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Canton Academy Panthers show spirit at state

By Courtney Warren

The Canton Academy (CA) Varsity Panthers took on the Greenville Christian School (GCS) Saints last month for the MSAIS 3A State Championship in a David-and-Goliath-style football game.

Due to COVID policies and the new ability to bring in players from neighboring districts, GCS was able to create an unstoppable team, finishing their season on a nine-game winning streak. The Saints outscored their opponents 536-144.

With all of that in mind and knowing the stats for their opponent, the sidelines were not what one might expect from a team well aware they are outmatched.

The Canton Academy Varsity Panthers might have lost a football game, but what they did not lose was heart.

The Panthers started the game with a twelve-play, 39-yard drive that took nearly eight minutes off the clock. Unfortunately, it ended



Photo by Courtney Warren

on a failed 4-and-12 outside the red zone.

With the stands having only standing room as they were packed to the brim with Panther fans, the boys continued to cheer one another on.

When the opposing Goliaths got

mouthy, the Panther men kept their heads high and their words positive as they focused on the brotherhood that brought them to the state championship in the first place.

Senior Taylor Pratt, kicker for the Panthers, said, "If someone told

me last year that this team was going to a state championship, I would've laughed in their face. When the new coaching staff arrived, they told us that they have a vision, a vision of going to a state championship. A ring is cool and

cont. on page 6

City Spotlight: Kenna Pierce, Canton Fire Chief

By Inesha Jackson

The City of Canton's Fire Chief, Kenna Pierce Sr., is gladly giving back to the Canton community through service and leadership. Pierce is the proud husband of 21 years to Charmaine Johnson



Kenna Pierce Sr.

Pierce and a proud father of two children, Kenna Pierce Jr., and

Kinsley Grace Pierce. He is a member of the Mary Grove Missionary Baptist Church, where he serves as a deacon, a Sunday school teacher, usher board member, and a male choir member.

Before becoming a firefighter, he served in the United States Navy as a technician for four years. Pierce has moved up through the ranks from a basic firefighter to a firefighter/EMT to a firefighter driver/operator to second lieutenant to first lieutenant to acting captain to now serving as the fire chief.

"I was in the Navy as a technician, and I always said to myself that when I got out, I would become a firefighter/EMT for the City of Canton. I wanted to come back out of the military and serve my community to give back in any way possible," Pierce said.

In his 27 years of being a firefighter, Pierce's major accomplishment is elevating throughout the ranks and becoming the fire chief of two years for his hometown. In the near future, he plans to keep the fire department moving in a positive direction.

"As fire chief, my main responsibility is to lead other firefighters and to ensure the safety of all people. Every day, I'm motivated by the teamwork my coworkers and I have. On a day-to-day basis, I enjoy knowing that they are doing a great job," Pierce said.

"Helping people and seeing their reactions when problems are solved are rewarding in itself. Knowing that I have helped someone out of a bad situation and that I am able to give back to the community is the absolute best part of my job," Pierce said.



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Truly's position solidified by the court



Special to The Canton News

By Courtney Warren

A Madison County jury ruled in favor of William Truly in an election challenge brought by his Republican opponent Chip Matthews.

The jury found that the proper Canton Municipal Democratic Executive Committee and that the Canton Municipal Election Commission had not qualified Truly or Matthews prior to the general election or certified the results.

However, the jury ruled that the failure to follow those proper procedures did not influence the election, and that, because Truly received more votes, he was the duly elected mayor.

According to Mayor Truly, "We

will move forward. I'm glad this is behind us. There never should have been a trial, but it's now over. We are moving forward with several projects. We have to address the issue of gun violence by bringing cameras to businesses and lightening up the city and in high-crime areas. We want our citizens and visitors to feel safe and secure in Canton."

"We are excited Amazon is here and bringing jobs to Canton. We are looking at major housing projects, as well."

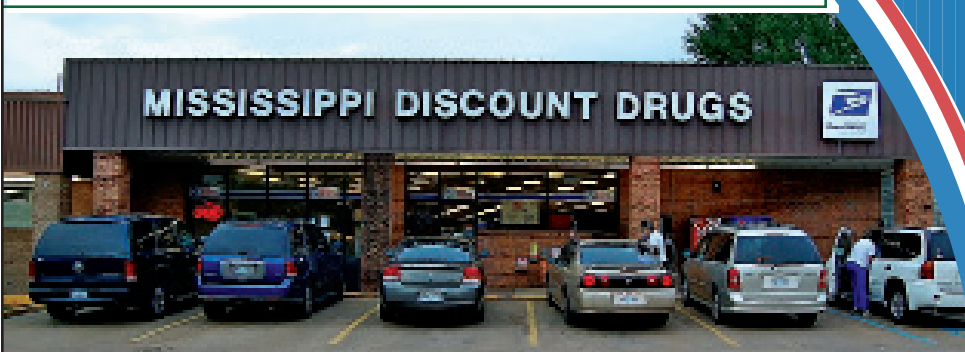
With a focus on bringing the violence in the city to a halt and making residents feel safe, Truly said he believes the future is bright for the City of Canton.



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Panthers inducted into National Honor Society



Photo by Courtney Warren

National Honor Society officers Carli Cooper, Starr Spivey, Graham Lambert, Advisor Alison Martin, Reese Willis, Eliza Lighthouse and Madi Cochran.

By Courtney Warren

Recently, Canton Academy (CA) held their National Honor Society induction.

Led by Advisor Alison Martin, each inductee pledged the following:

I pledge myself always to see the light or truth, to hold as fundamental and worthy an untarnished char-

acter, to hold scholarly habits, to engage in worthy service, and to lead forward in all things that shall advance the welfare of Canton Academy.

New inductees included Rebekah Bonner, Hannah Dill, Finley Ezell, Cooper Lampkin, Anna Claire Mabry, Redding Walker, Summer

Hederman, Daniel Spivey, Ashlyn Thompson, Heath Dodson, Daniel Espino, Amelia Cook, Mary Palmer Tupman, Addison Cado, Ian Chopala, Trinity Craig, Tanner Floore, Tillie Oglesbee, Maggie Penn, Adyn Reams, Sean Sadler, Mac Stacey, Lila Thomas, Mackenzie Turner, and Houston Williams.

