



THE

# CANTON NEWS

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## The Heat is on...

1

### Mississippi Championship Hot Air Balloon Fest

June 30-July 1

Featuring colorful balloons of all shapes and sizes, a fireworks extravaganza, live entertainment and lots of fun, Cantonians can experience the mirage of colors decorating the summer sky during the Hot Air Balloon Fest. This Independence Day heritage is highlighted by fun family activities all weekend long. Pilots test their balloon savvy in pursuit of bragging rights and cash prizes. There is also the ever-popular Balloon Glow at sunset to delight children and adults of all ages. For more information, visit cantontourism.com.

2

### Juneteenth 5k/Walk and Juneteenth celebration

June 18 at 7:30 a.m.,  
beginning at the Canton Square

Participants will travel through Canton areas, including Mt. Zion Baptist Church, the Freedom House, Canton Square, famous filming locations, and end on Hickory Street. Along Hickory Street, participants can enjoy a kids zone, health fair, live music, vendors, food and more, as the Canton Juneteenth Celebration kicks off. For more information, visit cantonjuneteenth.com.

3

### Cameras in Canton

July 11-15  
July 18-22

The Young Filmmakers Workshop provides an opportunity to see, feel and touch the beginning process of how movies are made with young filmmakers, plus more opportunity for the older students to progress to a higher level of achievement. This year, Filmmakers will once again be partnering with the Madison County Library for their enhanced equipment to be used toward the creation and implementation of the student projects. The Mississippi Film Office will partner with the program to provide curriculum and experienced instructors with filmmaking experience. For more information and to register, visit cantontourism.com.

"Canton has a busy summer ahead...."

canton  
events to  
heat up the  
summer



4

### Bingo Night at Country Club of Canton

June 11 from 7-9 p.m.

Open to non-club members, the event is sponsored by Shanks Bar and Grill. The cost is \$20 for five cards or \$5 per card, with a ten card limit per game.

5

### Old Jail Farmers Market

June 7  
June 21

Come get fresh local produce at the Old Jail in Canton. Vendors will be selling their locally-sourced goods on the historic grounds, and Cantonians are encouraged to come out and support local producers.

6

### Fourth of July Fireworks

July 4 at 9 p.m.,  
at Canton Multipurpose Center

After a day full of fun, relax with a firework show to celebrate the end of the Balloon fest and Independence Day.

7

### Hold on to Your Seat

Tuesdays during June  
10 a.m. at Canton Library

You can get a full-body workout in from the safety of your chair. Ms. Jacqueline Carson, Certified Personal Trainer, will lead this ongoing class to help you to improve your posture, increase your flexibility, and develop your core strength.

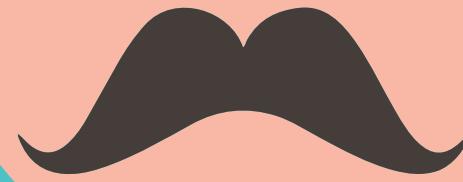
8

### Half Day Camp

June 4 and 11  
In His Steps Ministries

Are you looking for summer activities for your child or children? In His Steps Ministries is offering multiple day camps and sports camps this summer! To register, pick up a form from IHSM or email Mrs. Carolyn Bacon at cbacon@inhissteps.org. Space is limited, please register early.

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# Remember When: The roots of a plant tell a story

By Guest Columnist Mary Jane Boutwell

Several weeks ago, Ann and Bill McKay gave me a few volunteers from last year's cherry tomatoes and climbing spinach. They are looking good and need to be in the ground. But, I got sidetracked, as climbing spinach was not in my field of knowledge. The closest I have found in my books has been trailing spinach (New Zealand), a warm weather type.

Somewhere around 50 years ago, Mama came home from Alabama with a rose cutting. She told of it, running rose, being used around Aunt Sally's porch to create shade. It was pruned back after blooming, and the prunings were thrown across the fence into the pasture. It bloomed as an orange bud and faded to a full blown golden color. Over the years, it was lost, until Mama and her sisters were driving around remembering old times when one looked up into the top of a tree and said, "That's Aunt Sally's rose!"

I now have several of them. This is not just a running rose. I planted nine by a tall tree stump in the glade. Over several years, it disappeared. Early one summer while mowing, I looked down and saw a half inch leafless vine running across the yard. About 50 or 60

feet from the original plant (on the place to the west of us) it was blooming. The best I can figure, the original was 100 years or so old. By the way, this is not just a running rose. Someone poured scalding hot water on it, and it took off like a scolded cat.

I wrote about Hubert Davis in WW2. He was an interesting man with many wonderful down home stories. One I like was of his growing and harvesting bush butter beans. He waited until most of the beans were ready to pick, pulled the plants up, and sat in the shade to pick and shell them.

Years ago at the Garden Days of Crystal Springs experiment station, I bought a pack of turkey craw pea seeds, a heritage breed. They are speckled, run up the fence like running beans with very long pods, cooks up and taste a lot like pink-eyed purple hulled peas. The deer love them.

