



THE CANTON NEWS

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

Police department is on the move in style

By Courtney Warren

Officers are buckling up in their new Ford SUV police vehicles. Recently, the Canton Board of Aldermen purchased several new vehicles for the Canton Police Department and those vehicles were shown off at the July Canton Board of Aldermen meeting.

Police Chief Otha Brown said, "There will be a stronger presence in Canton with these newer vehicles. There will be more legroom and more comfortable for our guys, as well. Ford changes every year, and we've gone from the Crown Vic to the Dodge Charger, and now they're moving up to large vehicles. It's built for comfort and more room and gives a good performance on the street."

"I want to thank the Mayor and the Board of Aldermen for allowing us to purchase these new vehicles. I'm hoping we can get some more in the next budget year. Now that officers

are able to get out and socialize, we can do more community policing, which is a good thing," added Brown.

Alderman Tim Taylor was excited for the police department and said, "We have more monies coming. With everything that is needed in these times, we're seeing a need to equip our police department with everything they need so they can do the job that is necessary, which is to protect and serve our community."

"As we go forward with this new budget year, we will be sure to put these monies to good use and put our essential workers and first responders first."

"Further education is a continuous process and important in all of our departments. All over the country, we've seen the negativity that goes towards police officers, but today we're able to celebrate positive moments. It builds morale, and our officers want to be here," added Taylor.



Photo by Courtney Warren

Chief Brown said the cars "are a great addition to the police department."

CA welcomes new coaching staff for upcoming year

By Courtney Warren

With a new school year comes a great deal of change for the Canton Academy (CA) Panthers. After recently welcoming new headmaster Tripp McCarty, the Panthers have also brought on an entirely new football coaching staff, new head girls basketball coach, and a new baseball staff.

With new coaching positions also came a new principal, Coach Ryan Laster. Laster was previously at Washington School, where he taught and coached football. Before his time at Washington, he was a head coach and head of school at Lee Academy in Lee, Arkansas. He has been at CA all summer and is excited for the school year.

"Our biggest challenge is change. Not everyone likes change, but



Photo by Courtney Warren

Coach Robbie Isonhood, Head Coach Gage Posey, Coach Ryan Laster, and Coach AB Williams

change is good, and we're making changes for the positive. It will take some time to get used to it all and build some new relationships. Once our faculty and staff and parents see the change is for the better, everything will go smoothly," he said.


Laster made the transition to Canton with his son, Taylor, who will be a freshman, and his wife Misty, who is a special education teacher. The two have been married for sixteen years.

Laster will also serve as an assistant baseball coach and the defensive coordinator for the football team.


The gridiron will look different with Head Coach Gage Posey on the sidelines, along with his new staff.

After being in medical school for two years, Posey realized his true passion was helping and coaching


cont. on page 6



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Marlo's celebrates good food and good eats

By Courtney Warren

The backyard barbecue experience is what Marlo Anderson hopes customers find when they dine at Marlo's Backyard BBQ.

Marlo's recently held a ribbon-cutting to celebrate the reopening of their dining room after remodeling.

"It was a whole lot of hard work and prayers that went into opening our dining room again. I told my wife it was time to remodel, because Canton is flourishing. Amazon and new businesses are coming, so we felt like we needed a new look; and God blessed us to do it."

"People supported us through COVID. I thank God for all of my customers. Even though we haven't been able to dine in, we haven't missed a beat," said Anderson.

Canton Tourism hosted the ribbon cutting, and Canton Tourism Director Jana Dear said, "When COVID happened and everyone shut down, Marlo did not. He did a drive-thru. And if you needed a meal, he gave you one and didn't let anyone go hungry."

"Tourism is funded off of hotel and restaurant sales tax. Anything you see going on is because you ate in one of our restaurants or stayed in one of our hotels. Our restaurants are our people and our family. To be here and stand here in front of this newly



Photo by Courtney Warren

renovated place - it shows what God can do in a community where He is worshipped and appreciated," she added.

Surrounding Marlo during the ribbon cutting were his family, friends,

and city officials.

Alderman Fred Esco said, "on behalf of the mayor, the Canton Board of Aldermen and Ward 2, I'm excited to welcome the reopening of this business. I remember when he start-

ed out barbecuing on the corner of Walnut Street, and he did well. You remind me of the Jeffersons, you're moving on up. We want to ask God to continue to bless your business for years and years to come for you and your family."

Marlo's began as a small business where Anderson learned to cook from his grandmothers. Portraits of those two very influential women sat on the table in front of Marlo's during the event and have a permanent place in the restaurant. Another framed photo is that of the late Joe McKay, who dedicated his life to seeing Canton prosper.

"People don't have to be your blood family to be family. The McKay family in general...I'm so blessed with them. They're the best landlords anyone could have," said Anderson through tears.

"My family keeps me motivated. Family first. I've got people I don't want to let down, and I know the city of Canton needs this. I want customers to have a backyard family experience. When you think of a backyard barbecue, you think of a joyous time with family and friends; so I want people to come and say 'the food was good and the hospitality was good and I'll be back again,'" said Anderson.

Marlo's Backyard BBQ is located 910 E. Peace Street.



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Team up for reading with the Mississippi Braves

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Madison County Library System and Central Mississippi Regional Library System have partnered with the Mississippi Braves for the Team Up for Reading Program, which fosters youth literacy and a love of reading. The program brings together two of America's favorite

pastimes - baseball and libraries. MCLS gave away 500 Mississippi Braves home game tickets, a child's baseball birthday party for 10 and three patrons won an opportunity to throw out the first pitch.

Library Night at Trustmark Park is on August 28. Patrons are encouraging to come and show their

library cards for a \$3 entry to the game. This is an MS-Braves home game and will have fireworks afterward. There will be tables set up with library info and give-aways. The first 25 patrons who show their library card or register for a card will receive a Team up for Reading T-Shirt (Teen and Adults). This is an evening game.

Brown named CPSD COVID-19 Coordinator

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Canton Public School District (CPSD) welcomed Dr. Sharon Brown in her new role as the district's COVID-19 coordinator for the 2021-2022 school year.

Dr. Sharon Brown was born and raised in Rockford, Illinois, and is a graduate of Rockford East High School. After graduation, she attended Belhaven University, where she earned a Bachelor's degree in Business Management and a Master of Art in Teaching. Dr. Brown also holds an Educational Specialist degree from Mississippi College and an Educational Doctorate from William Carey University both in Educational Leadership.

Dr. Brown is married to Coach Peter Brown, a retired educator and a native of Canton, and they



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have three children, Dameon, Payton, and Garrett.

Dr. Brown taught Career Discovery and ICT II at Nichols Middle School for tne years. She also taught for three years at Porter Middle School before becoming

an Assistant Principal at Canton High School for the past three years with the mission, along with her colleagues, to improve the community through education. She now serves as the district's COVID-19 coordinator.

Amos crowned MS SWMH

Lions install 2021-22 officers



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Kathy Amos of Canton was recently crowned Ms. Senior World Mississippi Hospitality. Amos will spend time this year promoting her platform, BE Mississippi, with a primary focus of supporting the state's tourism centers. She plans to offer her gifts, talents, and abilities to promote their mission and vision. She will also be supporting prison reform. The Ms. Senior World Pageant brings women aged 50-79 together to boost confidence, have fun, make new friends, and allows mature women an outlet to share platform issues that are important to them with the other delegates and with the world. Sherry Strother, Executive Producer of the Gulfport-based pageant, has over forty years of experience in the beauty and fashion industry. She launched the inaugural Ms. Senior World Pageant in 2020 during the pandemic. Amos is available for speaking and special appearances at info@bemississippi.com.



