



The Canton News



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

BACK IN SESSION

By Courtney Warren

Summer break was a hot one in Canton, and, while the temperatures are still rather high, it's time for scholars to return to the classroom.

Both Canton Academy and Canton Public School District students have returned to school for the 2023 school year, and students are already in the full swing of things.

At Canton Academy, homecoming is being planned, Friday night lights are shining, and ACTs are already scheduled.

The theme of the 2023 *Reflections* Yearbook is "Put the Record On: What makes your heart sing for CA."

With that idea in mind, junior Anna Claire (AC) Mabry said, "We had so many new changes at CA, from the hallways, the faculty, and gaining many new students. I couldn't wait to be back at the Big CA with my favorite people. After performing in our first pep rally of the year and stepping back on the track for the first football game, this school year has already proven to be a good one - and it's only week two."

AC's love for the Panthers runs deep, and she said, "I think to feel Panther Pride means to feel the love and excitement that is being shared all around you when you are at CA. As a cheerleader, game days are usually when I feel the most Panther Pride. When I go through the spirit train in the morning with all of my friends and wave at the elementary, our upper school, and parents, I truly feel Panther Pride and see it looking back at me. People always say that Canton Academy is like a family, and that is nothing less than the truth."

Junior Redding Walker added, "Panther Pride is the love and excitement you have for Canton Academy and the people within it. Feeling Panther Pride is to feel extreme excitement and pride over representing the name of Canton Academy."

Senior Cooper Hardin is excited to roam the halls of CA one final year and said, "I can't wait to see all of my friends again, and my teachers. I'm ready to see Mrs. [Kathleen] Penn, because I was excited she'd be teaching me again."

Over at Canton High School, the Tigers have been busy sharing their own school pride. Student elections were held for student council and Mr. and Miss CHS.

With pins supporting their classmates and posters decorating the walls, students went to the polls to cast their votes for these school representatives.

Dwight Luckett, Jr. and Erin Nichols were named Mr. and Miss Canton High for the 2022-2023 school year. Tynekia Caldwell was named Student Government Association President.

Luckett, Jr. said he wants to "inspire students to work hard to get a good education, because, with hard work and perseverance, they can achieve their wildest dreams." He also wants scholars to know the importance of giving back to their community. While he is a proud Tiger, he wants CHS to be a place where scholars can also have fun while learning. He wants scholars to take more educational field trips and get involved in great clubs that celebrate their unique qualities and honor their success.

One of his favorite quotes comes from a person he greatly admires, former President Barack Obama: "Change will not come if we wait for some other person or some other time. We are the ones we've been waiting for. We are the CHANGE that we seek."

Miss Canton High, Erin Nichols, said she wants "to make sure CHS is a place where everybody is somebody and where scholars can get involved and be heard."

One of her favorite quotes comes from a person she greatly admires, former First Lady Michelle Obama: "You may not always have a comfortable life, and you will not always be able to solve all of the world's problems at once, but don't ever underestimate the importance you can have, because history has shown us that courage can be contagious and hope can take on a life of its own."



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Old Jail Farmers Market back for the fall

By Guest Columnist Joy Foy

The Old Jail Farmers Market was loads of fun and proved to be a great way for people to meet new friends and reconnect with neighbors. The Committee appreciates all of you for coming and supporting our efforts to offer a market for local growers to sell produce in Canton. Our sponsors are G.A. Carmichael, AG UP, BankPlus, Madison County Co-Op, Madison County Farm Bureau Federation, Performance Therapy, Merit Health Madison and Moses Thompson.

At each of the summer market, we gathered under the shade trees on the east side of the Old Jail and sold vegetables, sweet corn, eggs, flowers, meat, baked goods, salsa, crafts, honey, plants and blueberries. There were seventeen paying vendors, and the crowds enjoyed free services from G.A. Carmichael, including free COVID vaccines and boosters, snow cones from Hawaiianville Shaved Ice, face painting by Amanda Mc-

Natt, and the skills of Magee native Mr. James to sharpen all types of blades (scissors, garden tools, knives, and lawn mower blades).

The first two markets were rather short on vegetables, however, at each market the offerings of tomatoes (both ripe and green), all kinds of peppers, squash, cucumbers, potatoes, eggplant and okra grew.

Maureen Simpson, President of the Madison Canton Historical Society, along with other members of the Old Jail Board of Directors, sold the Old Jail cookbooks. Frazier Riddell came and played for one of the markets. We ended the market with a water sprinkler to cool off the kids, and at each market our local librarians played games and brought fun supplies to entertain them.

Our vendor list included student entrepreneurs who made stuffed toys, pottery and all types of baked sweets. Everything from chocolate covered Oreos to gourmet popcorn and all types of cookies and brownies were offered by these young vendors.

My grand girls, Josey and Katy from Wyoming, were here for the first market. They not only spent all the money they made, but all the cash we started with for change also ended up in the pockets of the other food vendors. They each came home with a new pottery cup, a belly full of blondie brownies and caramel popcorn, and lots of good memories with new friends.

The Farmers Market Committee, Misty Slay, Sarah Ellis, Dana

Nowell, Sherry Anderson, and myself, have regrouped and are planning for a fall market beginning September 8. We will follow that up with three other markets, on September 22 and October 6 and 20. We're starting earlier this time, and will be open from 4-7 p.m. You will soon begin to see signage and advertisements promoting the market.