Hutchinson awarded Heisman High School Scholarship

By Courtney Warren

John Hollis Hutchinson, a senior at Canton Academy, was recently named the School Winner and State Winner of the Heisman High School Scholarship presented by Acceptance Insurance. Hutchinson was excited to receive the scholarship and said, "I feel blessed to be honored for this national scholarship. Sometimes life sets you up to shine, sometimes it requires a lot of hard work. This scholarship is truly a culmination of years of hard work and determination to be the very best that I can be; not only on the athletic field, but also in the classroom."

"We couldn't be more proud of John Hollis. CA is proud of both our students and our athletes. I have no doubt this work ethic will continue to be a valuable tool in the future," said Headmaster Tripp McCarty.

Hutchinson currently plays third base, catcher, pitcher, and second and third base for the Canton Academy varsity baseball team.

"I've been taught my whole life to glorify God in all of my actions. On the field and in the classroom, I strive to find ways to glorify Him over myself. This action in itself has made me the well-rounded individual that I am. The importance of being well-rounded for me is to give me more platforms in my daily life to show the world that

my number one goal is to glorify God. The way I work, the way I play, the way I study, and even the way I walk the hallways. Him over me," said Hutchinson.

Hutchinson is committed to play



Special to The Canton News

John Hollis Hutchinson and CA Headmaster Tripp McCarty

baseball at Hinds Community College under Coach Dan Rives. At Hinds, he plans to study computer science and general studies.

"I would like to use collegiate baseball to elevate me into a senior college, where I can study architecture or engineering," he said.

He boasts a 4.0 GPA and is a member of the National Honor Society and Madison County Youth Leadership.

He is a member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and is on top of his scholarly duties. John Hollis also has an after-school job.

He will attend a banquet at the Mississippi Sports Hall of Fame to receive a trophy and be recognized for his achievements.

Eligibility for the High School Heisman begins with maintaining a weighted GPA of 3.0 (B average) or better. Applicants also need to be proven leaders and role models within their school and community. Applicants must also participate or have participated in grades 9, 10, or 11 in at least one of the sports recognized by the International Olympic Committee in the Summer and Winter Olympic Games, the Paralympic Games, or the National Federation of State High School Associations.

State winners receive a \$1,000 scholarship.

The twelve National Finalists are selected from 100 State Winners, made up of six senior males and six senior females from each of the six geographic regions.

A judging panel will select one senior male and one senior female from the 12 National Finalists as National Winners. The two National Award Winners will receive a \$10,000 college scholarship.



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Goodloe makes singular touchdown in championship game



Photo by Courtney Warren

By Courtney Warren

With the Greenville Christian Saints (GCS) known for shut out scores, the Canton Academy (CA) Panthers weren't going to go home without putting numbers on the board. Marcus Goodloe, senior for the CA varsity Panthers, scored the only touchdown after a 15-yard fumble recovery during the MSAIS 3A state championship against the Saints.

"Scoring the touchdown in the state championship game meant a

lot to me and my team. I think it just made a statement to let everybody know that, even though we were losing, we haven't quit, and that we're not intimidated by the other team. It also meant a lot to me that I was able to score the last touchdown for our team on my senior season in the state championship. While it didn't end the way I wanted it to, I wouldn't rather play for any other team in the world. I love all my brothers," said Goodloe.

Canton High School matches up against St. Andrew's Saints school



Special to The Canton News

While the varsity boys team fell short, the varsity girls and JV boys were able to secure wins. All teams have seen major success so far this season and are preparing for more victories.

Special to The Canton News

Canton High School Tigers and Lady Tigers recently played the St. Andrews Saints. The Varsity Boys Saints were down 11-0 to start the game, but the Varsity Tigers fell short when the Saints pulled away in the second half and won 63-49.

The Lady Tigers were victorious, with a 62-29 victory making their record 7-1.

CHS JV Boys teams closed the door on St. Andrew's with a final score of 33-23. Schyler Chambers' impressed the crowd with a slam dunk, helping secure a win for his team.



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Boone shares “BeYOUUnique” Reading Project

By Inesha Jackson

Koby Boone, a Canton Elementary first- and third-grade teacher, is excited to get students engaged in her new reading initiative, the BeYOUUnique project, after receiving a grant from the Junior Auxiliary of Madison County.

“My number one goal for my students is that they always remember that they can do so many things in life. We strive every day to become better students, better readers, better teachers, and better people. We eliminate the words ‘I can’t’ from my classroom and replace them with ‘I will,’” Boone said.

Boone is a graduate of the University of Southern Mississippi with two bachelor’s degrees - one in speech-language pathology and the other in elementary education. Before completing her elementary education degree and endorsement in special education, she worked as a speech therapist. Boone has also spent 18 months in Mexico as a missionary for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, where she served others and learned to speak fluently in Spanish.

“Some of my major accomplishments as an educator have been winning three grants for my students and Canton Elementary. These have included a reading program and flexible seating to

help all students. Another accomplishment - and the one dearest to my heart - has been seeing the growth and accomplishments of my students. To see my students improving a grade level or more in reading, learning how to write their names without assistance,

overcoming physical challenges, and developing self-confidence have been rewarding in itself,” Boone said.

The Junior Auxiliary of Madison County provides for the needs of schools in the Madison County area through their mini-grant program.

One can receive a grant for up to \$500. Applicants for the grant must be able to provide the number of children that will be reached, the purpose of the grant, and how it works within the classroom. Boone’s BeYOUUnique project will sup-

port at least 60 third graders at Canton Elementary by motivating students to improve their reading skills and to recognize how unique it is to be different. The project is designed to reach students from all backgrounds. It is designed to get students excited about reading about who they are and accepting that being unique is beautiful.

“Books are one of the few places where children may meet people like or unlike themselves. The BeYOUUnique project opens doors to a diverse classroom, which can and will allow students the ability to find out more about who they are and where they come from. It will also show them how and even why it is possible to accept others who are different from them-YOUUnique-ly different,” Boone said.

At Canton Elementary, Boone

is known for making the learning environment fun for her students by creating new and innovative ways for students to excel.