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Canton Lions installed new officers for the 2021-2022 upcoming year. Tom Corlett, Zone Chairman, officiated as Darlene Austin passed the gavel to newly-elected president Moses Thompson. Officers pictured left to right are Lions Club International Foundation Coordinator Danny Murphy, Zone Chairman Tom Corlett, President Moses Thompson, Lion Tamer Mark Hopkins, Vice President Tamika Liddell, Communications Chair Joy Foy, and Tail Twister Timmy Pickett. Not pictured is Daniel Logan, serving as Treasurer.

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Crossroads Ministry reaching out to community

By Courtney Warren

Many have seen Crossroads Treasures in Canton, however the story behind this building is much deeper than simply a thrift store.

Crossroads Ministry is a safe haven for women suffering from addictions, women that have been involved with the Mississippi Department of Corrections, or the Mississippi Judicial system. The ministry provides transition living and a program to successfully re-introduce them back into being productive citizens.

According to Vicki DeMoney, executive direction, "In the beginning, Crossroads was started for women coming from incarceration to have a safe place to live and transition back into life. We started very small but have grown very quickly. We are a faith-based 4-6-month program that focuses on all of the needs of women. We have many classes that deal with a variety of issues, including relapse prevention, rebuilding relationships, critical thinking skills, computer classes, Bible studies, the importance of prayer and self-reflection, job readiness, and managing personal finances.

"Our programs lead to learning how to live and work in unity with our other ladies. Thanks to 'The Net' we have a mentor for each lady along with counselors that lead a small group and individual counseling as needed. Our plans are to introduce trauma therapy, which is needed by a number of our ladies. We want to do all that we can to set each woman up for success when they leave Crossroads."

DeMoney said through the love and support of the Canton community, Crossroads Ministry can thrive.

"Their donations supply our thrift store Crossroads Treasures in Canton, which has enabled us to sell much high-quality clothing and household items at a very reasonable price. It has become a place of community and fellowship. We look forward to sponsoring many more community outreach events through our new store location. Our store has recently moved and is now located in the historic Buttross building at 115 West Peace Street."

Crossroads Ministry remains a successful program in helping keep women from relapsing and going back to prison, and or involved with the judicial system.

"Our success rate for keeping women from prison, as compared to the overall recidivism rate for those that do not attend our program, is striking. Approximately 85 percent of our graduates stay out of prison and are able to come back to society with more stability by having all that is needed for a fresh start in life," said DeMoney.

The volunteers and supporters have helped make the vision a reality.



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"We are extremely dependent on individual donors and supporting churches who make up approximately 55 percent of our budget. Without them, we simply could not exist. Grants from foundations, our MDOC supplemental support, along with net proceeds from our store, make up the balance of our income. We have an independent professional audit firm that does annual reviews of our financial practices, and we comply with all federal and state disclosure regulations. We want to be excellent in our financial management practices," she said.

Crossroads Ministry was founded in 2008 with one focus, to have a home of healing for women who were broken.

"Being that safe harbor in the storm of their lives until they can once again reunite with their family and stand on their own two feet. After volunteering on the inside of the prison, our founders realized that too many women were left in prison after making parole, because they had no safe place or home to go to," said DeMoney.

"Many women were left in prison simply because they did not have an acceptable location for them to live. Twelve years ago, there were no transitional homes for women. We had a vision for a home in Madison County and a ministry in Canton," she added.

For more information, visit www.crossroadsms.org

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CA

young athletes. It was then he made the decision to trade his lab coat for a whistle.

This is Posey's first head coaching position, and he said, "I was nervous at first, because we got a new coaching staff, and I would put this staff up against anyone in the state. They've been very helpful to me in regards to learning the ups and downs of head coaching so far, and I'm really excited for the season."

Posey said the players have made the transition worthwhile.

"One thing that stands out is the team chemistry. They all get along really well and push each other. For example, I asked just the quarterbacks to come train with me a few days ago, and twenty-one kids showed up. They all want to work, and they all want to work together."

The Panthers will face off against Sylva Bay Academy on August 13, and Posey said, "I feel confident with where we're at right now. I think we can expect big things from Canton this year."

Also joining the staff is Robbie Isonhood, offensive line coach, who has previously coached at Parklane Academy and Centerville Academy.

"I actually started coaching in 2008 and was thrown into the offensive line under Justin Sawyer, who played at Ole Miss. I learned most of my basics from Justin. We won a state championship that year, and, in 2009, Justin left, and I became the head offensive line coach."

"I also coach the defensive line. I like coaching the big boys. They are the most underappreciated guys on the football team, in my opinion, and I enjoy spending my time with them," said Isonhood.

Coach Isonhood is another Panther who is returning home. He graduated from CA in 1986.

"I moved back home, and I've known Coach McCarty for forever. Coach McCarty knew I'd moved back home and called to see if I had any interest in coming to coach the football team," he said.

Forever bleeding black and gold, Isonhood is excited to be back on the field.

Another CA alum, AB Williams, is returning sooner than most. A recent college graduate and son of CA Athletic Director Ben Williams, AB serves as the weight room director, head strength coach, and assistant lineman coach.

Being so close in age to some of the players, AB said, "It's definitely a double-edged sword; being close to their age, I can relate to them more, but also I have to demand that respect from them. I have to find that balance with them."

"I'm looking forward to seeing if this team meets what they are capable of. They have a lot of talent and can accomplish a lot, so I'm ready

to see if they can meet those standards," he added.

Also new to the CA coaching staff - but not new to CA - is Head Softball Coach William Whitehead.

Coach Whitehead is an experienced softball coach, having led several local programs successfully to state championship levels. With thirteen years coaching varsity softball at Tri-County Academy, East Rankin Academy, and Jackson Academy, coaching summer tournament softball teams ranging in ages of eight to eighteen, and serving as a softball umpire and basketball referee for MHSAA and MAIS, he strives to build a strong work ethic, mental toughness, and life lessons for his players that can benefit them in the future.

Coach Whitehead is a graduate of CA, class of 1980, and is looking forward to coming back where he has had fond memories throughout his sports career.

He and his wife, Sharon, reside in Madison and have one daughter, Jessica Whitehead Browning.

Brandy Hall has also joined CA as the new head girls basketball coach.


In January of 2009, at the age of 19, Hall became her mother's junior high and high school girls' assistant at Adams County Christian School and started coaching her own third and fourth-grade team. In August of 2013, Hall was named junior high girls head coach. She led this team, which she had coached through elementary school, to three undefeated junior high seasons.

In August of 2017, Coach Hall took the head junior high/assistant high school girls coaching position at Centerville Academy, and, in May of 2018, she was named high school girls head coach. In her three years as head coach at Centerville, Hall led her junior high girls to three district championships and her high school girls to a state championship and two overall tournament appearances, advancing to the top eight this past March.

Hall was chosen to coach in the MAIS All-Star game in 2019 and 2021 and was named MAIS Coach of the Year in 2020.

