



THE CANTON NEWS

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Madison nursing home plans park with walking trail

By Lori Lycette

Despite the delays that the COVID-19 quarantining and social distancing mandates have created, the Madison County Nursing Home, located just east of town on Highway 16, has established plans for a brand new park to be constructed between the nursing home and the highway, where the Madison County Medical Center once stood.

The park will be constructed primarily for the nursing home residents but will be open to the public as well.

After hiring a landscape architect, Madison County Nursing Home Director Daniel Logan and the Madison County Nursing Home Board of Trustees met with all the residents to get ideas and suggestions from them about what they would like to see in the

new park.

From that information, the landscape architect created a rendering of a circular park containing a circular half mile walking trail that leads right back where the walk-

ers began. “The residents had a lot of input in the final drawings and are eager to be able to see and enjoy the new park,” said

Logan. “The walking trails will be wider than most walking trails, as they will be made to accommodate those using wheel-

chairs.”

An Arbor Pavilion will create shaded space in the center of the property for community

and nursing home functions and will be wired for electricity in the event that

music, microphones or additional lighting is needed.

A large open grassy area will be open for nursing home resident activities and other community events, with ample room for portable seating.

Covered seating will be available as well as restrooms within the park.

The board of trustees recently approved the plan to go forward with the project, and the next step will be to hire a consultant to draw the details, which is estimated to take several months. The project will then be placed open for bids.

Once a contractor is chosen, it is estimated that it will take about nine months to complete the project.

The projected completion date and grand opening of the park is fall of 2021, weather and virus permitting.



Landscape architect's rendering of the new park

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Canton schools evaluating options for 20-21 school year

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The Mississippi State Board of Education (SBE) recently suspended several policies to give local school districts scheduling flexibility for the 2020-21 school year to deal with the impact of COVID-19.

State law requires schools to provide 180 days of instruction each school year. Local school districts are responsible for designing school schedules that best meet the needs of their communities. School calendars, including the first and last day of school and school holidays, are set at the district level.

The SBE policy suspensions

will allow districts flexibility with their scheduling to comply with Mississippi State Department of Health and Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines for managing the COVID-19 outbreak.

For the 2020-21 school year, districts may meet the 180-day teaching requirement by implementing one or more of three scheduling

options for operating schools: traditional, virtual or a hybrid of in-person and distance learning. The types of schedules may vary among schools in the same district to meet the different learning needs of students in elementary, middle and high school.

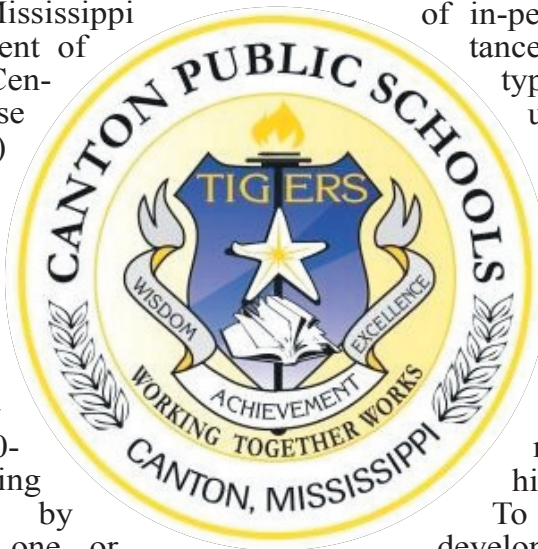
To help districts develop class schedules, the number of daily

instructional hours required has been reduced from five and a half hours to four hours per day.

For high school courses that offer Carnegie unit credit, the 140-hour instructional requirement for one-credit courses and the 70-hour instructional requirement for half-credit courses will be waived if the district develops a plan to ensure students master the course content. The plan must be approved by the local school board and posted on the district's website by September 30, 2020.

The SBE also suspended the policy requiring districts to seek a waiver from the SBE

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Giving God thanks in the midst of a pandemic

By Guest Columnist Reverend Dr.
Moses E. Thompson



Reverend Dr. Moses E. Thompson

The Bible says in everything give thanks to God. It means we should be thankful to Him in the good times, as well as the bad times. It is not easy to thank God in the midst of a pandemic like what the earth is experiencing today. Over a hundred thousand people have died, millions are infected and some fighting for their lives, and billions are in isolation, locked down in their homes for days on end.

1 Thessalonians 5:18

In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

You may ask: What is there to give thanks to God for, or Why should we give God thanks in a time like this?

Because we have reasons to thank

God.

First: God knows the end from the beginning.

He is the Alpha and Omega, the One that knows all things and commands that in all things we should give thanks. It is His will for us to give thanks to Him in all circumstances. He knows how much we can bear. He is the God of the good times and the bad times.

1 Chronicles 16:34 says, "O give thanks unto the Lord; for He is good, for His mercy endureth forever." So let's thank God for the COVID-19 pandemic. This pandemic has brought us closer together and most of all closer to God.

