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A piece of history donated to Canton

By Courtney Warren

The Canton-Madison County Historical Society gained another piece of history recently after a donation was made to the group.

Laura Mullins, a former Canton resident, reached out to the society to donate a dress circa 1860. The dress would have been worn by a Civil War era plantation lady of the house for daily wear, to greet any visitors, and to supervise field workers. The dress was donated and displayed at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York by an unknown donor many years ago.

Mullins purchased the dress from the museum six years ago and wore it when she was a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution as she was hostessing at Rosalie DAR headquarters in Natchez.

Mullins said she chose to donate the dress so it could be displayed at the Old Jail Museum.

She shared knowledge about the history of the dress and wrote “the dress is tattered silk as one might imagine. It is very small with a waist diameter of 25 inches or less.”

Mullins recommended the dress be

displayed and worn over crinolines, petticoats, and or a hoop to show off the small train and the true fullness of the skirt.

“I hope the society enjoys ownership of this unique dress. I enjoyed visiting with everyone at the recent society meeting,” said Mullins.

The mission of the society is to preserve the rich history of the area through the collection and maintenance of records and artifacts, through the encouragement of preservation and local historical research to present Madison County’s history to the public by means of museums, archives, creative and educational programming and publications; and to promote cultural tourism as an effective means of communicating the lessons of history to visitors and citizens of Madison County.

The dress will be on display at the jail, which is a historic reconstruction era penal facility in Canton. The jail operated until 1969, just over 99 years, and during that time there was only one escapee.

For more information about the Canton-Madison County Historical Society, call 769-218-0666.



All photos by Courtney Warren



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Canton Elementary fifth graders soaring with learning



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Cantonian given emeritus status at Mississippi College

Special to The Canton News

A quartet of female Mississippi College faculty members were recently honored with emeritus status. It marked the first time at MC that all of the faculty emeritus honorees were women.

Debbie Norris of Canton, graduate school dean and associate provost, was one of the four who was honored. Emeritus status is bestowed upon retired Mississippi College faculty or staff members who have made significant contributions to the Christian University. It is given to showcase a long and distinguished record of scholarship, teaching, research, and service.

Mike Highfield, newly named provost and executive vice president at MC, said arrived at Mississippi College as a transfer student from Hinds Community College and left decades later as “one of the most accomplished administrators in the University’s rich history.”

“During her forty-year tenure at MC, she shepherded her alma mater through three successful decennial reviews by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, cementing her legacy as the ‘Queen of SACS Accreditation,’” he said. “Throughout her years of service to MC, the gifted teacher and beloved administrator earned the respect of her students and colleagues through her strong work ethic, professionalism, and high standards.”

“One faculty leader said, ‘When I think of someone who epitomizes the values and ideals of Mississippi College, someone who bleeds blue and gold, I think of Debbie Norris.’”

A native of Raymond, Norris obtained her B.S. in business administration from MC, her M.Ed. from Mississippi State University, and her Ph.D. in higher education from the University of Mississippi. She taught in the MC School of Business



Special to The Clinton Courier

Four Mississippi College faculty members were recently honored with emeritus status. Pictured (l to r) are Emily Fokeladeh, cofounder of MC’s Foundations for University Success program; Patricia Bennett, former dean of the MC School of Law; Debbie Norris of Canton, graduate school dean and associate provost; and Deborah Bolian Massey, longtime assistant professor of nursing.

for fourteen years, became graduate dean, and was appointed the University’s Title IX coordinator. She served MC as director of institutional assessment, director of international programs, and chair of the Dean’s Council, Graduate Council and Academic Council.

As vice president for planning and assessment, Norris was the chief administrator responsible for assessing each academic and administrative office at the University. As chair of MC’s Strategic Planning Steering Committee, she helmed a number of important institutional committees, including the Graduate Council, the Institutional Title IX Committee, the Marketing Committee, the Inauguration Steering Committee and the Law Dean Search Committee.