"To some, basketball may be just a game, but the same as in life, there are more lessons to be learned than the sport itself. I've always said that God's plan is bigger than mine, and it is. I thank Him for giving me the opportunity to further my career here at Canton Academy, and I'm looking forward to meeting and working with some great people," said Hall.


Panthers will begin their school year athletics with softball and football and fans are anticipating some winning scores from these new coaches.



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GED resources available

CPSD prepares new teachers



Photo by Courtney Warren

Nichols spoke with the board and provided resources for GED testing.

By Courtney Warren

With the growth of businesses in Canton, new jobs are becoming available. Jessica Nichols, with Holmes Community College, spoke with the Canton Board of Aldermen about ways to ensure these jobs are filled by Cantonians.

“Back in April, I spoke to you all about Amazon and the deficiencies we have in Canton with the respect to meeting their hiring requirements IE high school diplomas. Canton has a relatively low high school grad rate when you compare it to other areas. The grad rate is about 70-74 percent,” she explained.

“Given that, a large number of our residents would not be able to apply for an Amazon job.

I wanted to get the word out to people that they could obtain the jobs by getting their high school diploma or GED,” she said.

Nichols plans to get out flyers and posters for resources, locations, and information about getting GED as well as information about expungement.

Holmes Community College offers Adult Basic Education classes in several

locations in its district. These classes are open to the public for those who have not completed high school or wish to increase their functioning level to enter college, training, or the job market. The Adult Education and GED Department encourages all adults that are interested to become involved in one of its programs.

According to the Amazon website, the basic qualifications for a lead fulfillment associate are a high school or equivalent diploma at least two years of work experience or a current blue badge Amazon employee, and at least one year of experience working with computers and Microsoft Office (Outlook, Word, Excel).

Preferred qualifications are a completed Bachelor’s Degree, at least one year of leadership experience directly managing others, at least one year working in a like environment (manufacturing/distribution/warehousing/large retail), experience with performance metrics and lean process improvement, and excellent written and verbal communication and interpersonal skills to coach, train and assist team members.



Special to The Canton News

Being a new teacher is difficult. Being a new teacher during a pandemic can be terrifying. Luckily, Canton Public School District (CPSD) created a Mentor Program for new teachers to ensure they feel prepared, supported, and comfortable from their first day of school to their last.



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THE CANTON NEWS

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MT Listens: How we're continuing our work

By Mississippi Today

“MT Listens is a new initiative to connect with community leaders and reach people we might not otherwise be able to reach. By connecting and listening, we can uncover stories that Mississippians want and need to live more fulfilled and informed lives,” said Lauchlin Fields, Mississippi Today’s Audience Development Director.

At Mississippi Today, our path to amplifying the variety of voices in Mississippi began with making diversity our North Star, a unifying goal for the entire team. We’ve built a cross-departmental committee tasked with examining how we cover stories and how our journalism could better reflect the state. We’re creating space for meaningful conversations about race and gender within the organization.

In October 2020, we published a story announcing our commitment to put diversity at the center of our news and published the results of our first source audit. We also announced the Mississippi Today Community Ambassadors Program, an initiative to build a network of Mississippians from every corner of the state to help guide our journalism. Our ambassadors have teamed up with reporters and helped us get to know readers

and their communities better.

“We can’t expect readers to trust us if they don’t see themselves reflected in the stories we tell,” said Kayleigh Skinner, managing editor at Mississippi Today. “Our hope with MT Listens is to create a model where our reporters and staff can establish meaningful connections with people from different backgrounds and lived experiences. We want to hear directly from them what’s going on in their communities, and what they think should be covered.”

Through MT Listens, we are doubling down on our commitment to build a more diverse readership by targeting five specific communities across Mississippi — Canton, Yazoo City, Forest, Moss Point and New Albany — where we will ask community members what matters most to them. We will listen. We will be present in each community, and what we hear and learn will lead to action — creating content that matters to all Mississippians.

“At the center of our nonprofit mission is public service, and the best way for our newsroom to be of service to Mississippians is by listening first and reporting later,” said Mississippi Today CEO Mary Margaret White. “This program takes out the transactional relationship that so often takes place between reporters




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and sources. MT Listens, instead, provides a channel for continuous conversation, feedback and learning.”

Our work is just beginning. We are eager to get into these communities — to listen, to learn and to respond. We want our readers to follow us on this journey and help us dig deep. As we get into these communities, we’ll share our updates on our so-

cial media channels. We plan to use community listening as a tool to continue the work our organization was founded on — to hold those in power accountable — all while amplifying the voices of diverse Mississippians.

If you live in Canton, Yazoo City, Forest, Moss Point or New Albany, please take a minute to fill out the survey, or share it with someone you know at mississippitoday.org.



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Jordan selected for Perfect Game All-American Classic

By Courtney Warren

Dakota Jordan is ready to fulfill one of his childhood dreams, and that is playing in the Annual Perfect Game All-American Classic.

Finishing the busiest summer of his athletic career, Jordan said, "I'm really starting to feel the pressure now that I'm entering my senior year. I haven't had a break in play, but I've loved every minute on the field."

A Canton native, Jordan will be attending Jackson Academy in the fall, where he will play football and baseball.

The Classic was a game Jordan has watched for many years.

"It's a great opportunity, and it's been a dream of mine. I watched Perfect Game and how they selected these MLB players to play in their showcases. I know it's going to be fun and a great opportunity. I'm really blessed to be part of it all," he said.

Jordan, an outfielder, said his focus this summer was timing.

"Right now, I'm focusing on my timing to hit faster pitching. My timing was off at the beginning of the summer, and I've made some improvements. There's always more to learn, so I'm just staying focused and putting in the work," he said.

While Jordan's mom, Carolyn,

won't be able to attend the Classic, he knows she'll be back home in Canton rooting him on.

"My mom and coaches have been there since day one. There's no way I'd be able to do any of this without them. Even while I was in school, they were setting up my summer schedule. My mom is always there to support me along with my coaches," said Jordan.

While in San Diego, the players will participate in a series of baseball-related activities. In the weeks leading up to the event, players will

have the opportunity to participate in a fundraising effort to help support

pediatric cancer patients at the Peckham Center for Cancer and Blood Disorders at Rady Children's Hospital.

"The Perfect Game Cares Foundation,

a 501(c)(3) public charity, is proud to partner with our 2021

All-American players to raise important funds for children undergoing pediatric cancer treatment

at Rady Children's Hospital," said Jennifer Ford, Executive Director of the Perfect Game Cares Founda-

tion in a press release. "Together, we can make a difference in the lives of these beautiful children."

The rosters for the 2021 All-American Classic were chosen by a panel of talent evaluators assembled by Perfect Game, after being scouted and identified through a series of tournaments and events, including Perfect Game's National Showcase, which took place in St. Petersburg, Fla., July 14-18.

When Major League Baseball began its 2021 Championship Season, there were 87 Perfect Game All-American players on the Opening Day rosters of 28 of the 30 Major League teams. The Atlanta Braves boasted the most Perfect Game All-Americans, with six, including reigning NL MVP Freddie Freeman.

Jordan said his dream is to play in Major League Baseball, and he knows being on the Perfect Game roster is just one step closer. "I'm so excited to see what's in store, and I'm grateful for all of these amazing opportunities," he said.

