



# THE CANTON NEWS



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P.O. Box 1163, Canton, MS 39046

Good News You Can Use • December 8, 2022 • Vol. 8, No. 12 • Canton, Mississippi

# Christmas Village

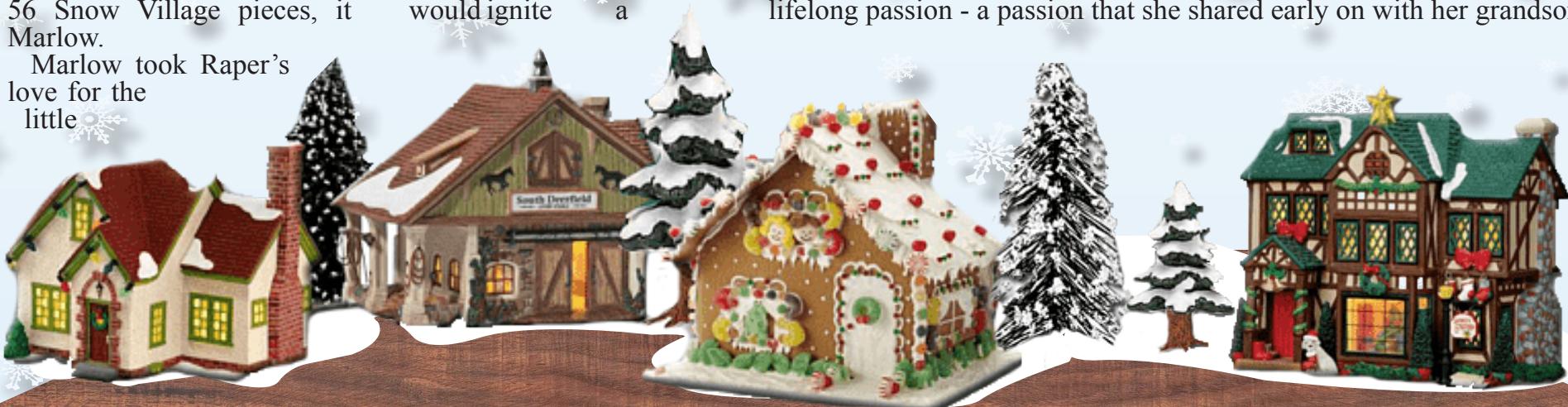
*comes to the Square*

By Courtney Warren

The Rose Room in downtown Canton has been transformed into a sparkling Christmas Village for all to enjoy. Each delicate home has a glossy finish and the longer visitors look, the more they are bound to see. From various Christmas churches with delicate stained glass windows to a ski lodge in the upper right hand corner, it's hard not to want to visit this winter. The excitement of Christmas tradition led Neal Marlow to bring the village to Canton after the passing of his grandmother, Dorothy Raper, earlier this year.

In 1985, Raper walked into Hallmark in Grenada, Mississippi, and was carried away by "the prettiest little thing she'd ever seen." They were miniature lighted buildings of all types. Little did she know that when she began collecting Department 56 Snow Village pieces, it would ignite a lifelong passion - a passion that she shared early on with her grandson, Marlow.

Marlow took Raper's love for the little



buildings and expanded upon it by creating enormous layouts in her home. Every year, it became an obsession for Marlow to see how much bigger he could make it and to try something new. The question always asked was "how long did this take to put up?" And the answer is, it's not the actual time to put it up, but the hours of endless planning and thinking about the layout. It sometimes took a few days of planning, building platforms, wiring, checking and rechecking bulbs. It was a tough job, but a wonderful labor of love.

For nearly twenty years, without fail, Marlow put the village up in Raper's home.

Over the years, the small collection of a tiny village grew into a sprawling metropolis. It rapidly became part of the family's Christmas tradition. Word soon spread around the community about the snow village, and it became a Christmas tradition for many others, as well.

Always welcoming, Raper and Marlow invited everyone to come see it, regardless if they knew them. Local newspapers regularly carried the story of the snow village each season, extending the open invitation and notifying everyone of when it would be lit.

People drove from all over to see it, and others who came from out of state would just make it a permanent stop on their way to visit family over the holidays. Some would come many nights through the season, or others would just sit and stare as long as they could at the warm glow coming from the little houses. It captivates people's imagination around the holidays and transports them to a happy and peaceful little world.

Seeing the joy on people's faces was something that never got old to Raper. It was the excitement the village brought to people that made Christmas for Raper and Marlow.

Marlow works hard to display the village in her honor, because she loved to share it; and he says she would be thrilled to know that people are still dropping by to see her snow village.

The snow village will be up for all to see during the Christmas festivities in downtown Canton. Those who visit are urged to keep an eye out for the special church on the hill in the upper left hand corner, as it was Raper's favorite piece in the village.

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# Canton Christmas Fest ready to sparkle in 35th year

Special to the Canton News

Once again, Mississippi's original City of Lights prepares to shine this holiday season. The 2022 Canton Christmas Festival kicks off on the Historic Canton Square with Opening Weekend and Merchants' Holiday Open House Friday, November 25, through Sunday, November 27, from 5 until 9 p.m. The festival reopens nightly December 2 through 23, with the 16th Annual Sip 'N Cider event taking place on Friday, December 9.

