



New Balloon Fest event offers a tasty addition

Special to The Canton News

Canton launches a new event this year on July 5, whetting appetites and boosting the regional appeal for the Fourth of July and Mississippi Championship Hot Air Balloon Fest weekend.

An SCA-sanctioned steak cookoff on the historic Canton Square combines cooking sport with live music, beer, kids' fun, hot air balloons, shopping and small-town charm, 6-9 p.m. on July 5. That puts it right in-between the Celebrate America Balloon Glow in Ridgeland July 4 and the Mississippi Championship Hot Air Balloon Fest events July 6 at the Canton Multipurpose Center.

"When you think Fourth of July, you think grilling outdoors," says Canton Tourism executive director Jana Padgett. "In my mind, it's got to work!"

The aroma of sizzling meats and smoky goodness work their own magic.

"If somebody's grilling some-



The Mississippi Championship Hot Air Balloon Fest has activities scheduled July 4-6.

Special to The Canton News

thing, I'm hungry already," says Van Waites, event organizer. Anyone can enter, from backyard grill masters to catering pros and vie for cash prizes and bragging rights on steaks and wings.

This is Canton's first competition sanctioned by the Texas-based Steak Cookoff Association, which is projected to hold more than 300 contests world-

wide this year. An SCA representative runs the steak cookoff, and the promoter provides the steaks, with a first-place payout of \$1,000 for the steak cookoff winner and prizes up to fifth place.

Event proceeds will benefit the nonprofit Southern Outdoors Unlimited and its mission to introduce children with disabilities to the outdoors.

The new street party in Canton will celebrate all forms of outdoor cooking. Barbecue aficionados and more are expected, with tasty samples as they compete for the People's Choice Award, determined by public voting. A \$10 wristband buys the way for food sampling, one drink ticket and a vote. Food truck vendors will be

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Canton's longtime fire chief enters retirement

By Lori Lycette

Andrew Hughes joined the Canton Fire Department as a fireman in 1985. He had been approached about joining ten years prior, but he didn't feel like it was right for him. When he eventually decided to become a fireman for job stability and to help sustain his family, they were behind his decision 100%. In the years to follow, Hughes climbed the ranks beginning with sergeant, and then lieutenant, captain, assistant chief,

interim chief and then finally chief, a position he has held for the past thirteen years as of this past February. After more than three decades of service to the City of Canton, he decided that it's time to retire and embark on the next chapter of his life.

"Being a fireman has really been rewarding. It has taught me how to deal with different situations and has given me the ability to show care and concern for people while also having the reward of blessing them. Caring for oth-

cont. on page 4



Retiring Fire Chief Andrew Hughes

Photo by Lori Lycette

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cont. from front page

New Balloon Fest event offers a tasty addition



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Enjoy fireworks at the Celebrate America Balloon Glow July 4 in Ridgeland and the Balloon Fest in Canton July 6.

onsite, too, to round out the offerings, and hard rocking country music from the band TRADEMARK will keep the party hopping.

On July 6, the fun starts early with the Balloon Chase Bike Ride and Competition Flight at the multipurpose center, then kicks into high gear that evening with the festival and fireworks after dark. Good Samaritan's \$5,000 Golf Ball Drop Fundraiser is an annual highlight.

"We want folks to know that they can have a great time, and yet make a difference for our community," says Good Samaritan executive director Kathy Clem.

Here's the rundown of July 4 weekend events:

Thursday, July 4: Celebrate America Balloon Glow at Northpark Mall in Ridgeland, with country artist Phil Vassar, opening act Burnham Road, and fireworks, 6-10 p.m. It's free.

Friday, July 5: Steak cookoff



TRADEMARK entertains at a new Canton event July 5.

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and barbecue competition on the Canton Square, music from TRADEMARK, kids' activities and more, 6-9 p.m. It's free (\$10 wristband for food samples). Register for the SCA-sanctioned steak cookoff at steak-cookoffs.com.

