



THE CANTON NEWS

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

Canton High and Canton Academy become one

Special to The Canton News

On Friday, March 23, Canton Academy and Canton High School celebrated the tenth anniversary of the first competition in any sport between the two, Canton community schools by bringing the community together to play another exciting baseball match-up. The historic first game between the two schools was first scheduled to be played on Saturday, April 5, 2008. The game was appropriately dubbed as the “Spirit of Unity Game.” Both baseball teams were very good that year, and the coaches, Coach Ray from Canton Academy and Coach Reagan from Canton High School, felt the timing was right to play a game of this kind of significance. The administration from both schools were very open to the idea, as well. As the game date grew closer that spring, the anticipation and excitement started to build. There was a press conference held at Canton Academy the Monday of game



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Players, coaches and administration from Canton Academy and Canton High School join at the pitcher's mound for a pre-game picture.

week that included city leaders, administrators from both schools, coaches and players. Both teams, players and coaches, then went out to the CA fieldhouse and had the opportunity to get to know one another better.

The day of the game finally arrived; however, the day would

take a devastating turn that will always be a scar and a continued heartbreak for the entire community of Canton. Mitch Dickens, a Canton Academy senior baseball player, and Scott Lloyd, a Canton Academy sophomore baseball player, were tragically lost in an automobile accident that morning.

These two young men were dearly loved by the Canton Academy community and by all those who had the pleasure of knowing them. Mitch wore #5 on his uniform, and Scott wore #10. Those two numbers are on the foul ball poles at Stuart Smith Stadium at Canton

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Opportunity zones named by Governor Bryant

Special to The Canton News

The U.S. Department of Treasury has designated three census tracts in Madison County as Qualified Opportunity Zones to spur economic growth. The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act authorized the governor of each U.S. state and territory to nominate a certain number of qualifying census tracts as “Opportunity Zones.” Mississippi’s designations were officially confirmed Tuesday, April 10, by the Treasury Department, which administers the program.

The Madison County Economic

Development Authority (MCE-DA), along with Madison County municipalities within eligible census tracts, nominated tracts for Governor Bryant’s consideration and recommendation to the U.S. Department of Treasury for the Opportunity Zone designation.

Joseph P. Deason, Executive Director of Madison County Economic Development said, “These three tracts, one in Ridgeland and two in Canton, will provide our communities the ability to attract private investment to encourage economic development in the form of jobs and assist neigh-

borhood revitalization. We are all excited and look forward to receiving the next round of information concerning the program.”

The Ridgeland zone is comprised of the area between South Wheatley Street to Old Canton Road (west to east) and Lake Harbour Drive to East County Line Road (north to south).

The Canton zones span from Interstate 55 in Canton and end just before Sharon Road (west to east) running along Peace Street and Highway 16. These tracts are located within the Madison County Healthcare Zone.

Qualified Opportunity zones retain this designation for ten years. Investors can defer tax on any prior gains until no later than December 31, 2026, so long as the gain is reinvested in a Qualified Opportunity Fund, an investment vehicle organized to make investments in Qualified Opportunity Zones. In addition, the investor holds the investment in the Opportunity Fund for at least ten years, the investor would be eligible for an increase in its basis equal to the fair market value of the investment on the date that it is sold.

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Garage sale to benefit Center Terrace mission



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Center Terrace Baptist Church will hold a garage sale on May 4, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. and May 5, 6 a.m.

to noon. All proceeds from the garage sale will benefit the mission ministry of Center Terrace Baptist Church.

Madison County Library establishes Digital Lab



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The Madison County Library system has recently opened a new Digital Innovation Lab inside the Canton branch of the library system. The lab is equipped with a 3D printer, iMac computers that have Adobe Creative Suite software, and an analog to digital video converter. It is also equipped with the Learning Express Job and Career Accelerator software.

This equipment and software will allow the library to host programs and workshops that will prepare patrons for the ever-changing job market. Also, the library will be partnering with the Canton Tourism office as part of their annual Young Filmmakers Workshop. For more information, contact the Canton branch of the Madison County Library system 601-859-3202.

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Know Your Neighbor: Geoff Webster

By Guest Columnist Jim Ritchie

When he speaks, his British accent is apparent, but the sharp edges have been softened possibly by his use of the languages in the other six countries he's inhabited.