What got me started was the seedling tomatoes. Years ago, we were visiting kinfolk in McKenzie, Alabama. Sitting around the kitchen table talking, we were eating from a bowl of Tommy Toe Tomatoes. They were delicious. I asked Aunt Elmer where she got them. Her answer, "I dug them up out behind the outhouse." We continued to eat and enjoy. She could grow most any-



*Special to the Canton News*

*Tomatoes brings memories of summertime and fun.*

thing from a seed.

My children were grown before I learned that Aunt Elmer was really Aunt Elma.

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Mary Jane Boutwell is a passionate historian and is thrilled to share stories about way back when.



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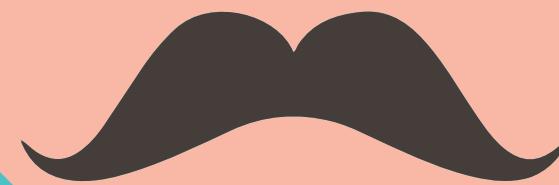
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## City of lights, camera, and lots of action in Canton, MS

Special to The Canton News

In addition to looking forward to the Old Jail Famer's Market hosted



Photo by Courtney Warren

by the Canton-Madison County Historical Society as well as helping to promote this year's Canton Juneteenth Celebration, the Canton Tourism office is excited to also bring back its Young Filmmakers Workshops this July at the Madison County Public Library. Tourism partners with the library not only as the host location but also for the use of their enhanced equipment for the creation and implementation of the student projects. The Mississippi Film Office also partners with

the program to provide curriculum and experienced instructors with filmmaking experience.

"We are excited to be celebrating twenty years of this very rewarding program," said Jo Ann Gordon, who recently returned to Canton Tourism as Film Commissioner and Special Projects Coordinator. Gordon provides valuable insight and knowledge about the film industry, having served as Director of Canton Tourism for over 30 years before retiring in 2015.

"Canton Young Filmmakers has been very successful in creating an environment for storytelling, script-writing, directing, and acting. Many of our former campers have become professional filmmakers and have gone to school and majored in academic film programs," Gordon explained.

"We're so excited to have Jo Ann's expertise at our fingertips," said

tourism director, May McCarty. "She knows the film industry well and is also helping us to recruit future projects and promote Canton as a sought-after location for movies. She's already secured four successful films here this year, and it's only May. Two are being produced this summer."

In addition to the movies and Young Filmmakers Workshops, the final details are also being put into place for the 37th annual Mississippi Championship Hot Air Balloon Fest. The event is presented by Canton Tourism in collaboration with the City of Canton, the City of Ridgeland, The Good Samaritan Center, and the Mid-Mississippi Balloon Association.

"We're excited to once again host this fun, family-oriented summer event in celebration of the 4th of July holiday," said McCarty. "Balloon-

cont. on page 19

## View from the Window: the Millers share their love

By Guest Columnist Sherrye Lacour and Wanda Baldwin

The Canton Garden Club met on April 12 at the Canton Country Club home of Dorothy Chadwick and Reeves Jones. Dorothy gave us a tour of her beautiful raised gardens, which contain cut flowers, vegetables and herbs. She shared many helpful tips about preparing the soil, proper watering and ways to keep deer from destroying it all. She and her husband, Reeves, have spent many, many hours building the beds and enriching them with compost they've made from kitchen scraps and plant debris. Friends and neighbors have been the happy recipients of both flowers and vegetables, especially tomatoes from some 80+ tomato plants they grow each season.

A light drizzle moved us inside, where we were thoroughly entertained by Dorothy's husband, Reeves, a storyteller extraordinaire, with tales of his adventures as a beekeeper. Reeves started with two hives back in 2012 and since then has



Special to the Canton News

kept two or three hives each year. He has given away over 1,500 quarts of honey to friends and neighbors. In 2017, he and Dorothy attended the National Beekeepers Convention in

Galveston, Texas, where Reeve's honey won third place in the national competition, which included the U.S. and Canada. Reeves has

cont. on page 19

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## Canton News congratulates intern



*Special to the Canton News*

The Canton News would like to give a big congratulations to our intern - now freelance writer - Inesha Jackson for graduating from Alcorn State University. Jackson is a native of Canton and has written for The Canton News for over six months. We are so proud of you, Inesha!



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with a watermelon"**

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## Letter from the Editor: He never tells me to lower my voice

By Courtney Warren

I'm an excited person. I'm excited, colorful, and always ready to participate. I say all of that to say, I have met many people in my life who are uncomfortable being around someone who exudes a lot of excitement, and they are often very quick to try to put out the light.

What do I mean by that? I can't tell you how many times I've been told "be quiet," "you're so loud," and "bring it down." I've had people call me a "bubblehead."