Saturday, July 6: Activities at the Canton Multipurpose Center include 7 a.m. Balloon Chase Bike Ride and Competition Flight; 6-9:30 p.m. Balloon Festival; 6:30 p.m. Balloon

Chase Run/Walk and Kids One Mile Run; 7:30 p.m. Balloon Glow and band Dirt Road Cadillac; 8 p.m. Good Samaritan's \$5,000 Golf Ball Drop Fundraiser; 9:15 p.m. fireworks. It's free (register for bike ride, run and fundraiser at ballooncanton.com or onsite).

Keep up with developments at cantontourism.com, Canton Tourism on Facebook and @Canton-Tourism on Twitter and Instagram.

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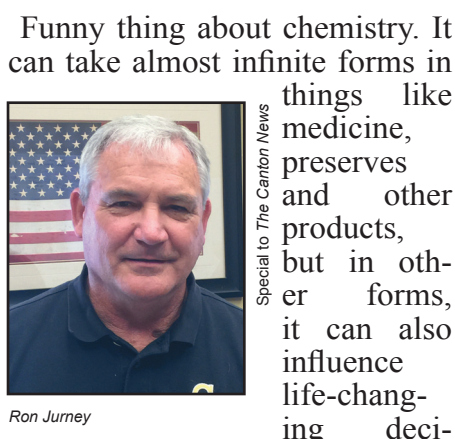
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Know Your Neighbor: Ron Journey

By Guest Columnist Jim Ritchie



Ron Journey

Funny thing about chemistry. It can take almost infinite forms in things like medicine, preserves and other products, but in other forms, it can also influence life-changing decisions. The career of this month's neighbor was impacted by a college chemistry course.

Meet Ron Journey...husband, father, teacher, counselor, high school and college football coach, athletic director and head of school. He was born in Oxford, the son of a doctor, who, at the age of 46, had a heart attack and passed away leaving his young wife and five children. Ron, at the age of eight, was the middle child. His mother moved her family to the Aberdeen area, where her three brothers lived, and took a job at a manufacturing plant, raising her family alone and ensuring that each of her children prepared for successful careers.

As a result of that guidance, they all have achieved the success she expected of them. Ron's father, grandfather and great-grandfather had been doctors, and Ron was expected to carry on that legacy. He graduated from Aberdeen High School and attended Millsaps College on a football scholarship, supplemented by additional scholarships, including one from Rotary International.

He enrolled in a pre-med program at Millsaps, but his advisor looked at his grades in the aforementioned chemistry course and advised Ron that he probably should pursue another career. Ron says he breathed a sigh of relief, changed his major to history, and upon graduation, became a teacher and coach. And it was a natural fit.

He began his vocation teaching and coaching at Woodland Hills Baptist Academy and has since coached at Jackson Academy, Brandon Academy, Ole Miss, Liberty University, University of West Georgia, Brandon High School and his alma mater Millsaps, where he was Athletics Director and football head coach. The demands of the dual responsibilities required to function as both Athletics Director and head coach at the college level proved to be too much for one person to handle, so he gave up the head coaching role to focus solely on the administrative Athletics Director job. But he sorely missed coaching. An offer from Canton Academy (CA) to fill the position of Athletics Director and head football coach, coupled with change in administration at Millsaps, resulted in his accepting the position at the academy, which he held for four years. He left for two years to coach and teach at Brandon High, but returned to CA as head football coach and a year later accepted the added responsibilities of Head of School. He says he "hung up his whistle" in 2016 to function solely as Head of School. Under his leadership, since 2017, the average ACT score at CA has

increased three points to twenty-one, and ninety-plus percent of CA graduates go on to college. CA, whose mission statement is "With a bold vision for the future, Canton Academy exists to nurture hearts and challenge minds in a Christian environment," participates in the dual enrollment program where students are able to complete certain college courses while still at CA. The latest technology is utilized to ensure that the students are given the opportunity to complete online courses not offered on the campus, but also to teach them the latest techniques for using the learning processes they'll need in college. Ron, who is still addressed by most as "Coach," emphasizes that while this use of technology is important, teachers are still the most important element in the classroom. He still misses teaching and coaching and upon retirement from school administration in a few years there is a possibility, with his skills and love of kids, he might return to teaching. But it probably won't be teaching chemistry.

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 his professional artist wife, Perry, live in the Shocco community out from Canton. View their work at www.southernstories.com.