Meet Geoff (pronounced "Jeff" in Madison County) Webster. Born in Liverpool, England, he graduated from a boarding school in Wales and at age 17 joined the Royal Fleet Auxiliary (RFA) initially as an apprentice working in the Portsmouth Naval Dockyard. The RFA's ships support the Royal Navy. After two years, he then went to sea with the RFA as an engineer, and during this time was accepted to King's College, Newcastle Upon Tyne, where he earned a Bachelor of Science in Naval Architecture in 1972. While at the university, he started sailing on



Special to The Canton News

hopper dredgers and married Miss Elizabeth Macey of Portsmouth, England. This union has produced four daughters and five grandchildren, and during the marriage they have moved thirty-two times.

After university in 1972, he joined the Adrian Volker Group, a Dutch dredging company based in Rotterdam, Holland, as a superintendent engineer. Volker's business was the construction and maintenance of harbors and waterways throughout the world. In 1974, he was sent to India on a large harbor project and in 1976 was sent to Al Jubail, Saudi Arabia, to assist in the construction of the largest marine contract in the world at that time.

Adrian Volker joint ventured with CF Bean Dredging Company in New Orleans to provide a large cutter dredge, which was towed from New Orleans to Saudi Arabia to work on the project. In 1978, Geoff was sent by the Dutch to work with Bean Dredging in the design and construction of a large hopper dredge, the Eagle 1, at

Avondale shipyard in New Orleans, a \$40 million project. In 1983, he left Volker and formed Vener Marine, Ltd., in New Orleans, as a marine engineering and naval architecture company, consulting to the dredging, marine and offshore industry worldwide.

Hurricane Katrina destroyed his Waveland house, and he set up his business in a beautiful home in the Panther Creek subdivision and retired this year. Very few positive things can be said about Katrina, but one of them is that Canton owes her a debt for sending Geoff and Elizabeth our way.

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.

Coach plays important role as mentor



Special to The Canton News

Khameron Glass and his mom are pictured with Mayor Truly, Canton Aldermen, and Alvin Davis, Director of Parks and Rec

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Khameron Glass is a senior at Brandon High School. He is an honor student and a member of the Brandon High School swim team and the Sunkist swim team in Flowood. Glass has been swimming competitively for eight years. Glass' swimming story began in the summer of 2009 in Canton at the Red Bud Park under the instruction of Coach Wash.

Glass returned to Red Bud and Coach Wash the following sum-

mer of 2010, and he was met with words from Coach Wash that would ultimately shape the course of his future.

"Your son is talented, and I think you should find the closest swim team and put him on it," said Coach Wash.

Glass has received numerous awards during his swimming career thus far. He is a Junior National Qualifier and a Scholastic All-American. He was chosen by the *Clarion Ledger* to be a member of the MS All Prep Sports first team for two consecutive years.

He is an MHSAA backstroke record holder; he is the Brandon High School Wendy's Heisman recipient for 2018. While at Brandon High School, he was chosen as the Most Athletic Boy, and he has been inducted into the 2018 Hall of Fame.

Swimming has played a very important role in Glass' life, and it has opened many doors that garnered many opportunities for the young man. Glass has signed a National Letter of Intent to attend Drury University in Springfield, Missouri, as a student-athlete.

Supervisors announce Law Enforcement week



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Madison County Sheriff's deputies observing the signing of the Proclamation (l-r): Deputy Chad Hathcock, Sheriff Randy Tucker, Deputy Lee Brock and Deputy Jessie Smith.

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The Madison County Board of Supervisors adopted a resolution proclaiming May 13

through 19, 2018, as Madison County Law Enforcement Appreciation Week. The County economic development support organizations are collab-



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Shown seated (l-r): Supervisor Trey Baxter; Supervisor Sheila Jones, board president; Supervisor Gerald Steen. Standing (l-r): Paige Petersen, Executive Director Madison County Chamber of Commerce; Supervisor David Bishop; Sheriff Randy Tucker; Supervisor Paul Griffin; and Jan Collins, Executive Director Madison County Business League & Foundation.

orating for the fourth year to promote this event in each municipality and throughout Madison County to thank and commend the law enforcement

community and first responders for their service. This event is in conjunction with National Law Enforcement Appreciation Week.