Secondly: He is the owner of life. We live because God ordains it, and He gives life and death. His breath sustains the living; therefore, the living soul ought to thank

God. He is sovereign and does what He wills. He gives life and takes it, who can question Him?

Psalm 6:5 says, "For in death there is no remembrance of thee; in the grave who shall give thee thanks?" It is only the living that can praise and thank God. He is the author

and finisher of our faith. God has the power to speak and man shall live, and He has the power to speak and man lay down and die.

Thirdly: Thanksgiving leads to triumph.

There is victory in thanksgiving. Jehoshaphat led the Israelites in praise and thanksgiving to

God when they were confronted by a mighty army, and God delivered them from the hands of their enemies. God has power to set the captives free.

Fourthly: Thanksgiving is a worthy sacrifice to God.

A sacrifice is something that is

offered to God in order to either appease Him or gain something of value. Jesus has already offered Himself on the cross as sacrifice of the sin of the world once for all time; the only worthy sacrifice believers can offer to God now is the sacrifice of thanksgiving.

Psalm 107:22 says, "And let them sacrifice the sacrifices of thanksgiving and declare His works with rejoicing."

When we thank God in anticipation of what He will do, the gates of divine intervention open, which leads to more thanksgiving when the anticipated is done.

There is assurance from the word of God that good will come out of this pandemic.

Romans 8:28 says, "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are called according to His purpose."

No pandemic can derail God's purpose. God uses such situations to show His mighty power in the lives of his children. The pandemic has drawn many unbelievers and

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Know Your Neighbor: Robert Summerlin

By Guest Columnist Jim Ritchie

Ninety-one years ago last month, this month's neighbor was born in the Catholic Church Rectory at Sulfur Springs, Mississippi (close to Camden). Not in a hospital or at home...in the rectory. But that's another story for another time.

Meet Robert (Bob) J. Summerlin, who in his ninety-one years has, as one may expect, a myriad of stories to tell. Since his arrival in this world on May 24, 1929, his resume has included dire poverty, rejection by the United States Air Force, world travel with the United States Navy, military combat, a thirty-three year career with a forklift company in

Jackson and finally cattle farming at his land in the Camden area.

At the time he entered this world in the church rectory, his mother was the house-

keeper and cook at the rectory, and his father was the church groundskeeper and driver for the priest. When the depression hit, these jobs disappeared, and they began living in one empty house after another.

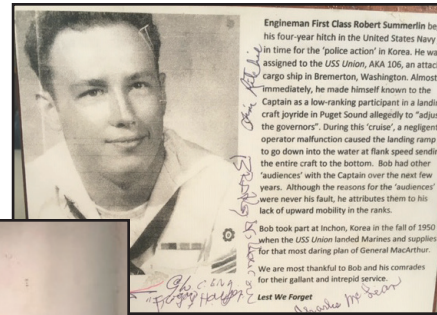
Bob says, "I don't know how we made it through those hard times, but somehow we did."

He lied about his age and joined the Air Force when he was in the eleventh grade at Camden, but, as he puts it, "I got caught, and they sent me back home."

He was able to join the Navy a year later and served three years aboard an amphibious cargo ship,

during which time he visited some exotic places like Hawaii and some not so exotic places like Point Barrow, on the northern shore of Alaska, just south of the North Pole. According to him, there is only a two-week annual window in July when a ship can get close enough to shore at Point Barrow to deliver supplies before becoming iced in.

He saw combat in Korea and participated in several beach landings there, including the invasion at Inchon, which turned around the



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Bob Summerlin's service award from the Coffee Club



Photo by Lori Lycette

The Men's Coffee Club recently recognized Bob Summerlin's 91st birthday and his service in the Korean War. Pictured (l to r) are: Jim Ritchie, Toxey Hall, John Scanlan, Bob Summerlin, Bradley Williamson (seated), C.L. Griffing and Froggy Hayes.

ship next to his and saw General Douglas MacArthur on its bridge.

When his three-year enlistment was over, his enlistment was involuntarily extended for a year. He spent this last year aboard an oil tanker at Hawaii, and each night they anchored in Pearl Harbor about three hundred yards from the battleship *Arizona*, which was still sticking up out of the water.

There are many stories in his repertoire, too many to go into here, but there is one that especially bears telling.

He and several other sailors were taking, more or less, a joy ride one day on a landing craft when one

of the men accidentally dropped the front ramp of the craft while running at top speed. The boat filled up, of course, and sank.

The admiral wasn't happy with the fact that it was going to cost around sixty thousand dollars to raise the boat and suggested considerable punishment for all aboard. The chief petty officers involved got "busted," and the rest, including Bob, got assigned additional duties.

"I peeled potatoes," he says, "for a hundred and twenty hours, even though I had nothing to do with causing the incident, but I was guilty of having been aboard."

