



THE CANTON NEWS

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

Good News You Can Use • February 4, 2021 • Vol. 7, No. 2 • Canton, Mississippi

Construction begins for nursing home in Canton

By Andy Kanengiser

Construction should be completed by January 2022 for the Parkway Health and Rehabilitation facility to serve senior citizens.

The eighty-seven-bed nursing home in Canton comes with a \$9.7 million price tag. Located about 500 yards away from Merit Health Madison, the Canton facility is being built by Thrash Commercial Contractors of Brandon.

The project's general contractor brings a strong track record. Projects completed in recent years include the Mississippi Civil Rights Museum in Jackson. The company is presently building a new \$40 million Northwest High School in Brandon, as well as a new Vicksburg High in the River City.

Canton City leaders – from Mayor William Truly Jr. to economic development officials and healthcare advocates – all welcome the new facility to care for the region's seniors.

It is no small project. Located on eight

acres, the nursing home will contain all individual rooms for residents, a day room, a ward to care for seniors with Alzheimer's, a laundry, kitchen, and a cafeteria. The facility will include dining room areas and employee offices. Each room will come with full-service baths. There will be a spacious activities center on site.

The main building will feature 54,000 square feet. Adjoining it will be a 2,000-square-foot building that will house the nursing home's laundry.

Construction began in late November and continues into the new year.

A full-service nursing home, Parkway Health and Rehab, LLC is located at 230 River Oaks Drive. The owner of the property is FHNC Properties, LLC. of Mississippi. Ricky Keyes, the project's owner, points out the many benefits it will offer to elderly residents for years to come.

The eighty-seven-bed skilled nursing facility, Keyes said, "will provide long

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Artist's rendering of the new Parkway Health and Rehabilitation, set to be completed by the beginning of 2022.

Peco plans closure of Canton facility

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Peco Foods, long a staple employer in Canton, has announced plans to close three of its Mississippi locations – Brooksville, Canton (Fulton Street) and Philadelphia (hatchery).

Peco, one of the nation's leading poultry companies, which is headquartered in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, is undergoing a companywide repositioning as part of its strategic plan to better align with changing customer needs and economic conditions. A refocusing of this nature is a first for the 83-year-old family-owned company, and company officials say it will create opportunities for more competitive performance to continue serving Peco's team members, customers and communities long-term.

In line with Peco's long-term strategic vision, processing and live operations will be scaling back, resulting in the three Mississippi closures in three Mis-

issippi locations. Peco officials say they are working diligently to provide team members at the affected locations with opportunities throughout the company wherever possible, living out the company's core value of doing the right thing for their people.

"Since Peco's beginnings as a family-owned company eighty-three years ago, the industry has drastically shifted," said Peco Foods Chief Operating Officer Bill Griffith. "By streamlining our operations, we can continue building a sustainable company that will support the families

and communities of our team members and customers for years to come. The decisions announced today – each carefully considered – will position Peco strongly for future growth and industry leadership."

Officials say the repositioning takes industry trends

into account, shifting production based on customer feedback and consumer habits. Resources will be further invested in ramping up the company's West Point, Mississippi, facility and adding operations in Sebastopol, Mississippi, and Pocahtantas, Arkansas,

which have the capability to expand value-added product lines and meet rising demands for customer-driven, innovative foods.

"By growing strategically, we can continue attracting and retaining the brightest in the industry and contributing to economic development across our footprint," said Chief Executive Officer Mark Hickman. "We are thankful for the community support we've received over the years and look forward to impacting the region as a growing, thriving company employing thousands."

With early beginnings as a small hatchery and feed mill, Peco has grown into an industry leader, employing 7,000 people throughout Alabama, Arkansas and Mississippi.

The company has begun communicating with affected team members, with plans to finalize all changes by summer. For more information on Peco Foods, visit www.pecofoods.com.



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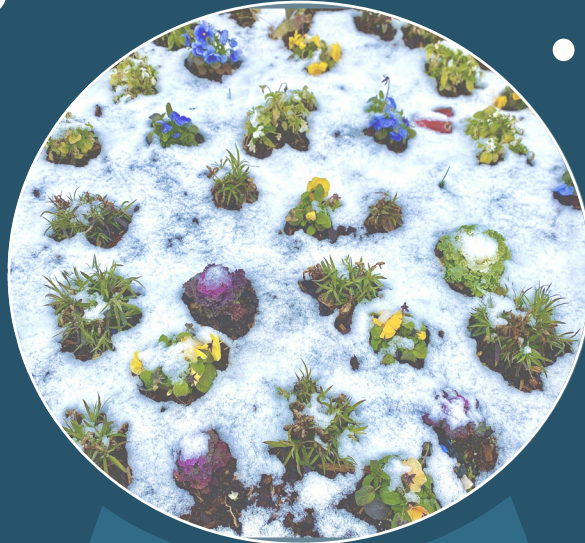


Canton blanketed in January snow

Residents woke up Monday morning, January 11, to a winter wonderland, with several inches of snow having accumulated during the night.



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All photos by Beth MacNeill

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Alternative baseball team takes field in Canton

By Taylor McKay Hathorn

As a child, Taylor Duncan was constantly denied the opportunity to participate in organized sports because of others' perceptions of his limitations, as he was diagnosed with autism at an early age. Now, Duncan is the commissioner and director of the Alternative Baseball Organization, which allows players with disabilities to gain experience on the baseball diamond.