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MRC names employees of the year for 2017- 18



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Methodist Rehabilitation Center's Employees of the Year for 2017 are, from left: Melinda Gehrett, Support Services Employee of the Year for external campuses; Brad Kennedy, Clinical Services Employee of the Year for external campuses; Nickey Ray, Support Services Employee of the Year; and Veronica Taylor, Clinical Services Employee of the Year.

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Methodist Rehabilitation Center in Jackson has named its Employees of the Year for 2017. Veronica Taylor of Pearl was named Clinical Services Employee of the Year. She serves as a physical therapist for the hospital's Stroke Recovery Program. Nickey Ray of Canton was named Support Services Employee of the Year. He serves as senior maintenance mechanic for the hospital.

Brad Kennedy of Mendenhall was named Clinical Services Employee of the Year for external campuses. He serves as a certified prosthetist at Methodist Orthotics & Prosthetics' Hattiesburg clinic. Melinda Gehrett of Canton was named Support Services Employee of the Year for external campuses. She

serves as office manager for Methodist Specialty Care Center.

MRC honored these employees at a banquet held at the Mississippi Museum of Art in Jackson on April 10.

Methodist Rehabilitation Center provides comprehensive inpatient medical rehabilitation programs for people with spinal cord and brain injuries, stroke and other neurological and orthopedic disorders.

MRC's external campuses include Methodist Outpatient Therapy clinics in Flowood and Ridgeland, Methodist Specialty Care Center in Flowood, Methodist Pain and Spine Center in Flowood, and Methodist Orthotics & Prosthetics clinics in Flowood, Meridian, Hattiesburg, Cleveland, Oxford and Monroe, La.

Tourism is an economic development tool to use

By Guest Columnist Joy Foy

According to the recently released 2017 Tourism Economic Impact Report from Mississippi



Special to The Canton News

Development Authority (MDA), \$6.3 billion was spent in our state by 23 million tourists, the highest numbers in twelve years. This spending contributed \$398.7 million to the State General Fund Budget. Jana Padgett Dear of the Canton Tourism office documented over 33,000 tourists visiting the Canton Welcome Center during 2017. Additionally, the Canton Flea Markets and the Canton Christmas Festival yearly average 250,000 tourists who shop and eat in Canton. This report does not break down the income to the city level but does show Madison County's tourism spending increased by \$4.5 million this last year.

We can all understand tourism's value in dollars and cents to our city, county, and state budgets; however, there is also the IM-PACT value that is as important as the money. Tourists' spending helps to support the existing restaurants, hotels, bed and breakfasts, golf courses, and shopping opportunities. It also offers additional opportunities for more of these amenities, which are the fabric for a vibrant community. These amenities add to the positive experience for locals and tourists alike.

The Canton Tourism office rein-

vests these tourist dollars daily to improve the image and bring more tourists into our city. Most recently, the tourism office recruited and hosted twenty-five tour operators to ensure that they promote Canton to destination tour groups. The guides, who were from across the United States, were shown the museums, the distillery, the historic architecture, and the scenes from various movies filmed in Canton. They were also treated to dinner, catered by a local restaurant, in the tasting room of the Rich Grain Distillery. Their perception of Canton, from afar, was reinforced when they got to experience things for themselves. They left commenting on "this charming town" and making plans to return with tours of their own.

The MDA Tourism and Film Office work to recruit tourists and promote Mississippi as a destination. The 2017 Impact Report shows a \$588 tax relief for each household came from these state and local tourism dollars. There is a direct correlation between dollars being spent in a city (sales taxes) and property taxes levied based on budget needs. The same assets that attract tourists to us are also assets to us locals. In other words, it benefits us all to attract more tourist. We can all help to do that by being a "tourist" ourselves, taking pride in where we live and spending our money in Canton.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Joy Foy is married to James Foy and just recently retired from the Mississippi Development Authority where she was the Director of Asset Development.