“Learning can always be fun. It doesn’t have to be worksheets and books all the time. We listen to songs/raps about the standards we are learning. We apply movement to remember how to find character traits or how to find the point of view in a text. During review week, we created a carnival-themed week of learning. The students earned tickets by using strategies in answering questions, helping others, and meeting personal goals and then using those tickets to play carnival games,” Boone said. She is planning many more fun activities to get students engaged in learning, such as a Winter Olympics-themed learning initiative.

“Curiosity is one of the most inspiring characteristics of our students. They love to gather as much information as possible. . . Having the Be YOUUnique project will help teachers value unique aspects that make each student different, which allows them to embrace the differences in the classroom. This, in turn, creates a positive learning outcome that can be created by having different and divergent perspectives,” Boone said.



Koby Boone

Special to The Canton News

cont. from front page

State

all, but nothing is ever going to beat the brotherhood and bonds that we made this year.”

“We went to the state championship as a team. I have to say, do not take anything for granted, ever.” Coming back from the locker room prepared to give it their all once again, the defense put the Panthers on the board in the second half behind senior Marcus Goodloe’s 15-yard fumble recovery for a touchdown.

Junior stunner Daniel Ford, one of the largest Panthers on the team, came off of the field after a long drive and said, “They’re good. These guys are good football players, but we aren’t going to quit. We’re brothers, and we’re going to go until the clock runs out.”

The idea of brotherhood began from the summer months all the way until that exact moment, when the clock ran out. While many teams would have accepted defeat, given up, or even racked up personal fouls out of anger and

frustration, the boys in black and gold did none of that. The sidelines were nothing but encouraging words, dabs and teamwork.

As the buzzer sounded and the Panthers saw the final score of 46-6, they shook hands with their opponents, some even friends outside of the gridiron.

“Remember this moment. These boys deserve some respect. This is a great team, and you would much rather play them than some of the teams you’ve played this season,” said MSAIS Director of Athletics Chris Chance as the Saints and Panthers circled up to pray at the end of the game. Murmurs of agreement were heard from around the large huddle.

After the game, senior Barnes Wadford said, “The best thing to me about being a part of a team is watching my teammates succeed and celebrating with them when they do. Going to the state championship is any athlete’s dream, and we did it together. There is no one on my team who doesn’t

give their all when they take the field. These guys will always be my brothers.”

Wadford had the opportunity to play with his younger brother, Samuel Wadford, a junior on the team.

As the Panthers accepted second place, tears on the cheeks of the seniors who were standing on the field for their final time, junior Bert Goodloe shouted into the huddle, “Remember this moment. Remember this feeling. We are brothers. We’re going to be back on this field to play for state again. Remember how we feel right now. We can do this.”

Surrounded by his family, Chaney Hale also had his little brother on the sidelines. Rhett Hale served as ball boy for the varsity Panthers and attended every game.

Whether blood relation or not, Hale said playing with his team is a memory he will cherish.

“It was one of the best moments of my life. Even though we came up short, we got to where we want-

ed to be. I wouldn’t want to have done it with any other group out there,” said Hale.

“It was an honor to have such a great team behind us. Over the summer and through the season, we grew to become this brotherhood,” said senior Holden Chandler.

The Panthers fell short with a final score of 46-6, ending their season with a 10-3 record under first-year CA Head Coach Gage Posey. All good things must come to an end, and, while the Panthers would have loved a ring, they have a winning season to hang their helmets on.

“Our senior season went by too fast. Never be scared to just stop and take it all in, because you never know when it’s going to come to an end,” added Pratt.

With nothing but a bright future and several superstar starters returning to the field next year, the Panthers anticipate a successful road to the state championship once again.

Word of Prayer: The birthday party that is Christmas

By Guest Columnist Dylan Jones

When it comes to the Christmas season, what is it that you truly enjoy? Is it the bright shining lights of the town square of Canton? Is it playing of cheesy Christmas movies and music? Or is it the receiving and giving of gifts?



Dylan Jones

Whatever it may be, have we gotten so lost in the “Christmas Traditions” that we forget the true meaning of why we celebrate Christmas?

I remember waking up on Christmas morning and seeing all the gifts under the tree, my excitement billowing up, making me ready to tear into wrapping paper and see what was given to me. Even now, as a 25-year-old adult, I can still get so caught up in the giving and receiving of gifts that I truly forget the meaning of Christmas.

Isaiah 9: 6 states, “For a child is born to us, a son is given to us. The

government will rest on his shoulders. And he will be called: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”

We celebrate Christmas because a child was born for us. Over 2,000 years ago, God sent his son from on high to be born in a manger for us. Luke 2: 11 says, “Today, in the city of David, a Savior was born for you, who is the Messiah, Lord.” So when we celebrate Christmas, we don’t need to get caught up in exchanging gifts and hanging beautiful lights; when we celebrate Christmas, we should really be celebrating the fact that a savior had finally been born. That the ultimate gift was right there in front of us, wrapped in swaddling clothes lying in a manger.

We also see too that the Son wasn’t just born for us, but that he was actually given to us. So, when Christmas comes around, we need to be reminded that Christ had come in flesh to redeem the world, and that a Savior had come to bring hope, joy, peace, and salvation for humanity. This gift that God had given in Jesus meant that our Savior was here in the flesh to take our sins from us. So, while we



Special to The Canton News

can get caught up in giving gifts to people, we should not forget that we are truly celebrating that the ultimate gift of hope, joy, and salvation had come for humanity. It meant that we could finally have a personal relationship with God, because Jesus had come to take away our sins.

So, as we enter into this Christmas season, let us not get so caught up in the “Christmas Traditions” that we forget the true meaning of Christmas. My prayer is that we would humbly go before the Lord and ask God to remind us of

the greatest gift that has ever been given this Christmas season. I also pray, too, that we would take time this Christmas season and read about the coming of Jesus. And then, finally, that we would take time to lift Jesus’ name on high this Christmas season, because Christmas means that our Savior has come.

EDITOR’S NOTE: Dylan Jones is an ascend resident with students at PineLake Madison. He is from Louisville, Mississippi, and is a graduate of Mississippi State University.