The Perfect Game All-American Classic will be streamed live on PerfectGame.TV. For more information, visit www.perfectgame.org. You can help by donating at www.perfectgamecares.org/event/PGAAC21.



Photo by USA Baseball Photos

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Data security assessments encouraged for businesses

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Following a recent increase in the frequency and scale of ransomware attacks around the globe, Mississippi Attorney General Fitch is joining attorneys general across the country in urging businesses and public entities to assess their current data security practices and take appropriate steps to protect operations and consumer data. “Cybercrime and cyber-enabled threats exploit vulnerabilities in information systems to extract customer-rich data, information, and money,” said Fitch.

“To counter the increased risk and potential consequences of cyber threats, it is critical to implement and execute strong security practices to protect consumer data and vital systems infrastructure nationwide.” Ransomware is a form of malware designed to encrypt files on a device, rendering any files and the systems that rely on them unusable. Cybercriminals demand ransom in exchange for decryption, often threatening to sell or leak exfiltrated information if the ransom is not paid. Ransomware is a growing threat, generating billions of dollars in payments to cybercriminals and inflicting significant damage on businesses and government entities

alike.

Just before the July Fourth holiday, REvil, a Russian-linked cybercrime gang, perpetrated the single largest global ransomware attack on record against the software company Kaseya, infecting thousands of client systems in at least 17 countries. REvil demanded \$70 million in cryptocurrency in exchange for decrypting all affected machines. This is REvil’s second high-profile attack in recent weeks—having extorted \$11 million from JBS Foods, the world’s largest meat-processor, a month earlier.

Fitch serves on the National Association of Attorneys’ General’s Internet Safety / Cyber Privacy and Security Committee, which issued a joint advisory discussing the pressing threat that ransomware attacks pose to American businesses and government entities and recommending several best practices to respond to the threat, in-



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cluding: Backup your data, system images, and configurations, regularly test them, and keep the backups offline: Ensure that backups are regularly tested and that they are not connected to the business network, as many ransomware variants try to find and encrypt or delete accessible

backups. Maintaining current backups offline is critical, because, if your network data is encrypted with ransomware, your organization can restore systems. Update and patch systems promptly: This includes maintaining the security of operating systems, applications, and firmware, in a timely manner. Consider using a centralized patch management system.

Use a risk-based assessment strategy to drive your patch management program. Test your incident response plan: There is nothing that shows the gaps in plans more than testing them. Run through some core

questions and use those to build an incident response plan: Are you able to sustain business operations without access to certain systems? For how long? Would you turn off your manufacturing operations if business systems such as billing were offline? Check your security team’s work: Use a third-party penetration tester to test the security of your systems and your ability to defend against a sophisticated attack. Many ransomware criminals are aggressive and sophisticated and will find the equivalent of unlocked doors. Segment your networks: There has been a recent shift in ransomware attacks—from stealing data to disrupting operations. It is critically important that your corporate business functions and manufacturing/production operations are separated and that you carefully filter and limit internet access to operational networks, identify links between these networks, and develop workarounds or manual controls to ensure industrial control system (ICS) networks can be isolated and continue operating if your corporate network is compromised.

Regularly test contingency plans such as manual controls, so that safety critical functions can be maintained during a cyber incident.



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Community members collaborate to make Canton better

By Courtney Warren

Collaboration, community, and being led by the Lord are what drive Rev. James Allen of Harvest Hope Christian Center, Angela Carson with Pine Grove Association, and Sharon Campbell with Sharon Campbell Solution Group to create a better Canton.

These leaders invited all nonprofits, faith-based, community-based organizations, and community leaders to discuss ways to improve the city during a weekend-long event.

Campbell said, "I know Rev. Allen, and he was telling me about an opportunity to bring together the citizens of Canton. We've met by Zoom the last two months with citizens so we could plan what it all needed to look like to create this weekend event. We worked with the citizens doing an organizational capacity building a non-profit model for the city of Canton."

"The highlight was bringing over thirty nonprofits together to teach them organization, development, capacity building. On Saturday and Monday, we did women business entrepreneurship and small business development," added Campbell.

Rev. Allen said, "We want to make Canton better. There are so many



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things Canton needs to be the city she used to be. We'd love to revitalize our downtown and create new housing opportunities and create social programs that can build families. We want to create opportunities for kids to be involved in programs after school and make

Canton better overall."

Allen appeared before the Canton Board of Alderman in hopes of furthering their collaboration.

"We proposed to the board a partnership with the city to help create space to operate out of. Harvest of Hope Christian Center is the one

banner. We want to teach small business development and help people find grants and find the funding necessary for their programs. We want the city to partner with us to find the space and resources."

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Ace of Grace taking the stress out of getting dressed

By Courtney Warren

From jewelry to dresses, Ace of Grace is ready to style anyone that walks through the door. Owned by Cantonian Misti Cochran, Ace of Grace is named after her daughters Aislynn, whose nickname is Ace, and Madi, whose middle name is Grace. Aislynn, now in college, and Madi, a senior at Canton Academy, can be found helping with sales, running social media, modeling clothes, and running the cash register.

Ace of Grace originated in 2003 as a mobile boutique traveling all over the country, setting up at children's beauty pageants where Cochran's daughters competed.

"I opened my brick and mortar store in a very small space on Center Street in August of 2019. It was getting close to Christmas time, and many of my customers wanted a place to come and shop with me in person and not just online. Also, the office in my home was getting smaller and smaller as inventory kept multiplying. I honestly didn't know if having a storefront would just be a seasonal thing or how it would work out, so I signed a six-month lease to test the waters," said Cochran.

It didn't take long for her to real-

ize Ace of Grace was a hit on the square and she'd need even more room after those six months.

"I chose the square because I love the atmosphere of shopping in a small town. The area is convenient to where I live and where my children attend school. It's so nice to just park and walk from shop to shop or grab a bite to eat," she said.

Born and raised in Mississippi, Cochran loves the small-town feel of Canton.

"Ace of Grace could not be in a better place than on the square in Canton. We get the best of both worlds. The Canton Flea Market and Christmas on the Square literally bring in people from all over the southeast U.S. But honestly, the best part is

the tremendous support we have right here in Madison County.

"I still get told all the time how happy people are that we opened here, since there wasn't already anything like us. It's so rewarding," said Cochran.

She also said the support from Canton Tourism has been incredible.

"Jana and her staff show support and love to all of the local businesses. They are amazing and are always looking for ways to bring

events to Canton and are constantly promoting the businesses that are already here," she said.

Cochran was also determined to create a boutique for women of all sizes rather than cater to the typical model size of extra small to

medium.

"I don't even wear an extra small or medium! And most women don't. It was important to me to provide cute, stylish, and affordable clothing and accessories that would address the needs of a wide variety of customers. I had no idea honestly how important that would become to my shoppers, though. Our regulars range from teenagers to grandmothers. The plus-size sector of my business is also a huge part of our boutique. Just because you may wear a larger size doesn't mean you don't want to dress in bright colors and trending styles," said Cochran.

Ace of Grace is constantly evolving, another goal of Cochran's.

