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Good News You Can Use • May 6, 2021 • Vol. 7, No. 5 • Canton, Mississippi

Jones becomes sneakerhead entrepreneur

By Courtney Warren

Sometimes shoes are made for walking; other times they are made for collecting and showing off your style. For ninth-grader L.J. Jones, it's all business.

Jones recently began his own shoe-selling business where he sells high-end sneakers.

"The reason I started my shoe business is because I'm a Sneakerhead, which means shoe collector. I'm involved almost every week in selling and buying. I've always wanted to own my own shoe store, and so I started young. I play basketball, and basketball and shoes go together," said Jones.

The popularity of the multi-billion dollar sneaker industry comes from the thrill of the chase. Many collect and sell sneakers much like people used to collect and sell baseball cards.

"I'm really passionate about what I do, because there is a story behind every sneaker that comes out. I also like

the different styles and colorways on shoes," said Jones.

Selling waits for no man, and sometimes Jones has to take a quick break from class to purchase limited-edition shoes -- with teacher permission, of course.

"I actually just had to sell a pair of Jordans in class. My favorite sale so far was a pair that I got that my sister really wanted. An NBA player

named LeRoy Buchanan bought a rare shoe, a pair of Blazers 77 mid Popcorn, from me. It got shared online, which was really cool," said Jones.

With juggling school, sports, and now his shoe business, one might think Jones would drop the ball. However, with the support of his family, Jones is primed for success.

"My parents support

my decision one hundred percent. They are the ones that really got me started. Really, my parents are the reason I wanted to start a business. My mom has a hair business, and my dad has a flooring business, too. If it wasn't for them, I probably wouldn't have this business," said Jones.

Quite the social butterfly, Jones said one of his favorite aspects of his sneaker business, besides the cool shoes, is meeting other people.

"You get to meet other people and learn their tastes in how they dress and how they carry themselves. And there's a lot of personalities. And what makes me so happy is I just started a new travel basketball team, and they support me a hundred percent. They are my clients, but also like one of my co-workers," said Jones.

Good shoes take you to good places, and it looks like L.J. Jones is going to very good places.



Special to The Canton News

L.J. Jones is a proud Sneakerhead and successful young business owner

Wisdom and Leadership Academy hosts ribbon cutting

By Courtney Warren

Recently, the Wisdom and Leadership Academy (WLA) celebrated their ribbon cutting as they opened doors to their school.

Sheryl Washington, founder of the academy said, "The inspiration behind opening the Wisdom and Leadership Academy was for my children to receive a faith-based education. I also wanted to extend the opportunity to other families.

"My passion for education and faith was definitely a driving force in starting WLA. After teaching in the public schools for quite a few years, I began to see the importance of children having a Christ-centered education," said Washington.

Washington's children previously attended Canton Public Schools. During the opening, she told the story of one of her children struggling to read. Rather than hold him back a year, Washington

realized he just needed a different learning strategy.

"Within a year, he had made the school year up and more. He was reading," said Washington.

Oftentimes, being homeschooled or virtual can present different challenges, including challenges of atmosphere. Washington explained that having a school building for the academy was important.

"I feel that having the building will enhance our students' experience by providing them more of a school setting. Being home sometimes gives them the opportunity to be too comfortable. Having a school building creates a school atmosphere, therefore academic excellence is also promoted," said Washington.

The academy stands out from other institutions because of its approach to education using the book of Proverbs

cont. on page 2



Photo by Courtney Warren

Pictured (l to r) are Board Secretary Latoya Johnson, Certified Teacher for WLA Niccori Brown, Board Treasurer Dexter Washington, Sr., Founder and executive director Sheryl Washington, and Chamber President Chrishanda Jackson.

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CHS recognized in MCYL program



Special to The Canton News

Pictured (l to r) are: Dwayne Nelson, Jr., MCYL Committee Member Dr. Mary Sims Johnson and Ana Gonzalez.

Special to The Canton News

Recognizing the importance of quality education and a well-educated workforce in the recruitment of industry, the Madison County Business League and Foundation and the Madison County Economic Development Authority are proud to sponsor the Madison County Youth Leadership program.

Two of the best and brightest all around juniors from each of the Madison Coun-

ty public, private, and parochial high schools, plus Jackson Academy and Jackson Prep, were selected by their administration to represent their respective schools.

The Madison County Business League and Foundation and the Madison County Community Trust awarded scholarships to Canton High School students Ana Gonzalez and Dwayne Nelson, Jr. for their participation in 2020-21 MCYL program.

cont. from front page

Wisdom



Photo by Courtney Warren

throughout each subject.