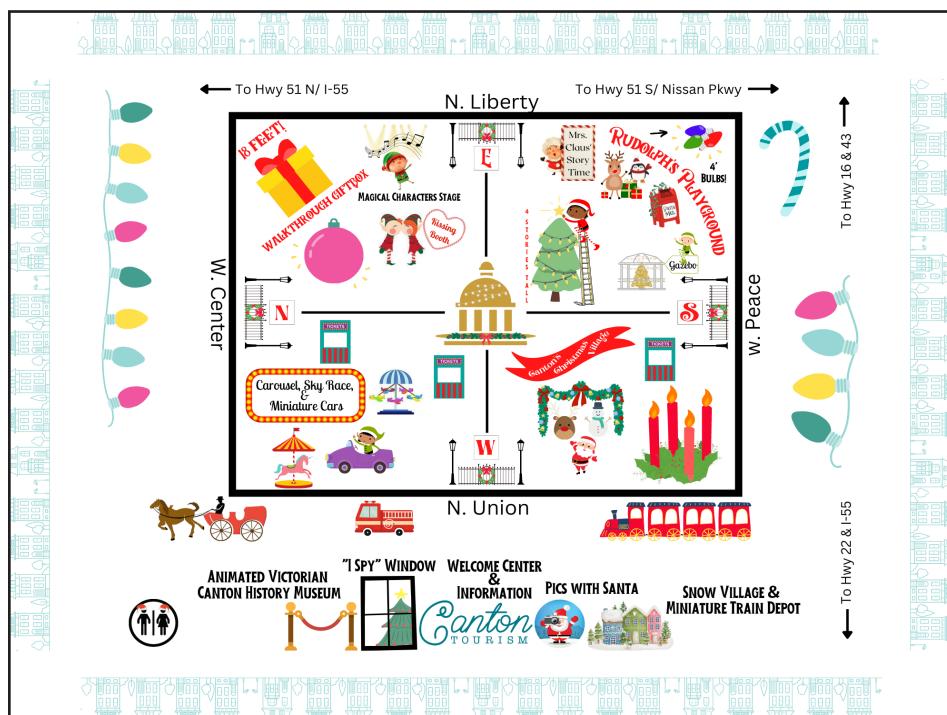
Popular favorites return, such as the Canton Christmas Festival treasure, Storytime with Mrs. Claus, along with performances by her Magical Cast of Characters. The towering four-story LED Christmas tree will once again be present on the historical courthouse grounds, along with over 100,000 twinkling lights around the Square. Also returning are family favorite fire truck and train rides around the Square, as well as the Victorian carousel, sky race, and miniature cars for children. On select dates, attendees can cozy up with a horse-drawn carriage ride and stop by the Canton Welcome Center for photos with Santa himself - and to see who made the Nice List.

New features visitors can look forward to include a massive 18-foot

walk-through giftbox light display and Rudolph's Playground, where children will find Mrs. Claus' reading porch, magical reindeer and festive penguin photo ops, and a glittering Finding Nemo display returns with a splash! Here, children of all ages will also find one of three mailboxes, provided by Canton Tourism, where they can mail their Letters to Santa. Letters written from home are also encouraged!

While the multiple sights, sounds and various rides are always enjoyable, the Canton Christmas Festival also offers several interactive features. Visitors can walk through Canton's Christmas Village for souvenirs from Rudolph's Barn, Frosty's Igloo, and Santa's Workshop. Children can peek through the "I Spy" window to see if they can find the elves' Top 10 favorite toys. All ages can step into the past and experience what a true Victorian Christmas looked like in Canton, as Christmas comes alive in the animated Canton History Museum. And no one will want to miss seeing Santa's All-American Snow Village and Miniature Train Depot, an impressive display of more than three hundred pieces at Canton Tourism.

"The holidays are such a magical time of year, and we are just honored that so many people choose to make memories with us in Canton,"



Special to The Canton News

says May McCarty, Canton Tourism Executive Director. "This festival is thirty-five years old. We have families who have been coming to the festival for generations, many even from out of state. Our gazebo with its gorgeous white tree has become a popular place for couples to get engaged. And for those of us born and raised in Canton, it's a major part of our childhood. We're

very proud of what we've created and the joy it brings into people's lives."

Canton invites everyone to bring their family and make Christmas memories again in the City of Lights. For more information and for a complete schedule of festivities and map of the festival, visit [www.CantonTourism.com](http://www.CantonTourism.com), or call Canton Tourism at 601-859-1307.



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MISSISSIPPI PRESS ASSOCIATION

**Volume 8, Issue 12**  
**Circulation 14,000**

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The Canton News is published on the first Thursday of each month in Canton, Mississippi.

For submission information, email news@cantonnews.net

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**www.cantonnews.net**

## Lewis returns home for Thanksgiving Turkey Giveaway

By Guest Columnist Sophie Abuzeid

Damien Lewis returned to Canton to give away Thanksgiving turkeys to local families in the community. Lewis, starting guard for the Seattle Seahawks and former all-American at LSU, was once a participant at In His Steps Ministries in Canton. Lewis participated in the sports ministry and mentoring programs at IHS while he was growing up in Canton. The sports ministry's aim was to introduce local youth to Christ and enhance their personal development. Lewis often volunteered in the community and has always had a heart for the folks in Canton.

After attending Northwest Mississippi Community College and LSU, Lewis was drafted into the NFL in 2020. Since his professional achievements,

Lewis often returns to his hometown to give back to the community which shaped him. Lewis said, "Home will always be home. And home is where my heart is."

