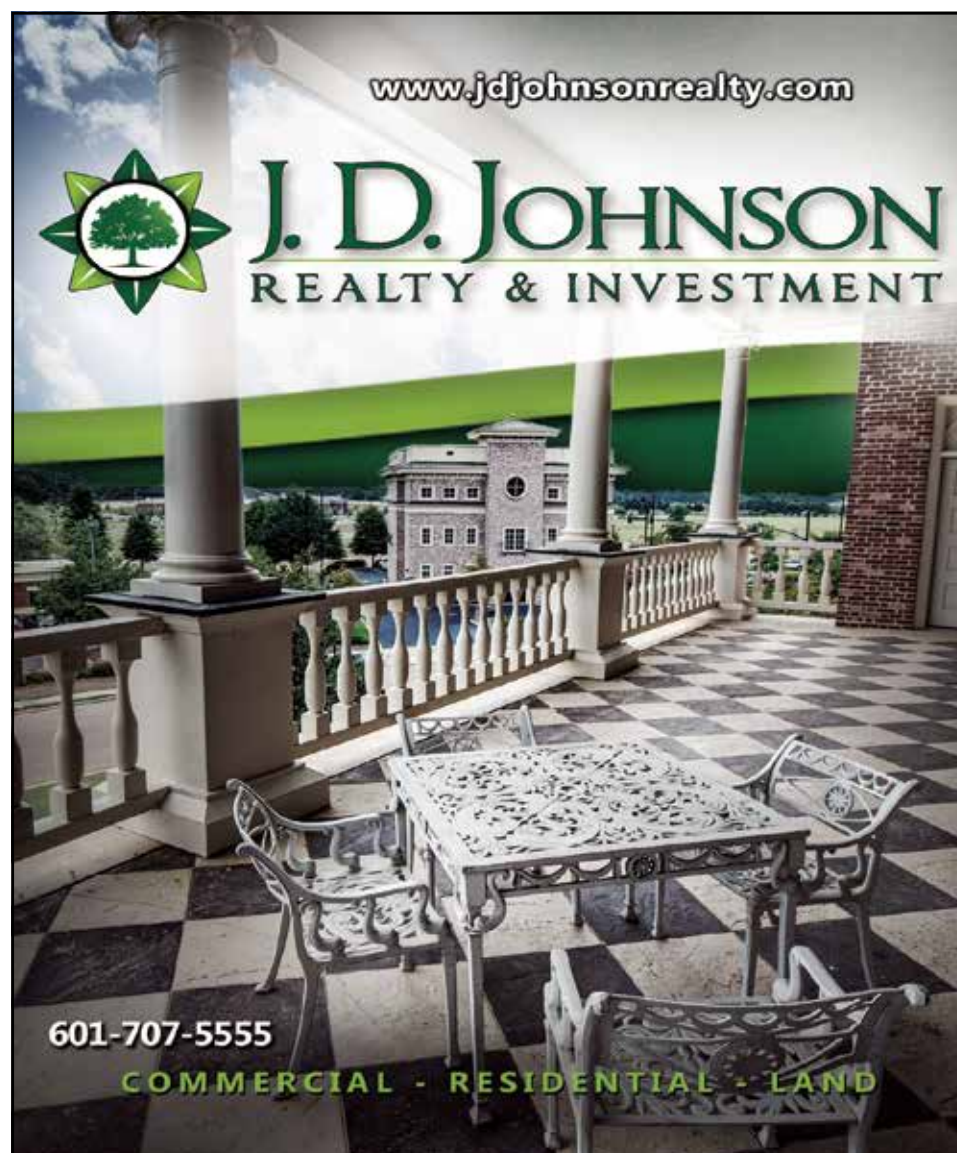


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From the Mayor's desk

By Guest Columnist Arnel Bolden,
Mayor of Canton

As each year draws to a close, many of us reflect on the successes and missed opportunities of the past year, and excitedly look forward to the upcoming one with its proverbial clean slate.



Photo special to The Canton News

While 2015 proved to be one of the best years for the City of Canton in terms of economic growth, new businesses and improved quality of life, I believe we can all benefit from considering ways to achieve personal success and happiness in the coming year.

Some of my 2016 resolutions are:

1. Show more appreciation for those around me who assist me and make my job easier.

It's rare to find friends, associates and employees who are genuinely dedicated to a job well done. Appreciate those traits in others, and let them know they're valued.