It feels like I'm constantly told to be quiet. But if you've ever watched someone who is effervescent like I am be told to be quiet, it's surprisingly sad. You watch a person go from an active participant in what's going on around them, someone bringing life to a conversation, someone creative and ready to help in any way, to someone who literally shuts off. It's like a light switch.

Throughout my adult life, I've learned to not tell my students to "be quiet" when I know it's something we should absolutely be loud about. Because I know why I'm loud. I'm passionate, I'm excited, and I want to share that excitement with you. I love whatever I'm talking about at the moment, and my loudness is a direct reflection of that love. I'm loud

to you because I also love you. When I find out about some amazing thing, the first idea that comes to mind is, "I have to share this with them!" So I do. Loudly.

Now, all of that to say, I know who I can do this around. I have so many friends who have learned about my excitement, and they tolerate the "yelly" bits of me. I also know the ones who don't. But, with all of that, there is only one person in my entire life who has never told me to lower my voice. He's never told me to "bring it in" or considered me less intelligent because I'm excited and jumping. He's never thought less of me because what I bring to the table is glitter, neon, and laminated labels that are both glittery AND neon. He gets excited simply because I'm excited. When people walk away from me because my excitement is overwhelming, he stays. He stays not out of obligation, not because "he'll hear it when he gets home," and not because of any vows he took on our wedding day. He stays because he's just as excited for me – even though his excitement is at a much lower volume. He has never made me feel lesser than him or as if I should dim myself for others.

However, he also reminds me to listen, that I have to give room. I have to let others in on the conversation and actively work on allowing others onto



Photo by Courtney Warren

the stage. That is so hard; I'm excited! And I want to tell you that I love what you're talking about! But, oftentimes in doing so, I take the mic right from your hands. Without telling me to lower my voice, he reminds me to give the mic back.

So, for all of us out there who are constantly told to lower our voices, I hope you find (or have found) someone who turns up your volume. I hope

you find someone who lets you put a dinosaur flower bed in the yard. I hope you find someone who charges your mic. And, if you don't, if you haven't found that friend or spouse or family member, know that it's still okay to be loud. It's okay to show your passion with gusto. And it's always okay to laminate everything. You're not a bubblehead. They just haven't figured that out yet.

## MCEL participates in Economic Development Day



Special to the Canton News

Pictured (l to r) are Chamar McDonald, Neel-Schaffer; Gibson Eatherly, Origin Bank; MCEDA Executive Director Joey Deason, Doug Jones, Madison County Schools; Melanie Greer, EXIT Realty; Jamie Lake, Bank Plus; Kristy Daniels, Priority One Bank; Lee Balch, BancorpSouth; Pam Files, PA Files; Amy Ainsworth, Terracon; and Luke Walker, Thrash Construction.

Special to The Canton News

The Madison County Executive Leadership Class (MCEL) participated in Economic Develop-

ment Day on May 2. The Madison County Business League & MCEDA hosted a breakfast for the MCEL class and the Madi-

son County Board of Supervisors. Afterward, the inaugural class was introduced during the Board of Supervisors meeting.

The class toured the Madison County Mega Site and existing industry DeBeukelaer Corporation



## ON THE TABLE: CHICKEN ALFREDO

RECIPE FROM ANGEL BERNARD

By Angel Bernard

I usually cook a meal every Sunday, and I like to always think ahead about what I want.

However, last Sunday came around, and I was undecided. So, I eventually came to the conclusion that I wanted alfredo. I started to make it from scratch, but, I knew that would be time consuming. So, I found myself putting together my own sauce. I went to the store to grab all of the ingredients, and I also added a few things that aren't in other versions of this dish. For example, I put rotel tomatoes in my sauce. Now, I've never seen anyone do that, but I want to try something new, and it came out pretty amazing.

### Directions:

1. Boil about 6-7 pieces of chicken tenderloins.
2. Once the chicken is fully cooked, shred chicken.
3. Dice any smoked sausage of choice and cook until brown.
4. Bring pot of water to boil. Once the water begins to boil, add pasta in and add salt.
5. Once pasta is fully cooked, take two cans of Alfredo sauce and put it in the pot.
6. Add garlic powder, red pepper flakes, pepper, green onions, red peppers, minced garlic, and garlic salt.
7. Once all seasonings are added, add spinach and rotel tomatoes.
8. Add parmesan and mozzarella cheese or any cheese of choice.
9. Once all ingredients are added to the sauce, let it cook for 35 minutes.
10. Finally, add your pasta into the sauce, and let it cook for 35 minutes; then you're all done.

### Chicken Alfredo

#### *Ingredients:*

- chicken tenderloins
- smoked sausage
- pasta/noodles
- 2 cans of alfredo sauce
- salt and pepper
- garlic powder
- red pepper flakes
- red pepper
- green onions
- minced garlic
- garlic salt
- spinach
- Rotel tomatoes
- cheese

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# Canton High School names Top 10 at graduation



Special to the Canton News

Johnson, Nichols, Griffin, Torrey, Shields, Day, Taylor, Douglas, Rose, and Smith were named top ten of their graduating class.

