



THE CANTON NEWS

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Good News You Can Use • January 7, 2021 • Vol. 7, No. 1 • Canton, Mississippi

The Trails at Madison is nearing completion

By Lori Lycette

Canton is the chosen location for yet another massive building project.

The Trails at Madison Apartment Community is a thirty-five million-dollar, 600-unit project that is currently underway inside the City of Canton.

The Trails is located at 583 Old Jackson Road, in the rural western portion of Canton, just off Interstate 55, between the Sowell Road and Canton Nissan exits.

Lindsey Management Co., Inc., manages this apartment community, in addition to two other communities in Canton... The Links of Madison County and The Greens of Madison County.

Other properties in Mississippi include The Links and Greens at Oxford and The Links at Starkville. Lindsey Management Co., Inc., also manages properties and golf courses in Arkansas, Alabama, Kansas, Missouri and Oklahoma.

Canton's recent annexation of that part of the county prevented Gluckstadt,

which is seeking to incorporate as a city, from getting that land.

"The area has shown tremendous growth, and we are proud to manage apartments that serve the residents of the community by offering affordable pricing and unmatched amenities," said The Trails Community Director Nancy Crutcher.

The Trails is set on fifty-eight acres and features two lakes, a tennis court, volleyball court, basketball court, swimming pool, a clubhouse with fitness room, putting area, and playground, as well as a walking and jogging trail that encircles the development, providing the name for the complex.

All apartment homes are equipped with a full-size washer and dryer in each unit and full-size appliances in the kitchen, including refrigerator with ice maker, microwave, stove, dishwasher and disposal.

Every unit has carpeted bedroom and living areas, ceiling fans, two-inch faux wood blinds, wood-look vinyl flooring in



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The Trails' clubhouse

the kitchen and bath, and either nine or eleven-foot vaulted ceilings.

"Our community amenities include a fitness center, pool, tanning, business center and more," said Crutcher. "We do

not offer furnished units at this time, but The Links of Madison County has fully furnished units and executive suites on-site."

cont. on page 14

Anonymous donor pays Walmart layaways

By Lori Lycette

A "Good Samaritan" recently paid off every single layaway account at the Walmart in Canton.

Store manager Angel Davis said that she received a phone call from a woman, acting as a mediator, saying that her boss was interested in paying off layaways.

"Ok, let's talk numbers," Davis told the mystery woman. "I gave her options of paying certain accounts and then totals."

After much figuring and discussing the options, the woman said she would tell her boss and let Davis know what he decided to do.

"The next day, she called me back and said that he wanted to pay the total layaways, added Davis. "I was like, 'Oh my God... That's wonderful! It's going to affect a lot of people's lives!! That's around 330 accounts.'"

The deliverer of the life-changing news took a check for an undisclosed amount



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to Davis, and they discussed the process of paying such a large amount of money.

"It was the end of the month, so I told her we would begin processing the payments on Tuesday," said Davis. "We

began notifying our customers that their accounts were paid in full."

The majority of accountholders seemed shocked to hear the news but extremely thankful, and many rushed to the store to

pick up their items.

"I expected it to be chaotic," Davis added. "but I have SUCH a great staff who has handled it just fine. They have been so excited to see the customers' excitement and look on their faces when they're told their account has been paid in full."

There was enough money left over that they were able to give back to the Canton community.

"I wanted to be sure to keep it in the community and partner with the Canton Police Department and the Canton Fire Department to give them a start-up for their toy drives. We were also able to donate food gift cards to Feeding America to assist families through their mobile pantries," ended Davis. "With all the problems that 2020 has brought, it's so great to be a part of something like this, which affects so many people of different colors, backgrounds, ages. We have all been blessed by this."

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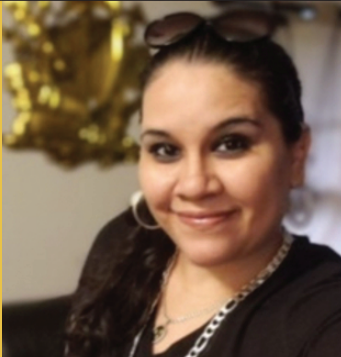
Kajwana Davis

Nichols Middle School



LaJesca Woodard

Huey Porter



Lisette Rios

Goodloe Elementary



Alfredo Vasquez

Canton Elementary

CPSD announces Parents of the Year

All photos special to The Canton News



Nicole Jackson

Reuben Myers CSAS



Tungala Hardy

Canton Ninth Grade Academy



Katina Mack Fowler

Canton High School



Anthony Denton

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Canton native excels in the United States Navy

By Lori Lycette

Kenna Pierce, Jr., son of Canton Fire Chief Kenna Pierce, Sr., and his wife Charmaine, recently received a prestigious leadership award, as well as having been elected class president of the United States Naval Academy Class of 2023, by his peers.

