



THE CANTON NEWS

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P.O. Box 1163, Canton, MS 39046

GROWING IN CANTON! Farmer's Market to begin at Jail

Special to The Canton News

Soon, Cantonians will be enjoying a new fresh way to shop local.

The Canton-Madison County Historical Society (CMCHS) is excited to present the community with The Old Jail Farmers Market, which will debut May 24 at 5:30 p.m. on the beautiful, historic grounds of the Old Madison County Jail.

There will be two more markets in June, on the 7th and 21st, and another two in July, on the 5th and 19th.

“For this market, Calvin Younger will be dishing up delicious fare from his food truck, and we invite you to bring a blanket or chair to come sit a spell while Frazier Riddell plays for us under the canopy of trees. John Malanchak, President of the Master Gardener Association, has committed to have a member of the Master Gardeners on-site to give gardening advice,” said Misty Slay, Farmer’s Market committee member.

Both the Old Jail Museum and log cabin will be open for tours, and there will be opportunities to visit with sponsors at their booths, where they’ll showcase health programs, farm equipment and activities for the children.

Visitors can meet local farmers and gardeners, bakers and hobbyists who will have their fresh, goods for sale. They can take home purchases in a reusable Old Jail Farmers Market bag that’ll be available for just \$3.

To set all of this in motion, Maureen Simpson, President of the CMCHS, has assembled a committee including Joy Foy, Sarah Ellis, Misty Slay, and Dana Nowell to oversee putting together and running the farmers market. The committee, working with Simpson and Stone Vincent of Mansell Media, has presented the plans to the Canton Mayor and Canton Board of Aldermen, built a marketing campaign, and solicited sponsors for the market.

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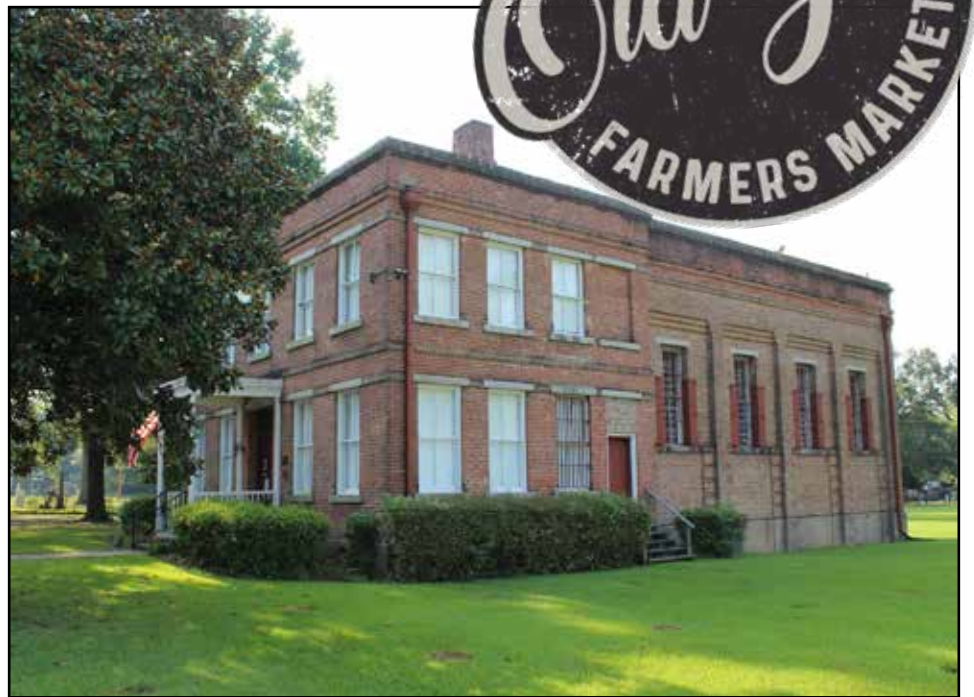


Photo by David Wiggins

Vendors and patrons alike can enjoy the aesthetic of the Old Jail while shopping at the market.

WHAT THE FARMERS SAY:

Dana Nowell, FLORIST:



“Mixed bouquets featuring colorful varieties of sunflowers, zinnias, dahlias and more.”

In His Steps Ministries:



“Carolyn Bacon (In His Steps Ministries) and Deb Primos (Local Professional Gardener) have been committed to growing vegetables and fruit organically since 2012. This year blueberries will be sold at the Canton Farmers Market to provide youth with summer jobs and scholarship to assist IHS students with educational needs. Any inquires should be directed to Carolyn Bacon at Cbacon@inhissteps.org or call 601-859-5708.”

SUMRALL FARMS:



“We will be bringing sweet corn to market. We grow a wide variety of other things like okra, tomatoes, watermelon, and cantaloupe. We will absolutely have sweet corn, which is what we’re known for.”