The market could use more vegetable vendors as well as anyone interested in selling canned jams, jellies and vegetables. There will be a microphone, and we welcome local talent. If anyone is interested in preforming, please, let one of the committee members know.

You can contact us via the Old Jail Farmers Market FaceBook spot on the Madison Canton Historical Society page, by emailing us at old-jailfarmersmarket@gmail.com, or by calling me at 601-842-1780.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Joy Foy is married to James Foy and is a retired Economic Developer with the Mississippi Development Authority. Foy is an active participant in the community of Canton. She is a member of the Canton Lions Club, the Keep Canton Beautiful Committee and the Canton Beautification Committee.



Joy Foy

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Mr. and Miss. CHS, SGA President announced



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Pictured (l to r) are Mr. CHS Dwight Luckett, Jr., Miss CHS Erin Nichols, Miss CHS First Runner Up Ahniya Myers, Miss CHS Second Runner Up Jh'Kiyah Matlock, and SGA President Tynekia Caldwell.

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After students promoted themselves and the votes were tallied,

Dwight Luckett, Jr. and Erin Nichols were named Mr. and Miss Canton High for the 2022-2023 school

year. Tynekia Caldwell was named Student Government Association President.

Latoya Fleming named McNeal principal



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Latoya Fleming was recently named the principal of McNeal Elementary School.

Fleming is a life-long resident of the Madison County area and a 2001 graduate of Velma Jackson High School. She received her Bachelor of Science degree in elementary education and her Master of Educational Leadership from Belhaven University.

Fleming has had the pleasure of serving the children of the Canton Public School District since 2010. She has served as a teacher's assis-

tant, teacher, interventionist, and instructional specialist at Reuben B. Myers Canton School of Arts and Sciences. Fleming has also served in many other school leadership roles, including the MTSS Chairperson. She led the district's elementary division of the 21st Century Community Learning Centers as the Project Director. During her time at Reuben B. Myers CSAS, she received Teacher of the Year recognition for both the 2013-2014 and 2017-2018 school years. She was also awarded several grants and outstanding service awards.

Fleming enjoys being of service to others. She strives to make a profound impact on all those that she encounters. Although her goal as an educator changes each year, one constant is her dedication and passion for making a difference in the lives of children. She wants them to not only feel valued but also value education.

Fleming finds joy in spending time with her family, especially her husband, Kashaka, and three children, Xavion, Kyanti, and KaTorri. In her free time, she enjoys crafting and working with all things technology.

Nichols Middle School class gets new decor



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In an effort to support educators, Miskelly Furniture spent the summer donating furniture and decor

to teachers. Recently, Nichols Middle School (NMS) counselor Elisabeth Ward-Weston was chosen by Miskelly Furniture. The company



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selects deserving educators to surprise. Several members of the NMS dream team recommended their new counselor, Ward-Weston. She

was awarded two chairs, two throw pillows, an end table, a centerpiece, a rug, a picture frame, and a \$250 Amazon gift card.

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Word of Prayer: Canton and Christian hospitality

By Guest Columnist Beth Foose



Beth Foose

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We often think of ministry as pastoral care or Bible study or running a food pantry or preaching, and, certainly, those are ministries. But sometimes ministry is simply gracious, humble and heartfelt hospitality.

Christian hospitality is moving through the ordinary days and events of our lives in a posture of welcome and readiness to meet the living God in each and every person we encounter. Jesus tells us to welcome the stranger, because community with others enriches all life — ours as well as those we welcome. Through our connections with one another, we become more connected to the God who created us all.

I have long been drawn to a fifteenth-century icon by Andrei Rublev of three angels seated around a table — two on either side of the table and one behind the table from the viewer's perspective. The icon, entitled "The Holy Trin-

ity," invites us to consider how the very essence of God's being is one of dynamic relationship. On the original icon, in front of the table, there is a spot. Art historians speculate that the spot is glue which once held a tiny mirror. The viewer of the original icon could have seen her or himself in the mirror and thus have come to understand his or her participation in the essence of God. One way we live into being part of that image of God is through hospitality.

As St. Benedict writes in his Rule, "All guests who present themselves are to be welcomed as Christ, for He himself will say, 'I was a stranger, and you welcomed me.'" Certainly, hospitality is a concrete expression of the love that binds us to God and to each other.

In October and May of each year, we meet many strangers here on the streets of Canton, many of them toting bags filled with crafts. Some of them pushing strollers. Some of them hungry or thirsty. All of them in need of hospitality.

When the Canton Flea Market began decades ago, a small group of friends who wanted to share their art and cultivate community gathered around the Square and



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welcomed friends and neighbors — both near and far — to come be part of the Canton arts experience.

Early on, Grace Episcopal

Church joined the celebration with its Flea Market Plant Sale. Things have changed a lot through the years. The small,

cont. on page 16

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Brooks named principal of Goodloe Elementary

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Brooks is a native of Jackson and a graduate of Lanier High School. She received her Bachelor of Science degree in elementary education from Jackson State University. She also received her Master of Art in teaching from Belhaven University, and received her administrative certification by completing the Mississippi Alternate Path to Quality School Leaders (MAPQSL) program. She is currently completing her specialist degree in psychomotry from Jackson State University.