“The book of Proverbs is used daily in devotion. In the Christian faith, the book of Proverbs is known as the wisdom book. There are thirty-one chapters of Proverbs and thirty to thirty-one days in each month. We study a chapter of Proverbs daily to start our day,” Washington explained.

“Vocabulary words are pulled from

each chapter, life lessons are taught from each chapter, and current events are discussed and analyzed from each chapter. In the future, there will be a Proverbs curriculum. At WLA, Christ and biblical morals are front and center,” said Washington.

For more information about the Wisdom and Leadership Academy, visit their page on Facebook.



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Word of Prayer: The Barking Caller

By Guest Columnist Jay Cook

It was a long time ago, but it sounds like today...



By Jay Cook

In 1980, a woman began calling the San Diego police department to report that she was getting phone calls in the middle of the night. Odd? Well,

what was odd was that the caller was a man who barked like a dog – and then hung up. The phone company couldn't even trace the calls.

But then – out of the blue – the “barker” confessed. It was the woman's neighbor. He said that her dog used to wake him up barking in the middle of the night, and he wanted to make sure that she was awake, too.

In hindsight, it might seem funny. It even might seem that she was getting what she deserved. However, there is something underneath it that still plagues our society today.

Whatever happened to civility? Whatever happened to mature discussions? Whatever happened to trusting God instead of playing “games”?

The break in our usual routines, the isolation we've faced, even the fear

we've endured over this past year has intensified what lies deep within every one of us. We simply do not have the ability to control ourselves (in our own strength). And we've seen it played out in our neighborhoods, in our country, in the media, and all-over social media. Something has got to change; don't you agree?

Lashing out is not new. Even God dealt with the issue in Romans 12:17-19: “Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Give careful thought to do what is honorable in everyone's eyes. If possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. Friends, do not avenge yourselves; instead, leave room for God's wrath, because it is written, ‘Vengeance belongs to me; I will repay,’ says the Lord.”

I know! We don't want to do that. But could it be that that is a large part of the problem? We don't want to take the “high road,” so we do what comes “natural.”

As a Christian, I know that what comes “natural” should raise all kinds of warning flags. I am naturally selfish. I am naturally self-focused. I am naturally self-absorbed. But three years before the man started barking on the phone, I committed myself to being God-focused instead (when I became a Christian).

Am I successful at it? I wish I could

say that I was – all the time – but I'm not. I still struggle with wanting to get even. I still struggle with wanting things the way I want things to be. I still struggle.

At the same time, I am beyond grateful that God puts up with me and wants me to turn back to Him. How about you?

So, what in the world can we do about this?

First, we've got to realize that the ability to do what's right does not come naturally to us. We need help (God's help).

Second, we've got to realize that though life isn't fair, God is. And He expects you and me to do all we can to make things right (the right way).

Third, we've got to rely on the support and help of people who “have it together” – not the ones who have all the answers for everyone else (except themselves).

Basically, we need to let God be God - while we focus on living for Him.

Canton, let's do better than the rest of the country. Let's do what's right.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Jay Cook is the senior pastor at First Baptist Church in Canton. He is married to Kristi Cook, and the two have two children.

Goodloe Elementary celebrates students



Special to The Canton News

Goodloe Elementary school recognizes success whether they are physically in class or learning virtually. Due to COVID restrictions, faculty and staff held a Proficiency Parade for all students who scored “proficient” or “advanced” on their semester exams. Students were able to drive by with their parents where they were greeted with treats and cheers from their teachers.

—April 6 Municipal Primary Election Results—

MAYOR

William Truly
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Markee Blount won Ward 4 in a run-off election

ALDERMAN WARD ONE

Rodriguez Brown — 122
Colby Walker — 133

ALDERMAN WARD TWO

Fred Esco, Jr. — 92
Renee Truss — 112

ALDERMAN WARD THREE

Angle Levy-Ware — 65
Les Penn — 164

ALDERMAN WARD FOUR

Markee Blount — 97
Jonathan Dixon — 41
Danny T. Louis — 29
Daphne Johnson Sims — 56

ALDERMAN WARD FIVE

John E. Brown — 109
Tim C. Taylor — 106

ALDERMAN WARD SIX

Monica Johnson Gilkey — 117
Cleotha Williams — 63

ALDERMAN WARD SEVEN

Dante L. Ollie — 44
Lafayette E. Wales — 175

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Letter from the Editor: That time Jesus didn't forgive

By Courtney Warren

I once read a story about Jesus. As Jesus was walking through a town in Galilee, He came across a jail. Even though the Lord knew what the prisoners were guilty of, He asked the apostles why these men were jailed.

