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

Good News You Can Use - March 8, 2024 - Vol. 10, No. 3 - Canton, Mississippi



TIGERS WIN BASKETBALL State Championship

Special to The Canton News

Packed with over 8,700 fans, the deafening noise of support pushed the Canton High School Tigers to victory. The MHSAA basketball championships were held on Friday, March 1 at Mississippi Coliseum in Jackson. It's been more than five decades since what was known as Rogers High School, now Canton High, won two championships in 1967 and 1969.

The boys varsity team went into the championship with a 26-4 record, playing Yazoo City High School (28-6) for the MHSAA Class 5A state championship. Securing the win at the final buzzer, the Tigers were victorious with a final score of 58-40.

The girls varsity team was also a force to be reckoned with and made an impressive standing during their championship game, where they fell short to Laurel with a final score of 40-32.

Head Coach Brian Townsend said, "We're not perfect, but our grind is relentless. The overall feeling is undescrivable. Bringing a championship to the city of Canton has been something I've always wanted to do and to do it with these group of guys made it even more special. My players said they did not want to feel the hurt and pain like last year losing in the semifinals, so they never forgot that feeling. They worked during school, after school, and plus they became closer as a team outside of practice. The bond they have is incredible which shows on the court."

CHS Principal Dr. Pamela Self said, "I am very proud of both teams for reaching the state championship games this season. The boys have worked hard in the classroom and on the basketball court to achieve their goals."



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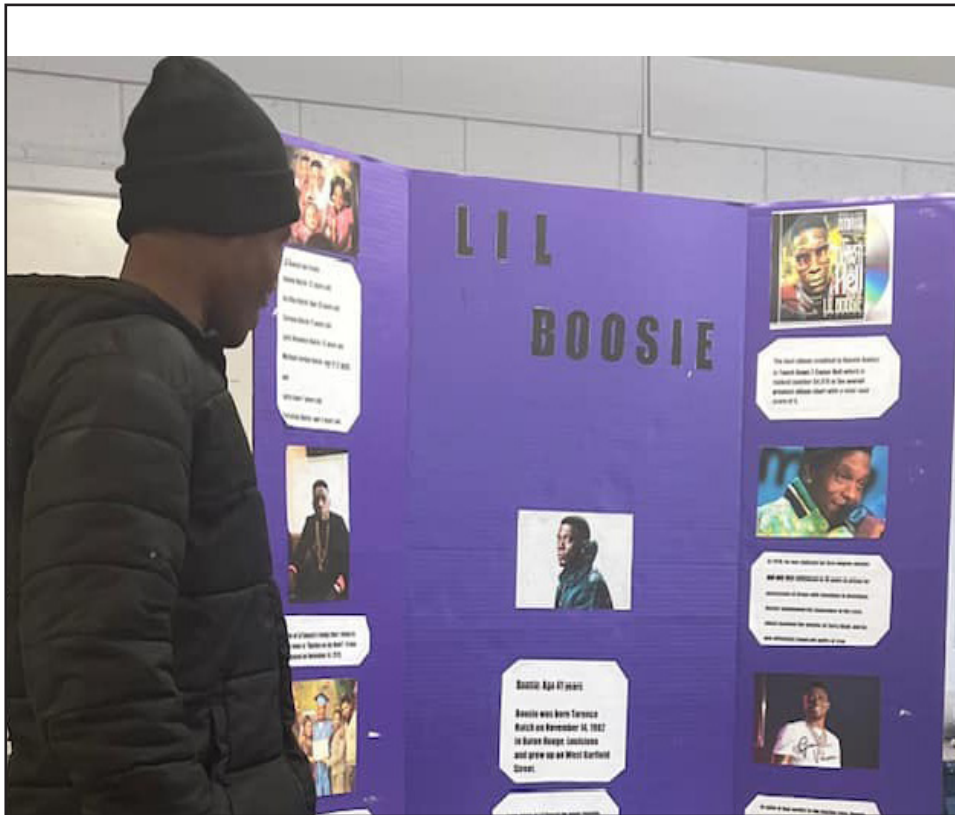
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CHSEP students present during Black History Month



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Students in the Canton High School Equivalency Program honored notable African Americans who have earned their GEDs in honor of Black History Month. Stu-

dents were required to conduct research on the person of their choice and present their findings. They had to go into great detail on how they related to the individual who obtained their GED and why they received it. Teachers report that the

pupils were enthusiastic to share their knowledge and were fully involved in the exercise. All things considered, they say the task was motivating and inspiring, prompting students to keep pushing for achievement as they make their way

through their academic careers. Presenters included Stephon Tucker, Cortney Reed Jr., Vandell Washington, Jaleon Manning, Qudaruise Giles, Nyairia Jones and Angela Hernandez, as well as Decorya Shavers.