*Special to The Canton News*

At the recent Canton High School (CHS) graduation, the top ten seniors

were announced. These seniors were in the top ten of their graduating class based on GPA. Students named

(in order of GPA) were valedictorian Cedria Griffin, salutatorian Lorrin Nichols, Ashunti Johnson, Azariya

Shields, Charis Torrey, Jamijah Day LaNya Taylor, Marquicia Douglas, Jontravious Smith, and Shamiya Rose.

# Canton High School presents top scholarship awards



Special to the Canton News

The students with top scholarships were recognized during their graduation ceremony.

*Special to The Canton News*

At the Canton High School Class of 2022 Commencement, the following scholarships were recognized, LaMya Taylor was awarded \$66,000 from Alcorn State University; LaNya Taylor was award-

ed \$66,000 from Alcorn State University; Marquicia Douglas was awarded \$39,500 from Alcorn State University, Jones College, Mississippi College, and Mississippi State University; Madison Archer was awarded

\$20,000 from Alcorn State University; Ja'Nyla Williams was awarded \$20,000 from Alcorn State University; Equanyae Warren was awarded \$20,150 from A&K Transportation LLC and Alcorn State University; Azari-

ya Shields was awarded \$12,500 from Alcorn State University, Canton Flea Market, Hinds Community College, Renza & Arleen Anderson Scholarship, and Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. Tau Phi Zeta Chapter Canton.

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# Griffin and Nichols named Canton High val and sal



*Special to the Canton News*

CHS Valedictorian Cedria Griffin.



*Special to the Canton News*

CHS Salutatorian Lorrin Nichols.

By Courtney Warren

At the Canton High School (CHS) commencement for the class of 2022, the graduates were recognized for their academic excellence.

The 2022 valedictorian is Cedria Griffin, and the 2022 salutatorian is Lorrin Nichols.

Griffin received \$7,900 in scholarships, including a scholarship from Holmes Community College and a scholarship from NISSAN Titans of Tomorrow.

Nichols received \$88,450 in scholarships from 100 Black Men of Canton, 2022 DNA Identity Scholarship,

A&K Transportation LLC, A Village, INC, Alcorn State University, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. Beta Delta Omega Chapter, Bell's Educare, Brent & Brown Scholarship, Madison County (MS) Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Dr. Erica McElroy-Barton Schol-

arship, Eronda Jackson Memorial STEM Scholarship, Frances M. Duval Scholarship, Renza & Arleen Anderson Scholarship, Thomas Johnson Scholarship, Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. Tau Phi Zeta Chapter Canton.

The class of 2022 received \$565,495 in scholarship offerings.

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## CHS announces new basketball coach

*Special to The Canton News*

Coach Brian "BJ" Townsend was recently named the head boys basketball coach at Canton High School.

Coach Townsend, a Canton native and 2000 graduate of Canton High School, has been coaching in the district since 2012. Coach Townsend started off volunteering in 2012, which led him to begin his education and coaching career in 2014.

Coach Townsend was a part of the 2002 Holmes Community College State Championship Team. He was the team's MVP during both his freshman and sophomore years and the MVP of the Mississippi Junior College All-Star game.

Coach Townsend continued his basketball career at the University of Pikeville in Pikeville, Kentucky, where he had the opportunity to play for a team that was nationally ranked in the top 25 in the nation and competed for an NAIA National Championship.

Coach Townsend has spent the last nine years as an Assistant Coach for Canton High School under head coach



Brian Townsend

Chris Love for the first two years and head coach Russell Evans for the last seven years. Coach Townsend took over as head coach at Nichols Middle School in 2016, where he led them to the league's championship game.

After coaching at Nichols for two years, Coach then transitioned to Porter Middle School in 2019, where he has served as head coach for the past three years. He also led them to an undefeated regular season but came up short in the championship game. Coach Townsend says he was very proud of his guys' improvement throughout the year and their hard work on and off the court.

It has always been Coach Townsend's plan since graduating from college to come back to Canton and give back the knowledge and experience he's gained throughout the years, all while being a role model and mentor for male youth. He says his plan now, as the new head coach at Canton High School, is to lead them back to the coliseum and win the 5A State Championship under his leadership.

Townsend's motto is "We can, we will, we must be great!"

Former Coach Russell Evans has been promoted to assistant principal of Canton High. CPSD officials say the district is excited about Coach Evans's new leadership role as he continues making a difference in the lives of their scholars.

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## CHS Myers scores show smarts



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**CHS junior Ahniya Myers and CHS Principal Dr. Self.**

Special to The Canton News

Canton High School junior Ahniya Myers was congratulated by the Canton Public School District for her high scores on the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test PSAT/NMSQT.