With the Navy days behind him, he returned to the Camden area and, on a blind date, met, then married Miss Ruth Waldrip, with whom he just celebrated their sixty-sixth wedding anniversary. It appears that the marriage may very well work out.

The union was blessed with four children: Rhonda, Theresa, James R., and Tammie.

Bob has sold his cattle now and is retired. He can often be seen dispensing sage advice and sharing stories at the old men's coffee meeting on the Canton Square most weekday mornings.

We assume all of his stories are the pristine truth.

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

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Duncan M. Gray Episcopal Camp and Conference Center, located north of town on Way Road, recently replaced all the beds in their conference rooms, and Executive Director Susan Merrill wanted to share the current beds with the local community.

Two Men and a Truck Moving Company transported all seven-



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ty-one mattresses, box springs, frames and sets of bed linens to the Sacred Heart Catholic Church parking lot, free of charge. The Canton families who received the beds had been affected by the ICE raids last August and were eagerly awaiting the arrival of the two trucks.

The Gray Center is the Episcopal Camp and Conference Center for the Episcopal Diocese of Mississippi.

CGMA presents scholarships

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The Canton Gospel Music Association (CGMA) recently presented the 15th Annual Mrs. Rembert Washington Music Scholarship in the amount of \$1,000 to Kaitlin Elise Myricks. Myricks is a graduate of Germantown High School and was part of the school's marching band, symphonic band and concert band. She plans to attend Holmes Community College to major in forensic chemistry and to later attend medical school, with aspirations of becoming a medical examiner.

Kaitlin Myricks

"Gospel music is a way of celebrating and connecting and drawing closer to God, because the songs tell a story of His goodness," said Myricks.

The CGMA also presented the 15th Annual Professor Samuel Whisenton Music Scholarship

in the amount of \$1,000 to Michael Brooks. Brooks is a graduate of Velma Jackson High School and was part of the Velma Jackson Singers and the youth and mass choir at his church. He aspires to pursue a degree in music education at Jackson State University and later become a choral music teacher.

"I would like to inspire younger generations of musicians to use the gift that has been bestowed upon them by our Lord and Savior," said Brooks.



Michael Brooks

"We congratulate these two outstanding students and wish them all the best as they pursue educational opportunities," said Cynthia Goodloe Palmer, founder and president of the Canton Gospel Music Association.

The live presentations will be on Sunday, August 23, 2020, at 5 p.m. on YouTube, Facebook or www.CantonMSGospelMusic.com. The website will be up by July 1.

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MCLS to provide digital skills training

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The American Library Association (ALA) recently announced that Madison County Library System (MCLS) has been selected to participate in Libraries Lead with Digital Skills, an initiative of ALA and the Public Library Association (PLA), sponsored by Grow With Google, the tech company's economic opportunity initiative.

This initiative will award MCLS funding in the amount of \$2,000 to reach the community through applied digital skills, jobs on Google search and helping small businesses adjust to moving business online. Annual statistics from 2019 show over 55,000 public access computer sessions in Madison County libraries.

Twenty-five percent report using the computers for job-related purposes, such as job searches and online job applications, while another twenty-three percent use the computers for educational purposes, such as online classes and research. Nearly seventy percent of users reported no home internet



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access.

The goal of MCLS will be to reach those with and without access to adequate online capabilities. Grow with Google will help provide free training tools and expertise. MCLS will bring this service to the citizens by setting up a website specifically for job seekers and small businesses.

The COVID-19 crisis has caused job loss for some of the library patrons, and small businesses are facing unprecedented times. MCLS will actively keep the social media and website updated with links to all major job boards, including the Win Job Center. There will be links

to learning sites and specific tech courses for a particular job path.

MCLS will also hold trainings for local business owners to effectively operate their business remotely. Since some individuals will need access to computer hardware and Wi-Fi while learning digital skills, the library is talking with local internet service providers and other tech companies about discounted Wi-Fi and ways to get laptops that can be loaned out to those committed.

For more information about this topic, contact Maggie Mayer at 601-859-7733 ext. 108 or email mmayer@mcls.ms.

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Giving God thanks in the midst of a pandemic

nations closer to God.

Lastly: Give thanks, for a great miracle is on the way.

Let's give thanks to God, for a great miracle is around the corner. He will bring it to pass by His mercy and for His glory in Jesus' name.

God is sovereign and is in control of the situation of the earth. He allowed the coronavirus for a reason. He will put an end to it when His purpose is accomplished.

In the meantime, let's give God thanks in the midst of a pandemic.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Rev. Dr. Moses E. Thompson is Pastor of Lee's Chapel AME Zion Church and resides in Canton with his wife, Tesha.