Lewis demonstrated the spirit of

Lewis' friend and spiritual advisor was excited to see him return and make an impact in the lives of Canton residents. A participant in the giveaway said, "It is so wonderful that Damien has not forgotten about his roots." Everyone at

IHS is so proud of Lewis and seeing how he has continued to honor the Lord and his community while being successful in his career. "I hope that I can always be an encouragement to our youth and help them to strive to be their best," he said. Lewis' priorities have always been God, family, and football which are evident by the ways he gives back to his community.

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Sophie Abuzeid is the Media and Communications Specialist

for In His Steps Ministries. Sophie is an alumna of Mississippi College and now resides in her hometown of San Antonio, TX.



all photos Special to the Canton News

generosity and kindness through his actions. The Canton community was excited to see Lewis return. Rev. Bacon, executive director of IHS and

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### Miller named District teacher of the year

### Canton Through a Lens: Lunar Eclipse



Special to the Canton News

Lakeshia Miller was recently selected as the 2022-2023 District Teacher of the Year for the Canton Public School District. Miller also serves as the Teacher of the Year for Nichols Middle School.



Photo by Betsy Sligh

The Canton News features a photo each month by a Cantonian or of Canton. This month's feature is by photographer Betsy Sligh and is a composite of the lunar eclipse from November. The phases top to bottom are 3:21, 3:35, 4:13, and 4:51 a.m. Totality began at 4:16 a.m. This is the last total lunar eclipse until March 2025.

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# MCBL&F and MCEDA announce Vision winners

*Special to the Canton News*

The Madison County Business League & Foundation (MCBL&F) and the Madison County Economic Development Authority (MCEDA) recently hosted the 14th annual Vision Celebration at the Country Club of Jackson. Five hundred Madison County Business League & Foundation members, elected/appointed officials and special guests attended the luncheon. Dr. Dave Altig, Senior VP of Research at the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta, was the keynote speaker. The theme of the event was “Vision for Economic Growth.”

The Madison County Economic Development Authority and the Madison County Business League & Foundation created the Vision Award and the Visionary Leadership Award in 2010 as a means of recognizing and thanking cer-

North America – Canton. Nissan announced recently that the Canton manufacturing plant will play a key role in the electrification of Nissan’s US lineup with

ment company offering full-service real estate, real estate development, brokerage, property management, construction management and investments

ploy approximately 2,300 full-time and part-time employees across six states. In Madison County, the hospitality assets under Kerioth’s umbrella carry an ongoing economic impact of approximately \$60 million annually, with retail and restaurant sales accounting for an estimated \$35 million annually.

Hank Waterer, First Commercial Bank, received the 2022 Outstanding Madison County Young Professional (MCYP) Award. As Chair of the MCYP Steering Committee, Waterer successfully led volunteer efforts for the Canton Reality Fair, Velma Jackson Career Fair, two professional development forums and philanthropic projects.

The Madison County Business League & Foundation was created in 2008 by the Madison County Economic Development Authority (MCEDA) and the Madison County Board of Su-



*Nissan Canton was the 2022 Vision Award winner.*

*Special to the Canton News*



*Special to the Canton News*

*Receiving the 2022 Young Professional of the Year Award was Hank Waterer.*



*Special to the Canton News*

*Clint Herring received the 2022 Visionary Leadership Award.*

tain stand out Madison County companies and individuals for their visionary leadership contributions to the community, including unique or remarkable accomplishments, investments in people and the resulting impact that their operations have on the local area economy.

The prestigious 2022 Vision Award was presented to Nissan

the production of two all-new, all-electric vehicles: one Nissan and one Infiniti model in 2025. The project is a \$500 million investment and will upskill nearly 2,000 jobs at the Canton plant.

This year’s recipient of the Visionary Leadership Award was Clint Herring, Founder and CEO of Kerioth Corporation in Ridgeland. Kerioth is a diverse invest-

in healthcare, hospitality, and wellness enterprises nationwide, including all operational components of those service lines. Over the last eighteen years in Madison County alone, the development and economic impact has exceeded \$375 million, with another approximately \$75 million underway for the next three years. Kerioth’s companies em-

pervisors to promote economic planning and development.

The mission of the Madison County Economic Development Authority is to assist existing businesses and to attract new investment and higher paying jobs to Madison County in an effort to increase the tax base and improve the quality of life and economic wealth of our citizens.

# Canton Elementary School brings joy to others



Special to The Canton News

In an effort to spread kindness and cheer, students from Canton Elementary School dropped off happies for the residents of Canton Manor.

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# MCBL&F presents plaques to outgoing directors at Vision celebration



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Madison County Business League & Foundation Chairman Charlotte Seals presents Barney Daly, Trustmark, with a plaque during the 2022 Vision Celebration, in appreciation for his service on the Board of Directors from 2018-2022.



Special to the Canton News

Madison County Business League & Foundation Chairman Charlotte Seals presents Brad Gatlin, BankPlus, with a plaque during the 2022 Vision Celebration, in appreciation for his service on the Board of Directors from 2018-2022.

# MCBL&F hosts luncheon



Special to the Canton News

Pictured (l to r) are luncheon speakers Amber Coeur, chief executive officer and president, Lobaki; Melanie Greer, broker and owner, EXIT Realty Legacy Group; Tyler Raborn, chief executive officer, Raborn Media; and Matt Davidson, president, Atmos Energy.