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Keeping Christianity real in our daily life requires effort

By Guest Columnist Pastor Guy Odom,
First Baptist Canton



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Some of the cruelest people that I know are church people, so called believers in Jesus Christ! Supposedly, such people claim to be Christian, forgiven, joyful, peaceful, and filled with the spirit, kind, and compassionate, gentle or other aspects of what the Bible calls a believer to be. But, the moment you hear that person speak about a news story, someone sinning, or even just being around them, you quickly see, and I mean quickly, just how opposite their life speaks out loud about what I just described above. You know, there shouldn't be the obvious probable question, which is "Are they really a Christian?" Now, don't get me wrong, every believer can certainly fall

into being this type of person, because we still live in a sinful world and if we aren't walking in the Lord each day, a so-called believer can stumble. However, overall, the Bible says, in Ephesians 4:29-32 that we as believers are to discard unwholesome talk, help build up others, don't grieve the Holy Spirit, get rid of all bitterness, rage, anger, slander, and brawling, be kind and compassionate to one another, and forgiving each other as Christ did for us. These type of so-called believers turn people away from the Church and Jesus. Their life reflects self-centeredness, narcissism, mean spirited attitude, grumbling to just name a few. This should not be, but they do exist. I do know this, a day of reckoning is coming.

Matthew 12:36-37 says, "And I tell you this, you must give an account on judgement day for every idle word you speak. The words you say will either acquit you or condemn you." Just the reading of this verse humbles me and convicts me how important

it is not to be like what I have described.

I am a Christian first and foremost, but I am southern baptist. We do a poor job at times ripping others up with our mouths with some of the most hurtful words. It is awful. I do not want to be this way, and with God's help I don't have to. I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. Hey, in closing, Mother's Day is here. Begin with that in encouraging mothers, not just

married mothers, but every mother you encounter over the next few weeks. It will do you good and serve you some good.

It's all about Jesus,
-Pastor Guy

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

cont. from front page

CHS and CA become one

Academy to serve as an ongoing memorial to these young men.

As the teams lined up for a pregame photo, attendees say they couldn't help but think of that memorable team from 2008 and the tragic event that occurred on that fateful day in April. The matchup this season turned out to be a game that

was very competitive and well played by both teams. The final score of the tenth anniversary game turned out to be 10 - 5 (Scott and Mitch's jersey numbers). As the fans, players, and coaches viewed the scoreboard, it was reaffirmed that those players will always be with their teams at the baseball stadium they loved so much.

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Tamika Liddell

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Key Investors



Supporting Investors



Sunday

Day of Prayer

Monday

Paint the County Blue

Tuesday

Back the Blue

Wednesday

Day of Remembrance

Thursday

Coffee with a Cop

Friday

Celebrate the Blue

Patron Investors

Canton High students sign scholarship offers



Special to The Canton News

CHS point guard Jamal Porter signed a letter of intent to continue his basketball career at Hinds Community College. Pictured with Porter are his parents, James and Felicia Porter and Canton High coaches.



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Canton High School senior basketball player Deshuntaenae Sykes signed a letter of intent to continue her basketball career at Holmes Community College, Goodman campus.

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Lester signs with Holmes



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CHS Tiger Jaylen Lester has signed a letter of intent to continue his basketball career at Holmes Community College.



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Canton Academy teams win 2018 district title



Special to The Canton News

The Canton Academy Varsity Girls and Boys track teams won the District 2-AAA track meet on April 20. The meet was held at Canton Academy. The girls team won with a score of 134.5, second place was Starkville Academy with a score of 80. The boys team won with a score of 119, second place was Starkville Academy with a score of 79.





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July 16 - 20 | Ages 13 - 18

CA announces their Star Student / Teacher of 2018



Special to The Canton News

Canton Academy recently announced their Star Student of the year, Joseph McLean (right). McLean is the son of Charlie and Mary Elizabeth McLean. He chose Mr. Tray Earnhart (left) as his Star Teacher of the year. McLean will continue his education in the fall by attending the University of Mississippi.

Canton Music Study Club to host free piano concert



Special to The Canton News

Special to The Canton News

Last September, the Canton Music Study Club began a fund raising campaign to place a piano in the Seasons Assisted Living in Canton. With the help of area music lovers, a new Kawai piano has been delivered to the facility. On Sunday, May 6, the club will celebrate the completion of this project with a dedication recital. Canton native Ric Grant will perform a program of sacred and secular selections. While a student at Canton Academy, Grant excelled in the Junior Festivals

sponsored by the club, receiving local, state, and national piano awards through the federation. He served as church pianist at Center Terrace Baptist Church for many years. Presently living in the Delta, Grant continues to awe his audiences with his skill. One of the goals of the Canton Music Study Club is to encourage and foster music in the lives of Canton's youth. The club is honored to have Grant back home to celebrate the completion of Project 88. The program begins at 3 p.m. at Seasons Assisted Living. The community is invited to attend.