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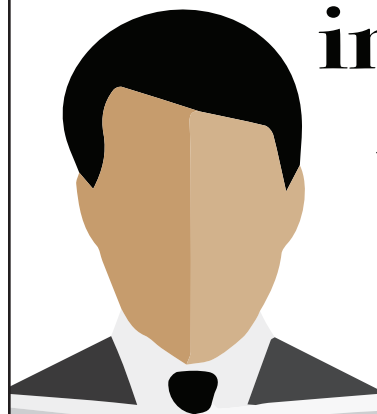
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Canton's Jacobian Morgan gears up for Syracuse

By Andy Kanengiser

As the COVID-19 crisis continues, Jacobian Morgan is preparing for his freshman year on the Syracuse football team.



Canton High standout football player and CHS graduate Jacobian Morgan is pictured in a Syracuse University uniform.

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The world changed dramatically due to the pandemic in spring and now early summer. A former Canton High star quarterback,

Morgan joined the Syracuse family on National Signing Day on February 5. That was nearly five months before 122,000 Americans died from the coronavirus as of late June. There are more than 2.32 million COVID-19 cases in the U.S.

Syracuse athletic leaders mapped out a new schedule for players as the 2020 college season is set to begin. The 6'4" 200-pound Mississippian is not just all about football. Morgan plans to major in exercise science at the private university in upstate New York.

Canton High Head Coach Calvin Bolton believes the sky's the limit for this talented young man who finished No. 9 in his graduating class.

"The NFL is always a goal," Bolton said. But if a pro football career doesn't work out, a degree from Syracuse University "will go a long way," he said.

Seeing Morgan excel at Canton High and get recruited to play football at a Power 5 school like Syracuse, Bolton said, is really a positive step. "It helps our program."

Before long, Morgan must adjust to rugged winters of heavy snowfalls and make new friends on a

campus with 22,000 students. Syracuse sits 1,235 miles from Canton, Mississippi, or a drive of more than eighteen hours.

The new football season begins as Syracuse faces Boston College in the September 4 opener. The contest between the Atlantic Coast Conference rivals is booked for New England.

Preseason is just around the corner. Syracuse players gear up for training camp with padded practices to start August 6. It really gets started for Orange players with two weeks of mandatory summer workouts starting in mid-July. The NCAA recently gave its approval for college football's preseason after spring practices were cancelled.

Athletic officials are preparing Syracuse players, coaches and fans for what figures to be an unusual football season given the pandemic.

"Eventually, over the course of perhaps forty-five days or so, we will put the entire team together," says deputy athletic director Herman Frazier. He oversees the football team's COVID-19 plans.

Student-athletes are learning to deal with a new world, where a deadly virus sets much of the agenda.

There's the usual football things, as well. There's the former Canton Tiger dressed in a publicity photo, wearing a Syracuse uniform and standing near a football planted on the studio's 50-year-line.

Bolton believes Morgan and other stars on his 2019 Canton football team will shine bright in college. The list includes Tyquan Henderson (Co-Lin CC), Tomicrin Taylor (Holmes CC), and Jaiden Burns (Hinds CC).

Starting his fifth season, Syracuse Coach Dino Babers is a believer, too, as Morgan begins his

freshman year.

"We've got two high quality guys," Babers said at a press conference, referring to Morgan and another top quarterback recruit. "We will wait to see what happens."

Why did the Mississippian select Syracuse? Picking the Orange, Morgan said, was "kinda a no-brainer," adding that Syracuse "felt like home."

Syracuse should reap the benefits, says Bolton.

"Jacobian is a born leader," Bolton said. "Syracuse found a diamond in the rough."

Veteran quarterback Tommy DeVito, a junior, returns to call signals for the Orange. Mississippi fans seeking to follow Morgan and the Orange should note their 2020 schedule.

After road games with Boston College and Rutgers, Syracuse returns home to the 49,057-seat Carrier Dome to play Colgate. Later, Syracuse hosts teams like Louisville, Liberty North Carolina State and Florida State. Roads trips include ACC teams such as

Clemson, Wake Forest and Pittsburgh. After a ten-win campaign in 2018, Syracuse slumped to 5-7 in 2019. Orange fans expect to see an improvement in 2020.

The Orange must replace 1,000-yard receiver Trishton Jackson, who went to the NFL. Coach Babers is all about developing NFL players. He attended the 2020 Super Bowl between the Kansas City Chiefs and the San Francisco 49ers. Babers saw ex-Syracuse players compete on America's biggest sports stage.

Could Jacobian Morgan be on his way to the NFL in a few years? He's not yet played a down with Syracuse. But his career at Canton High was stellar. In 24 games on the varsity, Morgan tossed 35 touchdowns, with passing yardage of 3,116 and an average of 13.7 yards per completion. Last season, the Canton Tigers finished with a 7-4 record.

The Tigers pro-style quarterback will be missed at his alma mater in Madison County.

"It's a huge loss," Bolton said. "We will have to reload."