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Carpe Diem Gardening from the Maverick



Special to The Canton News

By Guest Columnist Canton Garden Club Member Jessica Stein

In February, the Canton Garden Club received renowned “Maverick Gardener” Felder Rushing, to speak about spring bulbs and arrangements. That information, including a list of Southern hardy bulbs and roses, can be found at his website: FelderRushing.blog.

Here, we’d like to relay his advice for planting this spring and for “carpe diem” gardening in general. All you have to do to start is “just be a gardener.” Besides the daffodils sprouting right now, notice the wildflowers and other interesting plants in your yard which could make beautiful additions to beds or vases. By using what’s around, even art, sculptures, old stumps, and bot-

tle trees, you can curate a garden all year round.

One of the best ways to collect plants is from friends, family and neighbors as seeds and cuttings; these are called “passalong plants.” Passalong plants preserve the histories of the people who share them as they journey through our yards.

Even if you don’t have a yard, now is a great time to start greens and herbs in pots. Mix different kinds of lettuce, kale, chard or other greens, and plant a couple pots every two weeks. Parsley, oregano, rosemary and thyme can be purchased in pots and kept like house plants. All can be set outside right now, so long as the temperature stays above twenty-five degrees; otherwise, cover them or bring them inside. It is also a good time to plant bachelor but-

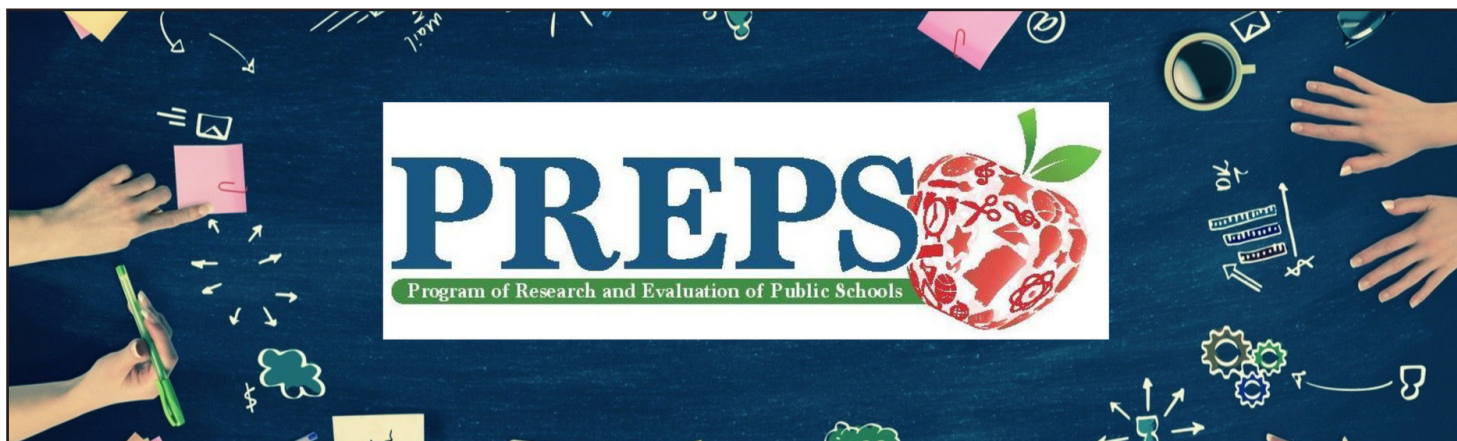
tons and other cool-season flowers. More than anything, Felder says, “savor what you do, and grow what you want to grow.” You can call into his radio show, the Gestalt Gardener, at 9 a.m. on Friday mornings.

After the presentation, hosts Margo Burnside and Sherry Anderson served a delicious spread while the club wrapped up business.

Keep Canton Beautiful recently cleaned up the recycling area at the Justice Court and the pots in the town square. Look for the thousand bulbs planted last year to bloom soon at the Outdoor Classroom across from the Madison County Co-op.

Keep Canton Beautiful plans another community clean-up on Saturday, March 23, at 8:45 a.m. Inquire with a Garden Club member to get involved!

Canton Public School District receives PREPS Awards



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Canton Public Schools were recently recognized by the Program of Research and Evaluation for Public Schools (PREPS) for outstanding achievement and growth for the 2023 school year. The schools recog-

nized were Reuben B. Myers CSAS for the 4th Grade Math Achievement Award, Canton Elementary for 5th Grade Math Achievement Award, Goodloe Elementary for 3rd Grade ELA Achievement Award, McNeal Elementary for 4th Grade ELA Achievement Award, Huey

Porter Middle for 6th Grade ELA Achievement Award, 6th Grade Math Achievement Award, and 8th Grade ELA Achievement Award, Canton 9th Grade Academy for Algebra I Achievement Award, and Canton High School for the Math Growth Award.

Holmes Ridgeland names 2024 Hall of Fame inductees



Special to the Canton News

Pictured is the 2024 Holmes Ridgeland Campus Hall of Fame. The inductees include (l to r), front row: Jaycelyn Russ, Presleigh Powers, Tori Dew and Brooke Barron; second row: Camille Scott, Jaden Gonzalez, Analise Johnson and Mary Katherine Hamilton; and back row: Patrick Vallean, Cedravious Davis, Colin Crosby and Graham Lambert.