2. Learn to have patience, for it truly is a virtue, albeit one that is difficult to maintain. The slogan, "It can wait," doesn't just apply to texting and driving.

Learn to slow down and smell the roses. Each day has a sunrise and a

sunset, and each one is evidence of God's majesty.

3. Accept that life is not fair. While it seems that others get ahead by taking shortcuts, we have much to be thankful for, right where we are.

We live in a city where we rarely are hungry, cold or lacking for anything. Many around the world can't say that. We are truly blessed.

4. Let go of concerns, worries and anxiety, and instead focus each day on personal goals for improvement, concern for others and positive thoughts.

Worrying about things that may happen tomorrow will affect today's joy, not to mention our productivity level. Occupying our minds with positive thoughts and giving back to others will quickly lift our spirits and redirect our steps.

5. And last: Find something good in every day and in every person I meet, regardless of the circumstances.

Being alive and healthy are blessings not everyone can claim. "This is the day the Lord has made. I will rejoice and be glad in it," will be my guide for 2016.

If for any reason I am dissatisfied with the results of any of my resolutions come Dec. 31, 2016, I will simply include them in my 2017 list. There are no deadlines for personal improvements, including the quest for love, joy, peace and patience.

My hope is that by sharing these resolutions with all of you, I will find better determination in accomplishing my goals and become an even better leader for the City of Canton in 2016.

City Hall courtroom named for Flonzie Brown-Wright

By Susie A. Wolfe

The courtroom in Canton City Hall has been named in honor of Flonzie Brown-Wright, the first African American female elected to public office in Mississippi. In January, the Civil Rights activist gave the 2015-2016 Leadership Madison County class a tour of Canton, including her

courtroom.

Brown-Wright, who served as election commissioner in Canton, said she will accept this in honor of her father, Frank Brown, who faced many challenges in the 1950s in attempting to obtain his electrician and plumbers license in that same courtroom.

The official dedication is scheduled February 26 at 11:30 a.m.



Photo by The Canton News

The Leadership Madison County group attending the Canton tour included, from left, Molly Moody, Watkins & Eager, PLLC; Trent Nelson, Bank Plus; G. Robert Parrott, Adams & Reese, LLP; Janet Parker, Innovate Mississippi; Shiu Chung (Kay) Wong, Lighthouse Sanders; Grant Montgomery, Bancorp South Bank; Woody Coleman, Regions Private Wealth; Robert Richard, State Bank & Trust; Diane Cushing, EXIT Summer House Realty; Flonzie Brown-Wright; Abby Enfinger, County Seat restaurant; Joseph Brady, Comcast; Scott Evans, Renasant Bank; Nashandra James, Madison County Schools; Kent Cooper, Allen Financial Group; and Bryan Buckley, Madison/Rankin County D.A. Office; Not shown--Terrence Black, Metropolitan Bank; Bertran Goddloe, Madison County Schools.



Visit our website at **Cantonnews.net**

Wash Depot opens in old Haley building downtown

By Susie A. Wolfe



Photo by The Canton News

The Wash Depot is now open on Peace Street in the old Haley Building by the railroad tracks. Featuring the latest and newest machinery, the 24/7 business also has visual security direct to the police department. An attendant is on hand, 7 a.m. to 10 p.m., to assist customers.

The facility, owned and managed by Adam Cox, offers free WIFI and flat screen televisions, plus a "Fluff N Fold" service where customers

can drop off clothes to be laundered. There are 60 washers and dryers. The washers have a 90 lb. capacity, and the dryers can dry up to 80 lbs. in 17 minutes.

The 120-year-old Haley Building, owned by Mike Oglesbee, formerly housed a gaming business and a local cable operator. Other stores in the renovated complex include SNO Biz, Americash and Deep South Wood. A bar-b-que restaurant, Slabs, is set to open in May.