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Blount named head coach

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Canton Academy (CA) recently announced the hiring of David Blount as head football coach. Coach Blount will be succeeding Craig Bowman, who will be moving to Hartfield Academy for the 2019-2020 school year.

“While we are disappointed Coach Bowman will be leaving us, we are excited to have Coach Blount and his son Coach Clay Blount return to Canton Academy,” said Ron Jurney, Head of School at Canton Academy.

David Blount has had tremendous success in the coaching ranks. He served as an assistant coach at Winston Academy, MRA and Copiah for four years each and then moved on to Jackson Academy (JA) as an assistant coach for four more years. He was then named as Head Coach

at JA. He served in that position for ten years, carrying the Raiders to three state championship games and winning two of them.

He then moved on to the college ranks, where he served two years as the Defensive Coordinator at Millsaps College. In 2006, he joined Canton Academy and served two years as the Offensive Coordinator. He was instrumental in helping turn the Canton Academy football program back into a winning program. He moved to Newton County High School as their Defensive Coordinator for one year. Coach Blount was then hired by Tri-County Academy, where he served the last ten years as their head football coach. In those ten years, he led Tri-County to six state championship games, winning two of them. His overall record at Tri-County is 106 wins and 23 losses. David Blount’s overall record as a head football coach for seventeen years is 156 wins and 41 losses. His teams played in nine state championship games, winning four of them.



Special to The Canton News

David Blount

cont. from front page

Fire Chief Hughes retires

ers and wanting to help them are essential to being a fireman,” said Chief Hughes. “It gives me true joy to help people when they can’t help themselves in a time of need, like a car wreck, house fire or sickness.” He added that he has also enjoyed being able to speak to civic groups to make them aware of what could be harmful to them as well as how to become a good citizen.

Chief Hughes attributes most of his success to the good group of men/firefighters in his department who have enabled him to

be a good chief. He said it’s ALL because of them. He appreciates the opportunity to serve them as well as the City of Canton and hopes he accomplished at least two-thirds of what was expected of him and the department. Assistant Chief Kenna Pierce is now moving into the position of chief. Hughes has “complete confidence that Kenna can do a great job and will continue to move the department forward.” He ended by saying, “I’m leaving behind a great fire department; Given the right opportunity, it can be an even greater department.”



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Thank God for all of our freedoms of democracy

By Guest Columnist Joy Foy

As we prepare to celebrate the freedoms that July 4 represents, let's take time to thank God that we live in America, in Mississippi and in Canton. The freedoms of democracy that we enjoy as citizens allow us

the right to own property, motivate us to be productive and offer more protection of our human rights than any other form of government in the world. We all, from time to time, look at others and

think what they have is better, but there are no flawless utopias in this world. While democracy isn't perfect, the Freedom House's "Freedom in the World" report tells us that people who live in countries closer to the free market end of the economic spectrum enjoy larger incomes, more wealth and superior human rights protections than socialist nations.

For the most part, we in Canton live lives defined by the rights the free market form of government offers. A free-market government allows us to focus on family,

faith, work, charitable giving, devotion to community and self-improvement as we choose. This environment has brought us jobs. According to Lauren Scheel, Director of Business Development at the Madison County Economic Development Authority, Nissan has created 6,000 jobs, and their suppliers provide jobs for 4,000+. This environment is also attracting new residents and as a result, many Cantonians report having a happier lifestyle. Most of us live here because this

is OUR choice. We love Canton and appreciate the opportunities it offers.

Let's all continue to stick to our principals, think for ourselves and not abandon

the Christian truths that have afforded us this democracy form of government and its positive economic impact benefits. Happy July 4th to you all!

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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CHS students awarded



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The 2019 Arnel D. Bolden Scholarship was awarded in the amount of \$250 each to Janiya Burse (left) and Tamaia Grant (right). They are pictured with Arnel Bolden (center).



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The 2019 Canton-Madison Alumni Kappa Alpha Psi Scholarship was awarded in the amount of \$500 each to Kenny Wayne Jones (left) and Tylon Jones (middle). They are pictured with Arnel Bolden (right).