Special to The Canton News

Each year, Holmes Community College faculty and staff members select the winners for the school's prestigious Hall of Fame. This year, the Hall of Fame inductees from the Ridgeland Campus included Brooke Barron of Brandon, Colin Crosby of Ridgeland, Cedravious Davis of Canton, Tori Dew of Canton, Jaden

Gonzalez of Brandon, Mary Katherine Hamilton of Madison, Analise Johnson of Sandhill, Graham Lambert of Canton, Presleigh Powers of Carthage, Jaycelyn Russ of Madison, Camille Scott of Brandon and Patrick Vallean of Olive Branch.

Cedravious Davis, son of Trenina Davis, is an art major who loves to draw and design various things.

He is a member of Phi Theta Kappa and has been on the Dean's List both years at Holmes. Davis has also volunteered for and donated to the Stewpot nonprofit organization. Upon finishing his time at Holmes, he plans to attend Mississippi State University to further his education in business marketing. Davis recently established a baking business, Ceds

Creationz LLC.

"I have been baking for years, so being able to do that was such a huge goal for me!" Davis said. "Although I do have my own business, my ultimate goal is to be an established creative director, so that's what I am working towards. I would love to work in the entertainment industry."

cont. on page 20

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On the shelf: “The scream I scrumpt” while reading

By Courtney Warren

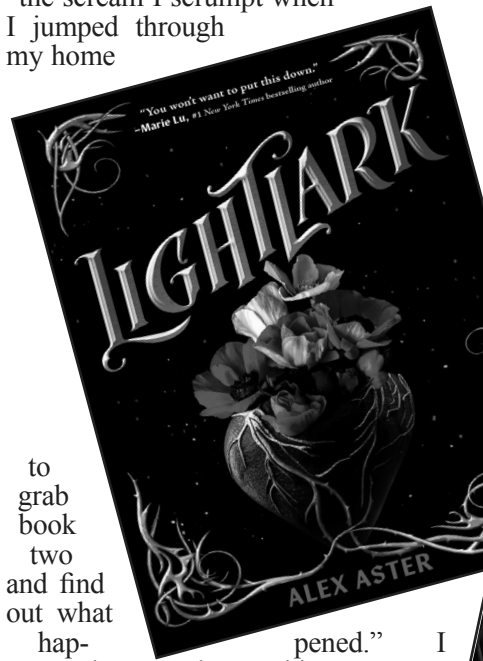
My students are about to do me in! I started off 2024 reading with no true goal, and I should have known better. I have yet to find a book that I haven't given a five-star rating.

Recently, my best friend came over to babysit my daughter. When I got back home, while we sat in the bedroom, she looked at my bookshelf and said, “That looks like at one point it was beautifully organized.”

Well, she wasn't wrong. Books were crammed on the shelves from end to end and then shoved into the corners. I had books stacked on other stacks and in front of stacks and behind stacks and on the floor...in stacks. So, with the rest of the house desperately in need of a good cleaning, we did what any rational person would...we completely ignored all adult responsibilities and took every book off of the shelf to reorganize them. I tell you that story to tell you this one: because of this reorganization, I was able to make a “to be read” shelf and found several books my students have been suggesting for quite some time now.

I first started with *Lightlark* by Alex Aster. In this story, every one hundred years, the island of *Lightlark* appears and hosts the Centennial, which invites the rulers of six realms and gives them one final chance to break the curses on their realms. Every ruler and realm has an ability, but they also have a curse – except for the main character, Isla Crown. Isla is ruler of Wilding – a realm of temptresses cursed to kill anyone they fall in love with. With an incredible world, beautiful descriptions,

creatively written characters, and a crazy plot twist, I told my students “the scream I scrumpt when I jumped through my home



to grab book two and find out what hap-

raved about this one. It was the *Hunger Games* meets the TV show *Love Island*. The next day, I saw four copies in the hallways, as students had gone to get their own books after school. It made my heart so happy.

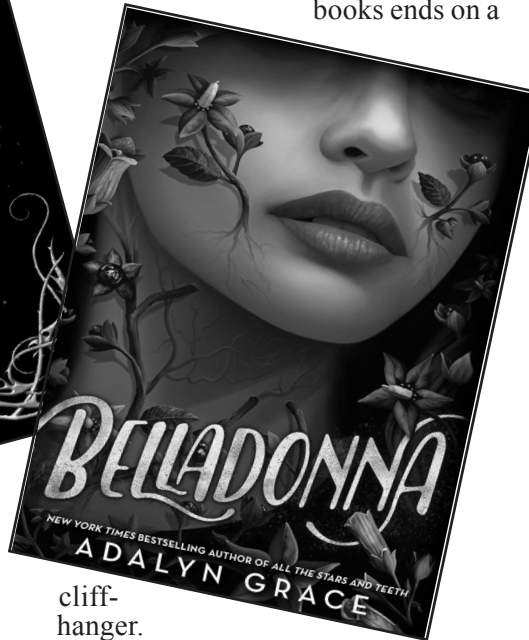
Now, next, I have to tell you about Campbell and how she continues to ruin my happiness for her own enjoyment.