Canton Academy students donate to Blair E. Baston



Photo special to The Canton News

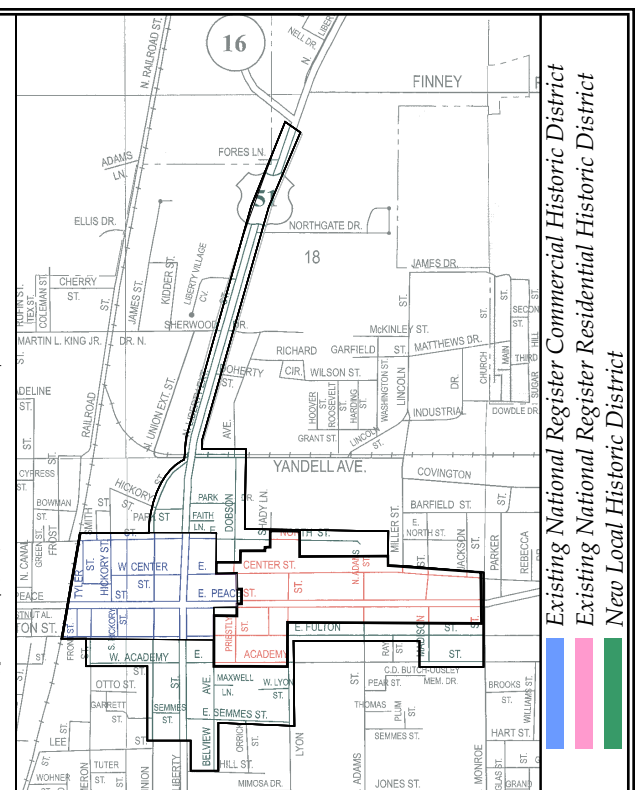
Mrs. McKay's K5 class had a Play Doh drive and collected almost 100 cans of Play Doh for the patients at Blair E. Batson Hospital. Students shown include Harper Lampkin, Piper Cooley, and Alliebrier Townsend with a representative of Blair E. Batson.

CANTON HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

Meets the first Thursday of Each Month at 3:30 PM in the CRA Office (3348 North Liberty)

Harry Baldwin - *Chairman* • Donald Lawrence - *Building Official*
Maureen Simpson - *CLG Coordinator*

The Canton Preservation Commission is responsible for regulating exterior changes in the city's historic districts. The commission will use the *Canton Design Guidelines* and the *Secretary of Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation* in making decisions about which changes are appropriate and which changes are inappropriate. Any property owner planning to construct a new building or contemplating changes to the exterior of a historic resource in the city's historic review district must obtain a Certificate of Appropriateness before work can begin. If the proposed physical change is consistent with the *Canton Design Guidelines*, and the *Standards of rehabilitation*, the applicant will receive a Certificate of Appropriateness and work can begin once all permits are received from other city departments.



Hickory Street Project



Our focus must be Christ-centered

By Guest Columnist Pastor Walter Veals,
Greater Refuge Temple

I count it a privilege to be a part of the Canton and Madison County community. Along with my late wife, I came to fulfill a vision aimed at helping the children of this great city.



Photo special to The Canton News

In recent times, we have heard so many things concerning this generation: unchurched, unfocused, uneducated, undisciplined, directionless, and possessing no work ethic, etc. Now, is the RIGHT time to reflect on how we can effectively reach a generation who some have labelled as Godless, hopeless, violent, and misguided. The world seems to say, "I have mine, and now, you find a way to get yours on your own."

The decision has to be made that in order to move forward, we must return to using Godly wisdom to instill proper values, build moral character, and restore Christian integrity. For those of us who are over 50 years of age, our parents never allowed us to revel in being impoverished, but, instead stressed the importance of our personal relationships with God,

and educating ourselves and others, making great impact on our communities, by sharing resources and information. We moved forward by motivating our communities to aspire to greater things, despite many cultural and social obstacles.

We each have to ask ourselves: "What am I doing to impact/help people in my community? Am I sharing the love that Christ gave with those who have not heard the Gospel? Am I showing compassion when I see those in need?" The questions arise as we look at today's world and our own community. People perish without knowledge and people are perishing because, they have become stagnant – stuck in life, and stuck in unbeneficial relationships.

Our focus must be Christ-centered, and in order to reach generations who are drifting without Godly purpose, we must point them to Christ and His willingness to deliver anyone from sin and circumstance. As Christ's love is shown and shared, many will come to realize that LOVE cannot only cover a multitude of sins, but bring salvation to lost generations. We have to be the persons willing to invest time and effort into people, without taking thought of being reciprocated. We have to be the ones who are undaunted by the tasks of helping, and being the spiritual supporters that God has called us to be.

Madison County Business League and Foundation names Ballentine transportation committee chairman

Special to The Canton News

The board of directors of the Madison County Business League & Foundation named Ray Balentine chairman of its newly formed transportation committee. The organization partners with the Madison County Economic Development Authority to unite the public and private sectors, thereby encouraging proper planning for future growth and development.