"I want to provide opportunities for others who are like me," Duncan says of his organization's mission. This mission has been taken to heart around the nation, as there are now seventy alternative baseball teams scattered across thirty-three

states. One of these teams is in Canton, Mississippi, and the players are slated to begin practice later this spring.

Although the still-unnamed team will use a ball that is larger than regulation standards allow, the players will be expected to adhere to the rules of professional baseball and will not be accompanied by "buddies" while on the field. With these expectations in mind, Duncan says that the goal of each alternative team is to "teach the overall structure [of baseball] from the ground up, while still having a fair contest for everyone who participates."

Participants will gain valuable experience from their time on the field, as coach-managers aim to teach players about social and adaptive skills, teamwork and

motivation.

"These skills can be transferred to real life," Duncan asserts.

The transference of these necessary skills is

currently attempting to revive teams in northwestern Arkansas.

Alternative Baseball relies on help from the media in order to kick-start these programs, with

WJTV's coverage aiding in the procurement of a coach for the Canton team.

"A lot of participants don't know about the services [we provide]," Duncan says of the nonprofit's recruitment efforts.

These recruitment efforts focus on individuals who are fifteen years of age or older, and

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Duncan assures interested players and their families that their safety will come first, remarking that Alternative Baseball called off its 2020 season prior to professional baseball making its official call to terminate the season.

As many players on these alternative teams are immunocompromised, Canton's team will take the field in late spring, once vaccines have been rolled out on a larger scale.

"I have to go by the data to keep everyone safe and to keep everyone engaged virtually in the meantime," Duncan concludes.

Interested players can visit www.alternativebaseball.com for more information on joining a local team.



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Canton library begins two new programs for adults



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The Ridgeland Public Library is starting two new adult programs in February, and both will be hosted on the Zoom platform. Both programs are open to Canton library patrons.

Every Book Is Welcome is a program that meets on Thursdays - on February 4 and February 18 - from 5:30 until 7:30 p.m.

Every Book Is Welcome is a club where there are no restrictions on the books that participants read. The goal is for participants to indulge their joy of reading and tell other people about what they have read. Interested parties are invited to attend the library's Zoom meeting and enjoy some time with

books and friends, and have some fun.

The library's History Club will meet on the first and third Tuesdays - February 2 and February 16 - from 5:30 until 7:30 p.m. The group will discuss a specific time in history - an event or period or crisis or similar - and William, the group's facilitator, will recommend reading materials for it.

For the link to either (or both) of the Zoom meetings, send an email to wlewis@mcls.ms, specifying which group you would like to join.

For more information about either of these programs or the Canton Library, contact Maggie Mayer at 601-859-7733 ext. 108 or email at mmayer@mcls.ms.

Nurses Association accepting scholarship applications



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The Knights of Pillar Nurses Association recently held its annual Angel Tree event, with four families chosen from the community by the nurses. The group was divided into four groups, each with a team member. Families were chosen according to their needs by the team members and were given clothing and toys to brighten up their Christmas. Sharita Harris and family, the Carroll family, LaShun Henderson and family,

and Sonja Jones were KPNA recipients for this year's annual Angel Tree give away.

The Knights of Pillar Nurses Association is accepting applications for their annual Joyce Conway Adams Scholarship Fund. Applications are being accepted for second semester nursing students. For more information, contact Bertha McGruder at 601-953-8769 or send a request to P.O. Box 92, Canton, MS 39046.

The deadline for receiving applications is April 9, 2021.

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Lions welcome new member



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Canton Lions pictured (l to r) include Vice President Moses Thompson, new member Dr. Rolanda Anderson, President Darlene Austin and Joy Foy.

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The Canton Lions recently welcomed a new member, Dr. Rolanda Anderson. Anderson serves as 4-H leader to a youth group in south Madison County and is no stranger to community service. Canton Lions President Darlene Austin said, "We are delighted to have Rolanda on our team." Anderson participated in the spruce-up at the Country

Club the first week she joined the Lions. January programs included Dr. Coleman with G.A. Carmichael, Danny Berry with Baptist Hospice, and Tim Drane with the Hudspeth Center. Programs for February will have speakers ranging from locals to State and City elected officials and the Mississippi Community College Board. All are invited, and details will be posted on the Canton Lions' Facebook page.



Spring Is Almost Here!

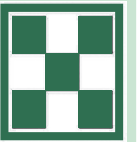
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Qualifying period for municipal election 2021 begins

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The qualifying period for 2021 Canton municipal elections has begun and will run through Friday, February 5, 2021, at 5 p.m.

The City of Canton is governed by the Mayor and seven elected Aldermen. City elections are held every four years for the positions, and all seven aldermen are elected from separate wards.

The winning candidates in the primary elections will participate in the June General Election as the political party's nominee(s) for specific offices. An independent candidate participates only in the June General Election and, for the purposes of the ballot, has no designated political party affiliation.