"They have committed the greatest of sins, my Lord," answered one of them.

"What have these men done? Have they stolen? Have they over-taxed or beaten you? Have they torn down the walls of a temple? All of these are sins to be forgiven. Who are you to judge these men?"

One of the apostles, Simon-Peter, said, "Lord, these are sinners against children. For these men were jailed for torturing children and infants. They await death while in these walls."

Jesus said, "It has been written and so shall be fulfilled, those who harm the Lord's children harm the Lord. These men are no longer loved by the Lord and cannot be saved. They will long wander the lonely hills of darkness. Only will they know my name in death."

Did I fool you? I bet I fooled some of you. For my sake, I hope you haven't thrown your newspaper down in a fit of rage. Hang with me.

If I didn't, and you're scratching your head at the reaction Jesus had to this situation, you have every right to do so.

This isn't a Bible story. It actually never

happened, and I made it up for a group of my students as we study *Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury.

If you haven't read the book, the protagonist Montag is a "fireman" - but, in the future American society setting of the book, books are outlawed; and these firemen burn any that are found.

The society is dumbed down and only finds entertainment in watching wall-sized, interactive televisions, and one of the characters says this includes Jesus as "one of the 'family' now. I often wonder if God recognizes His own Son the way we've dressed him up, or is it dressed Him down? He's regular peppermint stick now, all sugar crystal and saccharine - when He isn't making veiled references to certain commercial products that every worshiper absolutely needs" (Bradbury 74).

My students were shocked. How could these people be so stupid! We talked about this society that believes everything that is presented to them via the Internet to be true.

It was then the idea struck me. I created my fake "Bible story" about Jesus.

I tried to stay true to the Biblical lingo as borrowed from other stories, to make mine more realistic.

I worked hard to hide my grin when I handed out the "quiz" in which students were to analyze the story. No one asked a single question. One of them looked at me funny and later admitted she didn't think it



Photo by Courtney Warren

was a true story.

After revealing myself, we had great discussions about the importance of asking questions. What made them not question the story, even when they doubted it? Many of them would have made mommas proud when they answered that they didn't want to be disrespectful to their teacher.

They all agreed - we've got to ask. Pop-

ular Christianity isn't biblical, but biblical Christianity isn't popular. We can't just trust what we see on the internet. Sometimes, we even have to question those in the pulpit.

So, here's to the freshmen. Here's to asking more questions. Here's to reading your Bible. And here's to that Bible story being fake, because how great a God do we have that offers forgiveness for all sins.

Canton Chamber revamps

By Courtney Warren

The Canton Chamber of Commerce is emerging once again in the community, and the members have big plans for the organization.

Chrishanda Jackson, president of the Canton Chamber of Commerce said, "It's so important to have a Chamber of Commerce, because we can represent the interests of Chamber members in front of city councils or other local agencies. The Chamber of Commerce also hosts local networking events or promotions designed to spur business growth in the area."

The Chamber board consists of President Chris Jackson, Vice President Comelia Walker, Treasurer Bradford Blackmon, and members Monica Gilkey, Lisa Ward, Lawrence Blackmon and Valencia Beamon.



Special to The Canton News

Canton used to be a part of the Mississippi Main Street Association. The Mississippi Main Street Association is a state-coordinated program of Main Street America, which empowers Mississippi's local Main Street leaders to create vibrant places and thriving economies by implementing the Main Street Approach.

Since the disbandment of the previous Chamber, the Canton Main Street Association also dissolved. According to Jackson, an attempt will be made to revive the program.

Jackson said there are several Canton Chamber of Commerce events to look forward to, including a clean-up day, business pop-up shops on the square, business after hours and more.

attempt will be made to revive the program.

Jackson said there are several Canton Chamber of Commerce events to look forward to, including a clean-up day, business pop-up shops on the square, business after hours and more.

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Canton Homes and Yards in Bloom



All photos by Courtney Warren

Spring has sprung in Canton, and it is now time for front porch sittin.'



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Canton Rocks-painted rock finds around the town square



Special to The Canton News

Allibrier Townsend found several rocks while downtown on a sunny afternoon.



Special to The Canton News

It's a great day for a rock hunt. Remember to rehide the ones you find, or create your own to hide around town. Pictured (l to r): Sadie, Laken, and Ava found rocks on the square.