Named a favorite professor by MC Mortar Board students twelve times, she received the Student

Government Outstanding Faculty Award. The first Debbie C. Norris Scholarships - \$1,000 stipends for outstanding students who follow in her footsteps by transferring to MC from Hinds Community College – were awarded in the fall of 2020.

SACSCOC saluted Dr. Norris for her academic achievements by presenting her with the Carol Luthman Meritorious Service Award from its Commission on Colleges.

Dr. Norris continues to serve Mississippi College part-time as a consultant and special assistant to President Blake Thompson.

Others honored with emeritus status were Patricia Bennett, former dean of the MC School of Law; Deborah Bolian Massey, longtime assistant professor of nursing; and Emily Fokeladeh, cofounder of MC’s Foundations for University Success program.

CPSD students attend prestigious film festival



Special to The Canton News

Canton Public School District digital media technology students recently attended the Jackson Film Festival with Essence Wallace-Odomes, CEO of The Chosen Entertainment & Media. Mrs. Wallace - Odomes works with students to develop stories, produce content and market to masses.

Nichols gymnasium gets a facelift

Special to *The Canton News*

Canton Public School District Athletic Director Melissa Word and a team of volunteers transformed Nichols Middle School gym with a fresh coat of paint, providing fans with a facelift they are sure to enjoy. The volunteers included Caitlin Nelson, Miss CHS; Jakayla Diamond, student; Jaquavian Ratliff, Mr. CHS first alternate; Melissa Word, CPSD athletic director; Melany Sanders, Huey Porter Middle School teacher; Autralius Whitehead, NMS head girls basketball coach; and Kaila Douglas, NMS volleyball coach.



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Letter from the editor: How do people not know that?

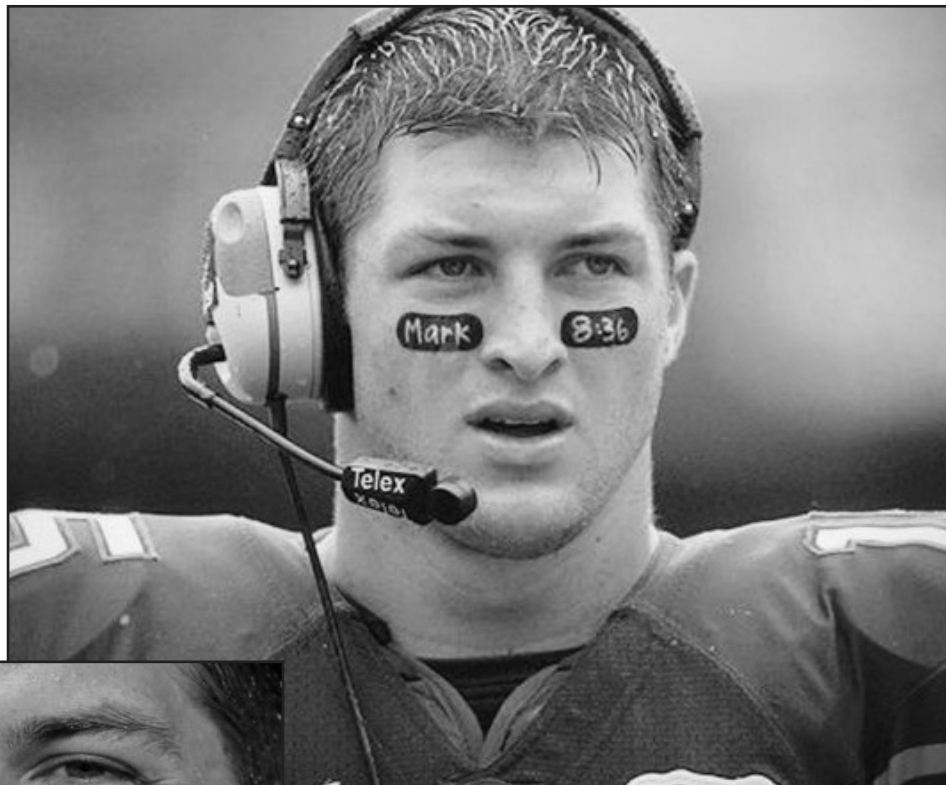
By Courtney Warren

“It blew my mind that someone didn’t know John 3:16.” These words came from one of my sweet new sixth graders after we finished out devotional during fifth period.