Brooks has over seventeen years of experience in the public educational system. She has served as assistant teacher, teacher, interventionist and assistant principal. She has worked in both the Tunica County School District and the Jackson Public School District. Brooks began working in the Canton Public School District in August 2015 as a third grade teacher at Goodloe Elementary School. While at Goodloe, she maintained the highest average of students passing the Third Grade Gate assessment in the district.

In 2017, she was transferred to McNeal Elementary School, where she was promoted to interventionist. In 2018, Brooks was promoted



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to assistant principal, which she served as for four years. As assistant principal, Brooks contributed to increasing the school's rating from a D to a consistent B. While at McNeal, Brooks had the following roles: Multi-Tiered System of Supports Chairperson; 504 Plan Chairperson; 21st Century After-School Site Coordinator; Fixed Asset

Clerk; and Instructional Coach.

Brooks is very passionate about student achievement and growth. She believes with the right learning structures and safety nets in place, all students can show significant growth. She says she is excited to work with the Goodloe community to promote ongoing student success and build teacher

capacity.

Brooks is a devoted mother to British Brooks, an incoming seventh grader at Porter Middle School. She is an active member of Jackson Revival Center Church, where she serves on the Hospitality Ministry. Brooks enjoys traveling, reading and fine dining.

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Canton High School volleyball season has arrived



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Canton High School Lady Tigers were excited to begin the volleyball season. With smiling faces, these athletes have worked together and are striving for successes on the court.

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California comes to Canton with IHS Bball

By Guest Columnist Sophie Abuzeid

It has been In His Steps Ministries' (IHS) privilege to partner with Crossway Community Church of Brea, California for the past 11 years. This summer, the group from Crossway came to Canton to host our annual basketball camp, lead devotionals, and share career and personal development workshops with local youth. This year marks the first camp in two years since the pandemic postponed previous trips. The Crossway group contributed to our mission of impacting the community through a holistic, gospel-driven approach. The basketball camp took place at Huey L. Porter Middle School each morning during the week of July 24-29. We are grateful for the continued partnership with Canton public schools over the years. About 50 children, ranging from 9-15 years old, attended the camp, where they were able to have fun, learn new skills, and be encouraged by mentors. Fifteen local volunteers and coaches contributed to the impact of the camp. Many of the volunteer coaches were participants in the camp as youth and have come back to volunteer. The objectives were for the youth to learn the fundamentals of basketball, develop cross-cultural friendships, grow Christian character, and practice sportsmanship. Each day, a bible devotional was shared with the youth. On the last day of camp, Christin Howard, IHS Sports Ministry Director, shared the gospel and encouraged the youth to maintain the proper priorities in life.

In the afternoon, the Crossway group led career, arts and crafts, and food classes for students. They were able to create and express themselves while learning new skills. The career workshop gave local youth an opportunity to talk to professionals about their chosen fields and explore any questions they might have. Amongst the Crossway group were doctors, lawyers, nurses, and other occupations who shared their experiences with the kids. The youth were



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eager to learn about potential career opportunities and build connections. The workshop continued the IHS objective of exposing our youth to potential career opportunities and encouraging them to pursue their dreams.

By embodying a compassionate attitude, the mission team focused on the needs of the youth in our community. Each child attending the camp was given a T-shirt and backpack by the Crossway group, making them feel special. Many of the team members sacrificed their time and resources to be in Canton this summer, and we are so grateful for their dedication to this partnership. In scripture, Christians are commanded to love

and serve their neighbors as part of the Great Commission (Matthew 22:36-40). We have seen evidence of God at work through our relationship with Crossway Community Church as they served the community in Canton. In His Steps Ministries is always open to inviting individuals and groups to participate in impacting Canton, Mississippi.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Sophie Abuzeid is the Media and Communications Specialist for In His Steps Ministries. Abuzeid is an alumna of Mississippi College and now resides in her hometown of San Antonio, TX.

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4H announces future shooting sports schedule



all photos Special to The Canton News

On July 15 and 16, Cade Slay of Canton (left) and Laia Cornelius of Madison (right) competed with dozens of other youth marksmen at the 4-H Shooting Sports State Invitational held at the MS Law Enforcement Officers' Training Academy.

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The Madison County S.A.F.E.T.Y 4H Group has announced the shooting sports schedule and encourages all who are interested to participate. The schedule begins in August, so the group can be better prepared for

next year. They will use the Canton Multipurpose Building and will have four opportunities to shoot each month. Practice sessions will include Air Pistol/Rifle and .22 Pistol/Rifle, as well as archery. Times for practices are 1 p.m., 1:45

p.m., 2:30 p.m., 3:15 p.m. and 4 p.m.

Practice dates are September 7, September 8, September 20, September 21, October 4, October 5, October 12, and October 13. Dates for November are November 9,

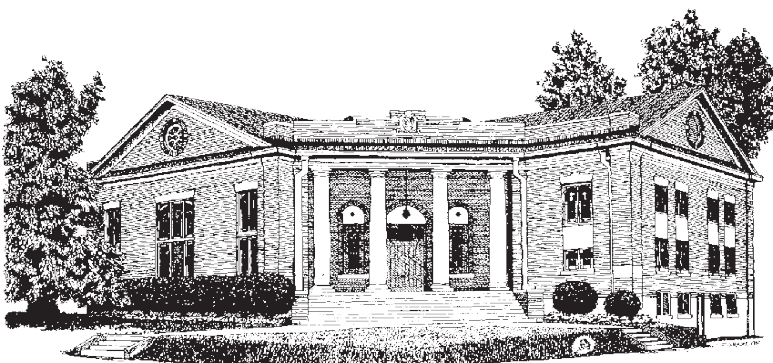
November 15, and November 16. Dates for December are December 7, December 8, December 13, and December 14.