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The 2019 Lions Club Scholarship was awarded in the amount of \$1000 each to (l to r) Simon Collier, Shavaria Jones, Jordyn Manning, and Tom Corlette. They are pictured with Arnel Bolden (right).



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Historic jail preserved in Canton, Mississippi

By Lori Lyette

The Old Madison County Jail, located a short walk from the Canton Square at 234 East Fulton Street, is not the first jail in the county, but it certainly served its purpose longer than any other on record. Madison County was established in 1828, and it is believed that the plans for the original jail were created in 1834 by state architect John Lawrence. The structure was built just off the Square on Center Street in 1836, but ultimately burned down shortly after the Civil War.

In 1870, the jail was rebuilt, on East Fulton this time, using bricks from the former structure to build the cellblock of the newer structure. It was a fully functioning jail, including public executions, either by chair or hanging.



(Above) Old Madison County Jail

ings in the yard. The residence for the jailer and family was in the front section of the building, while the cellblock was in the back. It was in a rural setting and had farm animals and gardens which were tended to by

oped for housing. Several local citizens and organizations joined together to purchase the property and then began the restoration process. The Canton-Madison County Historical Society was formed for the purpose of restoring the old jail as a museum. The cell blocks have been restored to their original condition, and it is said to be one of the few penal structures of its period to be so well preserved. The maintenance is an ongoing process, as with any older structure, and depends on fundraisers, grants and generous donations to keep it upright and in compliance with safety codes.

The jail is adjacent to the oldest cemetery in Canton, with tombstones dating as far back as 1812. It contains the historic Howcott Monument, which was erected by William Howcott in honor of his slave, Willis Howcott, and is perhaps the only one of its kind in the South. The log cabin behind the jail is estimated to have been

Continued on page 2



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Knights of Pillar holds 4th scholarship banquet

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The Knights of Pillar Nurses Association (KPNA) 4th Annual Joyce Conway-Adams Scholarship Banquet was recently held at St. Paul Recreation Hall. Recipients for the year were Deanna Sharkey, Holmes Community College; LaShonda Lyles, Meridian Community College; and Andrea Camper, Walden University. Each



Andrea Camper, LaShonda Lyles, and Deanna Sharkey.

student was presented with a check to assist them with their studies. President Bertha McGruder and Mrs. Mary Johnson (CNP/certified nurse practitioner) presented the checks to each student. Dr. Alice

Austin from Holmes Community College was the guest speaker. The Conway Family presented a monetary donation to the JCASF. The scholarship search begins each year in January and closes in March before the selection process begins. Second semester RN (registered nurse) students and nurse practitioners who are in a program qualify for this award.

A nonprofit corporation based in Canton, KPNA's mission is to be a beacon in the community by providing emotional, mental and spiritual support to people who have been diagnosed with various health conditions, as well as their family members and caregivers. KPNA president Bertha McGruder explained that the Joyce Adams Scholarship was started with a vi-

sion she had after the death of a co-worker. "There were so many of us present," said McGruder. "At that point, I realized that we only see each other at a work or a funeral, especially those who have changed locations. I wanted the nurses to come together once a month just to mingle and have fun. After my friend Joyce passed on the morning of our first banquet, I made myself a promise to help anyone in nursing, with a passionate heart to follow in her footsteps. She was an awesome nurse who fulfilled her duties mentally until she passed away. Joyce was to be my right hand with KPNA. She told me in her last words to continue the work that I started. It was a learning experience to get 501-C status; I didn't

realize what all was involved. With God's guidance and grace, I completed all of the necessary docu-



Knights of Pillar Nurses Association banquet attendees.

ments within a year. I ask God every day to allow us to keep doing good things for our community." For more information about KPNA, contact Bertha McGruder at 601-953-8769 or wecare_wecan@yahoo.com. For more information about the ADN program at Holmes, contact Dr. Austin at 601-605-3419 or aaustin@holmescc.edu. All tax-deductible donations may be mailed to P.O. Box 92, Canton, MS 39046. KPNA is also accepting sponsors for the scholarship program.