Everyday we complete a devotional together. While we are completing our devotional, every other teacher is doing the same thing with their class during fifth period all throughout our middle school. I’m sure no one is surprised to hear that my rowdy crew wanted to do the Tim Tebow devotional *Shaken*. It’s always been popular with my students so I was excited to listen to Tebow tell the story of writing Philippians 4:13 on his eye black before a football game.

As his story goes, Tebow notices teammates writing things on their eye black before they take the field. They write their mothers’ names, family members’ names, area codes, and so on. Tebow considered it for a minute and then shows Philippians 4:13 “I can do all things through

Christ who strengthens me.” He said he did it because he wanted something that would encourage and inspire people. He kept up this habit throughout the season and fans caught on. It became a trend amongst Gator fans at the University of Florida. Towards the end of the season, Tebow felt God putting it on his heart to change the bi-



Special to The Canton News



ble verse. Leading up to the national championship, God placed John 3:16

on his heart. He was nervous, but told his coach that he wanted to change the verse. Coach Meyer responded with, “Phillipians 4:13 got us here!” Tebow said no, it didn’t and he felt led to change the verse. After the playing and winning the National Championship, Coach Meyer got a call from PR

and was told the night of the championship game 94 million people Googled John 3:16 during the game. Three years later, Tebow’s team was playing the Steelers in the first round of the playoffs and while he didn’t even think about John 3:16 he later found out the date was exactly three years from the day he wore John 3:16 under his eyes. During the game Tebow threw for 316 yards, his yards per rush were 3.16, his yards per completion were 31.6, the rating for the night were 31.6 and the time of possession was 31.6. During the game, 90 million people Googled

John 3:16 and it was trending on Facebook and Twitter.

I love that story. After hearing it, the first thing that several of my sixth graders said was the same thing Tebow said when he found out how many people googled the verse. “How do people not know this Bible verse?”

This led to such a good conversation. We are so blessed. How special is it to know John 3:16? To know the meaning behind it? To hear the book, verse, and chapters and immediately know “For God so loved the world, He gave His only begotten Son.”

How often do we take that for granted? My sixth graders and I answered that question with “often.”

We are surrounded by other Christians in our classes, Christian teachers praying for us, and faculty members that have declared their faith before every stepping foot into their classrooms to lead our students.

But not every classroom is like that. Not every school is like that. No every home is like that. How often do we take for granted the fact that we have that verse memorized?

My sixth graders can even say it in Spanish!

But if we know that 90 million people are Googling the verse, how much more important is it that we’re spreading that verse and that good news?

I don’t know. I really liked this takeaway as I left class that day.

Here’s to making John 3:16 a verse no one has to Google anymore. Because we’ve shared it with them before they could ever connect to the Wifi.

On the shelf: *The Watch that Ends the Night*

By Courtney Warren

School has officially started, which means less time to read more books...or does it? I’ve started a free reading time in my classroom and let my students choose my most recent read, which was *The Watch that Ends the Night* by Allan Wolf. This is a book that has been sitting on my shelf for quite some time now. I even had a copy for my classroom at Canton Academy, but yet it collected dust. Finally, one of my students picked it up off of the shelf and left it on my desk, which prompted me to read it during our daily free read time.

I am so glad I did.

This book tells the story of the Titanic through poems. However, these aren’t just regular poems—it’s the voices of those on

the ship. From the first class passengers to the undertaker who pulled bodies from the water to the rats and finally the iceberg itself, the Titanic is documented from the time it leaves port to its very last moments above sea.

According to the publisher, “Millionaire John Jacob Astor hopes to bring home his pregnant teen bride with a min-

imum of media scandal. A beautiful Lebanese refugee, on her way to family in Florida, discovers the first stirrings of love.