We all have those students that leave a huge impression on us – Campbell is on my very long list of students who have left handprints on my heart. From the moment I met her, I knew she was special.

But, also, she's a menace. I say this

lovingly and know she will find it amusing, because she takes joy in giving me books from series that she knows are not complete. These books are amazing. These books draw you in. These books keep you up at night.

Every single one of these books ends on a



cliff-hanger.

You see what I mean about her ruining my happiness? This brilliant, brilliant child has such an eye for great stories, specifically fantasy. She inhales a story and loses herself in a book as if she has entered a com-

pletely different world. It's beautiful to watch her read. So, when she recommended *Belladonna* by Adalyn Grace to me, I ignored her. And for good reason! At the time, *Belladonna* only had one book in the series. Recently, the sequel, *Foxglove*, was released, and I thought it was now safe to read. Campbell said it was. Campbell told a story.

In the book, Signa Farrow can't die. Not only can she not die, but she can see Death and spirits that have yet to cross over. When her most recent relative has passed, orphaned Signa goes to live at Thorn Grove with cousins, where her aunt mysteriously died and her cousin has taken ill. But, when their mother's restless spirit appears claiming she was poisoned, Signa realizes that the family she depends on could be in grave danger and enlists the help of a surly stable boy to hunt down the killer. However, Signa's best chance of uncovering the murderer is an alliance with Death himself. Once again, “the scream I scrumpt!” I inhaled the first book, flew through the second book, and in typical Campbell fashion SHE DID NOT TELL ME there was a third that has yet to be released.

So, long story short, check out these young adult books *Lightlark* and *Belladonna*. But you've been warned!

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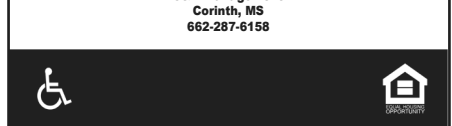
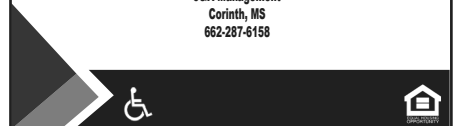
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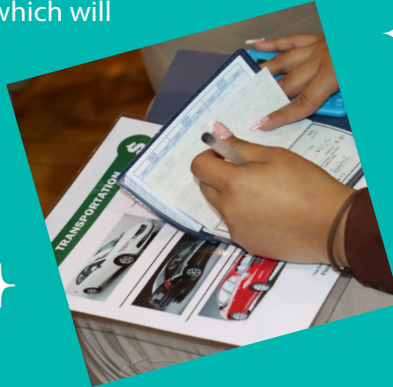




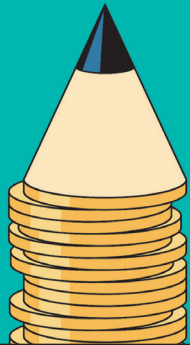
MCYP hosts Reality Fair

Special to The Canton News

Canton Ninth Grade Academy and Canton High School students recently gained a valuable lesson in budgeting and financial responsibility. They got a reality check when they got to see just how much life's unexpected incidentals might cost along with paying for their basic needs to survive. Could they afford those luxury items they think they can't live without? They found out at the Reality Fair. Canton Public School District (CPSD) extended a thanks to Madison County Business League and Foundation, the Madison County Young Professionals, and all of the participating vendors for providing a healthy dose of reality to scholars. Recognizing the importance of a well-educated and skilled workforce in the attraction of economic development in Madison County, the MCYP Committee chose financial literacy as their philanthropy. This Reality Fair tests the students' skills in money management. Teachers assign occupations and monthly salaries for each student. The students visit 14 stations including housing, transportation, utilities, food, health insurance, clothing, communications, credit union, among others. The objective is to have enough money to pay for their expenses which will afford them the lifestyles they desire.






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Fleming named 2024 "Mr. Basketball"



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The 2024 class of Mississippi's "Mr. Basketball" award winners, presented by C Spire, has been announced by the Mississippi High School Activities Association (MHSAA) and Mississippi Association of Coaches (MAC), and Jamarion Fleming, a junior at Canton High School, has been named the 5A "Mr. Basketball."

Chosen by a state-wide committee of coaches and media members, each student-athlete represents his respective MHSAA classification (1A-7A). All Mr. Basketball winners were recognized during the 2024 MHSAA Basketball State Championships in the Mississippi Coliseum. Recipients were also honored at a special awards luncheon, which was live streamed on the NFHS Network.