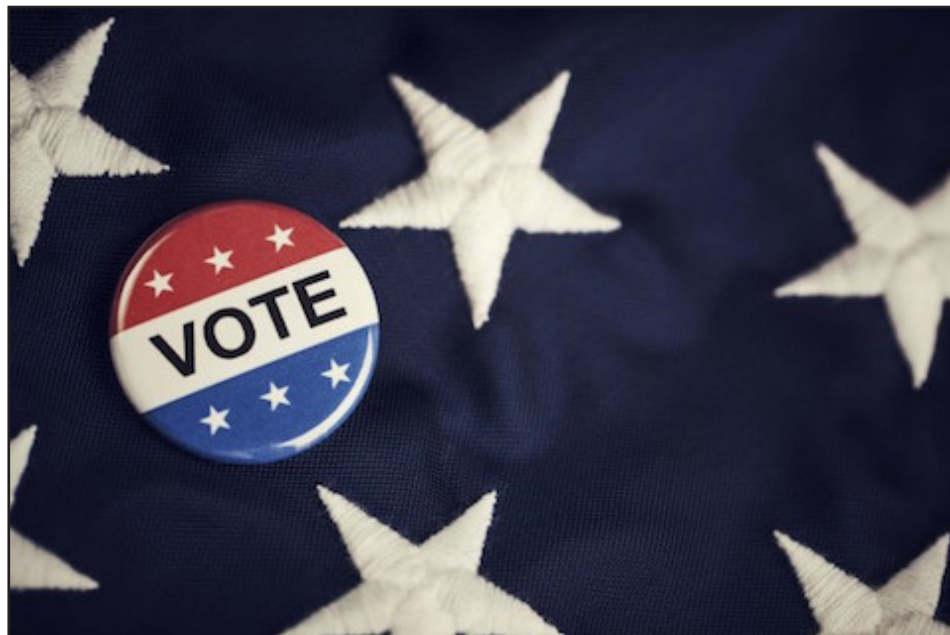
Parties interested in running in the 2021 municipal election cycle who choose to participate in a primary election to seek the nomination of a particular political party must submit to the Municipal Clerk's Office a "Qualifying Statement of Intent for a Candidate for Party Nomination," together with a qualifying fee of ten dollars, no later than 5 p.m. on February 5, 2021, which is sixty days prior to the date of the first primary election.

The Municipal Clerk will forward the Statement of Intent and the filing fee to the Secretary of the proper political party's Municipal Executive Committee.

Qualifying forms are available from the Municipal Clerk's Office and on-line from the Secretary of State's website.

An individual who chooses to participate in the general election only, without any political party affiliation, must submit to the Municipal Clerk's Office a "Qualifying Statement of Intent for an Independent Candidate," together with a Qualifying Petition, no later than 5 p.m. on February 5, 2021. Independent candidates do not pay a qualifying fee, but their Qualifying Petition must be signed by at least fifty qualified (registered) voters of the municipality or ward from which the candidate seeks office. The Municipal Clerk's Office must certify the signatures on the Qualifying Petition are those of registered voters of the municipality and/or ward. Qualifying forms, including Petitions, are available from the Municipal Clerk's Office and on-line from the Secretary of State's website.

In order to qualify for office, all candidates must be a qualified elector (registered voter) of the State of Mississippi and in the municipality/ward of the office for which the candidate seeks election; be a resident of the municipality, county or county district office that he or she seeks to represent for two years immediately preceding the day of the election; along with meet requirements for not having been convicted of specif-



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ic crimes, as explained on the Mississippi Secretary of State's website.

Additionally, there are other duties a candidate running for office will need to do, such as filing a Statement of Economic Interest with the Mississippi State Ethics Commission within fifteen days of qualifying. They will also be required to file Campaign Finance Reporting Statements.

The calendar for the 2021 election cycle is as follows:

February 5, 2021: Last day to qualify. Candidates must file their qualifying papers by 5 p.m.

April 6, 2021: Primary election.

April 27, 2021: Runoff election (if necessary).

June 8, 2021: General election.

For more information, visit www.sos.ms.gov/elections-voting/Pages/default.aspx.

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In His Steps hosts annual Compassion Store



All photos Special to The Canton News

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In His Steps Ministries (IHS) was founded in 1994 by Carolyn and Jasper Bacon. In His Steps uses creative ministry to serve at-risk youth and their families in the Canton community.

Each year, in December, In His Steps Ministries holds a Christmas Compassion Store. The purpose of the Compassion Store is to demonstrate biblical compassion to others. Although this was a difficult year, the Com-

passion Store was still impactful. Through the generosity and support of local churches and sponsors, In His Steps Ministries was able to impact seventy-two children and thirty-four families in total.

What makes the Compassion Store so unique is that families are able to provide wish lists to IHS, and then, using their own earnings, parents are able to purchase gifts at a seventy-five percent decreased rate and celebrate Christmas with their families. This encourages

responsibility on the part of parents and guardians. All of the gifts and toys are donated by various churches and sponsors, and IHS provides a place for families to purchase the gifts. IHS representatives explain that the ministry values the dignity of the families that they serve and believes in the importance of mutual exchange, not just one-way giving. Parents are able to provide for their own families; IHS is simply providing them the opportunity to do so.

At the heart of all of IHS ministries is a desire to demonstrate God's love through serving the immediate needs of children and families in the Canton community. In doing so, IHS explains they have been given the opportunity to proclaim the life-changing message of the gospel of Jesus Christ. In addition to assisting parents with Christmas gifts for their children, IHS provided two parent training sessions.

For more information on In His Steps Ministries, visit inhissteps.org.