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The G.A. Carmichael Family Health Center in Canton would like to introduce a new provider, Dr. Shabina Afridi. Originally from Pakistan, Dr. Afridi received her undergraduate degree at Brooklyn College in New York, underwent her training in internal medicine at Kings Brook Jewish Medical Center also in New York and is now certified in internal medicine and has practiced patient care for over ten years. Dr. Afridi chose to go into medicine because she has always loved treating people and helping them get better. She prides herself on being a medical provider who not only encourages her patients to take charge of their health by teaching them about living healthier, but she also listens to them carefully about any medical concerns as well as any other additional issues they might have. Here at G.A. Carmichael, she wants to use her talents to assist the diverse community through counseling and treatment. Outside of work, Dr. Afridi enjoys being with her family and traveling around the world both for fun and for medicine. In the future, she plans to continue doing medical missions to spread G.A. Carmichael's concept of providing quality and affordable healthcare to communities everywhere.

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Holy Land pilgrimage was an honor and a blessing

By Guest Columnist Fr. Mike O'Brien

Last February, I was blessed to be given the awesome gift of a pilgrimage to the Holy Land, the land of Israel and Palestine, the land where Jesus lived, ministered, died on the cross and rose again on Easter Sunday.

We celebrated mass at the church of the Nativity in Bethlehem and stood in line for two hours to touch the star marking the spot where Jesus was born. We visited the town of Nazareth where Jesus lived with Joseph and Mary and played as a little child. We visited Cana where he went to the wedding feast with his mother. I enjoyed helping the couples in our group to renew their marriage vows there.

We went to the Jordan River, to the place where Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist. We all renewed our Baptismal promises,

re-dedicating ourselves to Jesus, as I poured water from the river on their heads. From there we went out into the desert wilderness where Jesus went after his Baptism to fast and pray in preparation for his public ministry. We saw the caves up in the hills where he stayed and where he was tempted by Satan.

We went to Capernaum, where Jesus stayed at the house of Peter, close to the ruins of the synagogue where Jesus taught and prayed. I prayed for the Church there, for renewal, for forgiveness, for restoration. We went out on the Sea of Galilee in a fishing boat. We cast our nets on both sides of the boat but caught

nothing! It was peaceful and beautiful. We could imagine Jesus walking towards us on the water! After our fishing expedition, we had lunch...Tilapia, Peter's fish, the most common fish in Galilee!

We visited Bethany, the home of Jesus' close friends Martha, Mary and Lazarus. We saw the cave where Lazarus was buried. We reflected on how important it is to have good "Faith Friends." We stood on the Mount of Olives and looked down on the City of Jerusalem and remembered that Jesus had wept and prayed for the Holy City. We celebrated Mass in the Garden of

Gethsemane where Jesus prayed with Peter, James and John on the night before we died. I remembered his prayer to his Father "Take this chalice away from me." But in the end, he prayed "Not my will, Father, but yours be done." I was very moved by the garden experience.

One morning, we got up at 4 a.m. and went to Calvary, and I had the awesome experience of celebrating mass at 5:30 a.m. on the hill of Calvary where Jesus died for our salvation. Afterwards, we walked through the narrow streets of the old city carrying a cross and stopping along the way to reflect and meditate on Jesus' last walk, the Via Dolorosa.

Our visit to the Holy Land was a "Transfiguration" experience. The sacred scriptures have come to life for me in a new and exciting way. As Dr. Martin Luther King once said, "I've been to the mountain top, and I've seen the glory."

EDITOR'S NOTE: Fr. Mike O'Brien is the pastor of Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Canton.



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Canton Academy's officer is shown appreciation



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In honor of Law Enforcement Appreciation week, Canton Academy (CA) students recognized their very own, Lieutenant Mark Sandridge of the Madison County Sheriff's Department. He was posted outside of the school, and all of the students walked out and cheered for him. They also lined up to hug him or shake his hand in appreciation for his dedication to their school.

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Yes (1 point) No (0 points)

- 4. Do you have a mother, father, sister or brother with diabetes?**
Yes (1 point) No (0 points)

- 5. Have you ever been diagnosed with high blood pressure?**
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- 6. Are you physically active?**
Yes (0 points) No (1 point)

- 7. What is your weight category?**
See chart at right.

Height Weight (lbs.)