CHS Principal Dr. Pamela Self said Myers "met the entry requirements for the 2023 National Merit

Scholarship Program. Her selection Index score will be considered among the 1.5 million program entrants. Ahniya will be notified in September if her scores place her among the 50,000 high scorers who qualify for the National Merit Scholarship Program recognition. Outstanding job, Ahniya! Keep making us proud!"



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## Shirley D. Simmons Middle School celebrates Fine Arts winners



Special to the Canton News

Javion F., Christian D. and Karen Q.

Special to The Canton News

Students at Shirley D. Simmons Middle School (SDSM) achieved multiple awards in the arts during the 2021-22 school year.

Christian D. earned first place in the "Healthy Soil – Healthy Life" poster contest at the sixth-grade level. Christian and other students from Madison County received their awards and prizes at a banquet that was sponsored by the Madison County Soil and Water

Conservation District.

Seventh-grader Javion F. also received an honorable mention in the poster contest. Javion was presented with his certificate during SDSM awards day.

Javion F. and Karen Q. placed second and third in the Madison County Farm Bureau art contest at the seventh- through the twelfth-grade level. This is Javion's second year earning a place in this contest. Javion and Karen



Special to the Canton News

Corbyn S., Makayla B., Jasmine M., and choir director Joel Hill.

received their certificates and prizes at the SDSM awards day.

Christian, Javion, and Karen are students of veteran art teacher Mrs. Christine Martin.

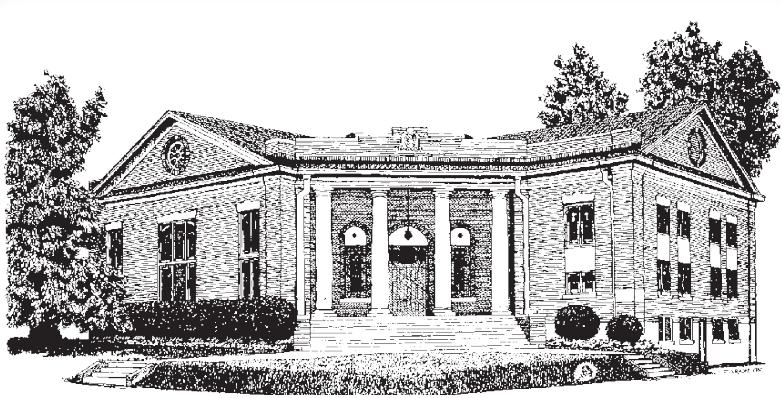
SDSM sixth-grade students Makayla Burks, Jasmine McBride and Corbyn Smith performed with the 2022 MMEA Elementary All-State Honor Choir at the University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg from March 31 to April 2. They were three of 157

students chosen statewide to work with renowned clinician Dena Byers, conductor of the Durham Children's Choir (North Carolina). They rehearsed with their fellow honor choir peers for two days and attended concerts by some of Mississippi's best choirs before presenting a concert of six challenging music selections. Makayla, Jasmine, and Corbyn are students of Mr. Joel Hill, Velma Jackson High School, and SSMS Director of Choirs.

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## Sun fun before summer starts



*Special to the Canton News*

Huey Porter Middle School students, faculty, and staff recently celebrated the end of school with an Fun Day. Students enjoyed rock climbing, bounce houses and obstacle courses, games, snow cones and snacks.

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## Laster named CA Head of School

By Courtney Warren

Recently, Canton Academy (CA) hired former CA Principal Ryan Laster as the new Head of School.

Former Head of School Tripp McCarty resigned during the spring semester after investing twenty-five years in a career in education. He decided to pursue other ventures outside the field of education.

After McCarty's resignation, CA Athletic Director Ben Williams became "administrator in charge" before Laster's hiring.

Laster joined the CA family last year as the high school principal and assistant football and baseball coach.

Laster is a native of Batesville and a graduate of South Panola High School. He continued his education at Delta State University, earning his bachelor's and Master of Education, as well as finishing the MSAIS Leadership Institute provided through Delta State University. With his fourteen years of experience in education, he has served as a Head of School and head football Coach at Lee Academy in Arkansas

and at Washington School as an assistant football coach and academic counselor. During his time as the Head of School, Laster served on the MSAIS' Athletics and Activities Commission (AAC) and Eligibility Committee.

According to the Canton Academy Board of Directors, "We are excited for our school to move forward under Mr. Laster's leadership, so that our students can excel in the classroom, on the field and in life. We would also like to extend our appreciation and gratitude to our Administrator in Charge, Ben Williams, for his willingness to serve and for allowing our school to continue to run smoothly during this process."

Laster is joined at CA by his son, Taylor, a rising sophomore. His wife Misty is a teacher for the Madison County School District. "My family and I are extremely excited about this opportunity for years to come at Canton Academy. I look forward to continuing the many projects that have been started over the past year and beyond," said Laster.