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5 ways to keep the Fourth of July Canton-centric

By Sherry Lucas

The crowd part may be on hold for July 4th celebrations because of the COVID-19 pandemic, but that doesn't mean Independence Day is going to get by without at least some of its usual bang and color in town.

Let freedom ring on a truly local level this summer, by celebrating safely in town and putting your support behind local businesses and events that are key to Canton's charm.

The Mississippi Hot Air Balloon Festival won't look the same this year, but it'll still fly, bringing color to the central Mississippi skies and the kind of soaring hope that gravity-defying feats can supply.

"This has been going on for thirty-five years. It's not a new event, it's a tradition that people base family reunions around, they base when they come home to visit Mama and Daddy, Grandma and Grandpa," says Visit Canton's Jana Dear.

"Right now, we need our family more than anything, and that's the

heartstring of this event."

Businesses, too, could use a boost, and merchants that might usually close up shop during July 4th festivities are throwing open their doors and staying open late to welcome the traffic.

"It's going to lift their spirits, which is what they need right now,"

Dear says.

"Hopefully, we'll get a boost economically, and also a boost in morale and community

that, with so much going on right now, they'll feel a sense of pride in our town and we can come together and have this event, and volunteers will make sure every-

one is safe and taken care of."

Here are five ways to stay Canton-centric this Fourth of July:

Shop Canton — Friday, July 3, will see a shopping event on the Historic Canton Square, 6-9 p.m., with stores open late and featuring sales and specials.

Shoppers can keep a safe social distance outdoors and in stores with the entire Square at their disposal, yet still get that community feel. Live

music from solo musicians on the Square, including Frazier Ridell and more, will lend a festive feel.

Glow and fireworks fun — On Saturday, July 4, the Hot Air Bal-

loon Glow at the Canton Multipurpose Center at 7:30 p.m. brightens the night, and a fireworks show lights up the sky at 9 p.m. Canton Tourism is working with radio station WMGO 1370 AM to have patriotic music to accompany the fireworks display, which folks can safely enjoy from their cars.

Make a night of it — Pick up dinner for the family curbside at one of Canton's restaurants beforehand, and turn the holiday outing into a picnic of sorts!

Chill around the grill — Slip some locally grown beef on the grill or smoker while you're cooking out for the holiday. Cattle born and raised on Remington-Lott Farms in Canton provides the beef sold through its stores, with the one in Gluckstadt closest for Canton customers.

Remington-Lott Farms' Kelsey Eaves says ribs are a popular option for family cookouts, with back ribs, short ribs and dinosaur ribs among the options.

"Ribs are a big seller for the holidays, and also our brisket," Eaves

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Comfortable passengers make road trips easy

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Road trips can create memories to last a lifetime. No matter how many songs may be downloaded on one's phone or how interesting the passengers are, boredom can strike after a few hours in the car. With that in mind, the Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT) offers tips to make residents' next road trip as comfortable as possible.

"Road trips can be fun for the whole family, but long hours on the road can be draining for all," said Melinda McGrath, P.E., MDOT Executive Director. "Packing a few items to keep drivers and passengers comfortable is always a great idea."

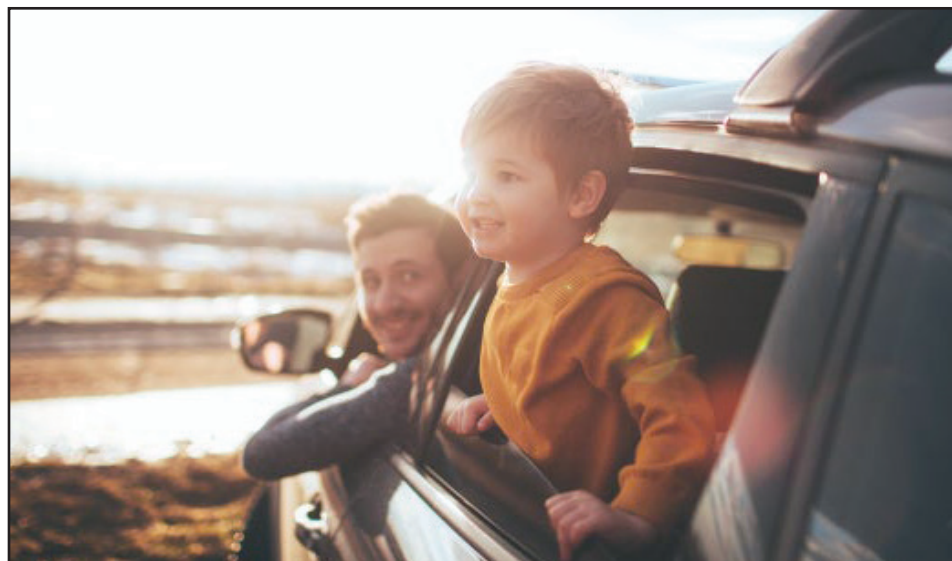
When packing for a next trip, consider items to entertain each passenger depending on age and interests. Books and magazines can serve as great ways to make the time pass. Cross-word puzzles or word searches can keep minds active, as well.