Special to The Canton News

Madison County Business League & Foundation Young Professionals hosted the Fall Professional Development Forum Luncheon on November 9 at the Country Club of Jackson, with a panel of young CEO speakers. The mission of the Madison Coun-

ty Business League & Foundation Young Professionals is to invest in the professional development of Madison County's future leaders by providing young professionals and entrepreneurs with the opportunity to build relationships, serve the community and engage with business, political and civil leaders.

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# USM students receive Citizen Scholar Award for community engagement

Special to The Canton News

Demecia Edmond of Canton, a social work major at the University of Southern Mississippi, was recently recognized by the university as one of only four recipients of the USM Center for Community Engagement's (CCE) Citizen Scholar Award, an honor for students demonstrating significant involvement in community engagement.

The Citizen Scholars program is a new initiative that honors undergraduate students who have made significant contributions to their communities by incorporating service and community engagement into their academic experience. Students who earn 100-plus service hours, participate in a community-engaged learning experience, and complete a reflective exit interview are eligible to be recognized as Citizen Scholars.

"The Citizen Scholars program was developed to recognize students who go above and beyond to serve their community during college," said CCE Director Christy Kayser. "These students, in addition to their volunteer work, also find a way to incorporate community-based learning into their academic work through internships, leadership projects, and research.



Special to the Canton News

Pictured (l to r) are recent recipients of the USM CCE's Citizen Scholar Award Carrington Brown, Emily Rushing, Sarah Mitchell and Demecia Edmond. Edmond is a resident of Canton.

We are so proud of all they have accomplished."

As students at Southern Miss, the four recipients have volunteered for a combined total of 615 service hours, in addition to participating in various community-engaged

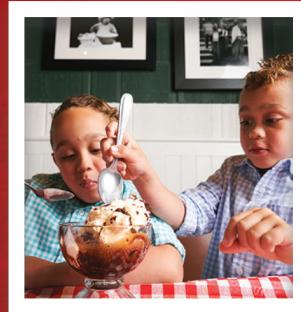
learning experiences.

Edmond completed 135 service hours by volunteering with schools in the Jackson area and helping coordinate large backpack giveaways three years in a row. Edmond's community-engaged learning ex-

perience was an externship with Pinebelt Mental Healthcare Resources, where she learned about social work and mental health.

For more information about the Citizen Scholars or CCE programs at USM, call 601-266-6467.

## Something For Everyone!



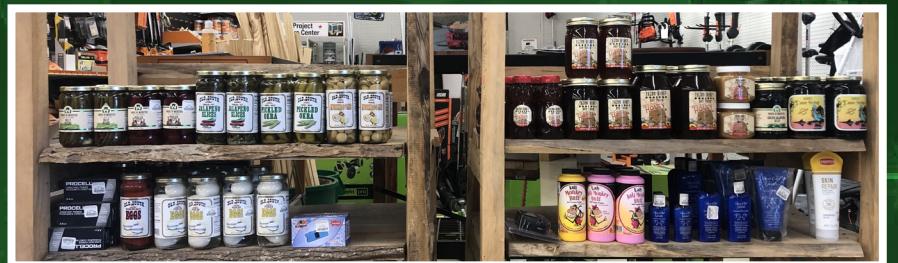
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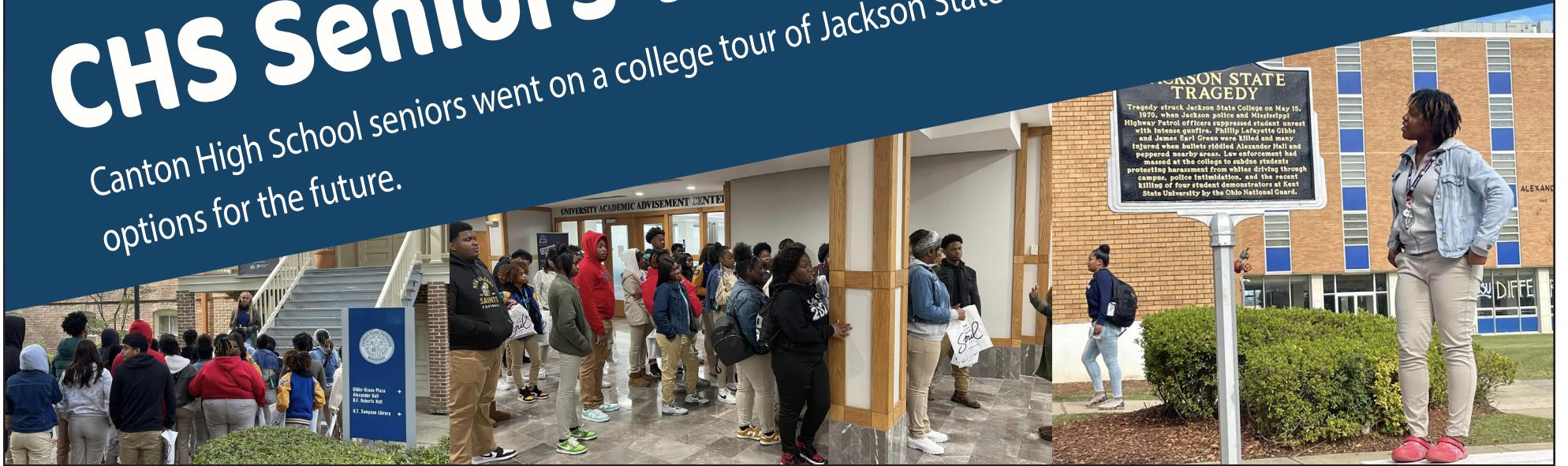
# JSU

All photos special to the Canton News



## CHS Seniors visit Jackson State

Canton High School seniors went on a college tour of Jackson State University to learn more about their options for the future.