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McNeal releases 2nd nine weeks honor roll

Kindergarten, High Honor Roll (All A's)

Aiden Johnson, Jamarian Meeks, Braylen Newsome, Aziyah Ratliff, Zuriya Ruffin, Brooklynn Sanders, Camilla Smith and Kemarion Thompson

Kindergarten, High Honor Roll (A's and B's)

Khloe Brown, Tia Cooper, Malaysia Fleming, Chloe Hawkins, Elijah Hudson, Chance Jackson, Chandler Jackson, Jamari Johnson, Sharlet Johnson, Zoi Simmons, Joshua Travis, Zakiya Tucker, Luis Villalpando, Laniyah Williams, Ian Young and Jayden Young

First Grade, High Honor Roll (All A's)

Chaise Johnson

First Grade, High Honor Roll (A's and B's)

Arianna Baldwin King Bouldin, Chance Buckley, Chloe Clay, Brookelynn Cowans, Jayceon Gibson, Jae'Lyric Johnson, Karmela Johnson, Mariah Ligon, Nicholas Mays, Cra'Shunda Millsap, LaMarkeize Pate, Kerrington Thomas, Kaiden Turner, Mayli Velasquez-Ortiz and Sha'Niya Williams

Second Grade, High Honor Roll (A's and B's)

Kaylee Blackmon, Noah Brown, Ri'nyiah Brown, Alayjah Crater, Hailey Griffin, Camello Jackson, Makayla Kincade, Landon Lockett, Zurreigh Mayfield, Jakiya Nichols, Jazmine Smith, Aaliyah Sumler, Aliyah Williams, Jon'Mya Williams, Miangel Williams and Brooklyn Young

Third Grade, High Honor Roll (All A's)

Karma Pickett

Third Grade, High Honor Roll (A's and B's)

Je'Myilah Blount, Leah Collins, Jhkaylee Greenwood, Willoh' Jackson, Leah Jarrett, Violeta Lino Nolasco, Kenyell Miller, AurBreeL Mornment, Chandler Newsome, Londyn Plummer and Jace Robinson

Fourth Grade, Honor Roll (A's and B's)

Dana Baker, Jordin Brown, Akira Carson, Amiyah Carson, Bryce Cowans, Ahmaryion Grant, A'miracle Harper, Ky'Lee Jackson, Haley Johnson, Erickson Miranda-Lopez, Kendria Richards, Eliandro Rodriguez-Ventura and Ethan Ross



Fifth Grade, High Honor Roll (All A's)

Jeremy Harris

Fifth Grade, High Honor Roll (A's and B's)

Jaden Blocker, British Brooks, Travian Cole, Joe Davis, Enrique Diaz, Londyn Harris, Justice Harvey, Tavian Jackson, Maggie Lamb, Braylen Lambert, Jayla Pendleton, Jamyla Plummer, Za'leah Prophet, Kylei Rogers, A'zaria Smith and Dylan Tat

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“BE Mississippi” offers hope for small businesses

By Taylor McKay Hathorn

In 2013, Dr. Kathy Amos travelled to Florida to hear a speech given by a then-member of the state’s House of Representatives, and, during the oration, she felt what she believes is a “divine calling” to start Business Empowered (BE) Mississippi.



Dr. Kathy Amos

“I wanted to do something in the state of Mississippi that would empower business leaders both naturally and spiritually with the Biblically-based principles that we apply in the workplace,” Amos says of her initial vision for BE Mississippi.

Although the company was originally focused on supporting female entrepreneurs, BE Mississippi expanded its reach in July 2019 to encompass all business owners across the state, and, just eight months after its official launch, the COVID-19 pandemic swept across the globe, leaving businesses fractured in its wake.

“There were so many businesses that were struggling with the pandemic, and I wanted to do something that would make an impact,” Amos recalls. “We want to empower them to stay the

course.”

This empowerment has taken a digital form in order to follow safety protocols, but Amos still believes that BE Mississippi’s mission is growing and is positively impacting local business owners.

With clients from the Gulf Coast to the Delta, BE Mississippi offers a variety of opportunities for business owners to network with colleagues in similar fields across the country.

“We have a digital magazine [that releases] monthly,” Amos says of her Canton-based company’s marketing services. “Thousands see the articles and the advertisements.”

Coupled with a heavy presence on several social media sites, BE Mississippi also offers “dine and learns” to provide professional development opportunities for their partners. Business leaders are also given an opportunity to share their visions and advertise their services through the company’s “Mic Night Global,” which happens every second Tuesday.

“Thousands of people across the country are viewing what we’re doing,” Amos says of the online service.

Although Amos remains focused on fostering this nationwide viewership, she believes that BE Mississippi has the capacity to do much good in its local community, saying, “We want the economy in Mississippi stirred up again, and



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we are praying that God will elevate [local business owners].”

BE Mississippi takes an active part in this elevation, hosting its first-annual “Best of Mississippi” awards banquet earlier this year at the Hilton Hotel in Jackson, Mississippi.

“We wanted to honor those leaders who are struggling,” Amos says. “They didn’t ask for this.”

The ballots for this year’s event will become available soon, and the Canton Public School District is expected to defend its three titles at the 2021 banquet.

For more information about “Business Empowered Mississippi,” visit www.bemississippi.com.

cont. from front page

Construction begins for nursing home in Canton

term care, along with short term rehab. There will also be a small memory care unit on one of the wings.”

The nursing home, he said, will provide a nice array of services.

“The facility will have all private rooms with private baths. We are hoping to have the facility ready sometime early next year.”

With a population of more than 13,000 residents, Canton serves as the county seat for fast-growing Madison County. A popular spot for holiday visitors with its celebrated Christmas lights on the town square, Canton sits nearby the giant Nissan auto plant.

Canton Convention and Visitors Bureau officials welcome the new nursing home in their hometown.

“We are glad to have any new industry or this nursing home in our city,” said staff member Anne Mansell. “It’s great.”