Drive boredom away by turning on a podcast. To accommodate children, include a coloring book or a small hand-held gaming device to keep them content for miles at a time.

Classic travel games such as "20 Questions" or "I-Spy" are other options that will keep passengers entertained.

In addition to entertainment, consider packing:

- Water and snacks, maybe even a little caffeine for those long stretches on the highway.
- Blankets and pillows, so passengers can nap comfortably.
- Tissues, disinfectant wipes and paper towels.
- A cell phone charger.
- And, for safety, include face masks, gloves and hand sanitizer.
- "Having comfortable passengers, especially when traveling with children, makes for relaxed and focused drivers," McGrath said. "Always make sure to drive smart and pay attention to arrive safely at your



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destination."

For longer road trips, drivers and passengers are reminded to take breaks and stretch their legs every couple of hours.

In addition to these road trip tips, MDOT encourages travelers to "know before you go" — to check with their destination for any local regulations related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Real-time road conditions can be accessed by visiting MDOT-

traffic.com or downloading the MDOT Traffic mobile app. These two resources keep travelers updated and help them navigate to the nearest rest stops, all of which remain open and on enhanced cleaning protocols.

The website and app can be used to avoid construction zones and traffic delays, too, by allowing for access to real-time traffic information on the go.



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First impressions reflect on everyone

By Guest Columnist Joy Foy

A big THANK YOU to our Madison County Board of Supervisors.



Joy Foy

At a recent meeting, they voted four to one to cease the practice of spraying the grass along our county roadsides.

They were already in the process of upgrading mowing equipment and will shift from the practice of spraying to mowing.

Driving down country roads with green grass and wildflowers will certainly be an improvement over the dead, brown grasses and weeds that are the product of spraying. While the appearance of Madison County will be improved, there is also an underlying reason for this change in business as usual.

The killing of the roadside grasses over and over will eventually destroy the root systems, and

erosion will deplete the roadbeds and the areas around culverts and bridges. This will lead to a much greater cost in repairs.

In the Main Street program, we learned about the broken window theory that proclaims neglected property invites vandalism and littering, due to an unkept appearance. The concept is that people, generally speaking, will live up to their environment.

The first impression of an area is a reflection on the leadership and residents. Green mowed roadways will be a good addition to assuring Madison County remains a safe, clean and desirable place to live and will raise the expectations not to trash this valued area. Cutting the roadside grass will improve the windshield experience of a drive, and in the long run, will save money in maintenance.

Main Street also teaches that City and County leaders should set the example in keeping prop-

erties clean and well maintained. This makes it easier when the need arises to ask citizens to spruce up private property.

Keeping public property neat and groomed by cutting grass, picking up trash, keeping signage updated and clearing ditches will help to instill pride and respect in neighborhoods. These practices do not cost a lot of money but speak volumes about the place.

Please, when you see your Supervisors, help me to thank them for all they are doing to build a better living environment for Madison County.



Special to The Canton News

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 Canton Lions Club and on the Keep Canton Beautiful Committee.

Davenport joins the HCC Hi-Steppers



Special to The Canton News

Jamia Davenport of Canton was recently selected as a new member of the Hinds Community College Hi-Steppers precision dance team for the 2020-21 school year. The Hinds Hi-Steppers is one of the oldest precision dance lines in the nation and performs at football games, exhibitions, parades and community and charitable events. The team is under the direction of Angela Hite of Raymond.

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cont. from page 7

5 ways to keep the Fourth of July Canton-centric

says, with the whole brisket (7 to 9 pounds), or the flat or the point (with its extra fat cap) to choose from. Customers can get the whole brisket untrimmed, or with a medium or a tight trim to suit personal cooking styles.

Steaks — ribeye, New York strip, filet — and hamburgers are also holiday staples.

“Hamburgers are a big thing for the Fourth of July. Depending on how big the get-together, it can be more cost-effective for them,” Eaves says. Because of demand during the pandemic, ground beef is limited to five pounds per week per person now. Get any orders in as quickly as possible, directly to the Remington-Lott store, with locations in Ridgeland, Flowood and Clinton, as well as Gluckstadt.

Savor the sweet corn — Sumrall Farm in Canton expects the usual uptick in folks wanting sweet corn for the Fourth, for reasons including and beyond its perfect place on the holiday cookout plate. Plenty of folks put it on the grill for Fourth family get-togethers.

“I know some people use the opportunity to take advantage of all their kids and grandkids being home and let them help put up the corn — bring in the corn, shuck it, cut it off the cob,” says Jeff Sumrall, chuckling as he adds, “They see an opportunity to get some good free labor out of the kids and grandkids.”