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*Prepare yourself for exposure to winter weather.*



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# Letter from the Editor: Creating a home of holiday traditions

By Courtney Warren

The holiday season is such a bitter-sweet time for me for so many reasons. I have a pretty spread-out family that stretches across three states making it difficult for us to gather during the holidays. My sweet girl's birthday was also on Thanksgiving Day this year so as I prepare for Christmas, I'm already adjusting to being the mommy to a girl one year older.

I try to keep her birthdays in perspective and, rather than be sad she's growing up, I'm thrilled that I get another year with her. More time to make memories.

With our recent fabulous front page article about the Snow Village coming to Canton Christmas Festival, I began to think about my own holiday traditions.

What are the traditions that I have carried into my own home? Why are they important to me?

The first is the colored lights on the Christmas tree. There was always a battle between my parents about whether or not we'd have colored lights or white lights. Rainbow goodness on the tree always prevailed.

Another is watching *A Christmas Story* for 24 hours on Christmas Day. It's on every TV, and no one is allowed to change the channel. I have the entire film memorized and soon,



Photo by Courtney Warren

*Naps by the Christmas tree are also a tradition.*

Nana (my daughter) will too. Brett hates the movie but hey, it's tradition in this home!

Lastly, and one that serves zero purpose other than I do it simply because it makes me smile, is the "just a cup" eggnog recipe.

My grandfather, my dad's dad, died when I was around Nana's age. I remember a few things about him—screenshots of memories from when I was very young. He called me Magnolia Sue, and he called my brother Jack Leroy.

Occasionally, phrases he said as my dad grew up will slip through Dad and

into his everyday actions.

One of those phrases is "just a cup." At Christmastime, Papa John made a huge bowl of eggnog. Dad has always done the same. For the final "ingredient," he adds rum but that "just a cup" is never a cup. With a mischievous grin and Dad pulling out the phrase "juuuuust a cup," the rum pours over the edges of his measuring cup and into the large mixing bowl of eggnog. I can't stand eggnog and I don't drink alcohol, but I make the "just a cup" eggnog recipe whether Dad is visiting or not.

It's tradition, and, useful or not, I've

made it a part of our Christmas home.

So as we enter this holiday season, I'm beginning to wonder what holiday traditions I want to make sure Nana holds on to. What moments will she lovingly make and leave on the counter in her own home, even though no one will drink it?

I hope she always remembers that every single ornament on the tree in her childhood home has a story behind it. Either she made it, it was a gift from a student, or it was a vacation memory. I hope she remembers going to eat Chinese food in our pajamas. I hope she remembers her daddy's "Gotta get up" Christmas morning song. I hope she remembers the candy cane countdown. I hope she remembers whatever new traditions we come up with in our home between now and the time she leaves us for college—and beyond. But more importantly, I hope she thinks back on her childhood holidays and knows that no matter where she is, there will always be a home that has a tree filled with ornaments made by her when she was in kindergarten, eggnog on the counter that no one plans to drink, and her stocking on the mantle. Even as she eventually makes her own holiday home traditions, her stocking will always be on the mantle of my holiday home.



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*In addition, a chronic, terminal, or debilitating disease or medical condition or its treatment that produces one or more of the following:*

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chronic pain</li> <li>• Cachexia or wasting syndrome</li> <li>• Severe or intractable nausea</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seizures</li> <li>• Severe and persistent muscle spasms including, but not limited to, those characteristics of multiple sclerosis</li> </ul>
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**Medical Documentation**  
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# Remember When: Do you remember what it all looked like?

By Guest Columnist Mary Jane Boutwell

Earlier in the year, my oldest brother told me he remembered the highway department building “new” Highway 51. My family lived along the roadway. Is there an old Highway 51? It just so happened that, as I was waiting in the car, I found a county map. There was a road with the label Highway 51.

There is a group of us “ole folks” that meet at Old Madison once a month to visit and talk. Joe Hardy was there, and I know he had once lived down Virillia Road. All of this was when a lot of horse and mule pulled wagons went over dirt and gravel roads. So, I asked him what Highway 22 was before it became a paved state road.

Highway 22 was the upper Flora Road, and Virillia Road was the lower Flora Road. Now, the question is, when did the lower Flora Road become Virillia Road? An-

swers bring more questions.

Talking with someone recently, they commented that they had been at the Old Jail helping decorate for the Christmas Open House. To the best of my old memory, I was the first one to decorate it for Christmas.

The Madison County Home Decoration County Council was having a tasting tea and crafts fair. I remember I used horse apples as part of the decorations and climbed out on the porch roof to hang the garland. If anyone remembers an earlier decoration, please let me know.