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Hesta Foy Pierson, 1913-2009

Hesta Foy Pierson was born in Canton, Mississippi, on January 7, 1913. She was the oldest of four children of Ernest Albert Foy and Minnie Mills Cox - Hesta, Rob, Hettie and Rachel - and also had a stepbrother, Ray W. Cox. Pierson was educated in the Canton Public Schools; and, after graduating from a business school in Jackson, became an auditor for the Internal Revenue Service. After retiring from the IRS, she spent hours searching the genealogy of her family, even making several trips to Ireland. Some of her findings are documented in the Madison County history book, *The Land Between Two Rivers*. Pierson passed away on July 14, 2009. The Canton News is pleased to be able to publish some of Hesta Pierson's memories in this and upcoming issues.

By Hesta Pierson

My mother would fill a wooden barrel full of ashes from the fire-place where oak wood had been burned. Cold water was poured over the ashes, and the barrel was positioned on a table at an angle to allow lye to drip from the barrel into a second bucket on the floor.

If Mother decided the first dripping didn't produce the strength of lye she needed, the process was repeated by placing the drippings back into the original bucket of ashes and running that through the ashes a second time.

Once the lye water was collected, the first use of the lye was usually to cook shelled corn to make hominy. This was done by placing the corn into an iron pot and cooking it in the

lye water over a wood fire out in the yard. The corn was boiled until the hard outside husk would slip from the grains of the corn.

If this didn't work with the first formula of water and lye water, Mother would pour in more lye water and would cook the corn until the husks all finally released.

Taking the corn kernels from the pot, she washed it several times. Then, the kernels were placed back into the pot and boiled in fresh water until it was soft. Draining the water from the corn was the last step in making hominy.

I remember that it was delicious served warm with ham and gravy. We always made large quantities, so we could have an ample supply to share with neighbors.

This lye water was also an import-

ant ingredient in homemade soap. For the best results in soap making, it was made at a certain time of the moon.

Using a large iron pot, meat dripping and cracklings from a recent hog butchering were boiled together with fresh water and some lye water. The amounts of each of the ingredients were determined by a trained eye and trial and error.

If the mixture did not thicken as Mother wanted, she would add additional fat or more lye water. When she got the recipe to please her, and the consistency was to her liking, she poured the mixture into a stone crock to cool and get hard. Once the lard and lye mixture was hardened, it was ready to be cut into soap bars and used to scrub floors and wash clothes.

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Nissan shares family recipes with community

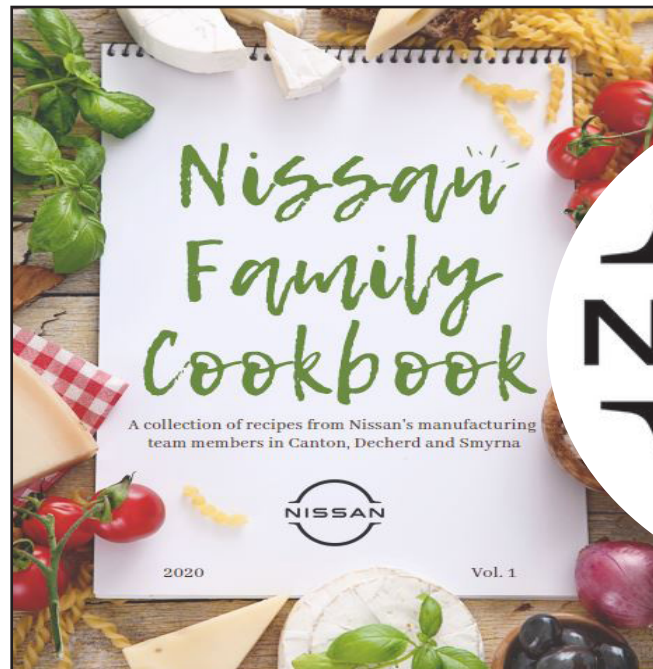
Special to The Canton News

Holiday celebrations felt a little different this past year, with more people choosing to gather with a much smaller group of family and friends or come together virtually. What didn't change was that Americans still got out pots and pans to cook tasty holiday meals, and Nissan's U.S. manufacturing team introduced the first-ever *Nissan Family Cookbook* to share recipes across their Nissan family. They have also made the cookbook publicly available for download as a gift to the community.

With one hundred forty recipes — from appetizers and soups to main dishes and desserts — the *Nissan Family Cookbook* was created with hopes of helping people feel connected to one another, break up the pandemic-induced monotony and make new memories.

"While our team is best known for assembling some of the highest-quality vehicles for consumers, they are also quite crafty in the kitchen," said Steve Marsh, senior vice president, manufacturing, supply chain and purchasing, Nissan North America, Inc.

The cookbook's forward states, "The diversity of our customers is reflected



in our employees and is a key ingredient of our success. Since we come from

a wide variety of backgrounds, there is much we can share with each other.

It's part of what makes us more like family than co-workers... This cookbook is

much greater than a collection of favorite recipes. It's a collection of memories, traditions and experiences that are personal."

The cookbook includes recipes from employees at Nissan's Canton vehicle assembly plant, including "Bacon Wrapped Chicken Breast" from Bill Thompson, "Corn Dip" from Jennifer Swanner, "Chilaquiles" from Magdalena Shepardson, "Crispy Potato Tacos" from Hunter King, "Risotto Primavera" from Jessica McKercher, "My Special Cheesy Seasonal Broccoli" from Nicole Griffin, "Apple Caramel Dump Cake" from Brandi Mattingly, "Cowboy Cookies" from Jessica McKercher, "Red Velvet Cake" from Sheena Evans Dericks, and many more.

Cookbook sections include appetizers and snacks, breads, soups and salads, entrees, side dishes and vegetables, and desserts. Many of the recipes carry special meaning, and each contributing cook has included a quote or story about the recipe.