Balentine, office executive for Michael Baker International's Alabama and Mississippi operations, joined the company in 2015 to lead offices in Ridgeland, Ocean Springs and Mobile, Alabama. He has 40 years of engineering and planning experience. Prior to joining the company, Balentine served as director of intermodal planning for the Mississippi Department of Transportation.

Balentine currently serves as the president of the Mississippi Trans-



Photo special to The Canton News

portation Institute. He also is a member of the Mississippi Water Resources Association and the Mississippi Intermodal Council.

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Canton Chamber of Commerce awards Canton businesses



Photo by The Canton News

Glenda Rushing of Piggly Wiggly, left, accepted the award for Canton Business of the Year from Dr. Vigba Vig at the Chamber Annual Meeting. Steve Marsh, VP of Manufacturing, said, "Nissan Canton was proud to host the Canton Chamber's Annual Dinner at our plant. The Canton community is our family, and we share in the excitement of the uniqueness of this city, and support the ongoing efforts to uplift the business community."



Photo by The Canton News

Mary Johnson was named Ambassador of the Year for the Canton Chamber at the Annual Meeting.



Photo by The Canton News

Former Governor Ronnie Musgrove, right, was a special guest at the Jan. 28 Chamber Annual Meeting, held at the Nissan Canton Plant. He is shown with board member Timmy Pickett, clinical specialist at Canton's Region 8 Mental Health Services. Musgrove has been referred to as "the architect of Nissan Canton."

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ALLISON'S WELLS
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the 3RD THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH

February 18

Follow us on  for this month's details

Canton Embraces Thursdays

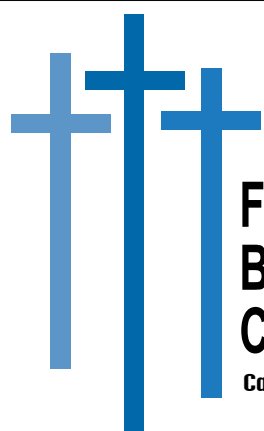
The oldest, and the original, Canton Flea Market Arts & Crafts Show is the catalyst in the creation of the Allison's Wells Art & Antique Walk, which will feature antiques, collectibles and arts. Take a stroll through

the Historic Square, experience a unique, creative small town brimming with art, antiques, gifts and collectibles. A unique architectural setting is the perfect backdrop for an evening of fun & inspiration.

Madison County Business League & Foundation and MCEDA announce Madison County Youth Leadership Class for 2015-16

Photo special to *The Canton News*

The Madison County Business League & Foundation and MCEDA announce the Madison County Youth Leadership Class for 2015-16. Also pictured are the college/university mentors for this year's program. Kneeling (l-r): College/University mentors Alex Milstead, USM; Kierstan Knaus, USM; Caitlyn Mizelle, Holmes Community College – Ridgeland Campus; Rachael Ring, Tulane University. Seated (l-r): Bradley Reynolds, St. Joe; Blythe Blackwell, RHS; Anshul Anugu, RHS; Meg Rice, JA; Miles Murphy, GHS; Catherine Burford, JA; Andrew Speetjens, St. Andrew's; Kelvin So, RHS. Standing (l-r) Rachel Cole, Tri County; Brandon Porter, New Summit; Mary Kate Shearer, RHS; Savanna Tillman, MRA; Anna Shepard, GHS; Mekhi Ross, VJHS; Caroline Doherty, St. Joe; Clay Chance, MRA; Kentesa Linn, VJHS; Joseph Smith, CA; Mary Breiten Webb, CA; Jamarius Brown, CHS; Emily Zhang, MCHS; Harrison McKinnis, MCHS; Makayla Garrett, CHS; Lauren Ousby, St. Andrew's; Lelia Higgs, New Summit. Not pictured: Swayze Bozeman, Tri County



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Canton Gospel Music Association to present black history concert

Special to the Canton News

The Canton Gospel Music Association (CGMA) will hold its Second Annual Black History "Sounds of Celebration" Concert on Sunday, February 28, 2016, at 3 p.m. at the Canton High School Auditorium, located at 634 Finney Road, Canton.