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Canton, MS baseball teams primed for playoff success



Special to The Canton News

The Canton High School Tigers baseball team, coached by Head Coach Dex Brim

By Courtney Warren

Both Canton High School (CHS) and Canton Academy (CA) have seen major success and growth this baseball season. The CHS Tigers have made the playoffs this season and, according to CHS Head Coach Dex Brim, "We have three guys that have never played at this level and several

guys that have played out of position to help the team succeed. We have five freshmen and one eighth grader, that's six out of ten players, but we fought like a team full of seniors at times. The regular season was full of ups and downs, but we've learned from it all. Now, we're prepping for the playoffs and will try to upset the team that's placed in front of us. We're not done



Special to The Canton News

The Canton Academy Panthers baseball team, coached by Head Coach Josh Parks

yet! Go Tigers!"

Canton Academy Head Baseball Coach Josh Parks said, "The season started off rocky. We played some powerhouses around here. That got us ready for playoffs. The boys have really come together well. They're playing like a team and playing for each other. The ultimate goal each year is to win the last game of the season, and

that last game will be a state championship." CA recently advanced to the second round of the playoffs, defeating Lamar Christian 5-0 at Stuart Smith Stadium to sweep the best-of-three series in the first round of the MAIS baseball playoffs at Canton. The Panthers, 12-11, will advance to the second round to meet Wayne Academy.

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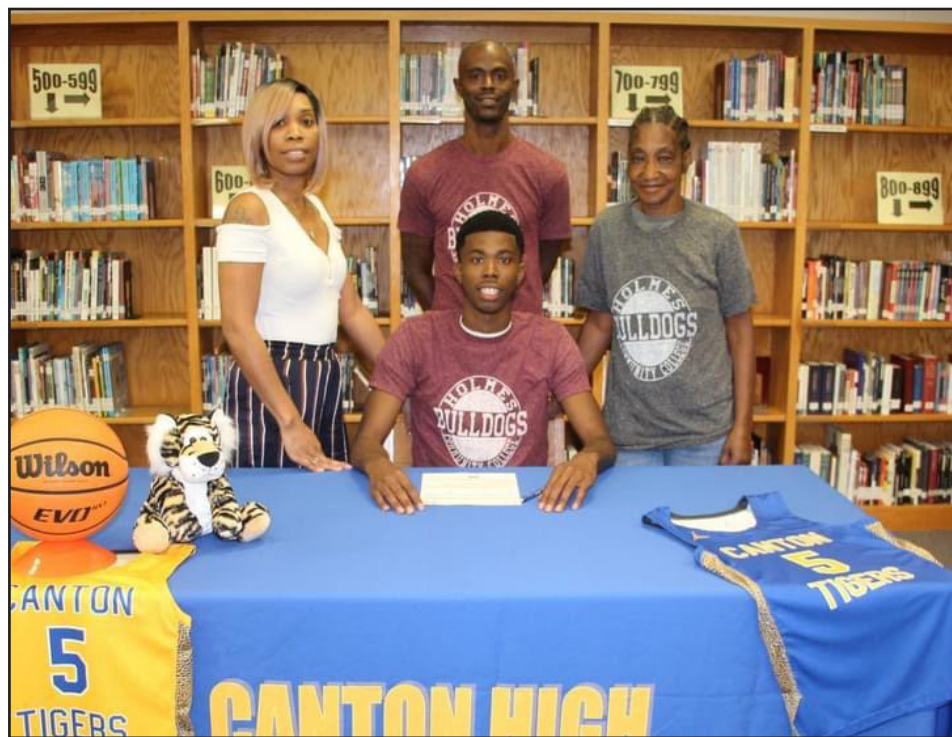
Where Customers Become Friends

Canton High School students sign college scholarships



Special to The Canton News

Canton High School Lady Tiger Basketball standout LaDiamonda Body signed with Mississippi Delta Community College in Moorhead to play basketball and pursue a degree in nursing. Body played forward at CHS for four years. She averaged 12.3 points, 8.4 rebounds, and 2 blocks per game. She made the 2019-2020 All-District Team and the 2020-2021 All-District Team. The talented CHS senior is looking forward to putting more points on the board as she begins her next exciting chapter. Pictured with Body is her mother, Erica.



Special to The Canton News

Canton High School Tiger Basketball standout Lazamion McGruder signed with Holmes Community College in Goodman. He will pursue a degree in Kinesiology with a focus on Athletic Training. The talented Team Captain and three-year Letterman averaged 12 points, 7 rebounds, 5 assists, 3 blocks, and 2 steals per game. He also made the 2020-2021 First Team All-District 3-5A. He is also an accomplished member of the CHS Track team. He is a 3-5A District Champion, recently winning First Place in High Jumps. McGruder says he is excited about his bright future and can't wait to excite more crowds with his slam dunks. Pictured with McGruder are his mother, Latoya Banks, father, Ezell McGruder, and grandmother, Earnestine McGruder.