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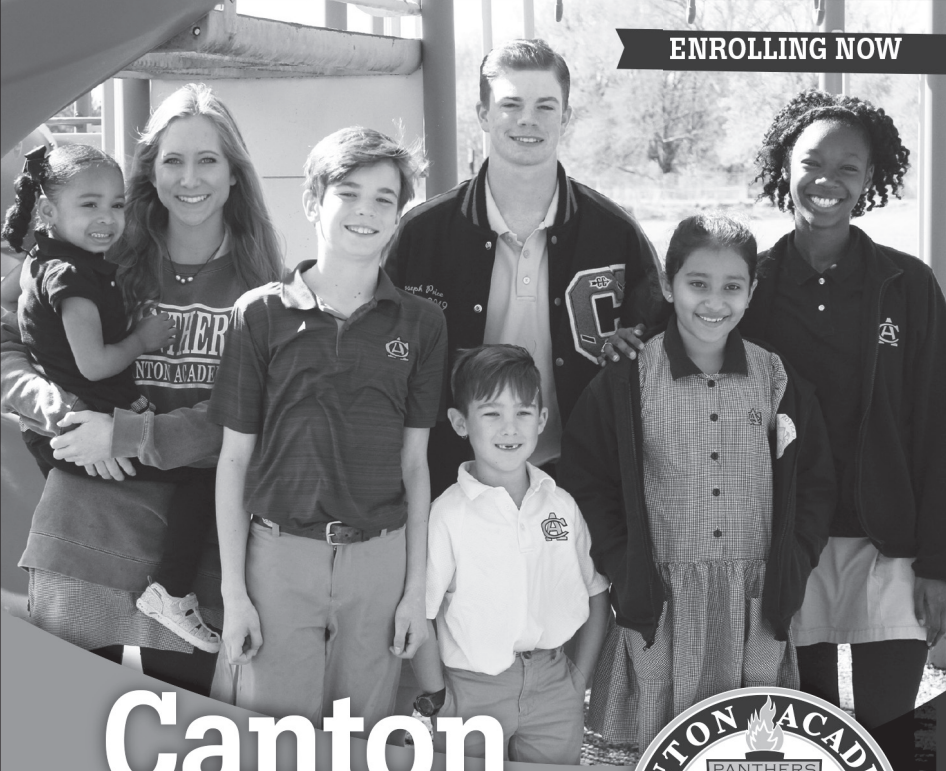
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County addresses the road issues in hometown



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Pictured (l-r): MCBL&F Government Affairs Committee Chairman Trey Dellinger, Senator Willie Simmons, Commissioner Dick Hall, MCBL&F Transportation Committee Chairman Ray Balentine, Rep. Charles Busby, Dan Gaillet, and MCBL&F Chairman Phil Buffington

Special to The Canton News

The Madison County Business League & Foundation (MCBL&F) hosted a Transportation breakfast on Thursday, April 19, at the Embassy

Suites Hotel in Ridgeland to address transportation challenges on the local and state levels. More than 80 members and elected officials attended the event.

Keynote speaker was MS

Central District Transportation Commissioner Dick Hall.

Other special guests comprising the panel included State Senator Willie Simmons, Chairman of the MS Senate Transportation Committee, and

Representative Charles Busby, Chairman of the MS House of Representatives Transportation Committee. Madison County Engineer, Dan Gaillet, presented a report on the status of Madison County road projects.



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McNeer was selected and named Bank Plus Scholar

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Anna McNeer was selected as the Canton Academy 2017-2018 Scholar Athlete. McNeer has been an Academic All-Star during each of her high school years. Also, McNeer achieved the Canton Academy Headmaster's List each year of High School. She is a member of the National Honor Society.

While McNeer worked tirelessly academically, she was a member of the varsity cross-country team, track team, basketball team and softball team. She contributed to multi-



Special to The Canton News

ple state championships in cross country and track.

As a student athletic trainer, McNeer contributed to Canton Academy's 2017 Football State Championship team. During her junior year, she helped lead her team to the MAIS softball championship game for the first time in Canton Academy history. During her senior year, McNeer led her team back to the MAIS state softball tournament. She was honored her junior and senior years with the All-State Softball selection as one of the best in the state. She was also selected her senior year to represent Canton Academy in the MAIS Softball All-Star game. McNeer will be attending East Central Community College on an athletic scholarship for softball in the fall.