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Students score sweet reward



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Canton Elementary students were able to have a sweet treat after earning Dojo good behavior points. With their teachers covered in protective trash bags and goggles, students aimed and fired whipped cream pies at their teachers' faces. While the halls might have been

messy, they were also full of giggles. ClassDojo is an educational technology company. It connects primary school teachers, students and families through communication features, such as a feed for photos and videos from the school day, and messaging that can be translated into more than 35 languages.

Reuben B helps families in need



Special to The Canton News

Special to The Canton News

Reuben B Meyers School of Arts and Sciences hosted a canned food drive to help families in need. Students brought in various canned foods in an effort of love to give back to their community. According to the Mississippi Food Network, almost one in four Mississippians, which is about 600,840 people, don't have enough to eat.

More than one in four children (24.4 percent) go to bed hungry almost every night. Stomachs are growling all over the state and "hunger is a problem all across America. But in Mississippi, it's practically an epidemic." With the help of these Reuben B Meyers scholars, Mississippians will not go without during the holiday season.

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The **Canton Gospel Music Association (CGMA)** is proud to announce and congratulate the Music Scholarship Award Recipients. These students were recognized at the 18th Annual Scholarship Awards and Gospel Music Virtual Celebration which was held on November 21, 2021. Music from **37** of Madison County's gospel music recording artists and recognition of **59** churches who continued their services via social media in spite of COVID-19 were also featured.



"It is fitting that Canton with its rich heritage, deep spiritual roots and strong church affiliations hosts an event to honor one of music's finest genres. The highlight of the celebration each year is the awarding of music scholarships to up and coming musicians. To date, the CGMA has awarded 166 scholarships to students of Madison County", says Cynthia Goodloe Palmer, Founder/President.

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Letter from the Editor: Why I'll always secure a sideline pass

By Courtney Warren

A recent discovery I've made is that I will never be able to sit in the stands again.

Being on the sidelines is a totally different world than being in the stands. Any coach's wife will tell you that the stands is the last place you want to be. Being forced to listen to the grievances of little Johnny's mom and hearing little Billy's dad explain why the coach should be playing his kid is not exactly my favorite way to spend a Friday evening.

However, this year, I began standing on the sidelines of every home football game to take photos for this newspaper as well as the yearbook (which will be incredible this year - be sure you've ordered one!). I was nervous at first, because I knew the world I was stepping into before I ever walked onto the field.

Those boys are different when they are suited up. It's wartime. I knew they probably were not going to talk to me, and I absolutely would not be speaking to them - because the last thing I wanted to be was a distraction. However, that is not what happened and definitely not what happened during the state championship.

Over this season, I have been able

to listen to the coaches and players scream and holler during difficult games, cheer during cupcake games, and battle fiercely when the score was too close for comfort.

In the classroom, I have the opportunity to connect with many of them; but, on the football field, I get to see where their hearts truly are. How are they going to react to having a coach yell at them? How are they going to respond when another player gets in their face? How will their teammates help in a tense situation?

Nothing prepared me for when Benton Academy played CA this year. I watched as my favorite person in the world coached against the boys

I spend each day with. I listened as the smack talk progressed, inevitable and to be expected, and I even cried a bit as I was faced with cheering for both sides of the ball. My team won

either way, but my team also lost either way.

On those sidelines, I wasn't invisible. Those sweet boys were respectful, encouraging in a tough situation for their teacher, and, even though the smack talk never let up, I was fist-bumped more times that night than I've ever been fist-

bumped in my life (and that's saying something coming from a middle school teacher). They showed their hearts—and their hearts are good.

When we made it to state, I knew

without a shadow of a doubt I would not be sitting in those stands. I secured a sideline pass immediately and arrived an hour beforehand to watch pregame, test my new camera, and tell a few of the boys how proud I was they'd made it to the championship game.

I loved listening to these boys and their coaches as they played in what many believed was an impossible game.

Most teams would have given excuses, quit after the score made it clear they were defeated, and hung their heads or run up as many personal fouls as possible. Not these boys.

It was another night of fist bumps. It was another night of "that's my brother" and "yes, brother, come on."

I cheered and hollered beside my favorite ball boys. I watched tears run down the cheeks of seniors as some walked off of the field for the last time, but what I got to hear - the love and the brotherhood between the boys that I get to teach every day - was such a blessing.

If that means I have to work in news until the end of my life just to be on the field rather than holding a spirit sign, then hand me a camera.



Photo by Riley Lambert

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Ruth named MCEE 2021 economics teacher of the year

Special to The Canton News

Canton Ninth Grade Academy teacher Teena Ruth was selected as the Mississippi Council on Economic Education (MCEE) 2021 Economics Teacher of the Year.

MCEE officials said Ruth is a “wonderful example” of what can be achieved in the classroom when a teacher is passionate about the topic of economics and personal finance.

MCEE leaders also praised Ruth’s success at CNGA with the Stock Market Game.

She has been selected twice to attend the National JumpStart Ed-

ucators Conference. In addition, she also became a Master Teacher of Personal Finance.



Special to The Canton News

MCEE recognized Teena Ruth at the MCEE Forum on American Enterprise November 4 at the Jackson Convention Complex.

As the Teacher of the Year, Ruth will receive \$500 and an all-expenses-paid trip to the 2022 Council for Economic Education Conference that will be held in Washington, D.C.

She will also automatically be recommended for the 2022 National Council for Economic Education Teacher of the Year award.