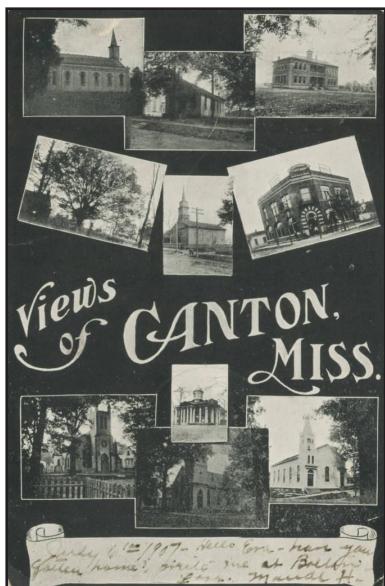
Another question for old timers: Do you know who trained their race horses to come out of the starting gates? She would have graduated from Canton High School after 1960. The setup was on Highway 51 south of Canton. My memory says it was on the west side of 51, where Deviney is today.

Also, there were several families

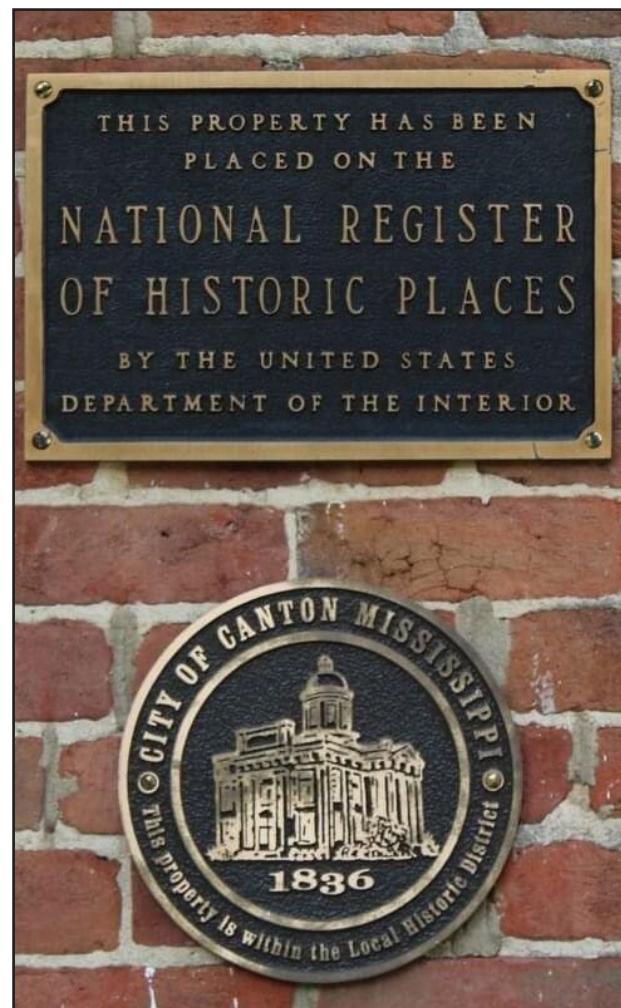
that had and trained race-horses around Canton. As a child, I was told there was a fairground with a race track just outside the then city limits on Highway 22. There was a large wooden building across from where the chicken plant is today. Going by a not-very-knowledgeable memory, it was probably for trotters.

Just think, we had race-horses, a race track, and a professional baseball team. What else is out there, long-lost and forgotten? Oh, there was a YMCA with an enclosed swimming pool, too. Ole Dr. Durfey was a life-guard, and I was told he could not swim. The old ice house would put ice in the water at night so it could not be uncomfortably hot.

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



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## Case Christmas lights bring holiday cheer



Special to the Canton News

By Courtney Warren

The Christmas lights on the square aren't the only area where Cantonians are spreading Christmas cheer.

If one ventures down past the Canton Country Club, they will find the home of Richard and Linda Case decorated from the front door to the street with Christmas inflatables and lights.

"We started with about three or four of them around ten years ago, and it kind of grew, as if someone watered it," Richard said with a chuckle.

Linda added that their treasured hometown is where their love of Christmas decorations comes from.

"We were both raised in a town in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, which was founded on Christmas Eve in 1741. Christmas was a very big deal in our town. We were in the military for twenty-four years, and we moved around and didn't have one place we could call home.

"We always lived in government houses or, when we were in California, the lots were terribly small. Rich always said some day he would like property to be able to decorate for Christmas. He started with the white lights and decorating the trees, and he took off from there."

The pair moved to Mississippi in

1993, and Linda began working with Canton Tourism in 1996.

"I was special events manager, and Joanne Gordon and I took Christmas to the great big thing. We knew how important it was to the city, and so Rich picked up the feel and did something at our house," said Linda.

The set-up process takes around two days, with Rich pulling out all of the inflatables, deciding where they will be set up in the yard, and then preparing the waterproof electrical cords.

The inflatables are now on a pool timer and will turn on and off at their respective times.

Despite the long process, Richard and Linda both agree it is worth it.

"In the beginning, people would drive by and look at them and wave. So, after that, each year, we'd buy one or two, and it grew. The more it grew, the more people would come by and look at them. Now it gives me great pleasure to have them out there. Last Saturday, when I was putting them out, a lady stopped and said she was going home to get her kids and come back," said Richard.

As Christmas draws closer, the Cases are excited to share the joy and excitement that comes with the holiday season.