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MAMA app available to connect women and families

Special to The Canton News

Pregnant women and mothers can now utilize the free Mississippi Access to Maternal Assistance (MAMA) mobile app to connect them to private and public resources available across the state. Since its launch last October, over 7,200 individuals have visited the MAMA website, MAMA.ms.gov.

“Our state is blessed with countless public and private resources, but it can be challenging to navigate while also adjusting to a changing family,” said Mississippi Attorney General Lynn Fitch. “Whether you are a mother-to-be or a mother of three, MAMA can quickly connect women and their children to the resources they need to thrive, including infant essentials, food, financial assistance, clothing, shelter, job opportunities and childcare.”

Like the website, the new mobile app is designed with the goal of connecting mothers directly to the resources and services in three clicks or less. Both are organized by nine categories, including:

•**Pregnancy:** Receive a free pregnancy test or ultrasound, visit a center with baby essentials, find a diaper bank, or take a childbirth and parenting class.

•**Health:** Enroll in Medicaid, find free health services nearby, connect with a mental health counselor, seek help for substance abuse/addiction, or download health/pregnancy/childbirth tips.

•**Adoption:** Learn more about adoption, locate safe haven baby boxes, or explore other life-affirming options.

•**Food:** Sign up for food benefits and assistance, locate food pantries and community kitchens, or access free formula.

•**Goods:** Find a resource center nearby with car seats, strollers, cribs, diapers and wipes, maternity and infant clothing, and other household items.

•**Safety:** Find a domestic abuse shelter or rape crisis center, connect with a confidential counselor, or request legal aid.

•**Money:** Apply for financial assistance and government benefits for food, rent/mortgages, transportation, and child care; learn more about child support enforcement; or find a financial planning and literacy class.

•**Child Care:** Locate a child care center nearby or apply for financial assistance.

•**Jobs:** Search job openings, enroll in job training courses, or apply for



Special to the Canton News

financial aid for college
Since October, more than one hundred new resources have been added to the service directory. Public, private, and faith-based entities that would like to be added to the MAMA Service Directory can contact the Attorney General’s office at MAMA@ago.ms.gov. Similarly, organizations

and agencies that would like to help spread the word about the MAMA program to women and families can request brochures online at MAMA.ms.gov.

For more information, visit MAMA.ms.gov, or download the MAMA app in the Apple Store or the Google Play Store.

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Remember When: Dixie National bringing back memories

By Guest Columnist Mary Jane Boutwell

All the publicity about the Dixie National has brought back memories like the wagon train and riding horses in the parade from the fairgrounds down Capital Street in the late 1950s. While in high school, a classmate talked me into joining a trail ride on a borrowed horse. We joined the wagon train in Jackson, paraded, and spent the night somewhere north of Jackson. I ended my ride by going east on Highway 22 until I reached Virillia Road and home. My information about the ride left out meals and the overnight. I had no food or bedroll. But I carry memories- the parade with the horse drawn wagons. And on the way out of Jackson, I stopped at a store on North State Street close to the Presto plant and the Salvation Army store to get something to eat. My horse got loose, and everyone was running to help catch him.

Recently, my long time neighbor, Harold Ray Tyner, died. He was a farmer-a good farmer. His property, way down Virillia Road, had a tendency to wash out. After harvesting his current year's crop, a lot of cotton per

acre, he used his equipment in the late winter and early spring to move the soil from the gentle slope bottoms back over the fields. This area along the river had been settled by the Indians. Several families collected arrowheads and some other stone items. Several of the arrowheads were made of stones from the west of the Mississippi to Canada to the eastern coast. This and other finds prove the meeting and trading between tribes that were distant from each other.

Many stories involving Harold Ray are from his service in the Korean War. He was a member of the Grenada Army National Guard, Dixie Division. This was an artillery unit. They were called up for federal service. Upon arriving in Korea, the unit was broken up, with individuals sent to units in need of personnel. During this time, the artillery was firing constantly but not hitting its targets. One day, an officer showed up. He was mad as all get out. The officer asked if there was anyone who could aim, fire, and hit a target. Harold Ray said he could. The officer asked Harold Ray if he could teach the artillery group how to



Special to the Canton News

aim, shoot, and hit. Harold Ray said he could. The officer told Harold Ray that if he could teach the unit how to fire accurately, he would be sent back to the states to teach others. After spending some time instructing the unit how to aim, fire, and hit the target, Harold Ray was sent back for the rest of his enlistment.

Oh, the Dixie Division was an artillery division with a lot of back home practice. A good ole southerner comes through again.

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

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MCYL Govt Day and Mock Trial



Special to the Canton News

Madison County Youth Leadership recently had the opportunity to tour the Mississippi State Capitol and conduct a mock trial at the Supreme Court. Picture (l to r) are, Front row: Senator Briggs Hopson; Senator Walter Michel; Lt. Governor Delbert Hosemann; Senator Joseph Thomas; Second Row: Julia Lever, Germanton High School; Amelia Rose Cook, Canton Academy; Georgia Love Greenlee Doty, Jackson Prep; Destinee Stewart, Ridgeland High School; Third Row: Bryce Perry, Tri County Academy; Connor Young, St. Andrews Episcopal School; Thomas Blanks, Jackson Academy; Warren Hutchinson, Madison Central High School; Blayne Williams, Madison Ridgeland Academy; Serenity Chesser, Velma Jackson High School; Top Row: Connor Odom, St. Joseph Catholic School; Jamarion Flemming, Canton High School.