All photos Special to The Canton News



Happy Mother's Day

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cont. from front page

Jail

The committee is also actively seeking gardeners who need a home to sell their produce and is very hopeful that with a good crowd of customers and time, they can grow and offer all local farmers a market for their goods in Canton.

So far, the Old Jail Farmers Market will include produce from Sumrall Farms, flowers, eggs, vegetables, and baked goods from the commit-

tee members' gardens, honey from Boutwell Bee Farm, blueberries, when in season, from Jasper and Carolyn Bacon's orchard, and other offerings from local growers and farmers," said Slay.

"The vision for this market extends beyond the simple sale of goods. This is an opportunity to come and shake the hands that grew and prepared the food, glean from the wisdom of our gardeners-next-door, and gather with our community to support our own. On behalf of the committee, we hope to see each and every one of your friendly faces at the market this summer," said Slay.

Canton Tourism Executive Di-

rector May McCarty said, "I am thrilled about getting a farmer's market. It's a wonderful way to bring the community together, and who doesn't love fresh produce? This is a great addition to our town, and has the potential to attract visitors from neighboring communities. Anything that adds quality of life for the people of Canton or provides economic impact is a win-win."

SAVE THE DATE:

May 24

June 7

June 21

July 5

July 17

If anyone is interested in becoming a vendor for the market, booth space will cost just \$10. Details and applications are available on the Canton-Madison County Historical Society Facebook Page and at cantonhistoricalsociety.com/oldjail-farmersmarket.

The Old Jail Farmers Market would not be possible without the help of these sponsors: Platinum Sponsors: G.A. Carmichael, Madison County CO-Op, AG-UP, and Bank Plus Gold Sponsor: Performance Therapy Partner Sponsors: Moses Thompson and Madison County Farm Bureau Federation.



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Canton Tourism celebrates Mississippi's fourth largest industry

Special to The Canton News

The Canton Convention and Visitors Bureau and Film Office kicks off a very busy month with National Travel and Tourism Week the first week in May, followed by a host of local events.



May McCarty

To highlight the occasion, Canton Tourism is raising awareness about the importance of the state's fourth largest industry, as well as the responsibility of communities and the significance of supporting local business.

"Tourism adds quality of life and value to communities, as well as economic impact. We're doing that every day at our office by hosting events, offering educational resources, providing attractions and unique experiences for visitors, promoting our local businesses, and through historical preservation efforts. Without

thriving communities to promote, tourism would not survive; and, without the help of tourism, communities would not thrive. One cannot exist without the other," explains Executive Director of Canton Tourism, May McCarty.

In addition to Tourism Week, the Bureau also looks forward to hosting Ladies' Night Out on the Square on May 5, the spring Flea Market Arts and Crafts Show on May 12, and Law Enforcement Appreciation Week from May



11-17. Locals and visitors alike are invited to participate in each of these events, and the tourism office encourages the entire city to show their support for local law enforcement during their week of recognition.

Canton Tourism also looks forward to upcoming summer events and happenings for which plan-

ning is well underway, including hosting the Mississippi Championship Hot Air Balloon Festival, helping to promote Canton's Juneteenth Celebration, bringing back and enhancing the Young Filmmakers Camps and Allison's Wells artisans and craftsmen programs, as well as several new film projects in the works.

"We are so proud to be able to provide all of these events and programs, which not only benefit our town and enhance our community as a great place to live and work, but also gives visitors a reason to want to treat Canton as a destination," says McCarty. "Every hotel stay booked, every time someone eats in our restaurants or shops in our stores or even buys gas at our gas stations, that's economic impact. The bigger the impact, the more our community benefits. But we've still got to do our part locally. It starts at home. Shop small. Support local."

For more information about Canton Tourism, and for details about the upcoming events listed here and how to participate, visit www.cantontourism.com, or call Canton Tourism at 601-859-1307.



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Pictured is Justin Mason, second place winner, from Madison Crossing School. His art teacher is Kayla Cody.

Pictured is Stella Ivey, third place winner, from Mansdale Upper Elementary. Her art teacher is Sarah Noble.

Pictured is Shepard Derrick, first place Farm Bureau art winner in grades 1-6, with his parents and Adrian Garrison, Women Committee Vice Chair. Shepard attends Mansdale Upper Elementary, and his art teacher is Sarah Noble.

All photos Special to The Canton News

MADISON COUNTY FARM BUREAU FEDERATION NAMES ART CONTEST WINNERS

Special to The Canton News

The Madison County Farm Bureau Federation Women's Committee recently treated the student winners of the grade 1 – 6 art contest with a donut party. Students from county elementary schools were invited to participate in an art contest. The drawings were to depict life on the farm, farm scenes,

farm animals or agricultural crops. First place winners from each county are entered into a contest at the district level, and then those district winners compete at the state level. The state winners' artwork will be used in a 2023 Ag Art Calendar available statewide through the Farm Bureau office. Madison County recognizes local

winners with cash prizes at first, second and third place. This year's entire art class was entertained by the Women's Committee with refreshments. Keri Chatman, chairman of the Madison County Farm Bureau Federation Women's Committee, reported that there were many talented artists who entered the contest.