The concert will feature negro spirituals, hymns, gospel and civil rights songs in honor of Black History Month. Featured guest choirs include the Canton High School Concert Choir, the Velma Jackson High School Choir and other guest choirs. Special theatrical performances throughout the concert will be presented by MADDDRAMA of Jackson State University, directed

by Dr. Mark Henderson.

For the last ten years, CGMA has awarded more than 100 music scholarships to aspiring grade school & high school students from the Madison County School District.



This program is free and open to the public. A free will offering will be taken to support the Scholarship Fund. All checks should be made payable to the CGMA, P.O. Box 1791, Canton, MS, 39046.

For more information, contact Cynthia Goodloe Palmer, (601) 918-7809 or CantonGospelMusic@gmail.com. "Like" Canton Gospel Music Association on Facebook.

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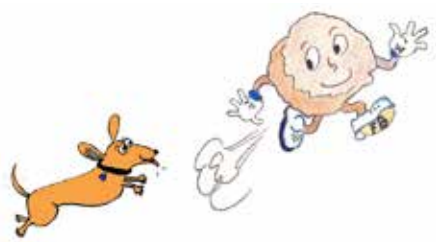
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**MARY CAROL
PATRICK**

Chamber of Commerce ANNUAL MEETING



A large number of attendees of the Canton Chamber's 2016 Annual Dinner held at the Nissan plant gather during the reception for a photo. (Canton Chamber Executive Director, Toya Veals; Canton Chamber Board Chair, Chan Chandler; Former Governor Ronnie Musgrove; Canton Mayor Arnel Bolden; and, Nissan Canton's spokesperson Pamela Confer at Center).

This was Nissan Canton's first time hosting the dinner, which brought over 200 business, political and community leaders together to celebrate the uniqueness of commerce in Canton. The Canton Chamber has an ever-growing membership, and focuses on boosting the successes of new and existing business owners in Canton.

Welcome to our NEW MEMBERS

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Greater Love Worship Center
357 West Peace St. | 601-624-3440

Thank you to El Sombrero Mexican Restaurant located at 111 Soldier Colony Rd for their delicious lunch and awesome hospitality at the Chamber's Ambassador Luncheon. The Ambassador's Luncheon is held every 3rd Friday of the month. Contact the Chamber office to see how you can get involved.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Breakfast with the Mayor
February 4
8:30 a.m. at the Chamber office

Allison's Wells Arts & Antique Walk
(Fall In Love with Sweet Surprises)
February 18

Ambassador's Luncheon
February 19
at the Chamber office

Premier Investors



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Supporting Investors



Nissan launches new Titan XD to be built at the Canton plant



Photo by The Canton News

Governor Phil Bryant, Lt. Governor Tate Reeves and Mayor Arnel Bolden were at Nissan Canton for the launch of the new Titan XD in November. It is called the American Titan because it was designed in California, engineered in Michigan, tested in Arizona, assembled in Mississippi and powered by Tennessee and Cummins in Indiana. The Canton Nissan facility, originally opened in May 2003, has more than 6,000 employees and has produced more than three million vehicles to date. The facility covers 4.2 million square feet. Along with the TITAN XD, models produced include Altima, Armada, Frontier, NV Cargo Van, NV Passenger Van and Murano.

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Canton Public School District holds pre-k screening now-April

Special to The Canton News

The Canton Public School District (CPSD) will offer a limited number of pre-kindergarten classes for the 2016-17 school year. Class size will be limited to 20 students, and the district will offer three classes, for a total of 60 students.

All children must be pre-screened as part of the application process for the program. The pre-kindergarten screening for the 2016-2017 school year will be conducted from February 1 through April 29.

Parents can complete registration from 8 a.m. until 1 p.m. daily during that time period. Upon completion of the application and all required documents, parents will be given a time to return for students to be screened.

Students must be four years old on

or before September 1, 2016 to be eligible for the pre-kindergarten program. Parents or legal guardians must complete and sign a pre-kindergarten application at Rueben B. Myers Canton School of the Arts and Sciences.

When registering children who have been accepted for the pre-kindergarten program, parents or guardians should bring a certified birth certificate, the student's social security card (optional), two proof of residency documents, and a Mississippi immunization compliance certificate.

For more information, please contact Dr. Sametra D. Chisolm-Brown, director literacy and early childhood education, CPSD Office of College and Career Readiness, at 601-859-3372 or email sametrachisolm@cantonschools.net.



Senior Citizens Masquerade Party

Tuesday, February 9

from 1-4 p.m.