It’s a good time to plan ahead and stash fresh sweet corn in the freezer for good year-round eating, and when Sumrall sees a purchase like five bags of corn — 48 ears to a bag, so nearly 250 ears total — he knows, “They’re not going to eat all that on the grill this weekend.” Corn, ready by late June, stretches to around mid-July, and folks can buy it straight from the farm in Canton or, for a few Saturdays in summer, from the Mississippi Farmers Market in Jackson. The farm also grows watermelon, cantaloupe, tomatoes, squash, okra and purple hull peas, but Sumrall cautions, “All of that stuff’s not always all ready at exactly the same time.”



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Watermelon for the Fourth? Sumrall says they’ll be “really close,”

so keep your fingers crossed. And, count on the corn.

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Universities reopening for fall

Special to The Canton News

The Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning recently passed a resolution at its meeting stating the Board's intention that the campuses of all eight public universities make plans to resume traditional operations on their campuses in the Fall of 2020.

"Providing a safe environment for all students and employees is paramount," said Dr. Ford Dye, President of the Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning. "We urge the universities to take prudent precautions in planning for resuming traditional operations and make adjustments as needed, based on recommendations from health experts."

The resolution includes direction on the universities to plan to offer as many in-person classes as possible, while taking into consideration guidance from the Federal

Government and the Mississippi Department of Health and complying with any Executive Order from the Governor then in effect.

The Safe Start Task Force, established last month by Dr. Alfred Rankins, Jr., Commissioner of Higher Education, is developing a system-level plan for starting and completing the fall 2020 semester in the safest and most effective way.

"The Safe Start Task Force is working diligently to develop guidelines to help the campuses resume traditional operations in a safe manner," said Dr. Rankins. "While this is a fluid situation and there are many unknowns at this point, our goal is to provide the best academic experience in the safest manner possible."

The resolution recognizes that plans being made may need to be modified to align with changes in recommendations from health experts.



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cont. from front page

Canton schools evaluating options for 2020-21 school yr.

or the Commission on School Accreditation if they are unable to comply with state-mandated student-teacher ratios.

Policies that remain for the 2020-21 school year include:

- Districts must establish graduation requirements for the 2020-21 school year prior to the first day of school. Those requirements must meet the state's minimum graduation requirements.
- Local school boards shall establish criteria for the academic promotion/progression/retention of students for the 2020-21 school year prior to the first day of school.
- Local school boards shall establish uniform grading policies for the 2020-21 school year prior to the first day of school.

The Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) has partnered with a workgroup of nine superintendents from a diverse range of school districts to outline the key issues

districts need to address to reopen schools. Recently, the MDE released "Considerations for Reopening Mississippi Schools," which outlines a three-month timeline of strategies for superintendents and principals to consider to plan for the start of the 2020-21 school year. The document is intended to be used as a resource and starting point for districts to consider local needs in collaboration with stakeholders. It will be updated in three-month intervals to adjust to changes with the COVID-19 outbreak.

"The MDE will continue to support districts during this summer planning phase and once schools reopen," said Dr. Carey Wright, state superintendent of education. "We are working in consultation with the Office of the Governor, the Mississippi State Department of Health and the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency to ensure that schools open safely and so they can provide every student



Special to The Canton News

with the high-quality education they deserve."

"Canton Public School District is currently in the process of developing an instructional and operations plan for the 2020-2021 school year that will ensure the safety of our students and staff amid the current COVID-19 outbreak," said CPSD Superintendent Gary Hannah. "We are considering feedback from our parents and staff, guidelines from the Mississippi Department of

Education and the Centers for Disease Control and our state's ever-changing data on the epidemic as we develop our plan. We will announce a decision about our instructional format for the start of school by July 1, 2020, keeping in mind that we may have to make adjustments as the situation changes. We appreciate your support!"

To view the "Consideration for Reopening Mississippi Schools," visit www.mdek12.org.

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Canton Academy prepares for 2020-21 school year

Special to The Canton News

After a partially online semester due to COVID-19, Canton Academy (CA) faculty and staff are already in the preparation phases for the upcoming school year.

Despite missing out on spring activities, students were able to finish out the school year as scheduled.

Jenny Wadford, admissions director explained, "For all the disappointment that surrounded the cancellation of school due to the COVID-19 pandemic, there was so much more gratitude for the hard work our staff and students gave from day one to make it a thorough and successful end to the school year. Canton Academy, as a whole, proved to the community and beyond that, when we are restricted to bare-bones operations, we are strong to the core in the areas that matter, including academics, communication, teamwork and inclusion."

"The bottom line is...we still

had school. As admissions director, I have never been more proud to promote our school by telling everyone all the good things that we are doing here. I have had friends from all over who are connected to every type of school complement our efforts and successes during the shutdown period. We already knew we were doing a great job, and now lots of others know, too," said Wadford.