A 2018 graduate of Canton High School (CHS), Pierce was salutatorian of his class, Mr. CHS, and a part of various honor societies. While there, he was a member of the JROTC unit, captain of his track team and also ran cross country.

“Going into my sophomore year of high school, I met Senior Chief Myers, the senior enlisted leader of the JROTC,” said Pierce. “We talked about the military and other options I had going forth. Most importantly, my father and grandfather both served in the navy. They played a huge part in the reason why I wanted to serve. Their stories and demeanor really drove me to consider going into the military. Through NJROTC, I had the privilege of finding out a lot of information about the United States Naval Academy.”

After graduating from CHS, Pierce attended the Naval Academy Preparatory School (NAPS) in Newport, Rhode Island, graduating from there in 2019.

“I spent a year there preparing morally, mentally and physically for the rigorous challenges ahead,” said Pierce. “Once arriving at the academy, I decided to take every opportunity at hand,

trust in God and work hard to become all that I could be.”

“I knew that joining this institution would be a huge step and a leap of faith not only for me, but for my family, my community, and those who supported me,” continued Pierce. “I knew that I would be trailblazing to encourage more youth from our area to

said Kenna, Sr., and Charmaine Pierce.

“I really believe my experiences here in Canton gave me a different perspective that many others don’t see,” said Kenna, Jr. “I’m grateful for the experience and opportunities I have had here, so I can help and encourage others at the academy.”

“Throughout the last year, I have had many opportunities to inspire others; and, because of that, I was awarded the 2020 Navy Marine Corps Leadership Award. It is a peer selected award, which is determined by your aptitude, attitude, military bearing, and appearance,” explained Pierce. “It was awarded by the Superintendent, Vice Admiral Sean Buck, USN, and presented by the

Commandant of Midshipmen Captain T. R. Buchanan, USN. It was a huge honor. I am one of twenty-four recipients out of 4,500 in the Naval Academy. There were six selected out of 1,150 in my class.”

“As president of the class of 2023,” he added, “I am currently responsible for addressing the needs and concerns of my class and then reporting to the academy

senior leaders. I am also responsible for organizing the different milestones the class reaches, such as formal dances, inviting speakers, representing the class at formal functions and meetings.”

“I know that my experiences at CHS and the support and mentors I had here in Canton have given me the necessary foundation for me to be where I am now.”

When asked what he has learned from serving in the military,

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(Above) Commandant of Midshipmen Captain T. R. Buchanan, USN, presenting the 2020 Navy Marine Corps Leadership Award to MIDN 3/C Kenna Pierce



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MIDN 3/C Kenna Pierce at the U. S. Naval Academy Memorial Hall

consider serving our country, and that it would bring light to our city. I am only one of many products of this great city, and it’s only because of the people who supported me and helped instill values of honor and commitment, that I am who I am today.”

Pierce’s parents were, and still are, a large part of his support system.

“As parents of Kenna, we thank God for his life and accomplishments thus far! ‘Lil Ken, as we call him, has been one with a mind that if he believes it, he knows how to work to achieve it. Even as a child, he has always been a person of will and drive,”

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Let's choose to have a positive attitude in 2021

By Guest Columnist Joy Foy

As we enter the New Year and the beginning of a new decade, the outlook varies depending on one's personal view. We can defend our opinions, whether bleak or optimistic, for 2021. There are certainly plenty of factors for a bleak outlook given the hatred portrayed nightly in local news and the deadly pandemic totals given continually.

Yet, even with all the negative happenings, those of us in Canton, Mississippi, have plenty to be optimistic about.

Canton Tourism was able, with the support of local government, to host the annual Festival of Lights for Christmas and the fall flea market. The people coming for these events shopped with our merchants, and they were able to have successful sales instead of closing their doors.