And an ancient iceberg glides south, anticipating its fateful encounter. The voices in this remarkable re-creation of the *Titanic* disaster span classes and stations, from Margaret (“the unsinkable Molly”) Brown to the captain who went down with his



ship; from the lookout and wireless men to a young boy in search of dragons and a gambler in search of marks. Slipping in telegraphs, undertaker’s reports, and other records, poet Allan Wolf offers a breathtaking, intimate glimpse at the lives behind the tragedy, told with clear-eyed compassion and astounding emotional power.”

The author adds in morse code, biographies for those he writes about, and even Titanic miscellany.

I told my students about what I was reading each day, and, the second I was done, the book was checked out of my classroom library. WHICH IS THE BEST THING EVER.

If you like history, are fascinated with the story of the Titanic, and enjoy a fresh new way of storytelling, this is the book for you.

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Students bring home awards



Special to The Canton News

Darjae Williams and Emily Sullivan.

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CPSD students Darjae Williams, who won first place in Basic Healthcare at the state SkillsUSA competition, and Emily Sullivan, who won first place in Employment Application at the state SkillsUSA competition, traveled to Atlanta, Georgia, to attend the SkillsUSA National Leadership and Skills Conference this summer. The conference, considered by many to be

the ultimate recognition of excellence in career and technical education, brings together thousands of students, instructors, business partners and administrators to celebrate the accomplishments of those preparing for careers in trade, technical and skilled service occupation. It also provides an opportunity for students to showcase their talents and skills on the national level. The instructor for the CPSD program is Ms. Doris Bright.

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CHS volleyball 2023

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Lions Update: New officers installed



Special to The Canton News

By Guest Columnist Joy Foy

Canton Lions installed new officers. Past President Tamika Liddell passed the gavel to President-elect Moses Thompson. Timmy Pickett will serve as Tail Twister to keep the club energized and motivated. Dan-

iel Logan will serve as Secretary/Treasurer, and Gary Teasley is Vice President.

Please come join us any Wednesday at the Canton Country Club. We begin to gather around 11:30 a.m., and the program begins at noon.

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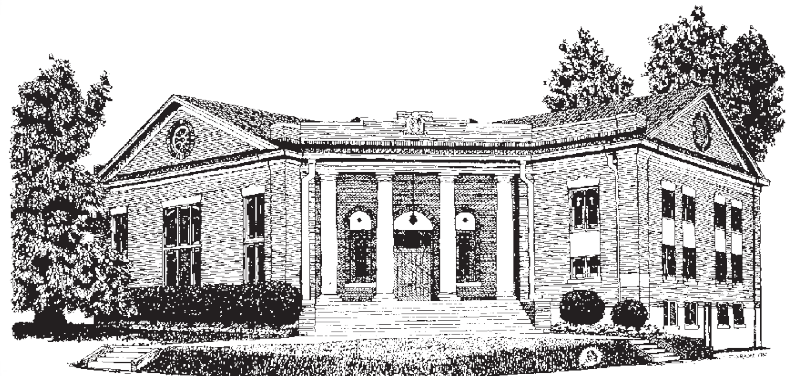
The Praying Pelicans from Iowa recently traveled all the way to Canton to serve at Madison Countians Allied

Against Poverty (MadCAAP). They assisted with prepping crafts for fall programs, sorting school supplies and working in the clothes closet.

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City Spotlight: CMU's LaMarious McKay



Special to The Canton News

Canton Municipal Utilities's Employee of the Quarter is LaMarious McKay, an employee of the Canton Municipal Water Department. He is pictured with the CMU Commissioners Chairman Roberto Williams, Vice Chairman Sabrina Williams and Chairman Mamie Chinn. Dana Gordon the Water Department Manager states "LaMarious is always willing to go the extra mile to complete tasks and is also willing to assist other departments when needed especially during emergencies." McKay said, "He takes pride in working for CMU and the CMU customers."