The *Nissan Family Cookbook* is available to download for free at www.tinyurl.com/NFCookbook

NCL landfill opposed by Hinds County Supervisors

Special to The Canton News

The Hinds County Board of Supervisors voted unanimously to oppose the controversial proposed NCL solid waste landfill on North County Line Road in Madison County at a meeting late last month, joining a growing bipartisan group of opponents.

The supervisors voted to officially oppose the landfill, stating that the people of Hinds County don't want a third garbage dump at the proposed North County Line Road location.

The issue has galvanized a unique, bipartisan, racially diverse coalition of opponents, including Canton Mayor William Truly, Jr., former U.S. Senator Trent Lott, Jackson Mayor Chokwe Antar Lumumba, Ridgeland Mayor Gene Magee, Flora Mayor Les Childress, Central Mississippi REALTORS®, North Livingston Homeowner's Association and several other homeowner's associations in Madison County. Ridgeland, Canton and Flora have adopted similar resolutions formally opposing the NCL landfill.

"All up and down Highway 49, North County Line Road, County Line Road, people are opposed to this landfill," said District 2 supervisor David Archie. "We are speaking today for all the citizens of Hinds County."

"This landfill would really be damaging to Hinds County," said Board President Credell Calhoun.

Numerous citizens appeared before the Board asking them to oppose the landfill, including retired Jackson Police Department officer Beverly Harris Williams, who presented the Board with a petition signed by over two hundred Hinds County residents opposed to the dump.

"We ask that you partner with us to protect our homes, protect our kids, protect our environment," Williams told the Board. After the vote, Williams commented, "We are proud of our supervisors for standing up for the citizens of Hinds County."

Hinds County's opposition to a virtually identical landfill application in 2010 was cited by MDEQ officials as one of the reasons that application was denied.

"This unanimous vote directly opposing NCL's application should be given serious weight at MDEQ," said Ron Farris, a Madison County resident and attorney for No More

Dumps, a bipartisan coalition of citizens and businesses fighting the landfill.

Cynthia McGilberry, a registered nurse who lives in the Woodland Springs neighborhood, a platted subdivision with twenty-one homes less than a mile from the NCL site, shared her concerns about the new landfill based on her experience with the current landfill.

"When I come home at night from work, I smell gas fumes that are so strong I have to cover my nose and put a mask on. We are asking if you all would join us in our effort, because we don't want to be exposed as citizens to the health hazards."

"If approved, the landfill would make south Madison County a regional waste receptacle for trash from across Mississippi and other states, forever changing the trajectory of the area," Farris said, "We are already the only county with two landfills, and it seems clear that we have no need for another."

The MDEQ Permit Board vot-

ed in early 2020 to take no action on NCL's landfill application until Madison County studies whether the landfill is actually needed or not. A few months after that, NCL was exposed in their letter to the Madison County Board of Supervisors attempting to fund the County's study of whether Madison County needs a third unprecedented landfill.

NCL later withdrew their letter, demanding the County conduct the study, which NCL offered to fund; however, NCL later sued the County for \$60 million on September 10, insisting the County is breaching their business agreement.

"Keep in mind, NCL has spent millions of dollars in a long-time effort to build a huge landfill Madison County does not need or want," commented Farris. "Madison County and the tri-county region is one of the fastest growing areas in the state and enjoys strong economic growth. Why would it want to be the Landfill Capital of Mississippi? If, for some reason, the state needs another dump for long-term needs, then build it somewhere else."

Supervisor David Archie closed the discussion, saying this action by the Board "sends a very good message to those coming to Hinds County."

For more information, visit www.stophenclandfill.com.



Youth Leadership members selected for Canton



Special to The Canton News

Youth Leadership representatives from Canton Academy for 2020-21 are Eliza Lightheart and John-Hollis Hutchinson.



Special to The Canton News

Youth Leadership representatives from Canton High School for 2020-21 are Ana Gonzalez and Dwayne Nelson, Jr.