On the night of Sip-N-Cider, Mary Carol Patrick poured over 700 cups at her booth in the Merri

Pennies' consignment shop.

The new Canton Market, a 7,100 square foot Exxon convenient store just west of the square, will open the first quarter of 2021.

Amazon is building a 700,000 square foot robotics fulfillment center on the west side of town that will provide 1,000 new high paying jobs.

Madison County Chancery Clerk Ronny Lott spoke to the Canton Lions and told us that another big company is seriously looking at a Canton location. He also talked about how improvements to the rail through Canton could soon reestablish Canton as a railroad town.

Both the Merit Health Hospital and the Madison County Nursing Home have made upgrades for healthcare. The opening of the new Fast Pace Urgent Care added to healthcare options in Canton. MEA Canton and the G. A. Carmichael Clinic have served as COVID testing centers, and now G.A. Carmichael has been granted cutting edge medical units to serve as hospital rooms for COVID patients.

The Canton Separate School System has 3,391 students with a teacher to student ratio of 1 to

16. They will begin the second semester on January 5 of this school year in Virtual Learning, thanks to sufficient bandwidth infrastructure.

The Canton Library worked hard to service our community while staying safe, with a book checkout system where the reserved books are placed in the back of your car by an employee. The library system has installed "little libraries" in the more rural areas to ensure access to reading materials for everyone, until the Bookmobile can service those areas again.

The local churches that closed their doors to in-house worship recorded and offered online worship service through their websites or Facebook pages. The small congregation of Thornton Chapel continued to meet on Sunday mornings and have enjoyed visitors from town churches.

There are good things happening in all areas of the economy through all the crazy chaos.

The point I am trying to make, as we rush into the New Year, was well stated by Joyce Meyer. When she is teaching about Romans 3:17, she states, "If we allow ourselves to get in the habit of not enjoying a peaceful life, we

will not even know where to begin to find peace."

The New Year usually starts us thinking about new habits, and I offer to you that making a habit of controlling our thinking habits will greatly improve our quality of life.

We enjoy many privileges from small town living and many freedoms as Americans.

Let us pledge to ourselves, our town and our nation to make whatever adjustments we need in our mindsets to look for the good and not bad in our world.

We can become addicted to peace or to strife, but the choice is ours to make.

Let's choose to have a Happy New Year!

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, the Keep Canton Beautiful Committee and the Canton Beautification Committee.



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New Exxon, Valero are being built on West Peace



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New Exxon at 554 West Peace Street

Canton will receive two brand new convenience stores with gas stations in the coming months. Bedi Investments, LLC, based in Madison, is building a new Exxon and rebuilding the Valero. The Exxon, locat-

ed at 554 West Peace Street, at the corner of Peace and Canal Streets, will be approximately 7,200 square feet and will house a convenience store with a kitchen, serving breakfast and lunch daily. The building



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New Valero at 1451 West Peace Street

will also contain a Pizza Hut, and another business that is yet to be determined.

The Valero convenience store/gas station, located at 1451 West Peace Street, is being totally rebuilt from

the ground up. The approximate 4,400 square foot building will also have a kitchen which will serve breakfast and lunch daily.

Both businesses are projected to open in March 2021.

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You are gloriously and magnificently loved

By Guest Columnist Steve Bryant

Do you know how much Jesus loves you?



Steve Bryant

The late Dr. Richard Selzer, a plastic surgeon, wrote a best-selling book called *Mortal Lessons: Notes on the Art of Surgery*, in which he tells the story of a love that was willing to go to the depths.

A house was on fire. Two elderly parents were caught in the burning home. Their son happened to be nearby, and he fought his way into the home trying to save his parents, but he could not.

In the process, he was badly burned, and his face was terribly disfigured. He went into a deep depression and then into total withdrawal. He stayed in a dark room upstairs, willing to see no one and willing to be seen by no one.

There in the darkness, this man concluded that the disfigurement of his face was God's punishment for not saving his parents from the fire.

His wife went to see Dr. Selzer. He assured her that he could fix her husband's face.

She said, "But that's not what I came to see you about. I have come to ask

you to disfigure my face, so that my husband might understand that I love him so much, and I am willing to enter his pain and share his suffering just to be with him again."