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CCC February Student of the Month



Special to the Canton News

Pictured (l-r) are Michael Ellis, Canton Career Center Director; Juandria Brown, Digital Media Program Instructor; Kaitlyn Dixon, Student; Amile Wilson, Hapax Creative. Dixon named Student of the Month

Special to The Canton News

Madison County Business League & Foundation member Amile Wilson with Hapax Creative presented the Canton Career Center February "Student of the Month" award to Kaitlyn Dixon. Kaitlyn is a second-year student in the Digital Media Program.

She is in the eleventh grade, and, upon graduation, she hopes to pursue a career in Audio Music Production. The purpose of the Student of the Month award program is to connect businesses/industries with students promoting skills needed to fulfill the Madison County workforce.

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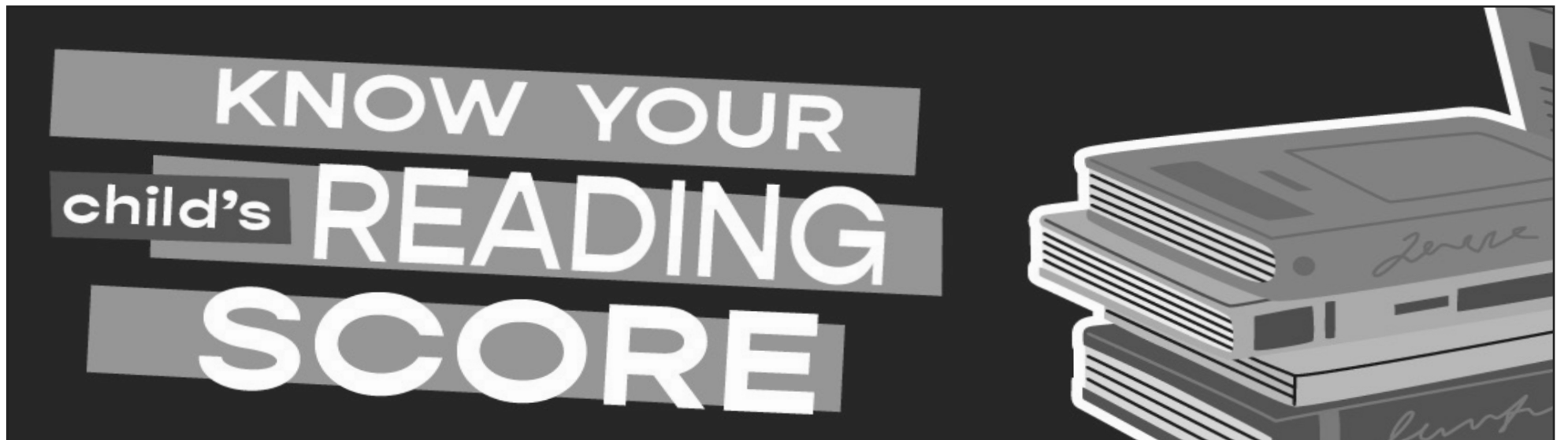
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MDE launches “Know Your Child’s Reading Score” campaign



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The Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) is launching a new campaign called “Know Your Child’s Reading Score,” in an effort for parents/guardians of kindergarten through third-grade students to be well informed of their child’s reading ability and all support options offered by school districts and schools.

The Literacy-Based Promotion Act (LBPA) requires school dis-

tricts to assess reading skills of students in kindergarten, first grade, second grade and third grade (K-3) at the beginning, middle and end of the school year. Schools administer screeners to determine the students’ reading ability, and students receive a score on each screener.

If the score indicates a student may be at risk of having a substantial deficiency in reading, the LBPA requires school districts to provide written notification to parents/guardians until the deficiency is re-

mediated. The written notification is provided in what MDE refers to as “literacy screener letters.”

“All parents should be notified of their K-3 students’ scores, but literacy screener letters are only sent when a student’s score shows a child is not reading on grade level,” said Kristen Wynn, MDE’s state literacy director. “With this campaign, we want parents and guardians to know they should receive this information from teachers. Once they have this informa-

tion, teachers and parents work together to ensure students receive the necessary supports to improve their reading skills.”

If a student is not reading on grade level, the LBPA requires an individual reading plan to be created and teacher/parent meetings to occur to help students succeed in reading.

For more information, visit the new “Know Your Child’s Reading Score” website at StrongReadersMS.com/reading-score.