To plan a time, email g.biggs@msstate.edu or call 601-859-3842.

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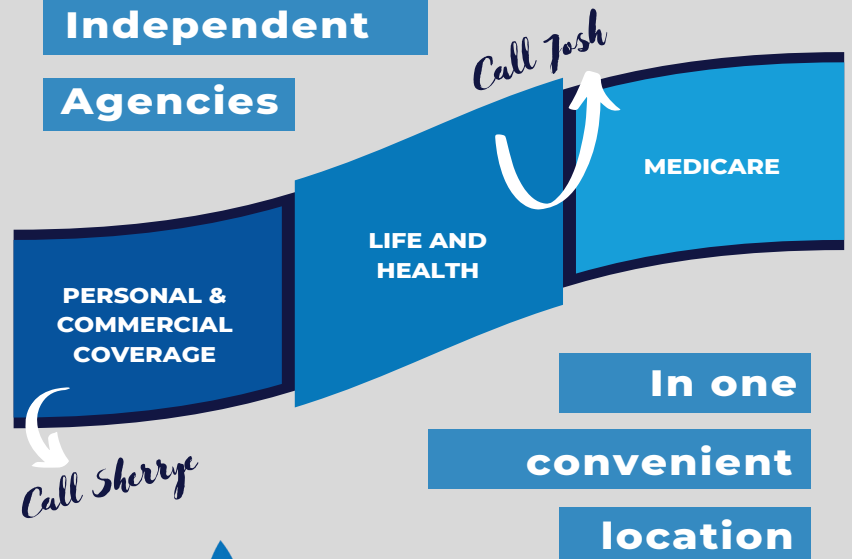
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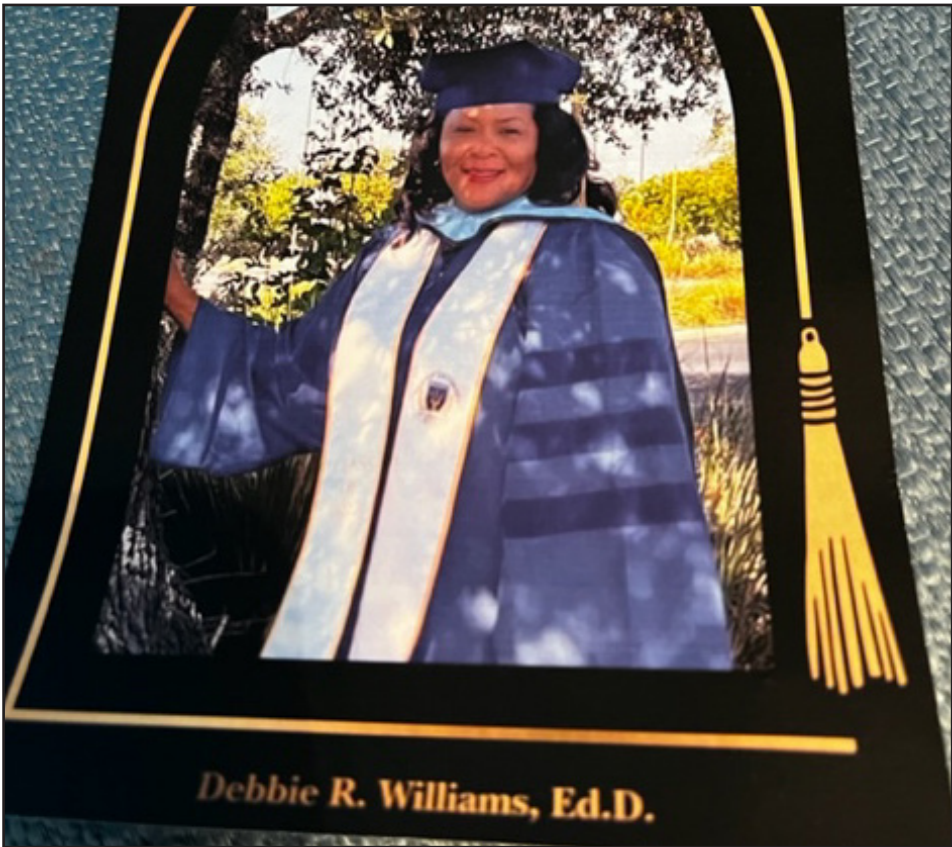
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D. Williams achieves doctorate