Christ in action has youth rally slated for May 5th

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In His Steps Ministries will host a youth rally from 9:30 a.m. until 2 p.m. on Saturday, May 5, on their campus located at 3528 North Liberty St. in Canton.

The event, Christ in Action (CIA) Youth Rally, will feature music, games, prizes, free food and workshops. Christian rapper Kincaid will perform, and motivational speakers Falana McDaniel, Marlon McDuffee and Dr. Christopher Bullin will uplift attendees thru powerful messages and testimonies. Children need to register either before the event or onsite the day of the rally. Parental permission is required to attend.

"Encouraging children to foster a relationship with Jesus Christ is one of the important responsibilities of adult Christians," says Rev. Jasper Bacon, Executive Director of In His Steps Ministries. "The CIA Youth Rally is one way we are trying to inspire our youth."

CIA Youth Rally is the result of a partnership between In His Steps Ministries and Fellowship Bible Church. Both entities recognize a need to appeal to

area youth who often encounter a host of challenges. According to Rev. Earvin Jones, pastor of Fellowship Bible Church, "These are volatile times for our youth and our world, and Jesus Christ is the only path to peace."

In His Steps Ministries was established in 1994 to provide more outreach to unchurched and unevangelized people in Canton and surrounding counties.

IHS provides long-term preventive services for at-risk children, family services, elderly services and mentoring through sports ministry. The campus sits on fifteen acres and houses a multipurpose building and an open air pavilion.

Fellowship Bible Church was established in 1995, and is located at 2270 Highway 51, Canton. In addition to youth ministry, other outreaches of the church include weekly Bible study, a nursing home ministry, a prison ministry and various community service programs.

Other event sponsors include St. Catherine's Village, Leadership Madison County and Rising Stars for Christ Mentoring Program.

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Students graduate from technology program



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Canton Career Center students who recently graduated from the S.T.E.P. program include (l to r): Labrisha Jones, Vergie Jackson, Rucell Harris, Tamaia Grant, Corey Boone, Derrick Bailey and Keion Franklin. (Not pictured are S.T.E.P. graduates Steven Taylor and Jairus Taylor.)

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Students enrolled in Engineering II at the Canton Career Center graduated from the Student Technology Exchange Program known as S.T.E.P. The ceremony was held at the Nissan Training Center. Students were awarded certificates for completing the FA-

NUC Robotics training and medals for completing all components of the S.T.E.P. program. Students also had the opportunity to compete for scholarships against other schools participating in the program. Canton Career Center twelfth grade students Corey Boone and Steven Taylor both received \$2,000 Entergy Outstand-



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Pictured (l to r) are Gino Perkins, Corey Boone and Victor Branch.

ing Student Scholarships.

For over ten years, S.T.E.P. has been connecting students to the world of high technology manufacturing. Victor Branch with the Mississippi State University Center for Advanced Vehicular Systems Extension oversees the program. This K-12 pipeline is an innovative robotic/engineering

program that develops students with the knowledge and skills through involvement in programming, troubleshooting, and teamwork. Each student completes a minimum of 150 contact hours to prepare for competitions and the opportunity to test for the nationally recognized FANUC Robotics Certification.

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Alligator permit and hunting season approved

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On April 18, the Commission on Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks approved rule changes for the 2018 alligator hunting season on public waters and private lands in Mississippi. The state-wide public waters season will offer 930 permits within seven hunting zones across the state for the ten-day season, August 31 – September 10, 2018. The process for issuing permits will remain the same as in 2017; an electronic application process followed by a random drawing of applicants. Applications will be accepted from June 1-7, 2018, via the MDWFP website. The first drawing will take



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place on or about June 13.

A private lands alligator hunting season is available to landowners whose properties meet specific qualifications within 34 open counties. Grenada County has been added for the private

lands season for 2018. Applications and instructions for private lands permits are available online. Applications with all required documents are accepted by mail to the Jackson Central Office beginning May 1

and must be submitted by July 1.

For more information regarding alligator season drawing and hunting rules and regulations, visit the MDEFP website or call 601-432-2199.



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May 4 - 7 7:00 p.m.	June 11-13 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Theme: Game On Ages: 4 year old - 6th grade
All our proceeds go to help with missions.	

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Marcus Peagler, Music Director

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