"We are always looking for new brands and staying on top of current trends. We have a huge social media following that we get invaluable feedback from. I say all the time that we have the best customers in the world, and it's true! We aren't just a store. We've done lives online that my children, husband, and pets have made appearances in. Our customers not only know me, but my family, too. I think the personal touch makes a huge difference," she said.



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Aislynn, Misti, and Madi Cochran

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Beasley named humanitarian



Photo by Courtney Warren

Pictured (l to r) are: Alderman Lafayette Wales, Alderman Fred Esco, Alderman Eric Gilkey, Stanford Beasley, Mayor William Truly, and Alderman Tim Taylor.

By Courtney Warren

Stanford Beasley was awarded a Humanitarian Award by the Canton Board of Alderman for outstanding service and leadership that has helped to improve the city of Can-

ton over the years. Beasley is the executive director of Canton Housing Authority. The Canton Housing Authority is a housing authority that participates in the Public Housing program.

Volunteers thanked by Parks and Rec



Photo by Courtney Warren

Pictured (l to r) are Alvin Davis, Webster Ford with Phillips Lumber, Leroy Lacey with 100 Black Men of Canton, and assistant director Rilonda Reeves.

By Courtney Warren

The Canton Parks and Recreation Department and the Canton Board of Alderman recently recognized several groups for their support both financially and by donating their time to the Parks and Recreation department.

Phillips Lumber, 100 Black Men of Canton, Peoples Undertaking Company, and Mississippi Discount Drugs were all presented with a plaque and

thanks for their support by director Alvin Davis.

“We need these volunteers and groups to help keep us going. At the end of the day, we’re doing it for the kids and to make a difference in their lives,” said Davis.

The Junior Auxiliary of Madison County was also recognized for volunteering their time to the Parks and Recreation department

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Local Civinettes prepare to serve for the year



Special to The Canton News

The 2021-2022 Civinette Board Leaders were recently announced, and several young Cantonians hold positions. Pictured (l to r) are, front row: Cassie Howell, Camille Boles, Kate Fairburn, Nan Callum, and Mabry Musgrove; middle row: Rowan Gentry, Ramsey Sandel, Perry DeLoach, Lughton Green, Anna Kimbrell, Hannah Dill, Maggie Claire Thomas, Genna Ishee, Stella Allen and Kinsley Wilson; and back row: Rachel Donaldson, Parker Reily, Elizabeth Walters, Ainsley Belle Burke and Emma Lane Martens. Not pictured are Keely Marshall, Skylar Jacobs, Sarah Liza Stockett, Emme Houston, Miller Johnson, Mary Scott Garrard, Anna Wheatley, Elizabeth Wasson and Kate Gulliori. The Madison Junior Civitan Club (Civinettes) is an all-female high school service organization whose purpose is to encourage young people to value and advance good citizenship through service to the community, to develop initiative and leadership, to encourage young people to live a fuller life enriched by unselfish service to others and to make connections within the community through social events. Civinettes work with local charitable organizations, complete service requirements, and enjoy socials/parties throughout the year. Civinettes completed over 1400 service hours in the fall of 2020.

Word of Prayer: Tending one's Spiritual Health

By Guest Columnist Rev. David Lowery

Our Methodist communion liturgy speaks to a number of ways that we fall short in our lives and in our service. Then it says, "Forgive us we pray; Free us for joyful obedience, through Jesus Christ our Lord." I love that line, "Free us for joyful obedience." Not to be a burden, not to require more than we can deliver, not begrudgingly, but joyful with excitement. A question arises; when have you known something to be, without question, the work of God?

In Acts 12:5-11, Peter, one of Jesus' disciples, finds himself in jail. It also says, "constant prayer was offered to God, for him, by the church." As he is sleeping, an angel of the Lord struck him on the side, his chains fell off, he walked past the first guard and the second guard, the iron gate was opened, and

he walked out of the city. Peter then says, "Oh! (added) Now I know for certain that the Lord has sent His angel, and has delivered me." It was like he said, "Wow, I'm free, and God did it!"

Sometimes, we get so used to living in our bondage that we fail to acknowledge our freedom when it happens.

Peter may not have immediately recognized his freedom in the same way we don't at times. Why? Because our chains are our chains, our bondage is our bondage, our cross to bear is ours to bear. We almost find ourselves saying, "It's mine, don't take it from me," which can be unhealthy. So many times, we, like Peter, need to

be led through the process that leads to a physical, mental, or spiritually healthy life. It's almost like he was set free before he realized what was going on! It's like God said, "Okay, today is the day, let's go." Are we ready to say the words, "Forgive me, I pray, free me for joyful obedience." Because we know He has the power to do it. Can we let go of the things that bind us? O, Lord, in your mercy.

Before long, school will be starting back, we will be establishing new fall schedules, and we will be shifting our lives from "summer vacation" to a climate of learning. As we are doing so, don't forget to add measures that tend to our spiritual health. We

have many problems going on in our world right now, and we have to wonder, if our hearts were in the right place, how would things be different? This journey is a journey of faith and trust; your faith and trust in God will carry you places you can't imagine. Guard and cherish that relationship, and watch the chains fall off, the gates open, and the path cleared. A prayer mantra I heard years ago to be said as soon as we wake up each morning to change our perspective each day is, "Lord, I want to be a part of what you're going to do today." You'll be amazed as you begin to recognize that God is at work around us, every day. Thanks be to God.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Rev. David Lowery has been pastor of Canton First and Thornton Chapel United Methodist Churches for the past six years. He is originally from the north Jackson area and went to Clinton High School. A graduate of the University of Southern Mississippi and Memphis Theological Seminary.



Rev. David Lowery

Special to The Canton News



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CA wraps up summer baseball



Special to The Canton News

Adyn Reams, eight-grader, hits a slam during a summer baseball game.

By Courtney Warren

Canton Academy has played baseball throughout the summer as new Head Baseball Coach Gage Posey bonds with his players.

“Summer ball for me was to get to know the kids and build a relationship with them. I enjoyed it a lot. Coach Ellis and coach Laster helped me out a lot. During football, Coach Ellis will handle a lot of the baseball, since I’ll be going back and forth. I’m excited about the spring. I think we have a good group and can do some-

thing special,” said Posey.

The athletes are excited for the upcoming year with their new coach as well.

Senior Panther Zan Ellis said, “I’ve been at Canton Academy since kindergarten, and with my dad being a part of the baseball coaching staff, I’ve grown up on the CA baseball field. Now, as a senior, I’m more excited than ever about the upcoming school year and what Coach Posey and Coach Laster will bring to our school and our baseball program. Looking forward to a great season at the Big CA!”

State Board of Education sets school expectations

Special to the Canton News

The Mississippi State Board of Education (SBE) passed two policies that call for all school districts to resume in-person instruction as the primary mode of teaching starting in the 2021-22 school year. The policies set requirements for districts that choose to offer a virtual learning option to individual students and establish standards for virtual learning days.

The SBE’s action aligns with the requirements of the federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARP), which provides money to schools to help safely reopen and maintain safe operations.

As a requirement of ARP, school districts receiving funds must develop a plan for the safe return to in-person instruction and continui-

ty of services. School districts must update their plans at least every six months through September 30, 2023. Districts must seek public input on their plans and take such input into account when revising their plans.

The Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH) is in charge of providing COVID-19 public health guidance to K-12 schools.