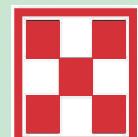


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Lt. Mark Sandridge



CPD Patrolman Cameron Plummer



# CANTON AND MADISON COUNTY POLICE APPRECIATED

By Courtney Warren

During National Law Enforcement Appreciation Week, all local area law enforcement were thanked and recognized for their dedication to serving the city and county.

Canton Police Chief Otha Brown named CPD Patrolman Cameron Plummer as the officer to be recognized during the month of May.

"Plummer has served two years as a police officer and has done an outstanding job for the city of Canton and his community. He is always prepared for duty on time, ready to work, always greeting the people in the community with a smile," said Brown.

The Mississippi Center for Police and Sheriffs teamed up with Crimestoppers to host an event honoring a Top Cop from each law enforcement agency in the state.

Lt. Mark Sandridge was named Top Cop for Madison County.

"I am extremely humbled by the Top Cop award. Sheriff (Randy) Tucker and Chief Williams have been very good to me," said Sandridge. "I count my blessings every day to work with such great people at the Madison County Sheriff's Department. It is an honor and a privilege serving this community, and I hope to do so for many more years."

## Canton student honored for art show entry



Special to the Canton News

Hinds Community College recently announced the winners of its student art show during a ceremony at the Marie Hull Art Gallery on the Raymond Campus. About 160 works of art were considered for this year's contest, which was judged by Jacob Rowan, assistant professor of art at Belhaven University. Michelle Russell of Canton was awarded an honorable mention in the 2-D design category. Pictured (l to r) are Russell; Rowan Hays, first place; and Marques Lewis-Shelton, second place. Not pictured is Jamiah Smith, who was awarded third place and an honorable mention.



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## Sims family awards scholarship



Special to the Canton News

Daphne Sims and family awarded the 2022 Thomas Johnson Scholarship to Lorrin Nichols and Javariah Horn at \$250 each. These two students wrote two outstanding essays on how they plan to give back to their community.

### 2022 Thomas Johnson Scholarship Winners

## LA Girl finds love “Down In MS”

Special to The Canton News

Before 2010, the town of Canton, Mississippi was just a place on the map. That was until LaRita “Jazzy Rita” Shelby ended her 40 year search for her father Calvin Thomas Shelby, who was then living in Canton. Not only did she find Mr. Shelby, she found a huge family that she never knew that she had.

Calvin Shelby passed in 2013, but LaRita aka “Jazzy Rita” is on a mission to keep his love alive in her heart. Her latest effort is the new single “Down In Mississippi.” Released on June 1 2022, which would have been Calvin Shelby’s 88 birthday, the song and video are now available for the world to enjoy.

He is described as a jovial man who liked to pick berries and tell funny stories. He lived for a short time in Nashville, which is where LaRita, was conceived before he moved back to Canton after a massive stroke. Calvin never forgot his little girl, and LaRita never forgot her dad. It’s not known if LaRita’s mother Florence (Hawkins) ever knew what really happened. She died in 1993.

Jazzy Rita Shelby hopes “Down In Mississippi” inspires anyone who has found love in Mississippi or

anywhere else in the world. The full story is also documented in the book *On My Father’s Side* by LaRita Shelby. For more information, visit [www.OnMyFathersSide.com](http://www.OnMyFathersSide.com).



Special to the Canton News

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## Quilting team stitches and bonds



Special to the Canton News

Allison Wells' quilting team recently met at Canton Tourism in the Rose room to work on and share their recent creations. They welcome other quilters to join them on Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m.

cont. from page 3

## City

ists and visitors can once again expect a five-star event including fun flights, balloon glows, delicious food, kid-friendly attractions, live music, and an over-the-top fireworks presentation. We invite everyone to join us!"

While summer in Canton is just getting kicked off, the tourism office is already thinking about what's next. "No rest for the weary," explained McCarty.

"These events require tons of advanced preparation and organizing. We're always in planning mode around here. It's crazy to think that summer hasn't even started really,

but as soon as we wrap up Balloon Fest, our office will start looking ahead to the fall Flea Market and even this year's Christmas Festival," said McCarty. "And stay tuned for some possible new things to add to your calendar for the rest of this year as well. We're always creating and thinking of new ideas. We're just getting started," she teased.

For more information about Canton Tourism, and for details about the upcoming events listed here and how to participate, please visit [www.canton-tourism.com](http://www.canton-tourism.com) or call Canton Tourism at 601-859-1307.

cont. from page 3

## View

also invented several beekeeping products - like the Jonz Hygienic Bottom Board and the Turbo Fume Board - which are sold by Dadant & Sons, a national beekeeping supply company. Reeves highly recommends local honey, stating, "It's like tasting sweet liquid sunshine!"

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Sherrye Lacour is a native to Canton and graduated from Canton Academy in 1972.

*She moved to Madison in 1985, and then returned to Canton about five years ago. Lacour loves gardening, and her passion stems from Green Thumbs Garden Club in grammar school, as well as a mother who loves growing flowers and vegetables. Wanda Baldwin is a native Cantonian who recently retired from Vertex Aerospace as Executive Assistant to the President. Lacour and Baldwin are sisters.*

all photos Special to the Canton News

Canton Academy and Canton Public School District were proud to celebrate their Kindergarten graduates.