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Biggers recognized at HCC

Students place in art contest



Special to The Canton News

Dr. Andy Kelly and Bethany Biggers

Special to The Canton News

At the 35th annual Holmes Community College (HCC) Awards and Honors Program, Dr. Andy Kelly presented Bethany Biggers with the English Composition

Award. Biggers is a graduate of Canton Academy where she was the valedictorian for the class of 2020. She was also chosen as Freshman Class Favorite for HCC Ridgeland campus.



Special to The Canton News

Pictured (l to r) are: Ahmirica J., Jamarion M., Javion F.

Special to The Canton News

Shirley D. Simmons Middle School is excited to announce that three students placed in another local art contest. Art students recently participated

and won three places in the Madison County Farm Bureau Art Contest. The winners are: Javion F. in first place, Ahmirica J. in second, and Jamarion M. in third.

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MCLS celebrated National Library Week

By Courtney Warren

Recently, the Madison County Library System (MCLS) celebrated, supported, and promoted libraries and librarians during National Library Week. This year's theme is "Welcome to Your Mississippi Library." All 5 of the MCLS branches are accessible and inclusive places that foster a sense of belonging and community through learning, discovery, and exploration.

Christine Greenwood, Canton Library Branch Manager said, "We received an overwhelming response from our patrons and library users who eagerly shared what they love about the staff, resources, and services available at the Canton branch. Patrons' gloat about books, audiobooks, virtual storytime, and how the library has made a difference while they have been socially distancing at home. Their comments were entered into a random drawing by the Canton branch for a \$25 Visa gift card."

First sponsored in 1958, National Library Week is a national observance sponsored by the American Library Association and libraries of all types across the country

each April. During these challenging times, MCLS has been working hard to adapt to the changing world by expanding virtual offerings, thereby continuing to meet the needs of library users. They encourage all community members to visit their website (mclsms.org) to explore and access online services and programs. MCLS offers a wide array of resources that are available from the comfort of home, including Libby, Hoopla Digital, Newspapers.com, and Ancestry.com to name a few. The "Youth" page is packed with children's virtual programming, including "Online Fun Time" and "Checker's Library TV." Other free library resources include Tutor.com, Magnolia, Universal Class, Scholastic Teachables, and EBSCO learning. Free WIFI access is available in each branch parking lot.

The library hosts virtual book clubs, children's programming (including reading to Ms. Becky), and adult round table discussions on Zoom. Upcoming library events can be found on the website, and the public may also sign up for text message event reminders here. The library system encourages all to connect and follow them on Facebook.



Special to The Canton News



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May 9-14 declared Law Enforcement Appreciation Week



Special to The Canton News

Pictured (l to r) are, front row: Supervisor Gerald Steen, Supervisor Karl Banks, president of the board, and Supervisor Trey Baxter; and back row: Sheriff Randy Tucker, Supervisor Sheila Jones, Supervisor Paul Griffin, and Madison County Business League and Foundation Executive Director Jan Collins. Not pictured is Madison County Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Paige Petersen.

Special to The Canton News

The Madison County Board of Supervisors adopted a resolution proclaiming May 9-14, 2021, as Madison County Law Enforcement Appreciation Week.

Local city and county chambers of commerce, tourism, and economic development organizations collaborate to promote the annual event in conjunc-

tion with national law enforcement appreciation week. Recognizing the importance of safe communities and their impact on economic development and quality of life, the organizations invite the business community, schools, churches, organizations, and individuals to recognize local law enforcement officers for their dedication and commitment to the protection of the citizens of Madison County.

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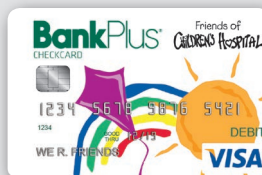
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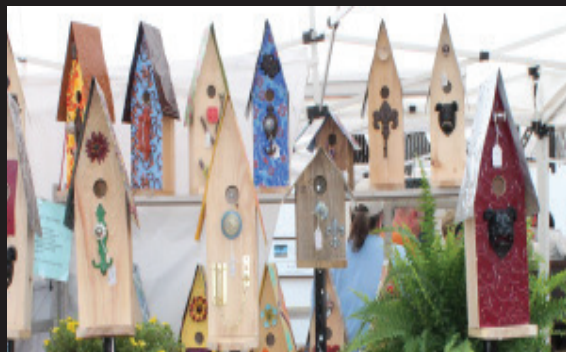
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CA students learn *Lord of the Flies* Survivor-style



Special to The Canton News

Josiah Smith, Reagan Taylor and Noah Gardener compete in the redemption challenge in order to get back into the game.