MCBL&F and MCCT present scholarship to MCYL student



Special to the Canton News

Jan Collins, MCBL&F; Dwight Lockett Jr.; and MCYL Committee Member Dr. Mary Sims Johnson. Not pictured is Janette Bartolo.



Special to the Canton News

CHS student Janette Bartolo.

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 are proud to sponsor 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 High School students Janette Bartolo and Dwight Lockett, Jr. for their participation in the 2021-22 MCYL program.

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MAY 1-7

National Travel & Tourism Week

MAY 5

Ladies' Night Out on the Square.

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- *\$10 pre-sale*
- *\$15 at the door*

MAY 11-17

Law Enforcement Appreciation Week

MAY 12

Canton Flea Market Arts & Crafts Show

MAY 24

Old Jail Farmers Market



Word of Prayer: Christians are the salt of the earth

By Guest Columnist Leroy Lacy

"You are the salt of the Earth, but what good is salt if it has lost its flavor? Can you make it salty again? It will be thrown out and trampled underfoot as worthless."



Leroy Lacy

Salt is not only one of the most important substances mentioned in the Bible, but it is also a necessity of life. The Hebrew people were well aware of the importance of salt to health. High concentrations of salt exist in the Dead Sea, a body of water that is nine times saltier than the ocean. The ancient cities of Sodom and Gomorrah may have been located near the south end of the Dead Sea. Here, Lot's wife was turned into a pillar of salt (see Genesis 19:26).

Salt had a significant place in Hebrew worship. It was included in the grain offering (see Leviticus 2:13), the burnt offering (see Ezekiel 43:24), and the incense (see Exodus 30:35). Part of the temple's offering included salt (see Ezra 6:9).

Jesus described His disciples as "the Salt of the Earth," urging them

to imitate the usefulness of salt (see Matthew 5:13). "Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone" (see Colossians 4:6).

The human body contains about four percent salt; without enough of it, muscles will not contract, blood will not circulate, food will not digest and the heart will not beat. Without a doubt, salt is vital to life.

If we consider the uses of salt, it will begin to show us the importance of it and what we are to be to the world around us. See, Jesus never said we were the sugar of the world, but, rather, we are the salt of the world. Salt stings, salt burns in open wounds on your body, salt preserves and salt changes the flavor of things. We, as Christians, must make a difference in our community, in our church and in the world.

Salt has many purposes and goes through a process in order for it to be used in its various capacities. The colorless substance has no odor but a characteristic taste. As Christians, we are compared to salt. We have a process that we go through that is orchestrated by the Holy Ghost. Just as salt heals, cures, melts and preserves, we are to heal the sin-sick conditions of this community and world. We are

to melt the stony hearts of humanity, help to cure them of their rebellion and preserve the godliness of His present age.

Having received the Gospel mantle, Jesus informs His disciples that they are salt, which means that they have a specific purpose and responsibility - which was to go everywhere preaching and teaching the Gospel. As Christians, we have been divinely designed and cosmically created to have a positive impact on this world and our communities. There are still some areas that need to have salt shaken onto them. We need salty Christians in our government, we need salty Christians in our homes, we need salty Christians in our schools, and we certainly need salty Christians in our churches.

The Purpose of Salt

As stated previously, salt has a wide variety of uses. It gives flavor to food that it did not otherwise have. God wants us to give a flavor to our church and community that it does not possess. However, salt can be bitter when used inappropriately. We cannot afford to be bitter and oversalty.

The text teaches that salt which loses its effectiveness is good for nothing. In the sight of God, Christians who lose their effectiveness are good for

nothing. Listen, salt that has lost its effectiveness cannot do itself or anyone else any good. And when God decrees that you are good for nothing, He sometimes calls you from life to reward. Therefore, it is imperative that you strive to walk worthy of the vocation wherewith you have been called (see Ephesians 4:1). Second Corinthians 5:17 teaches that, if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature; if you are a new creature, you endeavor to make life more flavorful for others.

Lastly, if we as Christians are going to make an impact, we must work together, and we must be on the same team - that team is Jesus Christ. Without God, we can do nothing.

May God continue to bless each of you to be the salt of the Earth.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Rev. Dr. Leroy Lacy is the pastor of New True Light Baptist Church. He is the owner of Lacy's Insurance Agency in Canton as well as the Executive Director of 100 Black Men of Canton. His favorite scripture is Romans 12:2, "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service."