Canton Academy wanted to make sure the Class of 2020 was recognized in a traditional graduation ceremony, after having to miss out on other events due to

COVID-19. With safety guidelines in mind, CA graduates were allowed a limited number of tickets and sat six feet apart during the ceremony. Every senior was recognized and awarded a diploma before

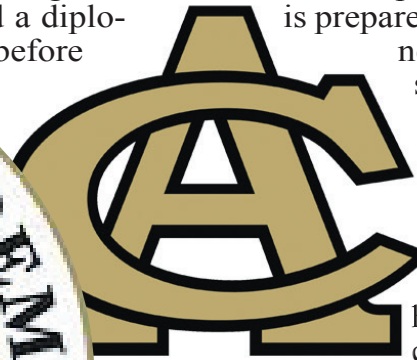
to social distancing during lifting and conditioning.

The current plan is for students to return to classes as normal with sanitization measures in place, although faculty is prepared if online learning is needed once the new school year begins.

Once students arrive for the fall semester, they will be introduced to a "new CA normal," which will include heavy sanitation of classrooms and diligence in the safety of students.

With the students being a constant priority, Canton Academy administrators plan to use their summer to plan, listen, and ensure the best learning environment is created for all students.

CA administration says they are listening to and following MAIS guidelines, as well as the governor, so the safest environment will be ensured for the students, faculty and staff.



spending one last evening together as a class.

With a new school year fast approaching, summer athletes are taking precautions - from having their temperature taken upon arrival



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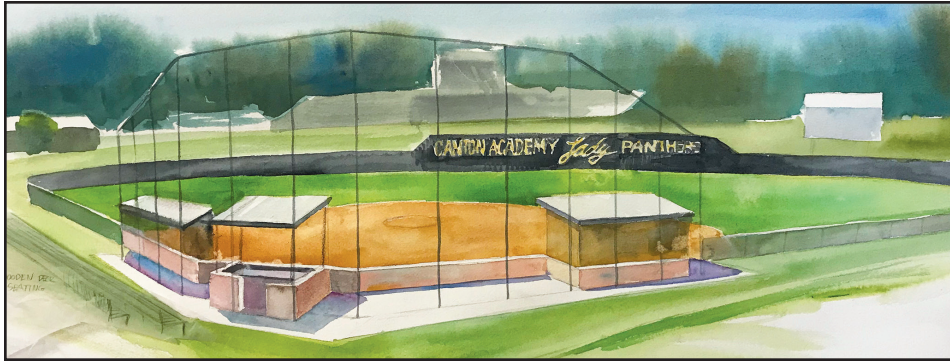
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CA stadium receiving facelift



Artwork by Mark Millet

A rendering of the updated softball stadium at Canton Academy.

Special to The Canton News

Canton Academy's softball stadium is currently receiving a much-needed facelift.

A new press box, improved dug-outs, drainage improvements, better seating areas for fans and locker room upgrades are all part of the project.

Most of the work, which includes the field and stadium, will be finished before the season starts in July. The locker room phase will continue during and after the season.

Much of the work being done

in the stadium is "gift in kind" work, donated by local businesses, which have made contributions to numerous other projects on the CA campus in the last few years.

The Grounds and Buildings Committee, under the leadership of Tom Lariviere, planned this project, while Danny Spivey has served as the point person. Terry Parkinston and Travis Lambert have also assisted on this project.

For information on how to help with the stadium facelift project, contact Canton Academy at 601-859-5231.

Canton Lions resume meetings

Special to The Canton News

Canton Lions met for the first time since March 18, according to Treasurer Danny Murphy, on Wednesday, June 16 at Penn's. Things were different than usual. Attendance was down with only ten members

present, each member stood in line

at the buffet

to be served,

tables were

in smaller

groupings

and club

business was

conducted

without a pro-

gram speaker.

However, it was a good start.

Penn's made all the

Lions feel welcome and

had sanitized the restaurant in

several ways, including remov-

ing the carpet as well as switch-

ing to plastic utensils.

The Lions are planning to re-

schedule the annual barbeque to

sometime this fall and will honor the tickets that had been sold for the original event in March, which was cancelled due to COVID-19. The date and details of this event will be published on the Canton Lions Facebook page, in the Canton News and through the WMGO radio station.

Lions Pres-

ident Mark

Hopkins

said, "Our

club will

begin full

programs

from here on

with speak-

ers to keep the

club members

informed of news

and opportunities

new to Canton. Please,

come and join Canton Lions and

become part of a giving civic

organization that supports city

projects, White Cane, Seeing

Eye Dog, local students and other

worthy causes."



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Canton, Mississippi honors late George Floyd



Special to The Canton News

Community members recently joined together at the Train Depot for a special program and a candlelight march in solidarity and in memory of George Floyd. The peaceful demonstration was a call of unity to bring awareness to the injustices that are being faced across the country.

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