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Mabry and Lampkin named Miss and Mr. Canton Academy



Photo by Hull Portraits

Most Handsome Chris Hunter and Most Beautiful Amelia Cook



Photo by Hull Portraits

Best All Around Junior High Mary Alice Holmes and Parker Brady

By Courtney Warren

At the recent Canton Academy Beauty and Beau Who's Who Pageant, seniors Anna Claire Mabry and Cooper Lampkin were voted by their peers as the Miss and Mr. Canton Academy representatives.

Mabry is in the twelfth grade and is the daughter of John and Melissa Mabry. She is a member of Pinelake Church of Madison. Mabry has attended Canton Academy since second grade. She enjoys a good cup of coffee, a daily run, spending time with her friends and boyfriend, and attending youth group at church. She is currently CA's Student Body Pres-

ident, MAIS State Student Council Vice-President, National Honor Society President and President of Fellowship of Christian Athletes. She is the co-captain of the varsity cheer squad, a UCA All-American cheerleader and a member of the tennis team. This year, she was named the female recipient of the Heisman Scholar Athlete School Award and was also honored as a senior homecoming maid. When she leaves CA, Mabry plans to attend Mississippi State or Mississippi College and major in marketing and minor in communications.

Lampkin is the son of Will and Dawn Lampkin. He is a senior and

has attended CA for fourteen years. He is a member at First Church of Canton. At CA, he is a part of the National Honor Society, football and basketball teams. In his spare time, he enjoys playing golf, hunting, and hanging out with friends. Upon graduation, he plans to attend the University of Mississippi.

During the junior high portion of the pageant, Mary Alice Holmes and Parker Brady were selected by their peers for "Best All-Around Junior High" representatives.

Holmes is the daughter of Matt and Alice Ann Holmes. She is currently in the ninth grade and has attended CA for five years. She is a mem-

ber of Broadmoor Baptist Church. At CA, she is a part of the softball, track, cheer and cross country teams. She is also a member of the Jr. National Honor Society, Student Council and she is the ninth-grade class president. Away from CA, she plays for the Rampage 08 Travel softball team, enjoys working out and hanging out with family and friends.

Brady is the son of Brad and Christy Brady. He is currently in the ninth grade and has attended CA for three years. He is a member of First Baptist Madison. At CA, Brady is involved in the National Honor Society, football, basketball, baseball and track.

MCBL&F announces 2024 MCCT Board of Directors



Special to The Canton News

Pictured are MCBL&F Executive Director Jan Collins, MCBL&F Chair John Geary, Commissioner Willie Simmons, MDOT Executive Director Brad White, MCBL&F Transportation Committee Chair Rodney Grogan and MCBL&F Government Affairs Committee Chair Phil Buffington.

Special to The Canton News

The Madison County Business League and Foundation (MCBL&F) hosted their annual transportation breakfast meeting on Wednesday, February 14, with keynote speakers Central District

Transportation Commissioner Willie Simmons and Executive Director of the Mississippi Department of Transportation Brad White. They updated the members and local elected officials on the status of infrastructure projects in Madison

County.

The mission of the MCBL&F transportation committee is to work closely with elected officials on the flow of traffic into, out of, and within the county to ensure that Madison County benefits from an

expanded and improved transportation system that includes increased transportation choices. Transportation decisions are coordinated with the land use plan and support the County's strategic plan to encourage economic growth.

Canton Academy Panthers have a blast at Stennis



Special to The Canton News



Special to the Canton News

Canton Academy fifth- and sixth-grade students recently visited Infinity at NASA's Stennis Space Center. They enjoyed earth, space, and nature exhibits, became engineers during a STEM workshop and took a "Journey into Space" in the 3D immersive theater.



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Canton Academy seniors visit Governor Tate Reeves



Special to the Canton News

Recently, the Canton Academy class of 2024 visited the Governor's Mansion. While there, students were able to meet and talk with Mississippi Governor Tate Reeves.

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Canton Academy hosts annual who's who pageant



Photo by Hull Portraits

Most Handsome Chris Hunter and Most Beautiful Amelia Cook



Photo by Hull Portraits

Most Handsome Kee Curro and Most Beautiful Harper Lampkin

By Courtney Warren

Canton Academy recently hosted the Beauty and Beau Who's Who Pageant, a fundraiser for the school yearbook *Reflections*. Yearbook staff members planned and hosted the event, bringing on an elementary component this year, allowing younger Panthers to shine on stage.

Winners of the pageant included Junior High Most Beautiful and Most Handsome Kee Curro and Harper Lampkin.

Curro is the son of Jerome and Caroline Curro. He is currently in the seventh grade, and this is his second year at CA. He is a member of Sacred Heart Catholic Church. At CA, Curro is a member of the football, basketball, baseball and track teams. In his spare time, he enjoys playing baseball for Knight Nation, reading, spending time with his family and friends and watching Mississippi State athletics.