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4' 11"	124-147	148-197	198+
5' 0"	128-152	153-203	204+
5'1"	132-157	158-210	211+
5' 2"	136-163	164-217	218+
5' 3"	141-168	169-224	225+
5' 4"	145-173	174-231	232+
5' 5"	150-179	180-239	240+
5' 6"	155-185	186-246	247+
5' 7"	159-190	191-254	255+
5' 8"	164-196	197-261	262+
5' 9"	169-202	203-269	270+
5' 10"	174-208	209-277	278+
5' 11"	179-214	215-285	286+
6' 0"	184-220	221-293	294+
6' 1"	189-226	227-301	302+
6' 2"	194-232	233-310	311+
6' 3"	200-239	240-318	319+
6' 4"	205-245	246-327	328+

1 point 2 point 3 point

If you weigh less than the amount in the left column: 0 points

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You are at increased risk for having type 2 diabetes. However, only your doctor can tell for sure if you do have type 2 diabetes or prediabetes, a condition in which blood glucose levels are higher than normal but not yet high enough to be diagnosed as diabetes. Talk to your doctor to see if additional testing is needed. Type 2 diabetes is more common in African Americans, Hispanics/Latinos, Native Americans, Asian Americans, and Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders. Higher body weight increases diabetes risk for everyone. Asian Americans are at increased diabetes risk at lower body weight than the rest of the general public (about 15 pounds lower).

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Tomorrow's Prevention, Today

Canton Public Schools offer summer learning



All photos Special to The Canton News

CPSD students recently took advantage of summer programs to keep them at the head of the class. The school district offers an Extended School Year for enrichment, remediation and credit recovery for identified students. The programs were held June 3-27, Monday through Thursday from 8 a.m. until 12 p.m. at Huey Porter Middle School, Canton 9th Grade Academy and Canton High School. Students also participated in ACT boot camps, Algebra I, Biology I and English Learners (EL) classes. CPSD's 21st Century Summer Program was also available for Pre-K through grade 5, which ran concurrently with the Extended School Year.



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MDE offers scholarships

Special to The Canton News

The Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) is partnering with Mississippi Professional Educators (MPE) to award scholarships to up to 125 diverse candidates who wish to pursue their National Board Certification. Awardees will each receive a \$475 scholarship. Diversity may be based on an educator's race, gender, ethnicity, subject(s) taught or pathway to licensure.

The scholarship opportunity is made possible through a grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, which also supports the Mississippi Teacher Residency program.

The scholarship will provide seed money for recipients to begin their National Board journey. Scholarship recipients will use the state's reimbursement of their initial component to pay for subsequent components.

Scholarship recipients will also be reimbursed for the \$75 registration fee to the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards and will receive up to \$100 for mentoring support at a World Class Teaching Program.

Ninety-five scholarships will be awarded to the highest-ranked appli-

cants teaching in Sunflower County, Jackson Public Schools, Moss Point and Ocean Springs school districts. The remaining thirty scholarships will be awarded to the highest-ranked applicants from the state at large.

- To be eligible to apply, applicants must:
- Be under contract as a full-time educator in Mississippi during the 2019-20 school year,
- Hold a bachelor's degree and a valid Mississippi teaching license,
- Have three years of classroom experience,
- Submit the \$75 nonrefundable and nontransferable registration fee to the National Board of Professional Teaching Standards and have a valid candidate identification number,
- Register with a Mississippi World Class Teaching Program by October 30, 2019 and adhere to all program guidelines, and
- Be a first-time National Board candidate who is pursuing the initial component.

The application is available at the MPE website. Completed applications are due to the MPE office by 4:30 pm on Friday, August 23.

Rankin joins MCBL & F



Special to The Canton News

The Madison County Business League and Foundation (MCBL&F) recently named Mary Kate Rankin as their new executive assistant. She is a native of Canton, Mississippi, and a 2014 Canton Academy graduate. Rankin recently earned her B.S. in marketing, with a concentration in Supply Chain Management, from Mississippi State University. She was a member of the MSU Fashion Board, serving as director of the makeup committee, and also served on the marketing committee for the Fashion Board magazine, Etrè. She is now an active member of the MSU Central Mississippi Alumni Association.