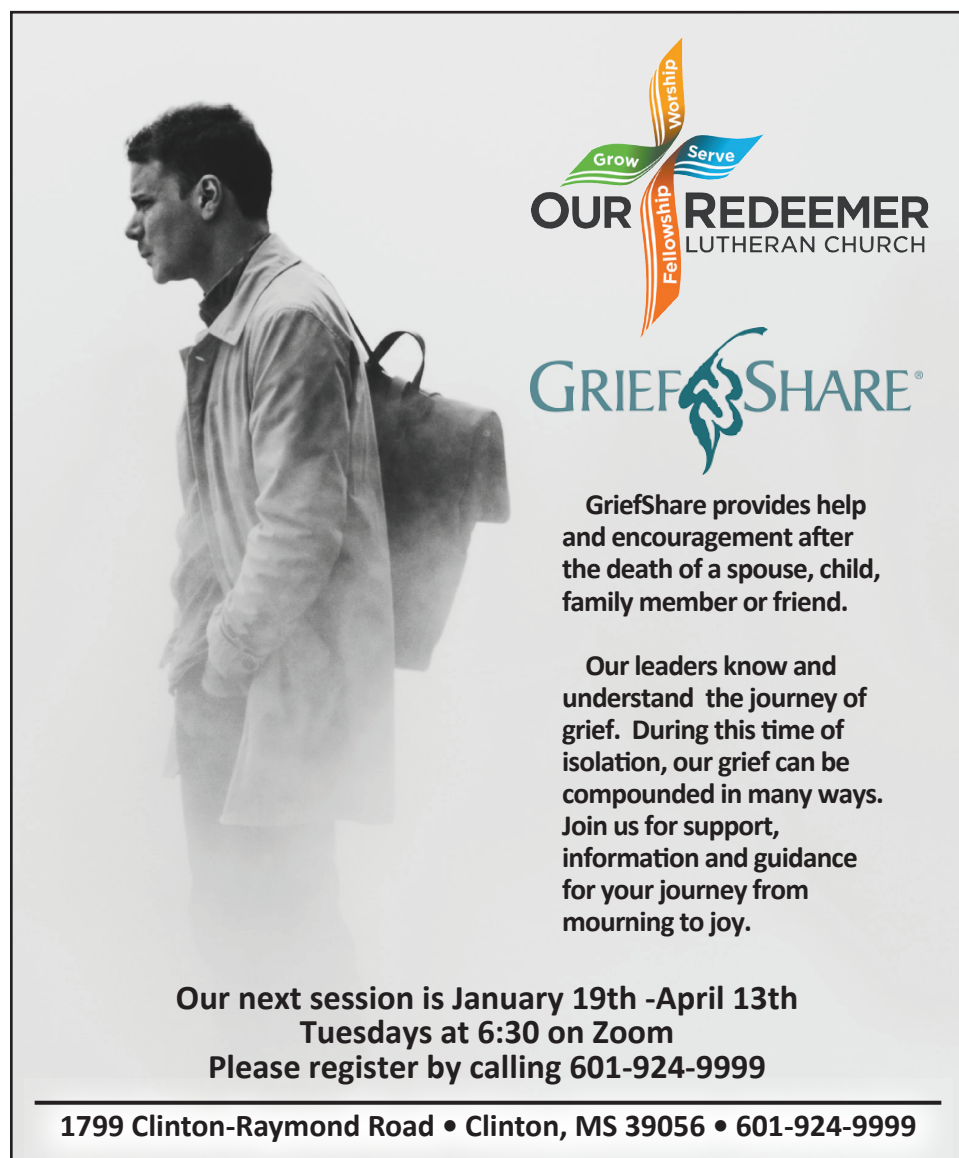
Special to The Canton News

The Madison County Business League & Foundation and the Madison County Economic De-

velopment Authority recently announced school representatives in the 2020-21 Madison County Youth Leadership class. The mission of the Madison County Youth

Leadership program is to provide students with a deeper understanding of the careers available in Madison County in an environment that develops their leadership skills and

encourages graduates to take their knowledge and their experience into the community for the betterment of Madison County as a whole.



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Reflections on Peco Foods' contributions to Canton

By Guest Columnist Joy Foy

In 2001, I was working for Madison County Economic Development Authority (MCE-DA), and, in my duties, met Natalia Diaz, a red-headed Russian. She was Project Director for the Mississippi Consortium for International Development, a collaborative effort of Jackson State, Alcorn State and Mississippi Valley State universities. She brought people from around the world to our offices, and we got to show off Madison County's accomplishments.

Every group from Asia asked for a tour of the "chicken plant." Peco Foods was always very accommodating, allowing us to come visit and spending time answering questions. The Asians were fascinated by the size of the birds grown in Mississippi and wanted to know the secret for growing them so big.



Joy Foy

Special to The Canton News

Most of my friends in Canton have never stepped into the doors of Peco, but I can tell you that there was pride behind those doors. The international guests would want to take pictures, and the line workers always were delighted to be in the pictures showing off their work area. The Human Resource Manager was very supportive to us at MCEDA, not only in arranging these tours, but also taking advantage of training sessions and attending meetings MCEDA hosted. They regularly donated ice for events on the square and to the Lions Club's annual auction.

The 1,137 people who worked at Peco when it closed had salaries ranging from \$12.35 to \$23 an hour, or an average of \$14.50 hourly pay, according to Erin Vogt, Director of Public Relations for Peco. These jobs attracted immigrants, especially the Hispanic, and offered many Cantonians their first job. Others worked at Peco their whole career. However, Heath Canada, my son Jamie's friend from Mississippi State, got a degree in poultry science; but, he did not last in the poultry industry. While no job

is right for everyone, the plant offered a good honorable way to make a decent living and fueled the Canton economy since August 3, 1998, with an estimated impact of \$32,973,000 in salaries alone.

Abraham Lincoln said, "That some achieve great success is proof to all that others can achieve it, as well." Both unemployed Peco employees and the City of Canton will have to adopt this way of thinking and look for opportunities, instead of focusing on the obvious obstacles of losing jobs and revenues.

It is a fact that employees are better equipped to find that next job with the training and work ethics they received by working for a good company like Peco.

Tanya Smart (601-605-3338 or tsmart@holmescc.edu) with Holmes Community College can also help these employees with National Career Readiness Certification (NCRC) and with adult education classes or GED training. The NCRC is an assessment-based credential issued at four levels: platinum, gold, silver, and bronze. The NCRC measures and certifies the essential work skills needed for

success in jobs across industries and occupations. This certification can be obtained at the same time one is studying for their GED or taking other classes, according to Angela Crain, workforce coordinator at Homes.

The Canton WIN Job Center also offers assistance in finding a new job and moving upward in the workforce.

Other communities have used vacant buildings as a recruiting tool to attract new industry or repurposed them for cool new money-making venues. Have faith that if others have had great success in a second career and with new ways of doing things, Canton and Cantonians can pattern themselves likewise!