Canton Multipurpose & Equine Center

501 Soldiers Colony Rd, Canton

RSVP by January 29 to

Lisa at 601-859-4358 or

lisa@cantonparksandrecreation.com

Valentine's Dance

Friday, February 12
from 7-11 p.m.

Canton Community Center
330 North Union Street, Canton

Ages 13-17

Admission is \$3.00



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City of Canton Parks & Recreation

501 Soldiers Colony Road • 601-859-4358 • www.cityofcantonms.com

Youth Baseball/Softball

\$40 per child

T-ball for 4-5 years old

Coach pitch for 6-8 years old

Minors for 9-11 years old

Baseball for 12-14 years old

Majors for 15-16 years old

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for more info call 601-859-4358



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Saturday, March 19

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Free quartet concert set



One Way Quartet will present a free concert on Saturday, February 27, at 6 p.m. at the Center Terrace Baptist Church, 605 East Peace Street. It is open to the public.

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cont. from front page

Groundbreaking

and economic surge over the past five years.

Merit Health Madison is the recipient of the 2015 Vision Award from the Madison County Business League and Foundation and Madison County Economic Development Authority. Recently, the hospital was also named "Hospital of the Year" (facilities under

100 beds) by the Mississippi Nurses Association, and "Best Place to Work" and provider of "Best Health Services" by the Canton Chamber of Commerce's Annual Best of Canton Community Poll.

Merit Health Madison partnered with construction firm Brasfield & Gorrie, medical real estate developer Capital Growth Medvest and architectural firm Goodwyn Mills Cawood on the development of the new location.

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Sulm's Gifts, The Gallery, K Couture: Three stores in one

By Sarah D. Johnson

Originally a mercantile in the early 1900s until the late 1960s, Sulm's (SOO-lumz)

is now owned by Erin Noble and has three stores in one. Offering customers handmade gifts, original art, and unique

fashion, the Liberty Street retailer is also the Canton Chamber's Merchant of the Year and a mainstay on the Canton Square.

Janet Dowdle, Noble's niece, reopened the mercantile in the late 1970s, naming it Sulm's Gifts. In 1985, Noble bought it with the original fixtures. The store was formerly on north on the Square; it is now on the east side in the former Busy Bee Café, which her husband's grandfather owned.

Sulm's Gifts carries home décor, Mississippi-made items, gourmet baskets, corporate baskets, designer jewelry, baby items, and purses. Invited to be the gift shop in Merit Health Madison, Sulm's has operated there



**Business
Spotlight**



Photo special to The Canton News

"Sulm's Sells It" used to be the former mercantile's slogan. Now, the Liberty Street retailer sells a variety of gifts, paintings and fashions with their three stores in one. From left, store owners Noel Webb, The Gallery; Karin Stewart, K. Kouture; and Erin Noble, Sulm's Gifts.

for three years. A bridal registry is also available.

The Gallery is artist-owned by Noel Webb and her mother, Joyce Street, who started painting in 2005. In 2007, they opened a shop at the corner of the Square and operated eight years.

After her mother retired, Webb joined the mercantile as the second shop in May, 2015.

Good for Webb and Noble, The Gallery's artwork complimented the gift items. Webb sells to those remodeling, buying, building, or looking for



Photo by The Canton News

Erin Noble accepts Merchant of the Year award at the Canton Chamber Annual Meeting. Miriam Koury of Buttross Department Store, right, presented the award.

art gifts, she said. The acrylic large or small pieces are Webb's work, and her mother still paints and adds pieces. Styles are abstract, and feature old churches, New Orleans scenes, etc.

Karin Stewart, K. Kouture owner, was a retired professional when approached by Noble, her sister. She opened the third store in September, 2015, because she loved fashion. It carries apparel for teens and adult women. Currently in store

are classics, 60s and 70s styles with fringe, suede, etc. K. Kouture price points range from \$29-\$120.

"Business has been thriving," Stewart said. "Supporting Canton businesses helps us all. We want Cantonians to know we are here for them."

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Knights of Pillar Nurses Association serving its local Canton members

By Susie A. Wolfe

The Knights of Pillar Nurses Association (KPNA) is a Canton-based non-profit nurses support group started a year ago by President Bertha Mc-Gruder and 14 other members. They meet monthly on the fourth Sunday, at 4 p.m. at Sacred Heart Catholic Church.