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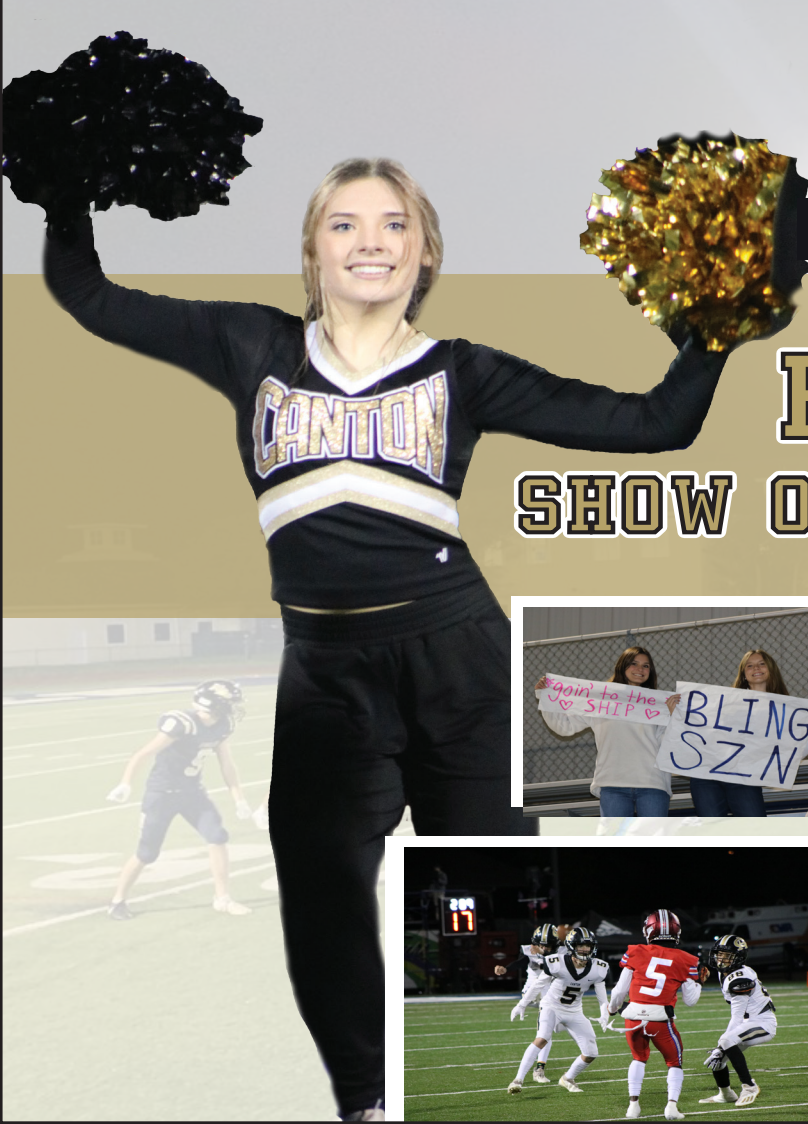
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COVID-19 vaccinations available for all 5-11 year olds at CSPD



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The Canton Public School District is providing multiple opportunities throughout the year to get vaccinated.

CDC Director Rochelle P. Walensky, M.D., M.P.H., endorsed the CDC Advisory Committee on the Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommendation that children 5 to 11 years old be vaccinated against COVID-19 with the Pfizer-BioNTech pediatric vaccine. The CDC has expanded vaccine recommenda-

tions to about 28 million children in the United States in this age group and allows providers to begin vaccinating them as soon as possible.

COVID-19 vaccines have undergone – and will continue to undergo – the most intensive safety monitoring in U.S. history.

As a partner of the Canton Public School District, G.A. Carmichael Family Health Clinic is available to assist families in getting their children ages 5-11 vaccinated. Call 601-521-9236 for more information.

Harris awarded for achievements in Early Childhood Education



Special to The Canton News

Special to The Canton News

Shoney Harris, Canton Public School District Director of Literacy and Early Childhood Education, was recently honored by the North Madison County Excel By 5.

The organization recognized her for her dedication and coordination of service on behalf of the Canton Public School District to ensure student achievement in Early Childhood Education.

Excel By 5 presented the award at its “Excelebration” of the area being

certified as a child-friendly community.

According to their website, the vision of Excel By 5 is to support families with children ages 0-5 by encouraging community-based collaborations to draw upon research-based best practices to use and enhance existing resources to optimize the care and education of young children by preparing them to enter school happy, healthy and with the skills they need to succeed.



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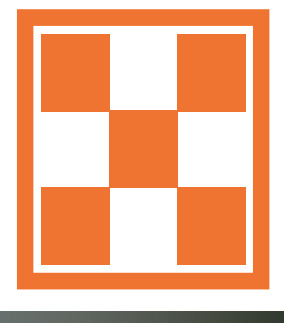
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CHS boys and girls soccer teams “bend it like Beckham”



Special to The Canton News!

The Canton High Schools (CHS) Varsity Tigers soccer team recently faced off against Jim Hill High School. With the varsity boys winning 9-1 and the varsity girls winning 7-0, both teams have had a successful season and will continue to lace up their cleats and aim for hat tricks.

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Christmas in Canton: Longstanding tradition returns

By Courtney Warren

The stockings have been hung by the chimney with care since around October 31 mid-afternoon, and the Christmas lights are finally on the square.

While some would prefer they stay year-round, the Canton Christmas lights are placed shortly before Thanksgiving, and this year is no exception.

After huge renovations were done to the Canton Courthouse lawn by the Madison County Board of Supervisors, including new sod, a sprinkler system, and new sidewalk, there were rumors of a "canceled Christmas."

The Canton News is excited to report that, while Christmas can never be canceled, the tradition of lights of the square will continue, as well.

In an effort to protect the new renovations, there will be new regulations.

According to Canton Mayor William Truly, "The City has already begun installing the Christmas decorations for all to enjoy. Christmas in Canton will continue to go on. We will have our Christmas festival. There were issues in regards to the machinery and rides on the new courthouse lawn. We're looking at putting some of those heavy rides on Union Street."

New Canton Tourism Executive Director May Vaughn McCarty said there are so many new things to look forward to at Canton Christmas, and most of them are interactive attractions.

"While Mrs. Claus' Story Time has been a cherished and expected tradition for many years, we are proud to once again highlight her as a Canton Christmas Festival treasure!"

"Newer to the festival this year, we are excited to announce, is our 'Singalong Fest with the Best magical cast of characters. Visitors are invited to join our elves, princesses, and superheroes as they lead in caroling, take photos, and offer you the opportunity to share your favorite family holiday traditions on stage."

Continuing the idea of interactions, McCarty said there will be an "I Spy Santa's Workshop."

"Children will be in awe as they gaze into the windows of the Rose Garden Room of the Trolio Hotel next to our Welcome Center, which

has been completely transformed to look like the magical interior of Santa's Workshop. There, they can peak into the windows to try and spy the elves' top ten favorite toys with the help of custom 'I Spy' cards illustrating each of the ten toys preselected for the event," she said.