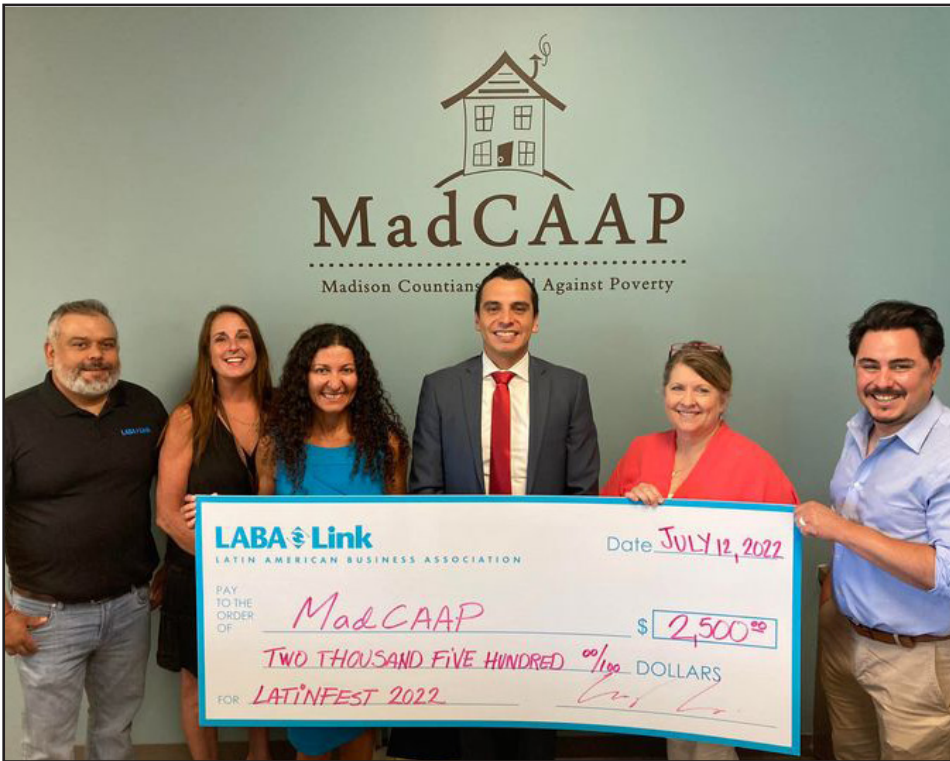


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Debbie Johnson Williams recently achieved a Doctorate of Education degree in educational leadership from Trident University in Chandler, Arizona.. Dr. Debbie

Johnson Williams is the daughter of the late Thomas Johnson and Ruby Johnson. She is also the sister of former Alderwoman Daphne Johnson Sims and wife of Elvis Williams.

MadCAAP receives LABA-Link donation



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Recently, LABA-Link selected MS Madison Countians Allied Against Poverty (MadCAAP) to be the recipient of the proceeds from the Latin Fest. The mission of LABA-Link is to empower the Latino community through leadership in public and community capacity-building

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

KEEP YOUR COOL AS SUMMER HEATS UP

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3

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4

Use fans to cool off. Ceiling fans, box fans and oscillating fans use very little electricity to circulate the air, which helps you feel several degrees cooler.

5

Close blinds, shades and curtains to keep the sun out and the cool air in.

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Canton through a lens: Historic square



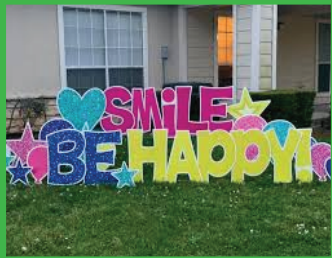
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This month's Canton Through a Lens photo features a warm weather view of the historic square and was taken by Canton Tourism.

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Canton’s Diabetes Solution and Wellness

By Guest Columnist Dr. Shelia Spann

I am Shelia Spann, PharmD, CD-CES. I am the owner and head consultant at Diabetes Solutions and Wellness. I bring over 30 years of professional experience in the healthcare industry as a Pharmacist and Education Specialist to this wellness center. My goal is to help people take charge of their health to have a better quality of life. As a health advisor, I find person-



Shelia Spann

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alized solutions to support natural healing and rejuvenation. I work here as a Certified Diabetes Care and Education Specialist and Consultant Pharmacist. My team specializes in co-managing diabetes and chronic healthcare through education, training, and therapy. We follow guidelines by the American Association of Diabetes Educators to provide credible and science-backed resources. We adopt an intergrative and holistic approach to maximize health support. Proud to have Truly Medical Clinic as a major partner and supporter of the Wellness Center. For more information Please call 601-383-0299 or email spann4116@gmail.com.

Allison Wells Quilt Guild Update

Special to The Canton News

At the most recent Allison Wells Quilt Guild meeting, quilters were excited to share and view the number of blocks donated for the Christmas quilt. Ricki Barbuto delivered a program describing how to use a pre-quilting wall hanging or Christmas card background. The program was followed up with a monthly show

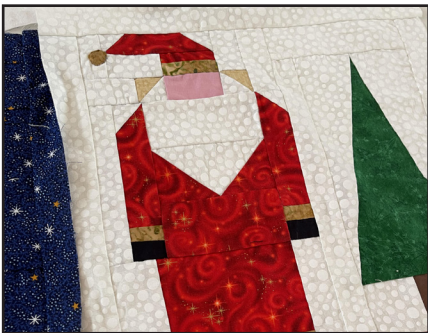


Photo by Courtney Warren

and tell. The group has about twenty members who pay \$10 a year in dues. They meet every Tuesday from 9:30 a.m. until noon at the Canton Visitors and Convention Center on the square in downtown Canton. Their business meeting is on the third Tuesday of each month. Contact canton@cantontourism.com for more information.