View from the Window: the Millers share their love of gardening

By Guest Columnist Sherrye Lacour and Wanda Baldwin

Although the rain kept Canton Garden Club members from taking the planned tour of Judy and Johnny Miller's beautiful property, we were able to see much of their labor of love in photos Judy had recently taken. However, we were so inspired by the photos that we just had to go see it in person.

Judy and Johnny purchased the unimproved property in 2001 and immediately built a picket-fenced garden for a place to move plants from their existing home. For two years, they designed and built their new house, taking care to include views of the surrounding property from as many points in the home and on the porches as possible. They started the grounds improvements in 2003 and still continue to make additions to them. Paths weave throughout the property with beautiful beds, sitting areas, and a potting shed constructed of old windows with a lovely herb garden in front.

The entire family has contributed to this work in progress. Their son made signs designating the potting shed/greenhouse as a "Secure," or sanctuary in French, and the garden area as a "Potegar," or French gar-

den with both flowers and herbs. While there for a holiday visit, family members were given bulbs and told to plant them wherever they wanted. The result was surprises everywhere!

We look forward to future visits to see additions to these beautiful gardens.

Be sure to check out the Canton Square. The Garden Club has planted hundreds of spring bulbs, which are now in full bloom. On March 26, Canton Garden Club/Keep Mississippi Beautiful spearheaded efforts to spruce up not only the square, but the entrances to the City of Canton, picking up litter, pulling weeds, and mulching beds. The City of Canton Police and Public Works Departments, as well as Aldermen Lafayette Wells, Tim Taylor, and Fred Esco, were on site to provide much needed support and assistance, keeping workers safe and disposing of bags and bags of debris. Other participants were the Canton Tourism Beautification Committee, Canton Lions Club, 100 Black Men, Grace Episcopal Church, Center Terrace Baptist Church, First Presbyterian Church, First Baptist Church, First United Methodist Church, Doak's Treaty Chapter DAR, W.A.I.T., Sacred Heart Catholic Church, and



Special to the Canton News

Thornton Chapel United Methodist Church. Passers-by were very complimentary of the improvements, and our hope is that this will instill pride in the community and help stem the litter problem.

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.

Dodson honored by Cantonians

Special to The Canton News

About five years ago, Joy Dodson became the Executive Director of Keep Canton Beautiful. Her enthusiasm and dedication greatly improved the appearance of the City of Canton.

While litter remains an on-going challenge in our community, Dodson made a huge impact in organizing the Great Canton Cleanup in the past. "Riches in the Ditches" is an innovative program to encourage the community's participation in picking up litter in the city. Dodson was instrumental in creating the "Recycling Initiative" at Canton High School. She worked with CHS Principal Pamela Self and the student body president to involve the entire school in this project. Not only did Joy Dodson organize this program, but she also picked up the bags of recycled items and delivered them to Canton Recycling each



Joy Dodson, former Executive Director of Keep Canton Beautiful with former First Lady of Mississippi, Deborah Bryant.

week.

Dodson obtained a grant to build a pavilion on city property near the co-op. This project includes plans for landscaping and the use of this area as an outdoor classroom and for picnics and parties. It is a great pavilion with unlimited possibilities for community use.

At the end of 2021, she asked the Canton Garden Club to add Keep Canton Beautiful to their program areas. Since their missions are quite similar, members felt it was a perfect way to combine their efforts in caring for the city.

Dodson was wished well as she stepped down from her role to take on a more active role as Marketing Director for Cadillac of Jackson. Through her dedicated leadership, much has been accomplished in cleaning up litter, improving recycling and beautifying the City of Canton.

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Sanders named March Student of the Month




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Pictured (l to r) are Julie King, service director of Mercedes-Benz of Jackson; Charlancia Sanders, Canton Career Center "March Student of the Month;" and Jan Collins, MCBL&F Executive Director.

Special to The Canton News

Madison County Business League & Foundation (MCBL&F) member Julie King, service director of Mercedes-Benz of Jackson, recent-

ly presented Canton Career Center "March Student of the Month" Charlancia Sanders with an award. Sanders is enrolled in the automotive program.



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CA befriends the Easter Bunny



Special to the Canton News

Tinsley Ramsey (3K) won't let anything stop her from the egg hunting.

Special to The Canton News

The Canton Academy elementary Panthers had an egg-filled day before Easter Break. From parties and

Easter songs, to egg hunts, to a visit from the giant furry bunny himself, students were constantly reminded of the celebration of Jesus.