## Canton Lions Club: Monthly Update



Special to the Canton News

Tricia Boyd with the Mississippi Diabetes Foundation provided the program at a recent meeting of the Lions Club. Pictured (l to r) are Canton Lions President Tamika Liddell, Boyd, Lion Shirley Shavers, who was in charge of securing the program speaker, and James Shavers.

Special to The Canton News

October programs for the Canton Lions have been Tricia Boyd, with the Mississippi Diabetes Foundation, bringing a message about health concerns and signs of diabetes. Madison Merit Health CEO Brit Phelps gave an update of good news about the accomplishments and growth of the local hospital.

Lions also heard from fellow Lion Rich Case about his time in service to the U.S. Navy during the Vietnam and Cold War. Case, the veteran, had a slideshow with detailed information on the secret missions he and his fellow sailors served. He told of the positive results of their deep voyages under the sea and explained the process of coming back to the surface after being under the pressure of the depth of the ocean. Those present agreed that it was a

very interesting program that allowed them to know Case differently than "the guy living on Avondale Road, helping with Canton Christmas parade floats, and working on the Lions Club auctions in years past."

Several members have experienced sickness this month, including President Tamika Liddell. The Lions ask the community to join them in praying for their full recovery.

Canton Lions welcome the community to come as a guest to a club meeting at the Canton Country Club from noon until 1 p.m. each Wednesday. Cantonians are also encouraged to volunteer to speak at a program and tell their story to the club.

For more information, contact any of the Lions members or find the Canton Lions on Facebook.

### PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Latasha Jackson Banks, intend to submit an application for a liquor permit. As provided for by the Local Option Alcoholic beverage control laws, Section 67-1-1, et seq., of the Mississippi Code of 1972, Annotated. If granted such permit, I will operate as a sole owner LLC. Under the trade name Jane 2 Go LLC. Located at 1438 W Peace Street, Canton, MS 39046. I, Latasha Jackson Banks, am the sole owner of Jane 2 Go LLC, address 319 W North Street, Canton, MS 39046. If any person wishes to request a hearing to object to the issuance of this permit a request for a hearing must be made in writing and received by the Department of Revenue within (15) fifteen days from the first date this notice was published.

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# Nissan Canton's Knighten recognized as a Star

Special to The Canton News

Cheers rang out in the room as Reggie Knighten, Learning Pathways Supervisor at Nissan North America - Canton, was recently recognized as one of four Mississippi finalists for the Stars of Southern Manufacturing Award. The award was presented by Derek Polk, Nissan Director of Paint and Fascia Operations and Mississippi Automotive Manufacturers Association (MAMA) Board Member, at a recent ceremony at the Nissan plant in Canton.

MAMA serves its members by promoting growth, development and improvement in the automotive industry in Mississippi, as well as serving as a forum for interaction among automotive manufacturing companies in the state.

In extending congratulations to Knighten, MAMA President Kevin Burgess said, "MAMA is proud to recognize the production workers that are so crucial to the automotive manufacturing industry in Mississippi. Reggie's experience in advanced manufacturing and certification as a master trainer in basic and advanced skills, along with his dedication to superior leadership, teamwork and commitment, have established him as a manufacturing

role model.

Stars Awards are given to employees at a Southern Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) or Tier I supplier who epitomize excellence in the automotive manufacturing industry. The nominees for the award work on the factory floor, possess exemplary skills that enable the company to meet the demands of modern manufacturing, and enhance the work environment by bringing the best out of colleagues, encouraging collaboration, and reflecting the most desirable values of the company culture. The seventh annual Stars of Southern Manufacturing Awards recognized winners from SAC states, including Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, South Carolina, Tennessee and Texas.

According to Gino Perkins, Nissan-Canton Training Manager, in his nomination of Reggie for the award, "Reggie represents the qualities necessary to be a star of Southern Manufacturing and a star team member for Nissan - Canton. Reggie ensures critical work-readiness in all direct hires and regional trainers and is a mentor for our current and future leaders. He truly leads by example! Reggie is a practitioner of manufacturing and con-



Special to the Canton News

Nissan Director of Paint and Fascia Operations and MAMA Board Member Derek Polk recently presented Learning Pathways Supervisor Reggie Knighten with a STARS OF Southern Manufacturing Finalist award, as MAMA President Kevin Burgess added his congratulations at a ceremony at the Nissan plant in Canton.

tinuous improvement. His mentorship goes beyond the walls of the plant, giving back and serving the surrounding community."

"Reggie consistently adds value to whatever position he is in," said Polk. "Most recently, he has led the Nissan Direct Hire Training Program. Reggie proactively developed what is considered regionally as the 'benchmark' training readiness program. During a recent visit to Canton, the senior

vice-president of manufacturing and supply chain management saw first-hand the value of the program and encouraged other plants to benchmark the program. This program has positively impacted technicians by ensuring they are set up for success. This program has positively impacted technician skills and supervisor morale, ultimately leading to increased productivity. I am honored to work alongside a team member of Reggie's caliber."

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# Allison's Wells Quilters Update



Special to the Canton News

By Guest Columnist Laura Key

November is always a very special month for our Quilters here in Canton.

On November 8, the Allison's Wells Quilters had the honor of presenting two "Quilts of Valor" creations to two very honorable Veterans who reside at the Madison County Nursing Home in Canton: Mr. Jim Green,

WWII veteran, and Mr. Robert Drop, U.S. Army veteran. It is with respect and gratitude for the sacrifices they made for us all. Thank you for your service to our country!