Of course, Dr. Selzer declined to do that kind of surgery, but he went home with her. He walked upstairs and knocked on the husband's door. No answer.

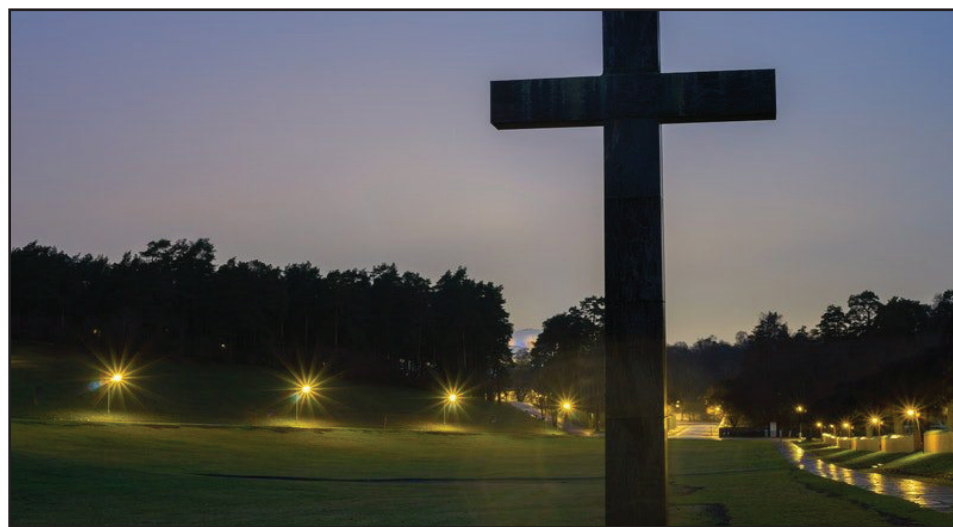
He knocked again and said, "I am Dr. Richard Selzer, a plastic surgeon. I can restore your face. Your wife has come to see me because she wants me to disfigure her face so that you can understand that she loves you so very much."

There was silence on both sides of the door. Then, in that dark upstairs hallway, Dr. Selzer saw the turning of a doorknob. A love that was willing to go to the depths for the other, began to open the door.

Jesus chooses to come to people like us, made ugly, unapproachable and un-loveable in our sinfulness. And it's not just that He would stoop to be near sinful people like us. That would be nothing more than divine tolerance.

You're not saved by His tolerance of your sin. You're saved because He allowed Himself to feel the pain of it.

"He was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities... and by His stripes we are



Special to The Canton News

healed." (Isaiah 53:5)

Jesus takes the ugliness of our sin and the punishment due, and He gives us His righteousness!

"He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him." (II Corinthians 5:21)

We hurt Him, and He didn't stop loving us. We abandoned Him, and He didn't stop loving us. Our sin nailed Him to the Cross, and His grace transformed the Cross into a picture of love.

"Greater love than this, hath no one, than they lay down their life for another."

er."

You are gloriously and magnificently loved. A love like that demands a response.

Let your response be to love the Lord your God with the fullness of your being, and love your neighbor as yourself.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Reverend Bryant serves as the pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Canton. Steve and his wife, Betsy, enjoy making Canton their home..

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Canton Trustmark, Grace Church bless the community



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Photo by Lori Lycette

Trustmark Bank at the Square recently partnered with Shoe Station to giveaway gloves, hats, scarves and socks to anyone in the Canton area who was in need. They filled bags at the bank and then handed them out during Grace Episcopal Church's drive through food pantry. Trustmark also donated over one hundred pairs of shoes to MadCAAP in Canton. Pictured in left photo are: Trustmark employees packing items in bags to be given away; and right photo: Trustmark and Shoe Station employees handing out bags alongside Grace Church's food ministry.

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Country club grounds are beautified



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Canton Beautification Committee volunteers recently held a workday at the Country Club of Canton. With the help of the CCC Ladies Golf Association, as well as country club staff, they succeeded in "beautifying" the grounds surrounding the clubhouse and Pro Shop. They raked, pruned, trimmed, picked up trash, cleaned windows, moved outdoor furniture and put out over thirty rolls of pine straw.