"This year's festival would not be taking place if not for a true team effort. I've only been with the tourism office for one week, and I can honestly say the energy I've witnessed surrounding this event is nothing short of inspiring."

"It takes a Christmas village to put this event together, and, luckily, the city of Canton has just that."

"Everyone involved, from the city to the county, CMU, the merchants, the police department, and of course our very talented staff, wants this festival to not only happen, but to be the success it has always been in years past. I am beyond proud to be associated with this organization, our partners, and their dedication.

"The fact that this has all happened



Special to The Canton News

in a short 3 week time frame is quite impressive and should be commended. This event usually requires at least six months of advanced planning and organizing," said McCarty.

McCarty, a Canton native, recently returned home with her husband Tripp and son Stock. Tripp is now the headmaster at Canton Academy, where Stock attends 4k. She is excited to be back and a part of Canton Christmas but even more excited to be working with JoAnn Gordon, who originally started Canton Christmas many years ago.

"Canton is home for me. Being back after 18 years, and being a part of something as special as the Christmas Festival, surrounded by a team like this... I could just burst with pride. When you take an entire community of organizations willing to work together, a rockstar staff, and add the one, the only, JoAnn Gordon back in the mix... Santa himself doesn't have as great a team. It's Christmas Magic. Words cannot express how thankful we all are for JoAnn's leadership and guidance this year. JoAnn started the Christmas Festival. We're honored to work alongside her to ensure her legacy continues," said McCarty.

The lights are hung on the square with care, and Cantonians know St. Nick will soon be here!

CANTON'S ADULT PROGRAMMING

Calendar
DEC. 2021

Holiday Money Management: Budgeting Your Holiday Spending

Date: Friday, December 3

Time: 11:00am-12:00pm

Description: (Facebook Live on the MCLS Facebook page at [facebook.com/MCLSLibraries](https://www.facebook.com/MCLSLibraries))

Description: Don't get wrapped up into overspending. Strategizing and budgeting will help keep your holiday budget merry & bright! Join Ms. Latina M. Williams, MSCE Area Family & Consumer Science Associate, via Facebook Live. You will learn seven (7) budgeting tips on controlling your spending, using your "cents" and minding your money this holiday season.

Book Signing with Arletha Orr

Date: Saturday, December 4

Time: 10:00am-12:00pm

Description: Join the Canton Public Library on Saturday, December 4th for a discussion with author, Arletha Orr on her new book, *Live*, a book that offers help to loss survivors as they begin their healing journey. Arletha will talk about tools that will help you fight through anger, depression, bargaining, and more.

Wrap & Yap: Holiday Gift Wrapping Class

Date: Monday, December 6

Time: 4:00pm-5:30pm

Description: Are you looking to sharpen up your holiday gift wrapping skills? The Canton Public Library and Cheerful Hearts Seniors can help you out. Join us to learn the basics of gift wrapping along with tying the perfect Christmas bow. You will also learn some easy gift wrapping tricks and ideas. Materials will be provided. Please make sure to bring a gift or an empty box to practice with. No registration is required. Space is limited. Available while supplies last.

Holiday Movie Matinee

Tuesdays, December 7, & 21 (Santa Clause, and The Dog Who Saved Christmas Vacation)

Time: 12:00pm-1:45 pm

Description: Come join us for free

popular movies at the Canton branch on the library's big screen with real surround sound! Movie Matinees are held in the meeting room and refreshments are available. No registration is required.

Seated Pilates at the Canton Public Library

Date: Tuesdays, December 14, 21 & 28

Time: 10:00am-10:45am

Description: 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, or to develop your core strength. Come to the Canton branch every Tuesday and join in our FREE Pilates exercise class! This is a form of low-impact exercise that is excellent for people looking to start a new exercise routine. For adults ages 18+ only.

New Year's Resolution for Diabetes Care

Date: Thursday, December 16th

Time: 10:00am-11:00 am

Description: Join Shelia Spann, Pharm D, CDE, as she discusses goals for the New Year for diabetes care. If you have diabetes, Dr. Spann will offer some ideas to focus on when making your New Year's resolutions for 2022. She will discuss the importance of seeing your doctor regularly, knowing your numbers, planning healthy meals, adding exercise

into your routine, and managing your stress.

Women's Empowerment Group Lunch Chat

Date: Friday, December 17

Time: 12:00pm-1:00pm

Description: "Empowered women empower women". This group is designed for women who want to achieve more serenity, contentment and peace. Join Jacqueline Carson, M.S. – Certified Personal Trainer and Health Coach as she discusses topics relating to: relationship stress, anxiety, depression, feeling overwhelmed or isolated, intimacy, self-care, self-esteem, body image, fatigue, family problems, and much more.

Cheerful Hearts Seniors Workshop

Date: Saturday, December 18

Time: 11:00am-1:00pm

Description: Cheerful Heart Seniors is a nonprofit organization that provides recreational therapy activities for veterans and seniors. This group of retired teachers and veterans' mission is to stay active and provide community service, including: job fairs, job training, job placement, frequent visits to St. Jude, deliver gifts to Batson Children's Hospital, and do blanket drives to give to homeless shelters.

Remember When: An unlikely Santa and historic twinkling lights

By Guest Columnist Mary Jane Boutwell

“Here comes Santa Claus, here come Santa Claus.” Way back, the decorations for the season were primarily in the storefronts. Each business was decorated more or less depending on the type of business and whim of the owners.

My earliest memory of Christmas in Canton was of the strings of Christmas lights strung across the streets, from the railroad tracks up to and around all four sides of the square.

I do not know when it started, but there was a Christmas parade from the old Canton High School to the corner where Jones Drug Store was, down to the train station, and around the other side of the square and back to the school. Santa Claus rode on the engine.

The first parade I saw was in 1953. I was a new member of the band and marched in the band.

No one has been able to give a date, but, at some point, the wreaths we now see on the light poles were added. Over the years, they came all the way out onto Highway 22 to the GA Carmi-



Photo by Beth MacNeill

chael Clinic.