Under the SBE policies, districts that offer a virtual option for individual students must adopt local board-approved policies that include the criteria for students to participate in virtual learning, requirements for equipment, connectivity, attendance and student conduct, and assurances of equal access and non-discrimina-

cont. on page 19

Young filmmakers success



Special to The Canton News

By Courtney Warren

And we’re rolling! Canton Tourism and the Madison County Library teamed up to put on the Canton Young FilmMakers Camp. The library recently put into place great new state-of-the-art equipment, as well as a new sound booth.

“With all the new additions, we were able to partner with them for the equipment and instructors this year, and we were able to get the cost of the camp down, so more kids will be able to participate and experience the fun and exciting time your child has at film camp. We will keep the same format as in years past but will add a few new and exciting elements to the camp,”

said Jana Dear, Canton Tourism director.

During camp, some young filmmakers were able to meet a director scouting a location at the old jail.

“The director walked over to the kids and asked them about their movie and asked to read their script and told them how good it was! These kids were all smiles after that,” said Dear.

“We’ve been hosting this camp for over twenty years and we have seen students start out in the young filmmakers camp, go on to college, and now work in the film industry. It’s so exciting to see how creative kids can be at such a young age,” said Dear.



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Letter to the Editor: This is the greatest show

By Courtney Warren

It's time to prep classrooms; and, if you've ever seen mine, you'll know I take this very seriously. Two summers ago, I renovated my English classroom, and recently our incredible yearbook advisor passed the baton, so I have a second classroom.

The editors and I spent several weeks painting, organizing, cleaning and placing furniture. All of this was done with my blonde four-year-old in tow.

The goal was teacher Instagram perfection. When I scroll through pictures, I see gorgeous rooms with equally gorgeous teachers.

I'm always trying to channel my inner Pinterest girl and get similar looks with perfectly placed vases and pillows.

Then my child comes in with a sticky spoon and Nutella-covered hands and her bow is around her neck and where are her pants and why do you have the decor from the lobby in your unicorn purse?

I take her to my other classroom to turn on *The Greatest Showman*, the newest distraction, and as Barnum sings about coming to the other side because it's the greatest ride, I'm wondering how I can get dried Nutella out of blonde curls without causing tears.

I'm the ringleader of my own circus now.

Every single day, I put my classroom back together, and then every night, I put each piece of my home back in place before throwing all of the clutter and crafts into a box, and then shove that box into a closet.

I fluff pillows and Clorox wipe counters. I pick up every single block



Photo by Brett Warren

from the floor, because perfect Pinterest moms do not have blocks on their floors.

I've completed all of my tasks and checked off my to-do list somewhere between midnight and 2 a.m., and, at this point, I've watched *The Greatest Showman* three more times.

Then, as I place my still dirty hair head on my should-be-ironed-pillow, my baby cries. I try to ignore it. I mute the monitor and watch the blinking lights go from green to red to green to red as her wailing crescendos into a sound that should be coming from one of P.T. Barnum's circus animals rather than my tiny daughter. "Moooooom-maaaaa!"

I climb back out of bed, careful not to put anything out of place, go to

her Pinterest-perfect room, where she has pushed the wall so hard, the bed is now several feet from its original spot, and her blanket is lying on the floor, discarded in a fit of rage from being left alone in her room. Did I mention the "scary monster sound" coming from the closet?

I take a deep breath and try to calm her.

Once I realize the only calming thing is my arms, I take her to my room, where she finds that perfect spot that a parent seems to develop after their child is born.

It's that warm spot from your elbow to your shoulder, where babies just seem to fit perfectly and no harm can happen to anyone.

She's snoring before I have an op-

portunity to give her back her blanket and push play on her movie.

In the morning, the alarm shouts way too early, and that little snorer is up and once again dancing to the musical talents of Zac Efron before I have a chance to take my first sip of coffee.

By the time I have shoes on, she has scattered more blocks, more dolls, several coat hangers, her Minnie Mouse vacuum, and someone's fuzzy toothbrush, and she's outside in her dad's shirt digging in the yard for fairy treasure.

My house no longer looks like Pinterest, Instagram, or even a crumpled Wal-Mart ad in the trash bin. My house looks like the Warren Family lives here.

I got frustrated and slightly overwhelmed. I raised my voice when I probably should not have.

But as I put the blocks back into the tiny bin, rushing because I knew there were Sun Sands to be latched and a dog to be crated before I ran out the door, a little hand dropped a red block into the basket.

She then looked at me and exclaimed, "Good job, Mommy! You're just the best."

Then she clapped. For me.

My house may not always look like Pinterest and Instagram, and my follower count might have dropped by 150 people in the last month, but this morning I got applause from the smallest and most important fan I have.

So, if your house is covered in blocks, crayons, or even toilet paper because somehow she found that, too, just remember to take a bow in the middle of the circus. Because you're the best ringleader they will ever see. And right now, this is the greatest show.

MS Best Egg Dish Tour open for nominations

Special to The Canton News

The Mississippi Egg Marketing Board and the Mississippi Hospitality & Restaurant Association recognize that there have been some tough times for restaurants in our state since the on-set of COVID-19. Sadly, many restaurants have been forced to temporarily or permanently close while others have been forced to lay off staff due to the decline in business. To help support this vital industry, these two organizations have created an exciting opportunity for restaurants to promote a favorite recipe featuring eggs as an ingredient.

Beginning June 28, and running through September 30, 2021, the Mississippi Egg Marketing Board and the Mississippi Hospitality & Restaurant Association encourage residents to nominate your favorite Mississippi restaurant's Best Egg Dish. Residents can visit <http://www.mseggmarketing.com/msbesteggdish.html> and enter your favorite restaurant, home-



Photo by Courtney Warren

town, a chef and name of the egg dish on the menu. The winning restaurant will receive a 2021 Mississippi Best

Egg Dish plaque, a \$1,000 advertising campaign and bragging rights as Mississippi's Best Egg Dish.

At the end of the contest, the restaurant receiving the most votes through this social media campaign will be announced as the winner. Residents are encouraged to support local restaurants by dining out and using the hashtag #MSBestEggDish when sharing a photo of their local favorite egg dish on Facebook, Twitter, TikTok and Instagram.

Many recipes rely on basic ingredients to provide the nutrition and great taste that is loved and expected when dining in area restaurants. The egg remains one of nature's most perfect foods and is used as a functional ingredient in recipes to provide vitamins and protein. When used in cooking, eggs provide structure, leavening, moisture, emulsification, flavor, color and nutrition.

Visit www.MSEggMarketing.com for great tasting egg dishes brought to you by the Incredible Egg. For more information on Mississippi's Best Egg Dish tour, contact Jennifer Thompson at msegg@mdac.ms.gov.

Hederman and Dill serve community



Special to The Canton News

By Courtney Warren

High school sophomores Summer Hederman and Hannah Dill recently volunteered for two weeks with MadisonCountians Allied Against Poverty (MadCAAP) to mentor, teach and assist with an arts and crafts camp for children of MadCAAP clients.

Dill said, "I demonstrated how to make a fun beaded pipe-cleaner butterfly magnet and it was great to see

how excited they were to create one. Their smiles made it so much fun to be there. My favorite part was when it was time for me and Summer to leave they all would say 'Bye, Hannah! Bye, Summer!'"