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Canton through a lens: "The land I love"



Special to the Canton News

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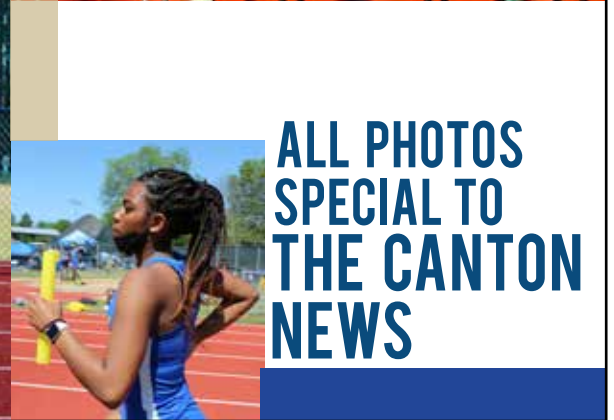
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Burke and Goodloe named Royalty

By Courtney Warren

Ainsley Belle Burke and Marcus Goodloe were recently named Canton Academy (CA) Prom King and Queen for 2022.

Burke is a member of the Varsity Cheer Squad, Softball and Track teams and a Diamond Girl for Baseball. At this year's Who's Who ceremony, she was nominated for "Best Laugh" and voted "Best Dancer" by her peers. She also placed in the "Top 10" for the beauty portion. After graduation, Ainsley Belle plans to attend Mississippi State University. Belle said some of her favorite memories include, "all the fun field trips and making videos with Mr. Millet, working after school and summers with Mrs.



Photo by Courtney Warren

Judy, and of course the Friday Pep-Rally's during the fall football season." Goodloe will attend Co-Lin Community College in the fall to play football and study kinesiology. He plans to continue his studies at the University of Southern Mississippi and then pursue a career as an athletic trainer. Goodloe was one of three nominees this year for Mr. Canton Academy and has won many sports awards in his time at Canton Academy, including "Most Athletic." He says the thing he will miss most about school is his friends and the memories he has made with all his teammates over the past years. His favorite CA memory is "making it to the state championship when everybody doubted us."

Jerry Kerner for Congress June 7th

2nd Congressional District

VOTE the Democrat Primary Ballot



THE PRINCIPLE:

Mississippi needs and deserves people in Congress who will work to keep our Country governed by the Constitution and work to prevent the un-American attacks on our Freedoms and Liberty by the wannabe tyrants who mistakenly think they are in charge. We are The People who will not re-elect any Incumbent member of Congress who cowardly supports attempts to pass un-Constitutional Laws and who lacks the Courage to actively oppose this Legislation which in itself is a blatant and deliberate act of Betrayal of all Loyal Americans.

THE PROBLEM:

The vast majority of People who describe themselves as Democrats are good, honest people and loyal Americans. The division in our Country is not between The People who are sincere Democrats or Republicans or Independents, but rather is only the division between Loyal Americans of all Parties and the relatively few childish and un-American Incumbents who dishonestly call themselves Democrats while betraying us all.

HOWEVER:

Mississippi Democrats, Republicans and Independents have a clear choice this year to elect a Loyal American who will Follow the Constitution and actually represent the People of Mississippi's 2nd Congressional District. **Since Mississippi is an Open Primary state every registered Republican, Independent and Democrat voter can choose to Vote in the June 7th Primary on the Democrat ballot**, and by doing so we will remind our dishonest Incumbents in Washington DC that there still is a US Constitution and that they work for We The People.

THEREFORE:

Mississippi's 2nd District is being mis-Represented in Congress by a gullible follower of the anti-American House leadership who supports the un-Constitutional Legislation being peddled in the US House of Representatives. The Democrat Primary on June 7th is our opportunity to correct this injustice by refusing to vote for the Incumbent. We are The People who will send to Congress Jerry Kerner, a person who is a Democrat, but more importantly is an adult who appreciates and embraces the Values and Principles of this Great State, and who has the Integrity and Courage to sincerely Preserve, Protect and Defend the Constitution of the United States.

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Letter from the Editor: Sometimes it is the house

By Courtney Warren

My best friend is buying her forever home, and it has been quite the adventure. One of my first columns was about my home. We call it “Fancy House.”

I don’t have a childhood home. When I was younger, we moved homes often. We had a blue house, a brick house, the “little Thomaston house,” the “big Thomaston house,” the “Southern Grace house,” and “the Rome house” - all named after their streets...but I never had a home. When I think of returning somewhere for Christmas, when I think of where my stocking will be, when I think of neighborhood trick or treating, it’s never the same. My brothers are my childhood, and they make up all of my memories.

When I first got married, I was really set on the idea of a forever home, and I couldn’t quite get my husband to understand why.

I didn’t want a magazine house or a transitional home. I don’t want to dream of a bigger place one day.

I know exactly why he doesn’t understand, why he loves to dream.

If you walk into his home, there’s a room with all of his high school football memorabilia. His diplomas are there, beside our engagement

picture. Old newspaper clippings are framed along the walls.

If you walk down the hall, there are places on the carpet where first steps were taken, where pallets were made for sleeping during storms. There are pencil markings in both bedroom closets marking the height of each Warren brother until they moved out of the house to go to college.