But best of all was when Earl Halland, working for Canton Public Works, added Santa and his reindeer to the square. He put a cable on the poles around the square, added Santa, his sleigh, reindeer, and Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer. Santa and all

were pulled (flew) around and around the square.

Last year, as I was going through keepsakes and throwaways, I came across a picture of Santa Claus holding my oldest grandson. Drew as a pre-schooler was afraid of men with beards, but there he sat.

As I have told long-time residents who this Santa's helper was, they have had as much disbelief with his identity as I did.

The family lived in the community and rode to school with all of us. Over the years, Baby Peterson made quite a name for himself. He was a football player. His name came from being hurt in practice or a game. He was probably hit in the nose and tears flowed. Naturally “Baby” became his name. Football players in the Choctaw Conference learned if they saw tears it was time to go to the sidelines.

Just recently, I found a 1953 Canton High School annual. There was Baby in his football stance and on another page as the “Biggest Male Flirt.” None of the alumni of that period remember that honor or his Santa Claus role, but he made for a great Christmas memory for our family.

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

Unraveling the history of Sharon United Methodist Church

By Guest Columnist Jim Woodrick

A few short years after Madison County was organized in 1828, Dr. Birdsong William Webb (B.W.M.) Minter, an educator and a devout Methodist, arrived in an unsettled part of the county north of Canton. In 1836, Minter deeded 62 acres for the benefit of the Methodist Church. An existing church, built in 1835, was already on the property and would soon see the addition of an adjacent cemetery and two parsonages, one for the first pastor, John Ira Ellis Byrd, and one for a Presiding Elder (now known as a District Superintendent). The church helped put the growing community on the map and gave the town its name. Previously known as “Purchase,” the town was renamed Sharon.

Located on high ground approximately seven miles north of Canton, Sharon soon attracted other settlers, including a native of New York named Kinsman Divine. Along with his brothers, Ebenezer and Samuel, Kinsman moved up from Jefferson County and built one of the first houses in the area. Kinsman Divine followed Minter's lead in 1838 by selling 84 acres for the sum of \$2,120 to establish the town itself, and Sharon was incorporated the same year. The original town plat consisted of one and a half square miles, covering parts of five sections of land and was laid off into 64 one-acre lots. The

town's grid included six streets, one of which was named for Dr. Minter, who died in 1839. By 1840, many of the lots had been sold, and the town grew rapidly and boasted a thriving business district.

In addition to a growing merchant class, Sharon was noted for its educational institutions. In 1837, two schools, collectively known as “The College and Academy” were established, with

faculty from four denominations. Initially providing education for both boys and girls, the

school was reorganized in 1842 as the “Sharon Female Academy” and placed under the jurisdiction of the Mississippi Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

By 1860, the academy had as many as ninety students. In 1851, Madison College was also established at Sharon. This school was reserved for male students, and its first president was Dr. Thomas C. Thornton, who was also the first president of Centenary College, now located in Louisi-

ana. Thornton died in 1860, and then the school closed during the Civil War years. Sharon Female College was also a casualty of the war years, but both schools reopened and continued until the mid-1870s. By then, Sharon as a community had gone into steep decline.

What caused Sharon's rapid decline was the coming of the railroad to Canton.

With increased rail traffic, many of Sharon's residents and businesses relocated to Canton; and the schools, which had been

the lifeblood of Sharon, eventually failed. Today, little remains in Sharon to indicate that it was ever a thriving town. The church, however, is still there, along with a large cemetery, which includes the graves of Kinsman Divine and Dr. B.W.M. Minter, along with many of the professors who taught at the Sharon Female College and Madison College. One mysterious grave, that of a young student named Sarah N. Burns, who died in 1847, includes this cryptic in-



Special to The Canton News

scription: “The pretended illness of which she died was caused by mismanagement and the afflictions and sufferings of pretended friends.”

The current Sharon United Methodist Church building is the second church on the property and was dedicated on May 15, 1892. Although the current congregation is small, the church has been holding services for 186 years and has remained faithful to the original mission of the church when it was established in 1835. Among the many pastors who have served at Sharon is Charles Betts Galloway, whose first appointment was at Sharon in 1869. He was then just twenty years old. Galloway would go on to become a bishop in the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, and was a prominent author and editor. Galloway Memorial United Methodist Church in Jackson is named in his honor.

Sharon UMC meets on the second Sunday evening of each month at 5:30 p.m and is led by Rev. Brian Johnston. On December 12, 2021, the congregation will be celebrating the advent and Christmas season with a special service. All are welcome to attend.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Jim Woodrick is retired from the Mississippi Department of Archives and History and is the author of The Civil War Siege of Jackson, Mississippi. He regularly attends Sharon UMC.



BROWN SUGAR GLAZED HAM

Ingredients:

- 3/4 cup Pure 'N Simple Honey
- 1/2 cup bourbon or whiskey
- 1/2 cup pineapple juice
- 3 tablespoons of water
- 1 1/2 cup of brown sugar
- 1 can of whole pineapples
- 1 jar of cherries
- 1 (5 to 10 pound) whole bone-in smoked ham, fully cooked, sliced

ON THE TABLE:

BROWN SUGAR GLAZED HAM

RECIPE FROM KENNY E. BENNETT

By Kenny E. Bennett

The brown sugar glazed ham is one of my favorite recipes to make during the holiday seasons. I became inspired by my aunt Katie, who would always make the brown sugar glazed ham for our family Thanksgiving and Christmas gatherings. As a child, I fell in love with the cherries and pineapples that she placed on top of the ham, which made me want to learn how to cook.

I started cooking at seven years old and learned from my mom, Mrs. Sadie Lee Bennett. I can remember the times when I was so little and that I had to get a chair to stand on just to reach the stove.

My mother taught me almost everything I know about cooking, including reading cookbooks, using measuring utensils, and creating my own recipes. I have been making the brown sugar glazed ham for about ten years. However, three years ago, I added honey to my recipe, and now it is the honey brown sugar glazed ham.