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Mack is OU EDI graduate

Special to The Canton News

Taquana E. Mack, with Madison County Economic Development Authority, recently graduated from the University of Oklahoma Economic Development (OU EDI) Institute at the

OU EDI Spring session held in Indianapolis, Indiana.

OU EDI is an intensive 117-hour certificate program which provides a broad spectrum of advanced education for the economic development professional. Mary Ann Moon, Dean, said, "OU EDI is the premier organization dedicated to training economic development professionals. These graduates represent some of the finest economic development practitioners in the U.S. working to support their local communities. My congratu-

lations to them."

OU EDI classes focus on three major core areas including: Business Retention and Expansion, Real Estate and Credit Analysis, as well as areas of concentration in Marketing, Strategic Planning, Entrepreneurship and Managing Economic Development Organizations. Students typically take 1-2 years to complete the program through a series of in-person seminars, workshops and discussion groups.

OU EDI began in 1962 and is celebrating its 57th year of service to the economic development community. Fully accredited by the International Economic Development Council (IEDC), the program has trained over 5,500 graduates and remains the world's leading economic development teacher.

For more information about the OU Economic Development Institute, its courses and internationally recognized certificate program, contact 405-325-3136 or edi@ou.edu.



Taquana Mack

Special to The Canton News

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Take measures now to prepare for hurricane season

By Guest Columnist State Fire Marshal Mike Chaney

Every year as Atlantic Hurricane Season begins, I reflect on storms past, the extraordinary damage and the precious lives lost. But I also reflect on how far our state, and especially the Mississippi Gulf Coast, have come in recent years through thoughtful preparation.

Stronger building codes keep our coast solid – resulting in more economic development, jobs, and growth. Higher building standards and innovative ideas mean reduced insurance rates and statewide building codes are supported by the Homebuilders Association of Mississippi, Fire Chiefs Association and many others.

At last check, there were 19,330 policies in force under the wind

Special to The Canton News



Mike Chaney



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pool – which is a downturn from over 40,000 policies. It's likely this trend will continue unless we experience a storm or serious threat of a storm.

Additionally, there are about 63,000 flood policies in force in Mississippi. The National Flood Insurance Program has been extended through June 14, 2019. Still, I urge the United States

Congress to reexamine the program. What I want is for private enterprise to be able to write policies in competition with the federal government and provide the same coverage the federal government provides. This action lowers rates and folks can afford to buy flood insurance.

While I hope we have a quiet hurricane season, we must

prepare in case of a disaster. My office is urging individuals and families to pack a bag with post-disaster essentials. A "Go Bag" should include cash, medications, a battery-powered radio and one gallon of water for every family member and pet. You also need important documents like your Social Security cards, driver's licenses and a copy of your insurance policies, so you can quickly file a claim once the danger has passed.

This is the time of year to review your insurance coverage and make sure you are familiar with your policies. If you're considering flood insurance, know that it will take thirty days to go into effect from the date you buy it and flood insurance is not generally covered by a standard homeowner's policy.

Again, I hope Mississippi avoids damage, destruction and loss of life this hurricane season. But if we have to weather a storm, let's do so prepared, aware and together. Please call my office should you need anything.

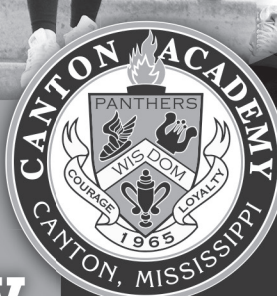
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Hinds Community College selects 2019-20 Hi-Steppers



Special to The Canton News

Hinds Community College has selected the Hi-Steppers for 2019-20, including one from Canton. The Hinds Hi-Steppers are one of the oldest precision dance lines in the nation and perform at football games, exhibitions, parades, and community and charitable events. The Hi-Steppers are under the direction of Angela Hite of Raymond. Veteran members (l to r) are, front row: Laura Duncan of Florence; Mysheaira Taylor of Canton; Myriah Boyd of Pearl (lieutenant); Jaya Brown (captain), Jaide Seals (lieutenant) and Katie Burns (lieutenant), all of Brandon; and Allennia Shelby of Natchez. New members (l to r) include, back row: Kylee Cunningham, Naomi Edwards and April Lee, all of Raymond; Courtney Cummins of Brandon; Meagan Ross of Carthage; Merritt Bynum of Brandon; Allyson Hartling of Clinton; Jada Todd of Milwaukee, Wisconsin; Anna Claire Buchanan, Emily Gray and Natalie Clanton, all of Vicksburg; and Cheyanne Wynn, Rahael Robinson and Aaliyah Ross, all of Clinton.