MadCAAP partners with individuals, churches, businesses and civic groups to meet the varying needs of those who are hungry and thirsty, in need of clothing and safer homes, as well as those who are lonely and in need of emotional support.

cont. from page 16

State

tion and the delivery of Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) for students with disabilities.

All students who take part in virtual learning will be required to take statewide assessments on campus.

The SBE's proposed policies will allow districts to provide schoolwide or districtwide virtual learning days in the event of unforeseen circumstances such as weather emergencies or an epidemic prevailing in the district. However, districts must ensure any virtual learning days include actual teaching for a minimum of 330 minutes, as state law requires. Districts are required to provide a minimum of 180 days of instruction.

The SBE provided districts with broad flexibility in the 2020-21 school year to help manage the

COVID-19 outbreak. Districts were allowed to meet the 180-day teaching requirement through traditional, virtual or a hybrid of in-person and distance learning. The SBE voted in April to end the pandemic-related flexibilities.

To assist with virtual learning, the Legislature provided \$200 million in 2020 through the Mississippi Connects program, which provided every public-school student with a computer device to learn. The next phase of the Mississippi Connects program includes professional development and support from digital learning instructional coaches, who will help teachers, schools and districts effectively use educational technology and improve student outcomes statewide.

Country club hosts paint night



Special to The Canton News

The Country Club of Canton recently hosted artist Alison Martin for a Ladies Paint Night. Attendees were given a canvas and walked through the process of painting flowers and a vase by Martin. The club plans to host more painting and ladies night events. For more information, follow them on Facebook.



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MadCAAP hosts art camp

Oinks, quacks, and moos



Special to The Canton News

Children learned to express themselves through various art mediums including painting.

By Courtney Warren

MadCAAP was honored to hold the first day of the Love for Lacey Arts and Crafts Camp. Memorial gifts honoring the late Lacey Travis Madden funded five days of camp. Executive Director Karen Robinson said, "Lacey was not only a dear friend but she was instrumental in starting the MadCAAP kids programs and she loved the clients fiercely. We are so happy to continue to share her love with these kids."

Once Robinson became executive director, Madden was one of the first to reach out to help MadCAAP embrace more kids' programs, design a logo, and get really involved with the organization.

"We had so many people that donated in her honor that I got with her mom and asked if we could do this camp because she loves arts and crafts, kids, and she loved to paint and I wanted to honor her in that way," said Robinson.



Special to The Canton News

Wilson the potbellied pig likes to read just as much as the next pig! He attended the Madison County Library System (MCLS) recently along with several of his feathered friends to check out the books and meet the human readers. Cindy Jackson and Don Oaks chauffeured this animal crew to the library, spoke with patrons about the animals, and showed different colored eggs.

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Moses Thompson: A Small Town Hero with heart

By Inesha Jackson

If you would have told young Moses Thompson that a few years



Moses Thompson

ahead his hard work and dedication to the journey would land him where he is today, he probably wouldn't believe it. Rev. Dr. Moses E. Thompson currently serves as a pastor, presiding elder of the Jackson-Panola District of the Southwestern Delta Conference in the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, and funeral home director/manager. Thompson's journey to leadership began when he was a young boy doing farm work on his great grandparents' farm in the rural Madison County area near Flora, Mississippi. Working on the farm eventually led him to his first job of picking cotton after school in the eighth and ninth grade with his great uncle.

In Thompson's early adulthood, he was introduced to the limousine business that would eventually land him in the funeral business. Because of his faithfulness, he quickly elevated to manager of the company.

In 1994, ten years after he accepted Christ, he accepted his calling into the ministry. Although Thompson was a member of the Baptist church, he began pastoring in the Methodist church.

The ministry has taken him from being a good follower to pastoring to becoming a presiding elder. He gives credit to his follower-ship for him serving in many leadership roles.

"Remembering what it is to be a good follower and remembering where you came from and how you started will make you a great leader," Thompson said. As a presiding elder, he is not only responsible for leading the church he pastors, but also a district of over twelve churches.

"It is wonderful to have a leader that is sympathetic and one that will work with you to make sure you reach your full potential. It is a great

thing to know that you have a leader that will laugh and joke with you, but also one that will let you know when you're off track," Rev. Kenny E. Bennett, pastor of Gallman Chapel A.M.E. Zion Church said.

One of Thompson's true passions is to inspire and help children in the church and community. He visits schools regularly and interacts with children first-hand.

Ja'Christi Jackson, a youth in the Jackson-Panola district stated "Presiding Elder Thompson is a leader that guides you in the right path. He always encourages us to do right and put God first. He pushes

es us to maintain good grades and stay focused."

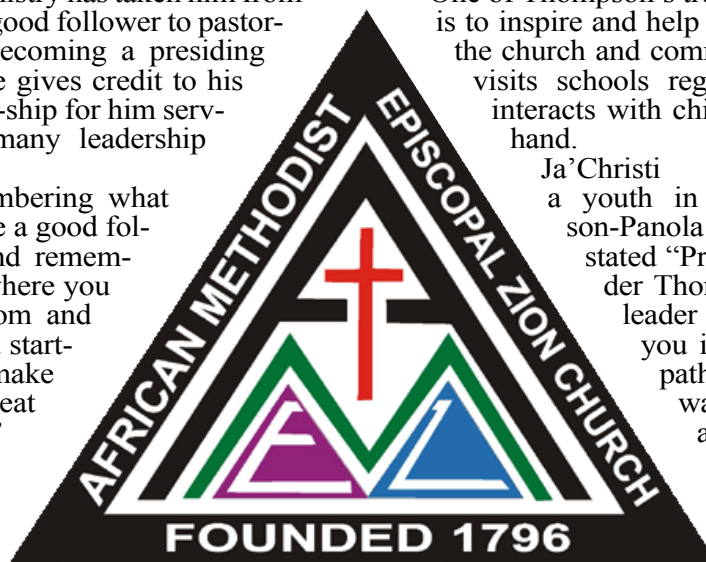
Thompson went from "parent of the year" to vice president of the Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) to being appointed by the Board of Aldermen to serve on the school board. He served on the school

board as a member, secretary, vice president, and then president. After Thompson's eight-year tenure of serving on the school board, he now serves as a district volunteer.

"Leaders should display good leadership, so that young people will not stray away from the home training and morals they have been taught," Thompson said.

Rev. Dr. Moses Thompson also has many other positions in the community. He is a member of Anderson Lodge number nine, a 32-degree Mason, President of the Canton Lions Club, member of the Mississippi and National Funeral Directors and Morticians Association, volunteer at the Farmhaven Fire Department, and president of the board for the G.A. Carmichael Health Center. He has also served as a member of the Elks Lodge in Canton, a reserved deputy for the Madison County Sheriff's Department and the Canton Police Department.

Thompson's motto and scripture that he lives by and encourages others to also live by is "Don't complain about a thing, but do something about it," and Proverbs 3:5-6 "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths."