Special to The Canton News

Ayden Hughes stretches his farthest in order to fill his bucket during the water chain challenge.



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Cruz Johnson is all smiles for the human ring toss.

Special to The Canton News

Each year, the tradition of playing “Survivor” is the talk of the spring semester at Canton Academy. Mrs. Warren’s eighth-grade students read *Lord of the Flies* by William Golding and then compete in a “Survivor” challenge. Students are divided into tribes and then play games that are based on the themes found in the book.

“It was very exciting to come to English class every day and compete. We played “Survivor” to experience *Lord of the Flies* firsthand,” said Natalie Seabrook.

“The “Survivor” experience was full of excitement. I had a lot of adrenaline built up before each challenge. The challenges were really fun, especially with a good strategy to win. We played “Survivor,” so we could have interactive learning instead of a boring essay,” said Matt Thomas.

Each day, the students rushed to class to find out what the daily challenge entailed. From human ring toss and book trivia to puzzle and endurance challenges, the eighth-grade class had to outperform each other in order to be “immune” from the tribal council.

The tribal council, another element to the game, added a social aspect. The students voted each other off of the “island,” which led to fierce class discussions about how the characters in the novel lost friendships over trivial matters.

While most of their school year involves grammar, reading and tests, the students agreed they will remember this book and activity for years to come.

“I loved doing this activity, because it helped me better connect with the material,” said Cruz Johnson.

Ayden Hughes added, “It honestly puts the book in physical form. I re-

ally enjoyed it. The discussions related to what happened in the book and tied into the games.”

Panthers in other grades attend these games throughout the week, and the anticipation is high for the seventh-graders, who will read *Lord of the Flies* next year.

“I’m so ready to read *Lord of the Flies*. I love when we get to do activities with the books. It helps me learn better,” said seventh-grader Mac Stacey.

When it comes to reading and literacy, as William Golding said, sometimes “The greatest ideas are the simplest.”

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Grammar bonnets used to teach parts of speech



Photo by Courtney Warren

Amy Solano explains her bonnet based on prepositions.



Photo by Courtney Warren

Maggie Penn shows off her adverbs of time bonnet, which is covered in labeled clocks.



Photo by Courtney Warren

The Canton Academy seventh grade created grammar bonnets to illustrate different parts of speech. From demonstrative pronouns to action verbs, the students used their creative skills to show what they learned. "I was excited to do grammar bonnets, because we could make them our own and learn in a different way," said seventh-grader Lila Thomas.

Friends fish at country club



Special to The Canton News

Alex Penn (9) and Walker Brock (8) showed off their catch of the day at the Canton Country Club.

Get your yard in full bloom



Photo by Kylie Warren

By Courtney Warren

With spring in the air and flowers blooming throughout Canton, many Cantonians are ensuring their yards are garden party-ready.

The Mississippi Extension Service and Madison County's Master Gardeners have several tips and tricks for those grabbing their rakes for a Saturday afternoon.

According to Madison County's area horticulture specialist, Donna Beliech, when planting flowers, it's important to do so in layers.

"You place the tall plants, then medium, then ground-hugging type plants. That being said, whenever you are looking at the tallest, you can go with any of the salvias. They come in many different colors. They tend to be perennial. They are good plants for full sun. For taller plants, you could also do angelonia, rudbeckia, or Russian sage," said Beliech.

"With your medium height plants, which won't get taller than a foot, you can go with a yellow blooming melampodium, or you could do some of the narrow leaf zinnias. For the ground huggers, portulaca would work very well. Supertunias or even verbena would work as a ground

hugger. Always tossed in there because they survive when we don't get rain continually is the lantana. These are all good plants for full sun," added Beliech.

For the month of May, the Mississippi Extension service also recommends the following in regards to planting: select and plant crape myrtles when in color; plant annuals and perennials early in the month, and keep well-watered; take hydrangea cuttings and let root in coarse sand; in the shade, plant impatiens, coleus, sweet alyssum, lobelia, and annual dianthus; in full sun, plant verbenas, periwinkle, ageratum, marigolds, zinnias, petunias, wax begonias, clematis, four-o'clocks, and portulaca; plant cucumbers, tomatoes, peppers, squash, peas, beans, eggplant, corn, okra, parsley, watermelons, and cantaloupes.