He can point to where he practiced t-ball, then baseball, football, and where he had to pick up sticks when he got in trouble. He can walk the path he’s walked since he was born to get to Mamaw and Papaw’s house.

He doesn’t understand a forever home, because he’s always had one.

The Christmas tree has always gone in the same place. The garage code has always been the same numbers.

While there have been renovations, he can still pull a chair into the same place where he used to ask for “pink milk” for breakfast.

He can now play with his own daughter in the same yard where he played catch with his dad.

As my best friend searches for her home, we are constantly reminded “it’s not the house, but the people in it.”

But I disagree. Sometimes it is the house, isn’t it? Sometimes it’s the memories that are held within those



Photos by Courtney Warren

four walls. Memories of laughter and tears that other four walls will never hear in those moments.

My goal is to have pencil marks. To have wall scratches and cramped spaces and the exact same spot for the Christmas tree. I want her, like

her daddy, to be 32 one day and know that, back at Fancy House, her stocking is on the mantle. Her measurements are on the paint. Her laughter is sealed into the walls of her home...because sometimes, it’s the house.

Canton Lions update: celebrating McPhail



Special to the Canton News

Pictured left to right: Tamika Liddell, Moses Thompson, John McPhail, Daniel Logan, Tom Corlett, and Danny Murphy.

Special to The Canton News

Approximately twenty-five Lions were on hand to celebrate with Lion John McPhail from St. Catherine’s for his fifty years of being a Canton Lion. John’s son, David, participated in the luncheon at the Canton Country Club.

Lion McPhail served as the speaker and gave a very moving and motivational speech about the helpful work Lions do to support the city and fellow citizens. He reminded the group that the Canton Lions have touched

lives throughout the city with the years of chicken barbeques, annual auctions, eyeglasses programs, and helping with city projects.

He wrapped up his speech with a challenge to do one’s best every day, because, according to Lion McPhail, “Life goes by really fast.”

President Moses Thompson presented McPhail with a fancy Lions plaque for the fifty years of service, and everyone took turns getting pictures made with this semi-centennial Lion.



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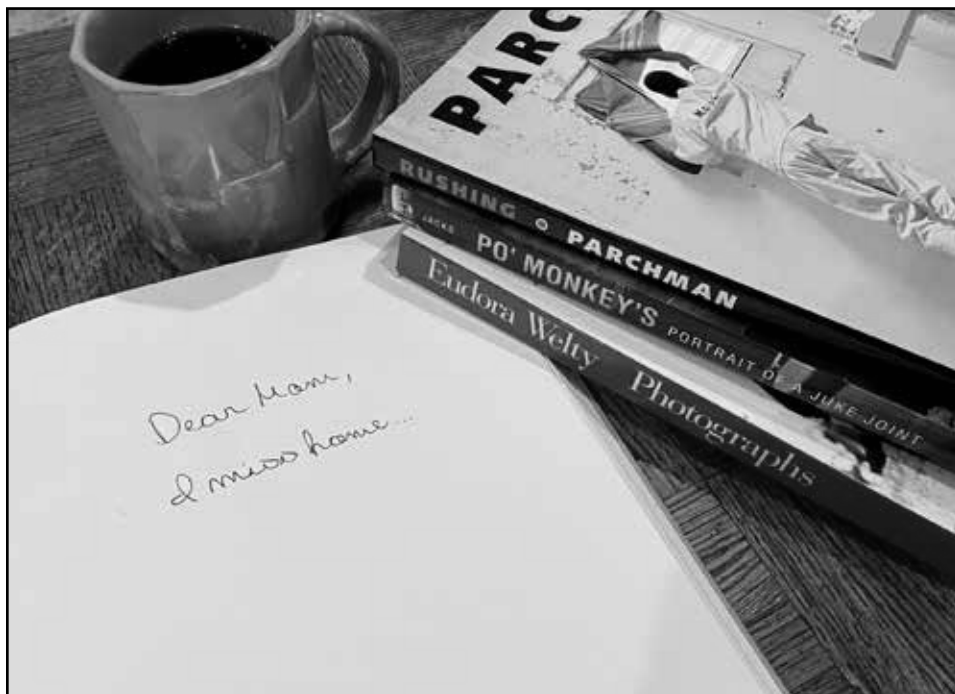


Photo by Lindsay Pecou

Photography books of our state just aren't quite the same.

By Guest Columnist Mary Jane Boutwell

Time for me to get on my soapbox. If you know my reference, thank your teachers. They taught you and teach you basic knowledge and other bits and pieces that made and make learning fun, interesting, and challenging.

Back when I was traveling all over the U.S. with the rock club, I kept running into disbelief when I said I was from Mississippi.