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Canton couple earn doctorates together

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Canton community couple Joe and Kathy Amos recently graduated with their doctorate degrees in ministry from Chayil International University in Brookfield, Wisconsin. Kathy and her husband Joe are no strangers to aiming high and achieving their dreams and goals. Although Kathy says that going back to school for a doctorate was an eighteen-year pursuit of Joe's, she wanted to take the journey with him. And at the ripe age of seventy, he stepped out on faith and made it happen.

Joe has served in various capacities and areas of ministry for over forty-four years. Kathy has served for over nineteen years. They are the founders of Turning Point Fellowship Ministries International, where the Amos' oversee other churches and ministries as well as the birthplace of Blessing Canton Week.

In March 2019, the couple was crowned Mr. and Mrs. Mississippi and later competed in the Mr., Mrs. and Ms. Black America Pageant where they were crowned and are still reigning as Mr. and Mrs. Black America, Sr.

Kathy is the founder and CEO of Business Empowered Mississippi Chamber of Commerce and owner

of SOMA Coaching & Consulting, LLC, and The Best of Mississippi Awards, LLC. She recently established the iBud Foundation, a private Urban Development Foundation that serves small budding entrepreneurs and their businesses in urban and rural communities. She also owns SafeHouse Emporium, an online apparel store.

During their commencement exercise, Joe and Kathy received several honorable recognitions including Joe earning Student of the Year, Dean's List, and an Honorary Doctor of Ministry, in conjunction with the Doctorate Degree he earned. Kathy received the Chancellor's Leadership Award, Dean's List, and an Honorary Doctor of Ministry in conjunction with the Doctorate Degree she earned.

The couple encountered many challenges with finances and even the repossession of their vehicle, but they were determined to stay the course and graduate debt-free. The couple has future plans to give back to Chayil International University by serving as alumni graduates and someday starting a satellite university in Mississippi.

For more information on Chayil International University, visit the website www.ciuniversity.org. They



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Kathy and Joe Amos

also plan to continue their mission and journey to advance the works they've started and give more time

in building bridges and bridging the gaps in Mississippi communities and throughout the nation.

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Canton Academy Holiday Hustle another success



Holiday Hustle organizers Sarah Willis and Stacy Sanders



Mr. and Mrs. Sherrid Griffin, Jr.



Participants preparing to run



CA family the Bitners



Holiday Hustle finish line

All photos Special to The Canton News

With the help of numerous volunteers, sponsors and volunteers, Canton Academy held the 2020 Holiday Hustle 5K Run/Walk/Fun Run, an annual fundraiser event for the school. The 5K runners start at the Canton Train Depot and Museum, run through the historic district and cross the finish line back at the Depot. Overall female winner was Angel Overstreet clocking in at six minutes, twenty-one seconds per mile, and overall male winner was Samuel Terrett, clocking in at six minutes, twenty-five seconds per mile. The winners of the Best Christmas Costume contest were Mr. and Mrs. Sherrid Griffin, Jr.

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Otis represents CA in All-Star game

Self serves on leadership council



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Senior Alijah Otis represented Canton Academy in the recent MSAIS All-Star game. His team won 28-21. CA Head Football Coach Ron Jurney attended the game to cheer Otis on. Pictured are Jurney (left) and Otis (right).



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Canton High School Principal Dr. Pamela Self was recently selected to serve on the Houghton Mifflin Harcourt's (HMH) Executive Leadership Council. Dr. Self was among education leaders from across the nation who discussed critical issues facing the education of grades K-12 during the HMH Executive Leadership Council Virtual Summit. HMH officials say the Leadership Council, which is in its fourth year, focuses on topics including trends in curriculum, professional learning, the use of data and research to drive outcomes and more. The group engages with thought leaders and peers on how schools and districts envision the future of learning and academic innovation. Education leaders also discuss the ongoing impact of the pandemic on K-12 education and leading across remote landscapes while continuing to support and connect with communities. HMH officials say in addition to providing valuable networking opportunities, the Leadership Council, enables HMH to better align its overall product development and services to support customer needs.



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- Stay alert for natural gas leaks.
- Check for sewage and water line damage.

Nissan holds annual toy drive



All photos Special to The Canton News

Each year, Nissan Canton team members open their hearts and wallets to support the Christmas from the Heart Toy Drive. The team donated hundreds of toys for children in need through the partnership with the Marine Toys for Tots Foundation. This effort was led by the Nissan Veterans Business Synergy Team.