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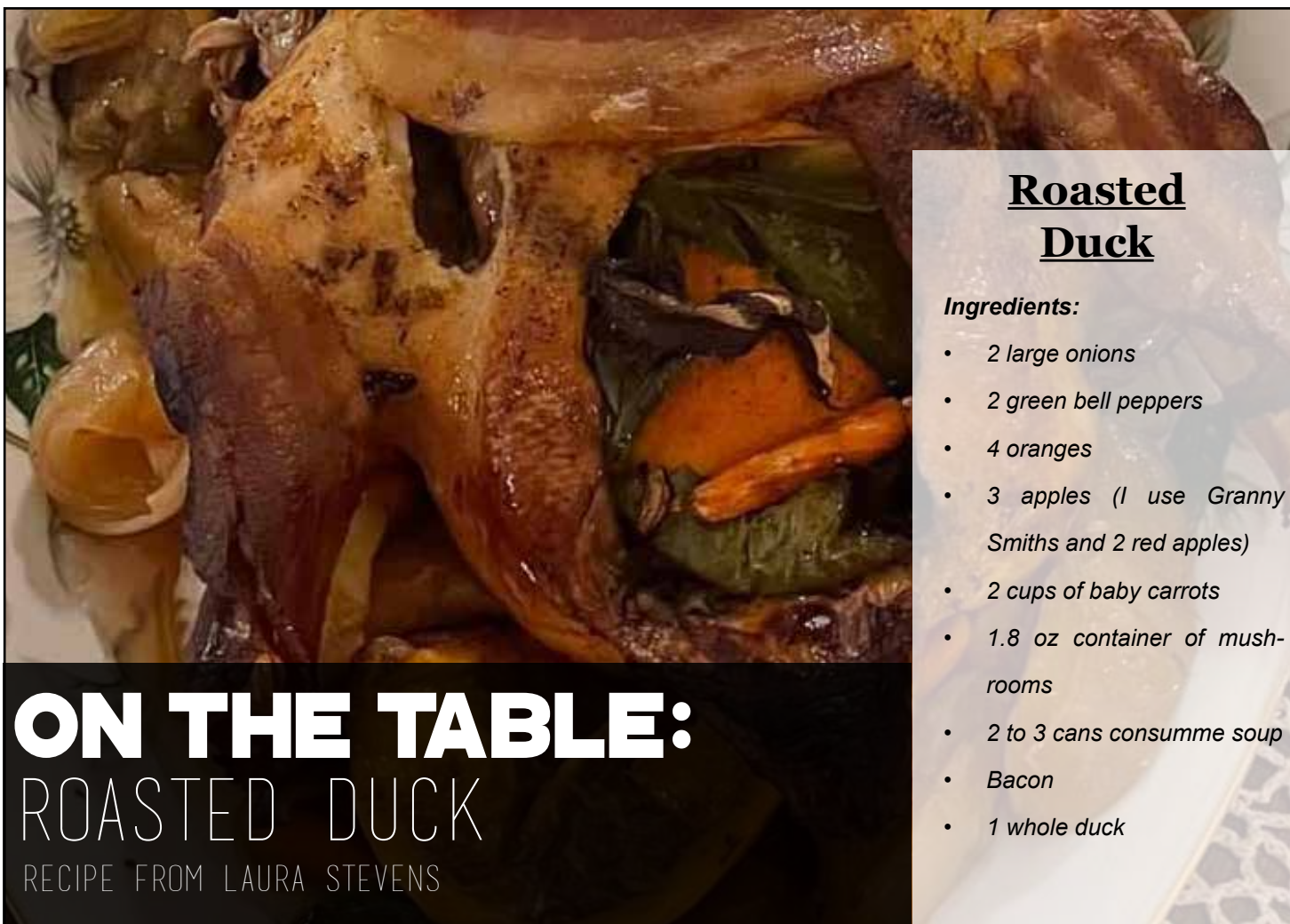
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Roasted Duck

Ingredients:

- 2 large onions
- 2 green bell peppers
- 4 oranges
- 3 apples (I use Granny Smiths and 2 red apples)
- 2 cups of baby carrots
- 1.8 oz container of mushrooms
- 2 to 3 cans consommé soup
- Bacon
- 1 whole duck

ON THE TABLE:
ROASTED DUCK
RECIPE FROM LAURA STEVENS

By Laura Stevens

While many families have ham, turkey, and cake on holidays, my family was a little different. Rather than the typical celebration foods, we requested caviar and Kool-Aid for birthdays with duck for dinner. As children, a lot of our foods came from whatever Daddy killed that evening and brought back home; so, when birthdays and other holidays came around, he was under some serious pressure to bring home something good. Duck became a staple and a favorite for us during the season, as he perfected his shot (he later became a world champion for sporting clay shooting!) Anytime I make this recipe, it's meant to celebrate someone dear to my heart.

Directions:

Peel and quarter the onions. Quarter the apples with skin. Quarter the oranges. Cut the four sides off the bell pepper and remove the white rib. Make sure your duck is completely thawed. Preheat the oven to 350 degrees. Place the duck in a Dutch oven. Stuff the duck with some apples, oranges, and bell peppers. Surround the duck with apples, mushrooms, onions, and carrots. Pour 2 cans of consommé soup over everything. Take the oranges and squeeze juice over the duck and place them in the pot. Then salt and pepper generously. Top with bacon. Cover and cook for three hours for a 6-pound duck. The last 30 mins uncover to allow bacon and skin to crisps up. You can place it under the broiler for 10 mins but watch very carefully.

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Liddell ready to greet students in person at CHS

By Inesha Jackson

Summer is officially over, and class is back in session! Canton High School's 2020-2021



Special to The Canton News

teacher of the year, Mrs. Aleatrice Liddell, says she is excited to see students return to school on August 9.

"I am looking forward to building relationships and making connections with my students in person," Liddell said.

After a long year of virtual learning, the Canton Public School District (CPSD) is planning to reopen its doors.

According to the CPSD's Plan for Safe

Return to In-Person Instruction and the Continuity of Service guide, students will be provided a safety net in the form of small group instruction, individualized tutoring, extended learning time, and an instructional pace that will catch students up where needed and accelerate them to grade level or beyond grade level mastery.

"I expect a smooth transition back into the classroom and for students to perform to the best of their abilities," Liddell said.

Mrs. Liddell has been teaching history at Canton High School since 2011, and each year, her students have high success rates on state tests, especially in Advanced Placement (AP) U.S. History.

"I am proud of my AP U.S. History students, who achieved passing scores

on the APUSH exam during live sessions. Virtual instruction looked different, but I still held them to higher expectations," Liddell said. All AP U.S. History students passed 100 percent with a 3 or 4, despite having to learn virtually. Because of her students' success, Liddell was named Canton High School's teacher of the year and plans to take students to the next level this upcoming school year. "Canton High School immediately transferred to an online platform, and we utilized new resources that I will certainly incorporate into my lessons during the upcoming school year to enhance instruction," Liddell said.

To prepare for this upcoming school year, Mrs. Liddell is attending professional development sessions and reevaluating instructional materials and plan-

ning lessons that are engaging to students while also adhering to COVID-19 restrictions. According to CPSD, in any event that in-person instruction is interrupted by COVID-19, teaching and learning will continue. If multiple students are exposed to the virus, pre-recorded mini-lessons and assignments will be posted online. Liddell explains that CPSD has thoroughly prepared for the return of students by implementing mask mandates, desk shields, temperature checks, sanitation stations, and social distancing guidelines.

"Canton Public School District is committed to keeping students, teachers, and staff safe. Students will need to remain patient as we implement new policies, but we are committed to their safety and look forward to their return," Liddell added.

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