One of the more memorable moments was when a grandson and I were in the Northeast at an awards banquet. We sat eight to ten around the table, and everyone introduced themselves with their name and homeplace. When I said I was from Mississippi, everyone said there was no way that was correct.

I answered with, "My grammar is pretty good. When I take a drink, I know where to replace my glass. I eat with a knife and fork – not my fingers. I am wearing shoes, and I am not pregnant. I am from Mississippi and proud of it."

Just recently, I have added to my list another noteworthy person who graduated from the Mississippi public school system. Four out of five graduated from the engineering school at Mississippi State (starting in 1960).

One led the team that designed the ground-hugging air force plan brought into service in Vietnam. One helped design tools the astronauts used in space. One worked her way up in Amazon to the point one supervisor tried to keep her from advancing. The fourth went

to Mississippi State in spite of family objections, graduated, got a job, and became a project leader in less than a year and has continued to assume more challenges as he moved up and up.

The fifth person never got a college degree but designed and built electronic parts that are in space today.

And these are only five I know that graduated from the "terrible" Mississippi public school system.

Now, I do know the schools are reinforced by parents, homelife, and the individuals. I say "and the individual," as I do know something about each, and the parents did not do the school work for the child.

One last thing, nothing to do with our schools, but much to do with people. I know a no-longer-young man that worked part time in a small town Chinese-owned grocery through high school and later. By exposure, he learned to speak Chinese. Occasionally, he would drive the owner to Texas to visit family. On one of the trips, the storeowner got on to his family for not learning to speak Chinese. His comment was "he can speak better Chinese than any or all of you."

I am proud to be from Mississippi. Yes, we do have problems, but you should try living elsewhere to put things into perspective.

"Yes, we can read. A few can write."

Mississippi...believe it.

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

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Wedding Cookies

Ingredients:

- ½ pound butter
- ½ cup sugar
- 2 cups sifted plain flour
- 1 cup chopped nuts
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract

ON THE TABLE: WEDDING COOKIES

RECIPE FROM COURTNEY WARREN

Directions:

1. Soften or melt the butter.
2. Add the sugar, mix in the flour and flavoring, then add the nuts.
3. Roll into balls.
4. Put the balls on a light-colored pan and cook for 30 minutes at 325 degrees.
5. Roll in powdered sugar before serving.

By Courtney Warren

When I was in elementary school, a sweet older lady named Mrs. Yeats lived on the other side of our backyard fence. She lived alone, her husband having passed years prior to us becoming her neighbors. Our families sort of adopted each other.

Mom would be sure to take her a plate of supper each night and have coffee with her in the mornings. She let my baby brothers and I roam her backyard and always had a bowl of Jolly Ranchers in her living room.

She told story after story that my too-young heart was simply not old enough to treasure, but one thing she did give us was the wedding cookie recipe.

Everyone and their momma makes these, but I was first introduced to them through Mrs. Yeats - and they are my favorite treat. When my mother-in-law made them for Christmas one year, it brought back those afternoons playing on her floor while they baked. Now, she doesn't know why these are special (I'm sure she does now, because she reads our newspaper), but anytime we have a family gathering, these treats are on the table and sent home with me.

I love that something as simple as dough and sugar can spark comfort in our hearts. We made these a lot when I was younger, and they remind me of family, good neighbors, and my brothers covered in powdered sugar.

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Alvin Davis, Director of Parks and Recreation

By Inesha Jackson

Alvin Davis, the Director of Parks and Recreation, is passionate about keeping the City of Canton beautiful and saving the youth in the community.



Alvin Davis

The Canton native is the eldest of ten children of James and Rosezella Davis. He is a graduate of Velma Jackson High School, Holmes Community College, and Alcorn State University, where he met his wife, Tonya Henry Davis. In their thirty-one years of marriage, they have three sons, Deon, Alvin Jr., and Tadrick; two grandchildren and one goddaughter, Mariah, Meyah and Nylah. In Davis' spare time, he enjoys watching and attending sporting events, traveling with his wife or friends, and working with his livestock. In addition to this, he is a member of the Madison County Senior Citizens Service Agency, the City of Canton Planning Board, and the A-Team Tailgate Club.

After Davis sought employment in various areas in Canton, he was approached about a position with athletics by his softball teammate and Alderman Sammy Brown. Davis accepted the position and remained in the Parks and Recreation Department before being promoted to the Director. Since then, Davis has served as the Director of Parks and Recreation for fifteen years. On a day-to-day basis, Davis' duties and responsibilities include planning and executing each day's activities for a staff of eight people. The group is responsible for maintaining Canton's five parks and ensuring that the city has beautiful landscapes along Highway 22 and the boulevards. He also oversees the Canton Multipurpose Complex, where many concerts and events are held.