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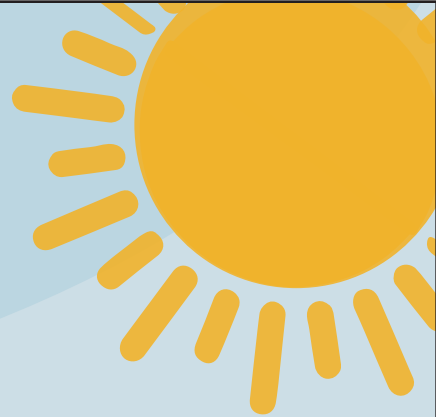

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Use fans to cool off. Ceiling fans, box fans and oscillating fans use very little electricity to circulate the air, which helps you feel several degrees cooler.
- 5

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

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Remember When: A bull, a bucket of peas, and hummingbird tricks

By Guest Columnist Mary Jane Boutwell

A quick conversation for last month. The lady that worked for Maw cleaning house or whatever was paid \$1, not \$11. While talking with a friend who did fieldwork a few years later, he said he and the other field hands got their dollar a day. Wages had gone up.

One of the things discussed as part of the history days at the Old Jail was a method of planting vegetables called Three Sisters. It is understood that it was used by Indians, perhaps along with the fish, fertilized, to grow their garden. The planting consisted of corn, peas or beans, and pumpkins. The corn gives an upright for the peas to climb as they furnish nitrogen for growth, and pumpkins shade (living mulch) for the ground.

When talking with a friend, he said his mother wanted some fresh-picked last of the season peas. He volunteered to try to find some to pick. The peas had been planted in the cornfield after “lay bye” so they could run up the cornstalk. This late, the cattle had been turned into the cornfield to clean up any corn or peas not harvested. So, with a 5-gallon bucket, out he goes. He managed to get a



Special to The Canton News

good many picked. But, hearing something, he turned around and saw a young former pet gently pawing the ground while looking at the basket of peas. A prompt decision—the bull got the peas, my friend got away.

After the bull finished the peas, the bucket was retrieved and, up away from the bull, my friend finished picking peas for his mother.

For others that read the term “lay

bye” but, like I, could not give a definition, I asked. The former farmer said that is when the crop has been planted, come up, fertilized, and as much grass and weeds as possible removed. On corn, I think of it as, after the back plowing has thrown dirt around, the cornstalk has laid by. The crop is allowed to mature without more disturbance. In a group sitting around, we were talking about

hummingbirds and their feeders. One lady told me that her granddaughter would watch the birds coming to the feeder and catch one with her hand, then release the bird. Don’t ever play cards with that young lady.

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

Health Fair held in Canton, MS



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Recently, a health fair was held in Canton. Biometrics screenings were provided through United Healthcare. The event included iOne Benefits

Group, United Healthcare, GA Carmichael, Globe Life Liberty National, Mississippi State University, and The Well of Canton. Door prizes were donated by Professional EyeCare.

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CA's Williams named Coach of the Year



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Canton Academy has always taken CPR certification seriously and takes steps to ensure that every single faculty member is CPR certified. Each year, the school brings in the company CPR Stars to teach the faculty safety measures in the event that CPR is needed for a student or fellow faculty member.



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Canton Academy's Ben Williams was recently recognized for his coaching this past season and was named 2022-2023 Coach of the Year for Class AAAA girls' track. Williams is the athletic director and head track coach at CA, along with teaching duties.

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Sharp receives Trucking Foundation Scholarship