## CA Panthers graduate with honors



By Courtney Warren

Carter Martin, Graham Lambert, John Hollis Hutchinson, Barnes Wadford, Madelynn Cochran, Starr Spivey and Maggie Claire Thomas are now members of the CA Hall of Fame.

By Courtney Warren

Commencement came much faster than any of the Canton Academy (CA) seniors were prepared for, but, with so many Panthers having spent the majority of their academic career at the "big CA," they were excited about this milestone.

After the junior girls walked in the Magnolia Chain, a longstanding tradition, Student Body President Carter Martin welcomed attendees, followed by Senior Class President Eliza Lightheart with the invocation. Awards were presented, and Valedictorian John Hollis Hutchinson reminded students "Be humble, be brave, and be yourself, because God didn't make you to be anyone else."

Salutatorian and STAR Student Carli Cooper left her senior class with "I wish you all the best in all that life has to offer, because you're all so deserving."

The class flower is Forget-Me-Nots, the class song is "The Nights" by Avicii, and the class motto is "It's been hard to look busy for twelve years."

With \$350,500 worth of scholarships offered, \$87,100 worth of scholarships were accepted, which totaled \$437,600 in scholarships. The CA Hall of Fame now includes seven new members; Carter Martin, Graham Lambert, John Hollis Hutchinson, Barnes Wadford, Madelynn Cochran, Starr Spivey and Maggie Claire Thomas.

## City Spotlight: Canton's Gloria Bilbrew

Special to The Canton News

Gloria Bilbrew always wanted to be a postal worker, and, today, she is the Postmaster in Canton, where she was born and raised.

"Customers come into the Post Office and say they remember me when I was a little girl," Bilbrew said.

Bilbrew began her 33-year career as a Rural Carrier Associate (RCA) in Jackson. Initially, she only wanted part-time work; and the RCA position, which guaranteed one day a week, seemed a good fit for a married woman and



Gloria Bilbrew

mother of four young boys.

"I had left a full-time job to work one day a week at the Post Office," Bilbrew said. "Coming to the U.S. Postal Service was the best decision."

Five years later, she became a regular Rural Carrier, and the rest is history. Bilbrew recalls being one of the first females to be promoted as an Operations Support Specialist and Address Management Specialist at the district office in Jackson. She also worked as a Quality Improvement Specialist.

Bilbrew encourages employees to network. She was a member of the United Postmasters and Managers of America (UPMA) National Diversity Committee (2019-2021) and was a guest diversity speaker at the 2021 UPMA National Convention.

## Judge Brewer announces re-election

Special to The Canton News

Chancery Court Judge Cynthia L. Brewer announces her re-election campaign for Chancellor Place 2, District 11 of State of Mississippi, comprised of Leake and Madison Counties.

Judge Brewer was elected as Chancery Judge November 2006 and has proudly served 15 years. Prior to Chancery Court election, Judge Brewer served one term as County Judge for Madison County, MS. "I proudly serve the citizens on a daily basis while showing respect and courtesy to each person in a fair and impartial manner."

Chancery Court handles the most personal cases for people. The type of cases heard in Chancery Court deal with domestic issues when a home is broken, the custody and care of children afterward, the decisions on how assets are distributed following the death of a loved one, the decisions regarding real property and the commitment, care and needs for infirm or young persons. Each of these cases require many hard judgment decisions with fairness and impartiality using the expertise of law.

"Since beginning this work, I knew it was important to serve within and

beyond the courtroom. It is an honor to instruct and educate other Judges in Judicial Ethics and keeping the courtrooms open to self-represented litigants without compromising impartiality required of judges at the State level as well as nationwide. I have served as Judge in college and high school oratorical competitions as a method to inspire the next generation of legal scholars."

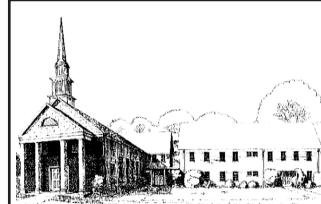


Special to the Canton News

"I became Senior Chancery Judge in 2015. I have heard over 16,000 Chancery Court cases during my service as Chancery Judge. As Senior Chancery Judge, I have additional duties such as setting budgets, appointing Special Judges for Emergency cases and for

Youth Court cases, meeting with Legislators on new laws, and setting volunteer lawyer clinics.

Chancery Court elections are non-partisan, which means candidates are listed on the ballot without designated party affiliation. The election is set November 8, 2022. "I want to thank the citizens for the support and trust given to me throughout my years as Chancery Court Judge. Once I am re-elected, I shall keep that trust by continuing to work hard and diligently perform the duties of Judicial Office."