For pruning, the extension service recommends gardeners prune azaleas, camellias and gardenias after flowers drop and before new buds form. Cutting bouquets regularly will keep your plants pruned and prolong the blooming season. Cut in the early morning or late afternoon, and put into water immediately. Graft pecans using the four-flap method.

For more information on local gardening chores, visit <http://extension.msstate.edu>.

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Merit Health remains steadfast in service to the community

By Guest Columnist Barry Moss

I write today with hope for the future and gratitude for the resilience of our provider teams at Merit Health. The pandemic has demonstrated how interconnected we all are, the impact each one of us can have and the benefit of working together for a common cause. We care deeply about our community and remain steadfast in our commitment to deliver safe, quality healthcare services.

The arc of life is always present in a hospital, but its frailty has been very clear this past year. Nearly 515,000 patients received the medical care they needed thanks to our physicians, nurses, pharmacists, respiratory therapists, lab techs, housekeepers, food service workers and other providers who have worked tirelessly to maintain a safe environment. Our family of caregivers put aside their personal fears and concerns and came to help every single day, with bravery and courage.



By Barry Moss

Special to The Canton News

More than 3,000 babies took their first breaths in our childbirth units and we celebrated with their moms. More than 414,000 walked away in better shape than when they came in – with less pain following a joint replacement, a heart beating in rhythm after receiving a pacemaker or a smile of relief when their screening mammogram or colonoscopy was clear.

With pride and relief we cheered over 3,100 patients who left for home after beating COVID-19. But there have been times of sadness too, as our caregivers helped patients transition at the end of life and comforted the loved ones who grieved for their loss.

Helping people get well and live healthier is rewarding work, and we are grateful for the trust every patient places in us. And we feel the support of the community as you've extended your thanks and encouragement through prayers, first responder parades, signs, mask donations, meals and more.

Led by a local administration and advisory board of community leaders and physicians, we are putting our resources toward increased medical services, facilities and technologies that are important to our patients. Access has been en-



Special to The Canton News

hanced through telemedicine, making it easier than ever to see the doctor when you're in the comfort of home.

We value our relationship with Jackson and the surrounding communities. The more than \$20 million in taxes we paid last year support critical infrastructure such as first responders, schools and roads. Wages and benefits for our provider team generate buying power for local goods and services and help drive the local economy. And we deliver care for our most vulnerable residents, last year providing

more than \$255 million of charity and uncompensated care.

Hope is on the horizon as COVID-19 vaccinations are underway and we look forward to a time when we can all gather. Until then, keep up the safe practices – wear a mask or face covering, maintain social distancing and regularly wash your hands. By following these simple acts we can do extraordinary things.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Moss is Chief Executive Officer of Merit Health of Jackson.

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Tomato Pie

Ingredients:

- 4 tomatoes, thinly sliced
- ¼ cup basil (fresh or dried)
- ½ cup chopped green onion
- 1 small yellow onion
- 1 9-inch deep-dish pie shell
- 2 cups grated cheese (your choice)
- ¾ cup mayonnaise
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 glove garlic (chopped)
- Pepper and salt to taste

ON THE TABLE:

TOMATO PIE RECIPE FROM GAIL GAUGHF

By Courtney Warren

Summertime is here. Fresh cut grass, blooming flowers, sunshine, and big ole' juicy tomatoes all come with the season. This recipe will for sure be a summertime favorite and is an old Southern classic. As many know, pies are my favorite. Buttermilk pies are near and dear to my heart, and this is an old generation recipe that was made on many family holidays. Anything in a pie shell is my favorite, and you can use your food imagination to come up with some really yummy stuff.

Directions:

1. Heat oven to 375 degrees.
2. Place pie shell/crust in oven, and bake according to package directions.
3. While crust is baking, layer sliced tomatoes in a colander, and sprinkle them with one teaspoon salt. Let them drain for about 15 minutes, and pat the tomatoes with a paper towel.
4. Lay half of the tomatoes in the bottom of the crust.
5. In a bowl, mix onions, basil, garlic, salt and pepper.
6. Sprinkle half of the mixture over the tomatoes.
7. Layer the second half of tomato slices, and top the pie with the rest of the onion mix.
8. In a bowl, combine cheese and mayonnaise. Spread the mixture on the top of the pie.
9. Bake for thirty minutes or until lightly brown. Cut and serve warm.