OBITUARY



Mary Adams "Chris" Jones

Mary Adams "Chris" Jones July 16, 1939 - August 21, 2022

Mary Adams "Chris" Jones: Funeral service for Mary Jones, 83, of Auburn, AL, was at 11:00

a.m., Saturday, August 27, 2022, at Greater Peace Missionary Baptist Church, 650 Jeter Avenue, Opelika, AL 36801 with interment in Towne Creek Cemetery, Reverend Clifford R. Jones officiated. (Facial covering was required) Mrs. Jones, who passed away peacefully on Sunday, August 21, 2022, was born July 16, 1939 in Canton, MS. Public viewing was Saturday, Au-

gust 27, 2022, at the church from 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. She left to cherish memory: her devoted children, Patricia (Michael) Williams, Joe Michael (Willie Mae) Wade, Fate (Clifton) Clerk Moseley, Jackie Levy and Toney Clerk; niece, Carmen (Claude) Salcedo; sisters, Essye Bridgeman, Eliza (Raymond) Bridgeman McCrimons and Maxine Bridgeman Anderson; sister-in-law, Rosemarie Bridgeman; sixteen grandchildren, Starkisha (Lonnie) Moore, Torrance Green, Rayvon (Alecia) Levy, Jessica (Danny) Mou, Michael Williams, Patrick Williams, DeAngel Smith, Antonio Zackery Harris, Antoinette Diggs, Anthony Clerk, Brittany (Joe) Diggs Reid, Mosiah, Elijah, Amina, Zuri and Ahmad Omari; eleven great-grandchildren and a host of nieces, nephews and cousins.



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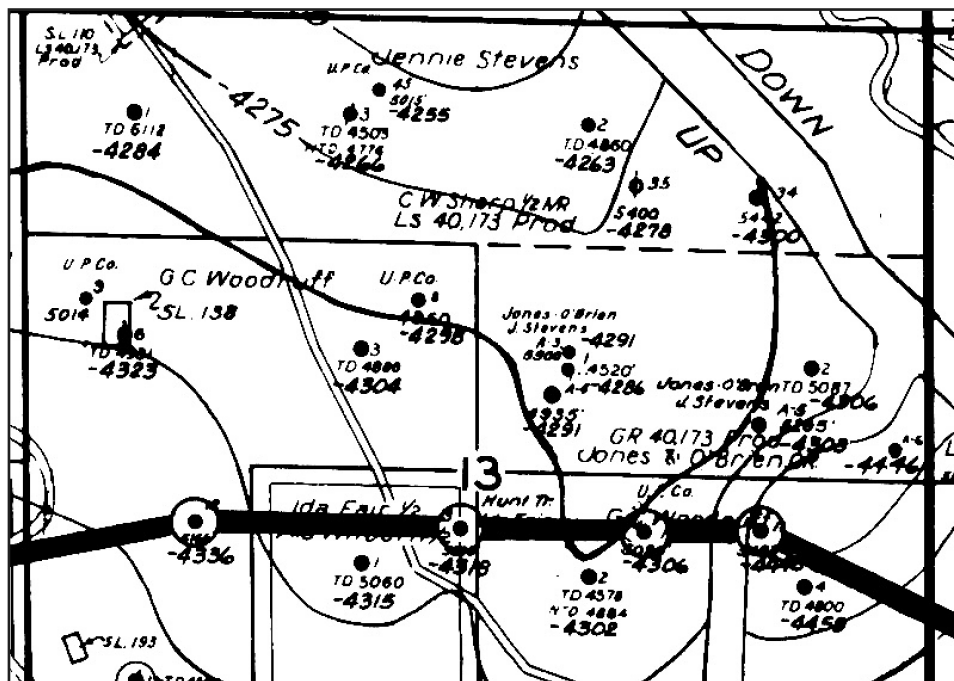
- Understanding diabetes
- Goal setting and problem solving
- Nutrition, Exercise and fitness
- Monitoring and managing your blood glucose
- Lowering risk and acute and chronic complications
- Foot care
- Psychological and emotional aspects

OTHER SERVICES AND EDUCATION AVAILABLE:

- Prediabetes
- Gestational Diabetes
- Insulin Pump Therapy
- Insulin Dosing
- Understanding Diabetes Medication
- PEMF Therapy (Pulsed Electromagnetic Therapy)



Remember When: oil fields and hidden memories



Special to the Canton News

By Guest Columnist Mary Jane Boutwell

This is possibly too personal for some readers, and I apologize before I finish this paragraph but this is where my thoughts have been since a grandson called last week to ask about the fire or explosion at Virililia. As we continued making our appointments and other business in Jackson, we checked with our neighbors. They were all okay.

Family has it that, before I was born, my folks were buying a place at Camden on Town Creek. The best I can get is that my family lived, at least for a while, at Mr. John Whitworth's place. Mr. John approached Daddy and offered him some property off Highway 51. Daddy told Mr. John, "I am a farmer, and that is not farm land." After several years, the place at Camden was replaced with a farm two and a half miles west of Canton. The last I heard, the Camden place was owned by International Paper and growing pine trees. The non-farm land became the Pickens Oil field.

It is amazing how much is hidden in plain sight. The oil field on Cameron Plantation is one. I grew up within several miles off the place, a neighbor even worked there, but I never knew about it. My husband knew. He knew where the salt flats were or are. My son knew. He roamed this part of the county as a boy.