- Directions:**
1. Preheat oven to 375 degrees.
 2. In a medium or large sauce pan, heat bourbon, honey, water, brown sugar, and pineapple juice for about 10 to 15 minutes. Then, reduce heat and stir the glaze occasionally.
 3. Put ham in oven to cook for 20 to 30 minutes. Then, pour the glaze over the ham and place back in oven for 10 to 15 more minutes. Now, take it out and put the cherries and pineapples on the ham by placing the cherries in the center of the pineapple, and pour the remainder of the glaze over the pineapples and cherries. Place back into oven for 10 minutes.
 4. Take the ham out of the oven and allow it to cool slightly before serving.

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Robinson recognized for decades of coaching

By Courtney Warren

During the 2021 football season, Canton Academy (CA) recognized an invaluable patron, coach, and friend of the school - Coach Glen Robinson. Coach Robinson spent countless volunteer hours coaching and cheering on Panther football teams for many years. Coach Robinson's grandsons, senior Chaney Hale and eighth grader Rhett Hale, presented their grandfather with a Canton Academy helmet signed by his beloved Panther football team and coaches.

Coach Robinson's daughter Shea Hale said, "Being honored by CA at this season's last home game was so special for my dad. The smile on his face and the tears in his eyes when presented with the signed helmet is something I'll never forget, and to make the moment even sweeter, my boys were asked to present the helmet to him. My dad has loved Panther football for as long as I can remember.



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"It's always so much fun to hear stories of him coaching through the years from those whose lives he touched along the way. I'm so grateful to Canton Academy and to Coach McCarty for making the special night happen for my dad," said Hale.

Robinson started coaching baseball in Canton for Dixie Youth in the early 1970's and then coached football at Canton Academy from 1980-2003. Once at CA, Robinson coached peewee football in 1980 and assisted with junior high and varsity football as offensive line coach until 2003. He was offensive line coach under head coaches Glenn Boyce, Doug Grantham, and Flip Godfrey. He coached at CA during three of CA's four state titles and seven of CA's district titles.

Coach Robinson was thanked immensely for his lifetime of service to the team and school. He is loved by many for his dedication and patronage.

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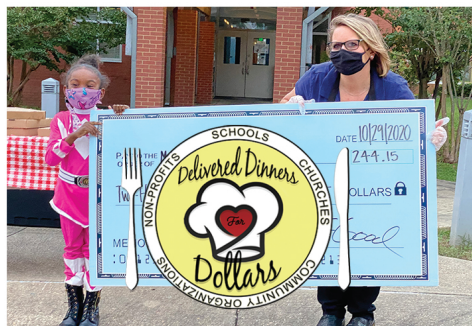
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Canton Sports Shorts

NOVEMBER 5
CANTON ACADEMY VS. SYLAN BAY ACADEMY

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Most Valuable Offensive Player: *Chris Hunter*
Most Valuable Defensive Player: *Samual Wadford*
Most Valuable Play: *Samuel Wadford with a 55-yard kickoff return for a touchdown*

NOVEMBER 12
CANTON ACADEMY VS. CENTREVILLE ACADEMY

35 18

Most Valuable Offensive Player: *Chris Hunter*
Most Valuable Defensive Player: *Samual Wadford*
Most Valuable Play: *Chris Hunter with a 75-yard kick return for a touchdown*

NOVEMBER 19
TRI COUNTY VS. KIRK ACADEMY

40 21

Most Valuable Offensive Player: *Trace Dearman and Zac Clark combined for 402 rushing yards and 6 TD's*
Most Valuable Defensive Player: *Brody Thompson*
Most Valuable Play: *Caleb Clearman, sophomore with a 4th quarter interception at the 10-yard line returned to mid-field*

NOVEMBER 5
TRI COUNTY ACADEMY VS. OAK HILL ACADEMY

56 14

Most Valuable Offensive Player: *Trace Dearman*
Most Valuable Defensive Player: *Kamp Sheapard*
Most Valuable Play: *Ty Milner with a 93-yard interception return for a touchdown*

NOVEMBER 12
TRI COUNTY VS. GREENVILLE ST. JOE

14 7

Most Valuable Offensive Player: *Trace Dearman*
Most Valuable Defensive Player: *Entire TCA defense*
Most Valuable Play: *Walker Wasson with a goal line interception in the first half*

NOVEMBER 5
VELMA JACKSON VS. EAST MARION

48 0

NOVEMBER 12
VELMA JACKSON VS. KEMPER COUNTY

18 16

NOVEMBER 19
CANTON ACADEMY VS. GREENVILLE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

6 46

MSAIS 3A STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

Editors Note: The Canton News will begin covers local sports contests. Coaches from each team will award their players Most Valuable Player awards as well as the Most Valuable Play.

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Mock trial brings out the competition

Special to The Canton News

The Canton Academy sophomores were prepared for literary justice. Mrs. Courtney Warren’s English 2 class finished reading *The Outsiders* by S.E. Hinton and participated in a mock trial. With Johnny Cade on trial for murder, the prosecution and defense presented their arguments before the jury. After a brief deliberation,



Photo by Courtney Warren

Jaheim Blackmon delivered an impressive opening statement using ethos, pathos and logos while dressed to impress the court.

the jury declared Johnny Cade “not guilty.” Dressed to impress, the claws came out in their “courtroom,” as the sophomores delivered two claims and a rebuttal per side. Students were engaged in practicing close reading, citing strong and thorough textual evidence, analyzing evidence, persuasion/argumentation/debate, writing and speaking/listening.

CPSD celebrates mini grants for teachers

Special to The Canton News

Continuing their mission to assist in the education of local youth, Junior Auxiliary of Madison County (JAMC), awarded some of the innovative teachers in the Canton Public School District with the 2021 Money for Minds Mini-Grants. Winners included Canton Elementary School teachers Alicia Washington and Laura Partain, with “Reading Buddies: Col-



Photo by Courtney Warren

Several teachers were awarded mini-grants by the JAMC

laborative Reading Practice;” Canton Ninth Grade Academy teacher Hope Hamlin, with “Get In Where You Fit In;” Canton Elementary School teacher Koby Boone, with “Be YOUUnique;” Canton Elementary School teacher Carmen A. Taylor, with “Learning Through Games in Spanish;” and Canton Elementary School teachers Mia Reed, Kim Ellis and Halila McCloud, with “Classroom Comfort.”

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