This brings our year 2022 to a close. We wish everyone happy holidays, and our group will resume regular weekly meetings in January of 2023.

# 2023 ACA open enrollment continues through Jan. 15



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Open enrollment through the Affordable Care Act (ACA) Marketplace began November 1 and continues through January 15, 2023. Five health insurance companies will offer plans in Mississippi. They are Ambetter from Magnolia Health, Molina Healthcare, Vantage Health Plan of Mississippi and UnitedHealthcare. Cigna also joined the Marketplace in 2022.

"Carefully review the options available to you and in your area," said Mississippi Insurance Commissioner Mike Chaney. "Make

sure that the plan you are considering provides the coverage that you need. While low monthly costs are attractive, you also need to consider copays and deductibles that you may have to pay later. Check with the provider to see which facilities are in-network."

Mississippians can see plan options, monthly premiums and more by visiting [www.healthcare.gov/see-plans/](http://www.healthcare.gov/see-plans/).

For other insurance-related questions, contact the Mississippi Insurance Department at 601-359-3569.

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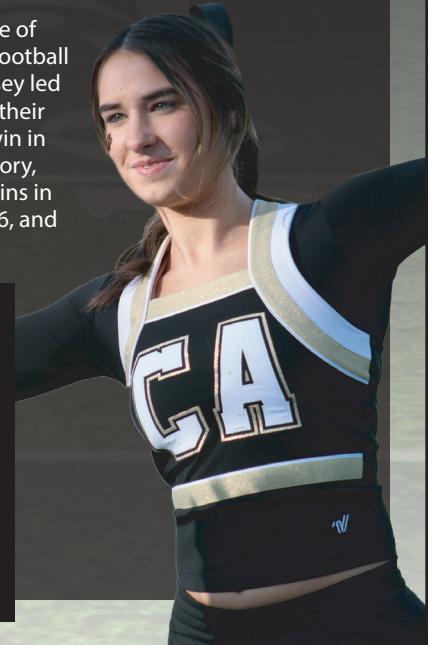
# CANTON ACADEMY PANTHERS WIN STATE CHAMPIONSHIP



By Courtney Warren

After making it all the way to the state championship last year and falling short to the powerhouse that used to be Greenville Christian School, the Cantan Academy Panthers adopted the motto #FINISH. From the beginning of the season, it became clear that the state championship was Cantan's to lose. The Panthers finished the season with a 12-1 record and won their last seven games. With their only loss being to rival school Tri-County Academy, CA faced off against Central Holmes Academy on Mississippi College's field. With a final score of 48-7, CA Head Football Coach Gage Posey led the Panthers to their fifth state title win in the school's history, with previous wins in 1987, 1995, 1996, and 2016.

All photos special to the Canton News



# Merry Christmas!

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### CNGA gets stylish hands-on learning

### CA Panthers continue CPR training



Special to the Canton News

Canton Ninth Grade Academy(CNGA) Cosmetology Club members received hands-on experience while visiting a local college. The event was sponsored by Mrs. Kirksey and Ms. Wilder.



Special to the Canton News

Canton Academy is known for their passion for CPR certification. CPR Stars Mississippi visits the school annually to keep both students and staff up to date on their CPR certifications.

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# Hegwood named first Mississippi winner of Faulkner award

By Courtney Warren

With a state so rich with literature, one would think a Mississippian would have already been chosen as the recipient of an award from the William Faulkner Literary Committee. However, standards are high - as they should be for such a prestigious honor.

The William Faulkner Literary Contest is for aspiring writers, as it recognizes the significance of being the birthplace of one of the most celebrated writers in American Litera-

ture, generally, and Southern Literature, specifically.

Cantonian Martin Hegwood was named the winner of its 2022 novel competition for his latest manuscript, titled *Memphis*.

Hegwood said his inspiration for *Memphis* came from his findings that the city is often underrepresented in American literature.

"I always found this puzzling, since Memphis, more than any other major city, is emblematic of the nation's cotton culture, a society that for generations has fascinated people around the world. I have some relatives in Memphis, and, when I was a child, we would drive from Pascagoula to Memphis every summer and visit for several weeks.

"I also went to Ole Miss, and we

went to Memphis all the time. I got to know a lot about Memphis society. It's a tight knit group and very hard for an outsider to crack. There's a lot of old money and old families, and they tend to socialize within their social set, their own world. And that group - and that world - provide the background for my story," said Hegwood.

The writing of *Memphis* did not take place overnight.

"I worked on *Memphis* off and on for about five years. Of course, this was not five years of continuous writing. I would set it aside for months at a time. When I was writing detective stories, I would turn out a manuscript every year. I wrote one of them in ten months," he said.

Hegwood is thrilled with the honor

and said, "I really feel good about being the first Mississippian to win this award. Mississippi has a great writing tradition, and I am delighted to be able to make a contribution to this legacy."

Hegwood had already begun a new project that involves Mr. Faulkner himself.

"I'm currently conducting research for a limited biography of William Faulkner, concentrating on the time he spent in Pascagoula between 1925 and 1929. It was a period of transition for him, during which he quit thinking of himself as a poet and began realizing he was a novelist," he said.

For more information about the William Faulkner Literary Competition, visit [WilliamFaulknerLiteraryCompetition.com](http://WilliamFaulknerLiteraryCompetition.com).



Martin Hegwood

Courtesy of Mississippi State University

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