"I can evaluate myself by seeing the improvements made to the de-

partment and the parks. When I have former employees see me on the street and thank me for the opportunity to work or thank me for a piece of advice I've given, it's in those moments I realize some things can't be measured in material things," Davis said.

Several of Davis' greatest achievements as Director of Parks and Recreation include the SAAB

Park improvements, hosting the Black World Softball tournament, hosting Senator Hillary Clinton at the Mul-

tipurpose Complex, hosting the Hunter Jumpers Association and having various artists such as 50 Cent, Ludacris, and Master P hold concerts at the Multipurpose Complex.

"There have been several individuals who have played important roles in shaping my life and career path. Most importantly was Jesus. My father, Coach Tra-

cy Steele and Mr. George Cole helped instill in me the importance of education and made sure I was always learning. Mr. Lewis Love and Mr. Bryce Purvis instructed me on what it took to work in the Park Department. They taught me about the value of treating individuals right," Davis said.

Davis is motivated by seeing the joy on children's faces when they are enjoying sporting events and seeing the smiles that come from seniors when they enjoy the special events hosted for them. Davis, who is driven to do what makes everyone happy, urges members of the community to "be fair, be honest, and be trustworthy."

"I would love to see more parents/volunteers in the youth activities. I would love to expand our activities for the youth in order to deter them from criminal activities. I believe with more parental involvement and activities, we can eliminate the youth crime and teach them to be more productive citizens. It will take our parents, our school leaders, our City leaders, and our county leaders to all get involved in saving our youth. Through recreation and activities, I believe we can do it," Davis said.



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Last one out, I'll be there for you

By the Canton Academy Yearbook Staff

When friends become family, relationships are changed forever. These friends have found life-long relationships in their fellow Panthers. Math chair Kathleen Penn and Administrative Assistant Sarah Willis have been best friends since they were in elementary. "It's pretty cool to think about how Sarah and I grew up together being best friends, and we both ended up back in Canton working at the same school together," said Penn.

Reese Willis (11) and Riley Lambert (10) have been a dynamic duo since they were both three years old. "She's always there for me when I need a laugh or give a hug. She's a

great supporter and a good friend," said Willis.

Taylor Pratt (12) and Chaney Hale (12) have been terrorizing their teachers together since they were in K-4.



Photo by Chance Persac

"It's the best feeling in the world when you know that you have a friend that will have your back through thick and thin. I know that if anything ever goes wrong that Taylor will always have my back. It's special when you have a

friend that you know you can always count on to be there," said Hale.

Friends are the people that are there for you to celebrate the good and bad times. At Canton Academy, friendships form on the playground but last long after the grad caps are tossed in the air.

Cooper named CA STAR Student

By Courtney Warren

Canton Academy senior Carli Cooper was named STAR Student by the Mississippi Economic Council. The STAR Student program seeks to recognize students for academic and ACT test achievement. Students are awarded a certificate and medallion as recognition upon becoming a STAR Student.

"It was such an honor to be named STAR student, and I'm so thankful that I got to represent Canton Academy in such a big way," said Cooper. "Mr. Smith has taught me for three consecutive years now, and I selected him as my STAR Teacher, because he has taught me so much, not only about science, but about the world and the many opportunities that are available to me once I graduate. His kindness and patience, especially with high school students, inspires me, and I couldn't think of a more deserving teacher."

"It was an honor to be chosen as the STAR Teacher by Carli. She is a won-

derful student, and I'm proud of what she has achieved academically," said CA Science Chair Garrett Smith.

According to the Mississippi Economic Council, the STAR Student program does not directly award scholarships - any scholarship a student is granted is given through the Kelly Gene Cook, Sr. Charitable Foundation, Inc. or other outside organizations.

To be eligible for the STAR Student honor, a student may be a regularly enrolled senior or an approved dually enrolled student in an accredited public or private high school

and/or an accredited post-secondary institution. The student must be completing his or her last year of work and must be eligible to receive a diploma in the current school year. The student must have an overall ACT composite score of at least 25 and an overall average of 93 or above in selected subjects in the ninth, tenth, eleventh, and first-semester twelfth grades.



Special to the Canton News

Carli Cooper and Garrett Smith

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Meteorologist Scottlin Williams visits CNGA Scholars



Special to the Canton News

Special to The Canton News

Canton Ninth Grade Academy scholars enjoyed learning more about the weather and careers in broadcasting from WJTV meteorologist Scottlin Williams.

Williams, a graduate of Mississippi State, shared her expertise with scholars about everything from the educational requirements for a career in meteorology to the salary range for this profession. Scholars say they

were excited to learn about Scottlin's storm-chasing adventures and how she prepared herself for this career by taking higher-level math and science courses while in school. She also encouraged students to chase

their dreams by believing they, too, can achieve if they work hard. CNGA scholars thanked Scottlin by presenting her with a certificate of appreciation for taking time out of her busy schedule to inspire them.

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