Several things about this oil field I find interesting. It is a continuation of the Pickens oil field. It floats along the Big Black River. I was told it had two wells. The field burned and was not reopened. Several of us meet once a month at

Old Madison Presbyterian Church—commonly called the “Old Folks.” One of the couples is from Yazoo County. A lot of his growing up was about a quarter of a mile from my home. At one of our get togethers, I asked what was his daddy’s job. He was an oil field worker. It struck me that their home was a good distance from the Pickens oil field. In reply to where he worked, the answer was, “the Cameron oil field.” I grew up within ten miles of the plantation and remember nothing about an oil field.

So, I have learned more by talking with others about my community. The original news flash said Virgil-
lia, then it went to Kerney Park, has
always been where the munition
bunkers were built during WWII,
now Vital Records. I remember
storing square bales of hay in one
of the bunkers. My younger brother
enjoyed running and yelling in
one-fun echoes. I understand they
were used as pig pens, grow mush-
rooms, and whatever.

But, back to what I learned where the explosion happened. It was further down the road than the bunkers. So a question- was that part of the Cameron oil field? If anyone can help, please contact me. Also, as these ramblings have been published, I have learned more and more, and some connections need to be made. I would greatly appreciate it if you find any mistakes, please pass on corrections or additional knowledge.

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

September What's going on in Canton

Old Jail Farmer's Market

On September 8, vendors will be on the grounds of the Old Jail from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. selling homegrown produce, flowers, baked goods, jams, and hand-crafted goods.

Canton Mineral Club

The Canton Mineral Club meets on the second and fourth Saturday morning of the month at the Convention Center. The group talks, make jewelry, saws rocks, and shapes rocks.

Friday Night Lights

Canton Academy will play Tri-County and Central Holmes this month, while Canton High School will play Vicksburg, Callaway, and Holmes County. See school websites for ticket details.

Flea Market Prep

Canton Tourism is accepting vendor applications for the fall Canton Flea Market in October. For the application and more information, visit cantontourism.com

CA hosts annual golf cart raffle



Special to the Canton News

By Courtney Warren

The annual Canton Academy Parents’ Auxiliary golf cart raffle is underway. One ticket is \$20, with the option to purchase six tickets for only \$100. The winner will

be drawn at the last home football game on October 21. Tickets can be purchased from any CAPA member, the school office, at football games, or from any CA family. Buyers do not have to be present to win.

cont. from page 6

Word

festive gathering has grown into a huge event. The Flea Market extends for blocks beyond the Square, with hundreds of vendors and thousands of shoppers.

Flea Market days can be a source of dread or delight for those of us who live and work in Canton. Maybe some of us fret about the streets being closed and how we will get to work on time...and others of us can hardly wait to watch the rivers of people course through our streets to peruse the wares of our favorite vendors.

Although many of us have “done” the Flea Market for decades, I hope that this October, by God’s grace, we can shift our perspective and come to see the Flea Market as an ever-new opportunity to extend holy hospitality to the people who visit us.

After observing the growth and changes through the years — and growing and changing a lot ourselves — the Grace Church Flea Market Committee has decided to return to the original values of the Flea Market, which we understand as being appreciation of creativity and hospitality.

At the October Flea Market,

Grace Church will be reconfiguring our booths into an open square, so that shoppers can feel welcomed into the Grace Church spirit as they visit widely spaced and open booths. We will leave plenty of green space for folks to visit, rest and even picnic.

This building is thought to be the oldest functioning church building in Madison County. The interior is beautiful and a Canton treasure. Because we want to share the treasure, the church will be open during the Flea Market for those who would like to visit the historic space and have a few moments of quiet.

Let’s all join together as persons of faith in extending hospitality to our visitors, remembering that we are welcoming Christ. And, if you know of folks coming to the Flea Market, please encourage them to visit our vendors and to make themselves at home in the lawn on the east side of the little white wooden church with the red door.

EDITOR’S NOTE: The Reverend Beth Foose is the Rector of Grace Episcopal Church. She lives with her family in rural Leake County.

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Gas Station	1	\$19,000
Wireless Store	33	\$559,047

AVG \$16,719
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Canton Academy’s Reese Willis proud of the poms and pride

By Courtney Warren

While the varsity football players are putting in the work on the field, the Canton Academy cheer squad plays a huge role on the sidelines. From late night cheer practices and DIY projects to ensure the team feels important and supported, the CA cheer squad has a passion for the game.

Senior cheer captain Reese Willis said, “Cheering for CA is special for me, because I just love the atmosphere of Fridays at the big CA. Friday is the one day of the week everyone looks forward to as a child in elementary school to even high schoolers. I feel this is different compared to most schools, because, when you go to a tiny school like CA, everyone becomes family. And you get to support all of your ‘family’ members, which creates a bond that most people don’t get to have with the coaching staff, players, and even cheerleaders.”

Cheering for CA her entire education career, Willis had big dreams for her future as a CA cheerleader. “Since I was little I’ve always dreamed of being cheer captain. It has been one of my goals since I cheered in 8th grade. When I finally was named captain I realized my

passion. I didn’t want to be captain so I could have the title, I wanted to be captain because I wanted this squad to be different from all the others. I wanted a personal relationship with each girl, I wanted to come home from cheer camp with all of the awards, I wanted the girls to feel confident in their performance and in themselves.