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cont. from page 3

Canton Native Pierce excels in the United States Navy

Pierce responded, "The military has taught me that through every decision you make, there always should be a why. Am I learning from this? How will this impact my future? And how will this decision help others? It has also reinforced how I should be willing to put others before myself. And throughout my experiences so far, I have stood on three H's: humbleness, honesty and hard work."

Pierce and his family attend Mary Grove Missionary Baptist Church in Canton, under the leadership of Pastor Carl Fleming.

"I am a firm believer in Christ," said Pierce. "I believe that God has a purpose for each of us, and it's up to us to fulfill that purpose. Even from a young age, my parents made sure that my sister Kinsley and I and other relatives understood that. I believe that every decision we make should impact others in a positive way, and we are called to be that light shining on a hill, as the Bible

says. There's an old saying that says if I could just touch one life, then my living won't be in vain."

A political science major with a minor in Arabic, Pierce says he aspires to be either a foreign affairs officer for the United States Navy, maybe to the Middle East, or an intelligence officer, but he is currently undecided.

But whichever path he chooses, Pierce plans to realize his God-given potential and make a positive impact on this world.

Pierce added, "There's a quote that my little cousin Caitlin Nelson once said during a middle school speech, 'Never let anyone tell you the sky's the limit when there are footsteps on the moon.' I used it in my speech for class president, and it really captured their attention. There are so many opportunities, and this simple yet powerful quote says it all. If you'll be humble, honest and work hard, you can go anywhere...even to the moon."

"At the end of the day, all glory to God."

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Thornton Chapel Kids celebrate the birth of Jesus



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TC Kids celebrated the birth of Jesus. Brother David Lowery told of the lighting of the Advent candles, while Rowan Murphy and Eve Slay lit two of them; Missy Penn told the story of the birth of Jesus; Self-taught pianist Eve Slay played Joy to the World and We Wish You a Merry Christmas on the piano; and after the children posed for a picture with the Little Free Library, they roasted marshmallows over a bonfire for S'mores and played together outside. Pictured in left photo: Eve Slay playing the piano; and right photo (l to r) are, front row: Nathaniel Minor and Dylan Minor; second row: Holt Slay, Andrew Minor, and Charity Minor; and back row: Lillian Murphy, Eve Slay, Trek Slay, Cade Slay, Rowan Murphy, Maddie Ditzenberger, and Serenity Mallett.

cont. from front page

The Trails at Madison is nearing completion

The property is being completed in phases, with a projected completion of April 2021.

"It's been really a challenge with all the rain and COVID-19 this year," said Curtis Witcher of Lindsey Construction.

"The original projected completion date was supposed to have been August 2020. All the buildings are constructed at this time. We are waiting on the concrete, landscaping, and fencing. We have seven phases total, with four buildings in each phase and six buildings in the last phase. We have a lake and a pond on site. The lake on the back of the property line was original to the property, and the pond next to the interstate was man-made by Goodloe Construction."



Special to The Canton News

Construction of The Trails

"Our lease up is going well. We do have immediate availability on our one and two-bedroom apartments," added Crutcher. "The application process is all conveniently done on our website. All our rates online are for a standard twelve-month lease, but we do offer six-month lease contracts. We encourage people to set up an appointment ahead of time to come out and look at the model units. A valid driver's license and mask are required for a showing of our community."

One-bedroom floor plans start at \$745, and two-bedroom floor plans start at \$895. The rates vary on the location and floor the apartment is located.

Floor plans with square footage and a full list of pricing can be found on the website www.trailsatmadison.apartments. For more information, call the leasing office at 601-436-4707.

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 IN CANTON, YOU ARE STRENGTHENING
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CPD Officer Andre Smith receives award



Special to The Canton News

Canton Police Officer Andre Smith was recently presented an award commemorating his actions involving a missing child who was located in the Canton area. Chief Brown said that Officer Smith went above and beyond the call of duty to locate the child's mother and reunite them. Pictured (l to r) are: Alderman Fred Esco, Alderman Lafayette Wales, Alderwoman Daphne Sims, Mayor William Truly, Officer Smith, Chief Brown, Alderman Les Penn, Alderman Tim Taylor, and Alderman Rodriguez Brown.

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