Lampkin is the daughter of Will and Dawn Lampkin. Harper is currently in the eighth grade and has attended CA for ten years. She is a member of First Church of Canton. At CA, she is a member of the cross

country, cheer, basketball and track teams. She is also a part of the Junior National Honor Society, Fellowship of Christian Athletes and the eighth-grade Student Council team. In her free time, she enjoys running, playing basketball, and hanging out with friends and family.

High School Most Beautiful and Most Handsome went to Chris Hunter and Amelia Rose Cook.

Chris Damon Hunter is in twelfth grade at Canton Academy. La'Chandra Blanden and Kenyon Blanden are his parents. Hunter attends Blutch Church of God in Christ. He has attended Canton Academy for six years and is a member of the football, basketball, track and tennis teams. When not participating in sports, Hunter enjoys watching football, hanging out with friends and playing tennis. He is a true competitor, and his passion is football, whether it be watching or playing. He began playing when he was five years old and has been hooked ever since. Hunter also loves working out and enjoys competing with everyone he is around. In his spare time, he likes to spend time with his girlfriend. Upon graduation, he plans to

go to college and major in marketing and business management to become a real estate agent and explore other business opportunities.

Amelia Rose Cook is a junior and the daughter of Dr. Jay and Kristi Cook. Cook is a member of 3:16 Church, a lead singer in the praise team and a nursery volunteer, a seven-time state winner in Bible Drill, and is the preacher's daughter. She is student body vice-president, MSAIS State Student Council secretary, Madison County Civinettes vice-president, FCA secretary, National Honor Society vice-president, a Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership representative, Mayor's Youth Council Honor Code Director, and the Madison County Youth Leadership Representative. She is on the Headmaster's list with a 4.0 GPA, was awarded the highest-average in her class, is an academic all-star, and received the Kindness Project award. She was awarded Class Favorite, Heart Like Jesus, Most School Spirit, Most Likely to Be President, Cutest, the Citizenship Award, and Homecoming Court.

Cook plays softball and tennis. She is a baseball diamond girl

and the basketball manager. She is a two-year MVP and a 4A State Champion of the varsity tennis team. Cook is a varsity cheerleader, All-American Cheerleader and UCA Pin-It-Forward recipient. She plays the piano and was the Mississippi Junior Federated Convention Secretary and first place winner in the Junior Piano Convention. She founded Cakes for a Cause charity, raising thousands of dollars for people in need, locally and all over the world. Cook has helped send children to school, funded surgeries for orphans and purchased a house for a single mom in Mongolia. For her charitable contributions, she was Mississippi's recipient of the Prudential Spirit of Community Award, and Madison County's "kids who care" hometown magazine representative for 2024. She enjoys Bible study with her mom and friends and photography. Her favorite thing about CA is that it's more than just a school; it's a second family. She loves her teachers and friends like they're her own. She plans to pursue a career in cosmetic dentistry, going into practice with her brother, Jameson.

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Canton Lions: March update

By Guest Columnist Joy Foy

The Canton Lions' last service project was the testing of McNeal Elementary School students' eyes. With the help of Madison Lions, twenty-five young students were checked with a machine that examined their eyesight instantly - and without a wall chart. The machine examined the lenses of these young eyes and reported whether glasses were needed.

Lions President Moses Thompson was joined by Lions Tamika Liddell, Bobby Long, Cheyenne Stewart, Arnel Bolden, Gary Teasley and Joy Foy, who partnered



with Lions from the Madison Club for this event. Madison Lions helping in Canton were Dick Crowley, Judy Bueno and Wesley Edwards.

Sylvia Whitehead of GA Carmichael arranged and set up the event with McNeal Elementary. Adrian Garrison of the Madison County Farm Bureau shared literature and worked alongside the Lions for these examinations.

President Thompson said, "Eye health is the main purpose of Lions, and today was a perfect way for the Canton Club to give back to the community. We appreciate all of the partners who helped to make today a reality."

cont. from page 4

Holmes

Tori Dew, daughter of Delsey and Andy Dew, is a kinesiology major. She is a member of Phi Theta Kappa and has participated in trying to expand the Baptist Student Union chapter at the Ridgeland Campus. Dew works part-time at a daycare, where she takes care of two-year-olds. She also volunteers at her church with community/church projects, is a member of her church's praise team and serves at the Ministry Center every other Sunday, which is a ministry that provides food and clothing to families in need. As a freshman, Dew worked full-time at Panera Bread in Ridgeland.

"After Holmes, I will continue my education at Mississippi State University to obtain my bachelor's de-

gree in kinesiology. Following that, I plan on attending the University of Mississippi Medical Center to earn my Doctorate of Occupational Therapy.

Graham Lambert, son of Lori and Travis Lambert, is a communications major. He is an Ambassador, Student Government Association president, Phi Theta Kappa chapter officer, Rotoract member and President's List Scholar. He is also a Dean's Scholarship recipient and served as an escort for the 2023 Homecoming Court.

"I plan to transfer to Mississippi State after Holmes," Lambert said. "After I graduate with my bachelor's, I would love to work at a college in the recruiting department."

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