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# Last one out, remember where you came from



By Courtney Warren

Pictured (l to r) are Barnes Wadford, Graham Lambert, Holden Chandler, Starr Spivey, Maggie Claire Thomas, Carrington Curtis, Carter Martin, Taylor Pratt, Zan Ellis and Chaney Hale.

By Courtney Warren

May came much sooner than our seniors were ready for, and especially for the seniors who know no other school than Canton Academy (CA). As they walked their halls for the very last time, these Panthers Babies, who have been at CA since first grade, reflected on their time and friendships here. Barnes Wadford, Graham Lambert, Holden Chandler, Starr Spivey, Maggie Claire Thomas, Carrington

Curtis, Carter Martin, Taylor Pratt, Zan Ellis and Chaney Hale were excited to put on their caps and gowns, which was a moment they've watched other CA seniors do every year since elementary school.

Senior Carrington Curtis said, "After being at CA for thirteen years, I really have a strong connection with all my friends and faculty. I'm truly going to miss CA and all the people I have met along the way. CA is a

place of comfort to me. I love how when you walk down the hallways, you know every single person. It's such a small and tightly-knit school, and I love that. You can really build friendships with everyone because of how small the classes are."

Knowing his school experience is unique, senior Holden Chandler is grateful for being able to spend his entire educational career at one school.

"I think it's special, because of not having to move and make new friends, creating a bond with the people around me. It has made my school experience the best, because of all of the memories. It has become a second home for me, because of my friends and all of the memories that we have shared throughout the years and all of the time I have spent on campus doing events and stuff," said Chandler.



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# Willis and Wadford recognized on awards day



Special to the Canton News

MCBL&F Executive Director Jan Collins, Samuel Wadford, Reese Willis and MCYL Committee Member Chris Roberts

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 & Foundation and

the Madison County Economic Development Authority recently sponsored the Madison County Youth Leadership program. Two of the best and brightest all around juniors from each of the Madison County 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 & Foundation and the Madison County Community Trust awarded scholarships to Canton Academy students Reese Willis and Samuel Wadford for their participation in the 2021-22 MCYL program.

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## CA 2022 Val and Sal named

By Courtney Warren

Canton Academy (CA) faculty and administrators were proud to announce the 2022 valedictorian to be John Hollis Hutchinson and the 2022 salutatorian to be Carli Cooper.

A native of Canton, Hutchinson is the winner of the Mississippi Heisman High School Scholarship, maintains a 4.0 GPA, has been named *Clarion Ledger's* "Athlete of the Week" and CA's 2021 Pitcher of the Year, and is a recipient of the Madison County Youth Leadership Scholarship. Hutchinson will be attending Hinds Community College in the fall to play with the Eagles baseball team and will then pursue a career in architectural engineering.

When asked what his favorite things are about CA, he said, "Mr. Smith's physics class and Mrs. Carter's calculus class have made me learn to really push myself; Coach Nash teaching me about the real world; my mom reminding me every second of every day to study; and Mrs. Blakemore for always believing in me and making me think I



John Hollis Hutchinson

can do anything."

Hutchinson said what he will miss is having his mom at CA to push him every day. "Even though she is annoying, I know she wants the best for me."

Cooper is a native of Madison. After maintaining Headmaster's List for her entire high school career, Cooper's hard work in academics also earned her the title of the Class of 2022's STAR Student. She is co-vice president of the National Honor Society, senior class parliamentarian, and former Editor in Chief of *The Panther Post*. She is attending Holmes Community College in the fall. Cooper says some of her favorite

things about school are "tornadoes and Bosco sticks at break and laughing with my best friends, Eliza and Mackenzie."

Cooper said what she will miss most about CA is "being in a small class where everyone is close and where you get to be one-on-one with teachers and classmates."

Commencement was held on Friday, May 13, for the class of 2022.

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## Madison County to receive more than \$23 million for flood prevention

By Guest Columnist Heath Hall

The Madison County Board of Supervisors recently announced they have been formally notified by the United States Department of Agriculture's Divisions of Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Watershed Flooding Prevention Operations program that the County will be awarded more than \$23 million for flood prevention for the City of Canton.

Supervisor Karl Banks stated, "This money will have a significant impact on stopping the flooding in the City of Canton, because our efforts will focus on the Upper Bear Creek. Canton's flooding issues can be significantly mitigated through this process."

Banks concluded, "I offer a special 'thank you' to my colleagues on the Board who were supportive of this initiative, having the shared foresight to study this issue, and to the local, regional, and national USDA representatives who helped secure this important financial commitment."

A watershed is an area of land that drains rainfall to a common outlet.

The Madison County Board of Supervisors is the local sponsor and will oversee this project in conjunc-



By Courtney Warren

tion with the State Conversationist and the United States Department of Agriculture. The money is based upon reimbursement of up to the

award amount of \$23.55 million.

For more information, contact Heath Hall at [hhall@smgllc.com](mailto:hhall@smgllc.com) or (601) 842-2291

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