“And let me tell you, this group of girls is all ive ever wanted. They arent just my squad members, they are my best friends. The group I can count on for anything, who will always be there for me. They have the grit, determination, and work ethic to not only be the best for themselves, but for the whole team. I didn’t want this year to be all about me, I wanted it to be all about them. And that is where my passion comes from. To my CA cheer squad, you have no idea how much I love each and every one of you.”

Willis has attended CA her entire life, with her parents attending CA themselves. Even though the year and season has just begun, she is already anticipating her final walk down the halls. As cheer captain, she hopes to leave behind only good memories and influences.

“When people watch me cheer, I



Photo by Courtney Warren

Senior Cheer Captain Reese Willis, junior Anna Claire Mabry, and junior Hannah Dill.

hope they see that being a cheerleader is more than just wearing the uniform and cheering on the sidelines. What people don’t know is that it takes many practices and hours after practice to learn the material, make signs, hang up locker

signs, to fill goody bags, to decorate the gym for pep rallies - and that is just to name a few of the things we do. Being a cheerleader is much more difficult than it seems, but I wouldn’t want to trade it for anything. CA cheer, I love you.”





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Canton Academy Panthers prepared to #FINISH

By Courtney Warren

After making it all the way to a state championship only to lose to the Greenville Christian Saints, the Canton Academy Varsity Football Panthers are ready to #finish with a trophy this year. Passion and heart were evident throughout the season last year, and this season is no different.

Senior Samuel Wadford said his passion comes from the black and gold that runs through his veins.

“My dad played both sides of the ball as a Panther, and so did my brother. I’ve been proud to be a part of the Panther family since I was a little kid playing behind the bleachers at games. My dad still runs the clock at all the games, and my brother comes home from college every week to help on the sidelines. We are a dedicated black and gold family,” said Wadford.

With young eyes watching him, Wadford knows it’s his job to show young athletes what it means to truly be a varsity Panther.

“I hope the underclassmen realize how important their team is to them. We can’t do this without each other. There isn’t one man who makes us good - it takes full effort from every person, whether

you’re the man who takes the ball across the line or not,” said Wadford.

Moving up from the junior varsity to the varsity football team, sophomore Ayden Hughes said his passion is what keeps him on the field.

“It’s the drive for the game that gets you going on the field - the teammates you play for and leaving it all on the field for them. It’s amazing to play for such a good program and school. There is just a different drive behind Canton Academy football. It’s hard to find a coaching staff like we have at Canton Academy anywhere else. It just feels so much better to be on the Canton Academy football field than any other field I’ve ever been on. People in the stands just realize that our coaches do not just coach us to be better players, but they mold us into men. They can tell that we don’t just play the game to win, but we play for each other.”

With the weight of the defense on his shoulders, senior Daniel Ford said, “I love being a senior Panther this year. The younger kids look up to you and you can teach them what you’ve learned. I’m



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Junior running back stand-out Chris Hunter said, “the team is fired up and believes even more than we can win a state championship. I don’t want to leave high school without a ring and I want that ring to be won with the Panthers.”

passionate about the sport because it’s been my life since I was six years old. I’m just hoping to leave

CA with a championship ring and positive memories with the younger players.”

BEFORE | AFTER

BEFORE | AFTER

BEFORE | AFTER

BEFORE | AFTER

BEFORE | AFTER

BEFORE | AFTER

BEFORE | AFTER

BEFORE | AFTER

Diabetes Solutions and Wellness Center

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Prediabetes

Which way will you go?

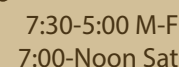
“Pre” means before. A person with Prediabetes doesn’t have diabetes. But, without proper care, over half of those with Prediabetes may go on to develop diabetes—usually for life. 84.1 Million American adults—more than 1 out 3—have Prediabetes. Reduce your diabetes risk and gain knowledge for a healthy lifestyle. For more information on Diabetes Solutions and Wellness Center. call 601-383-0299 or email spann4116@gmail.com.

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

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- Allergy Testing
- MVA & Work related injuries
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- STD Treatment
- Work, MDOT and School Physicals

259 West Peace Street, Canton, MS 39046



In His Steps teaching garden cultivates positivity

By Guest Columnist Sophielena Abuzeid

The organic teaching garden on the In His Steps Ministries main campus has produced delicious blueberries and a variety of home-grown vegetables. Every summer, when our harvest season is ready, we hire local high school and college students to come work in the garden. Our goal is to offer them summer employment and encourage them to cultivate a strong work ethic they can carry with them for the rest of their lives. These young workers are Ian Harris, Javion Smith, Toymonze Simmons, Jaquavian Ratliff and Thomasavian Simmons.

Ian is a longtime participant of IHS and a graduate of the SPASE pro-

gram and is in his second year at a local community college and received his certification in coding. This is his second year working with us in the Garden.

Javion is a young man in the community who is in between high school and his next step in life. He is being encouraged by IHS staff and mentored as he determines his next step.



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Toymonzae has been involved for the last several years in the sports ministry. IHS had the privilege of serving his older brothers, as well, in the sports ministry. He is currently in eleventh grade, and he is a very intelligent young man with a promising future.

Jaquavian is in tenth grade and an excellent student. He is interested in

serving with IHS as a tutor in the fall.

Thomasavian is an upcoming freshman at Belhaven University, where he intends to run track. He is a very talented individual with the potential to reach great heights.

These are all well rounded young men, and we are privileged to be able to serve and encourage them. Please pray for them as they continue to trust God and His plan for their lives.

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.

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