The KPNA mission is to support their peers who are experiencing some type

of illness or disease, and to provide health education to the community. During the group's first year, they exhibited at a community-wide health fair. A prayer service was also held for Sister Joyce Adams, and a special memorial service was held honoring all deceased nurses and certified nursing assistants.

For more information on KPNA, email wecare_wecan@yahoo.com.

Intentional living, writing your story

By Guest Columnist Kathy Amos

Happy New Year! How wonderful it is to enter into a new season of your life. As you reflect on your story in 2015, on a scale of 1-10, how would you rate it? Did your plot tell of any significance you made in the lives of others? Did your story indicate that you matter? Did you use the gifts you have to bless others? When you flip through the pages, were your thoughts and actions intentional? If not, now is a great time to write your story.

God created us on purpose and with a divine plan to make our world a better place to live. He filled us with destiny and gave us gifts, talents, dreams and visions. When we become aware of the greatness within us, we become intentional about the life we live and how we impact others.

We all love to hear or read a great story, but often times we forget that there's a great story inside of us. God has an amazing way of bringing our story to life by presenting us with

various situations and circumstances. They either move us to change ourselves or change our situation. When we use those emotions in a positive way, a fiery passion is kindled within us. The hotter that passion burns, the more we understand our "WHY". And when we understand our "WHY," we can find our way.

Amos is a certified coach, speaker and trainer with the John Maxwell team. She is successful in developing partnerships with local government, schools and churches to develop leaders, unify the community, and empower women and children.



Photo special to The Canton News



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Former state senator Kenny Wayne Jones joins CMU as new Corporate Services VP

By Susie A. Wolfe

Kenny Wayne Jones is the new Vice President for Corporate Services for Canton Municipal Utilities (CMU).

The former state senator previously served on the CMU Board of Commissioners and, most recently, served as a consultant to the CMU Board.

Jones represented Attala, Holmes, Madison and Yazoo Counties from January, 2008 – December, 2015. He also served as an alderman for the City of Canton for 12 years prior to being elected to the state legislature.

“Leaving the legislature afforded me many options toward the future,” said Jones. “But, I’m a Cantonian to my heart, and, I felt being able to work

at home was a tremendous opportunity to still serve the community that I love. It was actually a no-brainer to me.”

Having received his early education at Holy Child Jesus School, Jones later graduated from Canton High School. He then attended Jackson State University where he received Bachelor’s and Masters’ degrees in Diversified Technology. Additionally, he served as a medical specialist in the United States Army Reserve, where he retired after 23 years of service.

As the VP of Corporate Services, Jones will have overall responsibility for CMU facilities/grounds, governmental affairs, fleet, marketing, contract administration, claims, safety and health and land management.



Photo special to The Canton News

Chamber honors retirees



Photo by The Canton News

Businesses that retired in 2015 were honored at the Chamber's Annual Meeting: Alice Jean Hawkins and Joe Watts, Jr. from Noble Watts; Tip Hailey (shown) from Hailey Animal Hospital; and Lloyd Simpson, CPA.



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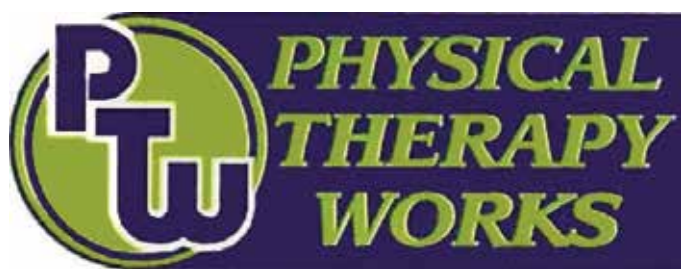


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Rodriguez Brown serves community as an educator and an alderman

By Susie A. Wolfe

Rodriguez Brown, a Canton native, is currently serving his second term as alderman of Ward One. He is a graduate of Jackson State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Social Science education, and is a tenth-grade geometry teacher at Canton High School.

As alderman of Ward One, Brown serves northeast Canton from Highway 43 to Liberty Street.



Photo special to The Canton News

He has been instrumental in the continued repair of roads, job creation, and the development of new businesses, such as Walmart and Madison River Oaks Hospital. He has also hosted back-to-school events in his ward.

Brown said, "I am dedicated to improving the lives of every citizen of Canton through community outreach and advocacy. I believe in listening to the concerns of the community and engaging citizens in the successful resolution of (those) concerns."



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