DOM increases coverage

Special to The Canton News

The Mississippi Division of Medicaid (DOM) is now covering more prescription drugs per month and more home health visits per year for Medicaid beneficiaries, marking the second phase of the Medicaid EASE Initiative. First announced in December of last year, the Medicaid EASE Initiative – Enhancing Access to Services and Engagement – is a series of programmatic changes aimed at increasing Medicaid beneficiaries' access to needed services in the most appropriate setting.

With the first phase of the EASE Initiative, DOM increased the physician visit limit for beneficiaries from twelve to sixteen visits per year beginning Jan. 1, 2019.

In the second phase of the EASE Initiative, DOM will increase the monthly prescription drug lim-

it from five to six prescriptions and increase the number of home health visits per state fiscal year from twenty-five to thirty-six. Both changes took effect July 1, 2019.

During the 2018 session of the Mississippi Legislature, lawmakers granted DOM additional flexibilities in how the program is administered. Through the EASE Initiative, DOM is phasing in targeting program improvements designed to be

in the best interest of Medicaid beneficiaries as well as taxpayers.

"These increases to Medicaid services are only possible thanks to the work of our elected officials," said Drew Snyder, executive director. "With their leadership and support, we will continue exploring new ways of optimizing value to the public to ensure a good return on investment with the taxpayer dollars entrusted to us."



MISSISSIPPI DIVISION OF
MEDICAID

Lions elect new officers



Special to The Canton News

New Canton Lions Club officers (l to r) front row, are: Tamika Liddell, 2-year director; Bobby Long, past president; Timmy Pickett, tail twister; and Darlene Austin, vice president; and back row: Richard Case, 1-year director; Tom Corlett, secretary-treasurer; Joy Foy, chair membership and marketing; and Mark Hopkins, president. Not pictured: Al Salmi, lion tamer.

Nissan promotes local director to lead Canton plant

Special to The Canton News

Nissan is announcing a change in senior management at its Canton plant with the appointment of Erik Fields as vice president, manufacturing, Nissan Canton Vehicle Assembly Plant.

Fields brings more than twenty years of automotive and engineering expertise. He has spent twelve years at Nissan Canton, serving in various roles of increasing

responsibility, including manufacturing program manager, where he helped lead the launch of Nissan Altima, TITAN XD and NV Passenger Van. He was director of engineering for four years before taking on his current role as direc-

tor of production operations maintenance. Prior to joining Nissan, Fields held engineering roles with other automotive and manufacturing companies. "This is a proud moment for Nissan as we promote homegrown talent from within the Canton plant to take the lead role," said Heath Holtz, senior vice president, Manufacturing, Supply Chain Management and Purchasing, Nissan North America, Inc. "Erik is high-

ly qualified and a well-respected leader who brings a one-team, human-centered approach to help drive business success and unlock the potential of the plant." Fields holds an MBA from the University of Mississippi and a bachelor's in industrial engineering from Ohio University. He serves as vice president of the Mississippi Automotive Manufacturers Association (MAMA).

Nissan Canton Vehicle Assembly Plant Nissan Canton enters its 16th year of operation in Mississippi. Nissan has grown the Canton plant from a regional manufacturing facility to a global one, investing \$3.45 billion in the facility since its opening in 2003. The facility employs 6,000 hard-working men and women, and it currently produces Nissan Altima, Murano, TITAN and TITAN XD, Frontier, NV Cargo Van and NV Passenger Van.



Special to The Canton News

Erik Fields



tor of production operations maintenance. Prior to joining Nissan, Fields held engineering roles with other automotive and manufacturing companies.

"This is a proud moment for Nis-

ly qualified and a well-respected leader who brings a one-team, human-centered approach to help drive business success and unlock the potential of the plant."

Fields holds an MBA from the

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