Special to The Canton News

Bryan Sharp of Canton was among the recent recipients of the Mississippi Trucking Association Foundation Scholarship. Sharp received the H. Dean Cotton Endowment. The recipients were honored at a scholarship awards ceremony in Jackson. 2023-2024 MTAF Scholarship Recipients pictured at the August luncheon are (l to r), front row: Katherine Willis of Union, Karson Meeks of Ripley (Mike McLarty Endowment), Nayeli Diaz of Ripley (Mike McLarty Endowment) and Caroline Morris of Brandon; middle row: D'Von Dampier of Clinton, Kayla Eby of Smithdale, Nick Culwell of Louisville, Bryan Sharp of Canton (H. Dean Cotton Endowment), Emma Kate Fox of Tupelo, Micaela Comans of Brandon (John D. Stomps Endowment), Amyia Mackey of Hazlehurst (H. Dean Cotton Endowment) and Katharine Cobb of Brandon; and back row: Marshall Mandel of Madison (R. Gene Holmes Endowment), Elijah Ebbers of Brookhaven (Vernon G. & Nancy Sawyer Endowment), Jackson Warren of Madison, Smith Evans of Hattiesburg and Joseph Anthony (G. Larry Kerr Endowment).



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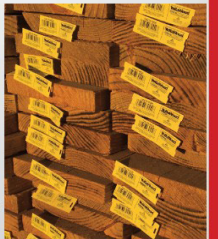
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Mrs. Catherine Bennett's math applications students at Canton Academy partnered to create board games to practice operations with rational numbers. Bennett said she brings active learning into her classroom to ensure her students would remember what they learned through application in a fun way.

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MCBL&F and MCEDA host Health program



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Shown with the Class at Merit is Director of Quality Control, Risk Manager, and Facility Compliance Officer Athena Chapin.

Shown with the Class at Southern Sky Brands are Co-founders Stan Martin and Justin Mahfouz.

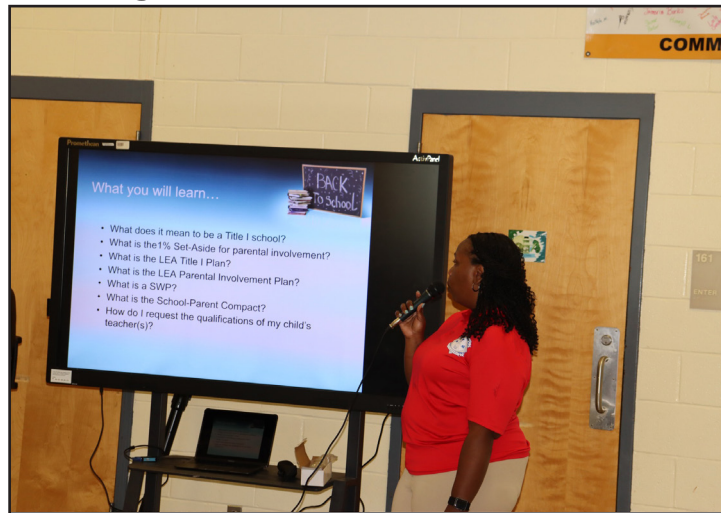
Special to The Canton News

The Madison County Business League & Foundation and Madison County Economic Development Authority (MCEDA) hosted the Health & Well-Being program day on August 23. The class visited

with healthcare leaders and toured numerous health related facilities in the County. Among the stops in Canton were Merit Health -Madison and Southern Sky Brands. The mission of the Madison County Executive Leadership program is to provide MCBL& F members with

a deeper understanding of the opportunities in Madison County in an environment that enhances their leadership skills and prepares graduates to take their knowledge and their experience into the community for the betterment of Madison County as a whole.

Canton Ninth Grade Academy hosts open house



Special to The Canton News

Parents of Canton Ninth Grade Academy students had a successful Open House where they met with teachers and learned how they can support their child's success this school year. School leaders shared Title I information on how parents can also get involved in developing a schoolwide plan to foster learning.

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Teacher's love for art spreading to the Panthers



all photos Special to The Canton News

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The Mississippi State Department Canton Academy art and Bible teacher Savannah Lloyd has started

the year off teaching her students to make their mark. Her elementary art students have spent the week learning about how to create art from simple dots. The book *The*

Dot by Peter Reynolds helps spark imagination and encourage creativity through the use of a single dot. First grade created Pop-Art dot collages using different mediums,

including paint bubbles; third grade explored negative space dots; and sixth grade crafted Gelli Art prints with paper plates and cookie tin lids.

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