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REMEMBER WHEN: MEMORIES OF HESTA PIERSON



Hesta Foy Pierson, 1913-2009

Special to The Canton News

Hesta Foy Pierson was born in Canton, Mississippi, on January 7, 1913. She was the 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

Since I was the oldest of four children, I began to wash dishes by standing in a chair or on a bench to reach the table. When my legs got long enough to reach the peddle of mama's sewing machine, she had me hemming sheets, towels, and anything else that required a straight line stitch. At the age of six or seven, my mama, Minnie Mills Foy (daughter of James W. Mills and Lela Jane Jones) had me piecing quilts, working in the garden, and milking cows.

When I was seven and my brother Rob was six, we pieced two-inch squares into a top for a quilt. It took 1,600 squares for the quilt, and Rob would beg to go play and stop the quilt making. My only sister, Hettie, always had an excuse as to why she could not make the bed or wash dishes. I don't think Hettie had ever cooked a meal when she got mar-

ried.

Back then I thought I had the tough job, because if mama ever wanted anything done, she would call me. I resented it at the time, but then mama and I had the best relationship. Before mama died in 1973 at age eighty-eight, outliving our daddy, Earnest Albert Foy, by twenty-five years, I moved into the house with mama on Davis Crossing Road to care for her.

We had some good times together at the end of her life, and I got to be close to my dear brother Rob who lived next door. Mama and I gave the quilt that Rob and I had quilted as children to James Albert, Rob's oldest son. Sometimes when life seems unfair, it really works out to your good.

A long and detailed history of the Foy family, dating back to Ireland in 1775, is recorded by Hesta in the Madison County history book, *The Land Between Two Rivers*.

CPSD receives COVID vaccine



Photo by Courtney Warren

CPSD employees and families received their first round of vaccines.

By Courtney Warren

Some Canton Public School District (CPSD) employees and their families recently took the opportunity to get vaccinated.

"The mere fact that the school is a vaccination site is a great idea. I've spoken with Dr. Dobbs about utilizing churches, as well. Fortunately, we're reaching our goal with vaccinations. We want people to get vaccinated. Hopefully, the hesitancy people have will disappear as more Cantonians get vaccinated," said Mayor William Tru-ly.

CPSD's COVID-19 Coordinator, Dr. Chuonna Anderson, arranged for Choice Pharmacy in Ridgeland to pro-

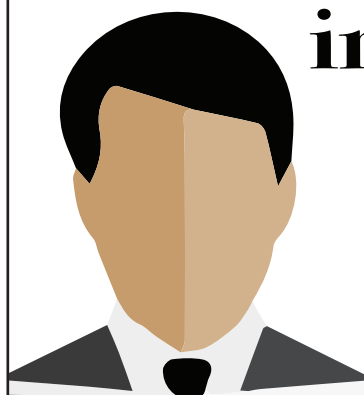
vide Moderna vaccines. The second dose will be given on May 12. Employees encourage others to protect themselves by getting vaccinated.

According to the Mississippi Department of Health, persons aged sixteen and older can receive the Pfizer vaccine, and those 18 and over can receive the Moderna or Johnson & Johnson vaccines. Pregnant women, lactating women, and those who are immunocompromised may take the vaccine; however, consultation with a healthcare provider is recommended. You can be vaccinated if you have tested positive for COVID-19 if you wait until your isolation period is over and your symptoms have significantly improved.



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Canton Lions Club meeting regularly after COVID

By Guest Columnist Joy Foy

The Canton Lions are enjoying meeting at the Canton Country Club.



Special to The Canton News

By Joy Foy

More and more of our members are coming back to the weekly meetings as more people get their COVID vaccines. The programs have been very interesting, even having Hannah Everhart, who was one of the Top 16 in the *American Idol* competition, entertain us.

The Lions have recently welcomed three new members, James and Shir-

ley Shaver and Doctor Rolanda Anderson, however, the club was sad-

dened by the death of two long time members Rev Morris Taylor and Gil Kyker.

Club members have been active with service projects up town with cleanup day along with the city churches (Sacred Heart Catholic, Center Terrace, First Presbyterian, First Baptist, First Methodist, Grace Episcopal); Har-

vest of Hope Christian Center, 100 Black Men, four City Aldermen, Canton Garden Club, and the Canton Tourism Beautification Committee. Later, the Lions joined the Beautification Committee to plant the corners of the square



Special to The Canton News

with blooming flowers in preparation for the upcoming Flea Market. The Lions have also worked cleaning up around the Canton Country Club to

show appreciation for the meeting space the Country Club provides the Lions.

President Darlene Austin extends an invitation to others who would be interested in good fellowship and wants to make a positive difference in Canton.

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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