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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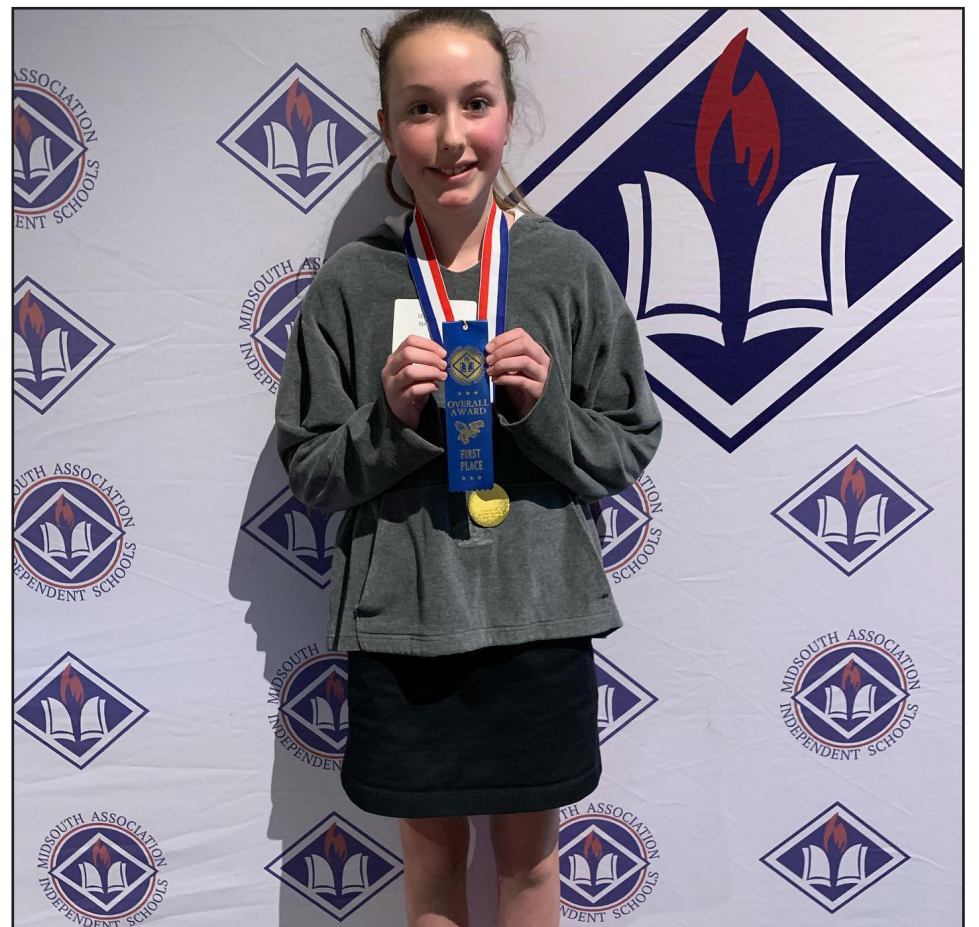
CA Elementary students recognized for character traits



Special to The Canton News

Several Canton Academy elementary students were recently recognized for the character traits of showing positive behavior (pre-K through second grades) and trustworthiness (third through sixth grades). Pictured (l to r) are, front row: Drew Ayers (K3), Kendal Middleton (K4), Brooks Spell (K5), Hayes Kennington (K5), Bay Lynn Bates (first), Zola Glaze (second) and Allie Hart Lyon (fourth); and back row: Harper Lampkin (fifth), Ty Touchton (first), Jake Harris (third) and Zayn McCalman (sixth).

Sanders wins MAIS spelling bee



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Canton Academy fourth-grader Mary Camden Sanders recently won first place in the Mississippi Association of Independent Schools' fourth grade overall spelling bee. Camden will go on to compete with all winners from the fourth through the eighth grades.

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Red Cross encourages Mississippians to practice fire safety

Special to The Canton News

Following a recent spike of home fires in Southwest Mississippi, the American Red Cross Alabama Mississippi region encourages residents to talk to their children about fire safety to help families stay safe. In the past year, local Red Cross volunteers helped more than 1,300 people affected by more than 315 home fires in Southwest Mississippi. For residents affected by the recent fires, the Red Cross provided emergency financial assistance, food, relief items like toiletries, health and mental health services, and one-on-one support to connect people to available recovery assistance.

"It's heartbreaking for anyone to have to experience a home fire, especially children," Tamica Jeuit, executive director, Southwest Mississippi said. "We

want to ensure families and children are prepared. Please talk to everyone in your household about home fire safety and practice your escape plan together until everyone can get out in two minutes or less."

Preparation strategies suggested by the American Red Cross include:

- **Practice an escape plan:** Take time to discuss fire safety. Familiarize children with the sound of the smoke alarm, and teach them what to do when they hear it when practicing an escape plan.
- **Be friends with firefighters:** Teach children not to be afraid of firefighters. Take them to a local fire department to meet them, see the gear they wear and learn about fire safety and prevention.
- **Avoid matches:** Teach children to tell a responsible adult when they



Special to The Canton News

find matches or lighters at home or school. Keep matches, lighters and other ignitable substances in a secured location out of reach of children.

• **Test smoke alarms:** Install smoke alarms on every level of a home, inside and outside bedrooms and sleeping areas. Test them monthly, and replace alarm batteries as needed.

For free home fire safety resources, including an escape plan, visit redcross.org/fire or download the free Red Cross Emergency App. In addition, the free Monster Guard app teaches children how to prepare for emergencies by playing an engaging game. Download the apps by searching "American Red Cross" in app stores or going to redcross.org/apps.

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