



# THE CANTON NEWS

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

# CPSD grades are in

By Courtney Warren

Accountability ratings were recently released for Canton Public School District (CPSD) by the Mississippi Department of Education. Last year, the district saw major improvements in their ratings.

Reuben B. Myers Canton School of Arts and Sciences and Jimmie Goodloe Elementary School maintained A ratings, and Huey Porter Middle School maintained a B rating. Canton High School, which was once the lowest F in the state, achieved B status for the first time, and its 91 percent graduation rate is the school's highest ever. The district also experienced proficiency gains in reading and science across the board, and all four of the elementary schools are rated B or higher.

Superintendent Hannah attributes the district's progress to consistency and focus.

"The Canton Public School District attributes its elementary schools' success to high-quality, student-centered instruction," said Hannah. "Our elementary schools have created learning structures embedded with research-based approaches to teach-

ing and learning. Consequently, those teaching methods have produced positive student learning outcomes in our elementary schools."

"Our high-performing teams of teachers are rising to the challenge each year by using those learning protocols and structures to meet every student's learning needs, whether below grade level, on grade level, or above grade level. And school administrators and teachers are not settling for anything less than the students' absolute best in the classroom," said Hannah.

"Student success begins with setting high expectations and attainable goals," continued Hannah. "Once our students understand that we have high expectations for them and this is your yearly goal, we do our job in helping them reach that goal, but, more importantly, it is an expectation that you will

*cont. on page 11*

## Report Card

The 2023 accountability ratings for the district and each school (and the cut scores for each) are below:

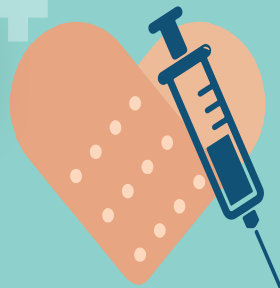
	Rating	Cut Score
Canton Public School District	C	618
Reuben B. Myers Canton School of Arts & Sciences	A	485
Jimmie Goodloe Elementary School	A	484
Canton Elementary School	B	438
McNeal Elementary School	B	429
Huey Porter Middle School	B	397
Nichols Middle School	(No rating due to testing irregularities)	
9th Grade Academy/CHS	B	743



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## Letter from the editor: November is my favorite month

By Courtney Warren

It's my favorite month of the entire year. The weather is starting to change (you can tell by the sniffling), the leaves are starting to fall, and, at our house, a little girl is preparing for her birthday.

She will be 7 this year and so, because I can (being the editor has some perks), I'm going to tell you all about how amazing she is.

This year has been exciting, as she truly begins to grow into herself. She still loves unicorns, and our newest development is cats. She has been begging for a cat. She graduated from swim lessons, she got a jump start on AR tests as an advanced reader, and she even got a big girl bed.

Every single day, she surprises me with her kindness. She is kind to all things living and imaginary. There is always room at her table for you. She thinks she is the most creative person ever and "an incredible artist." She looks at me as if I have hung the moon and fully believes her daddy can fix anything.

November is my favorite month of the year, because it's the month I became a mother. As the seasons changed and fall allowed the earth to go to sleep for the duration of winter, I was waking up. Waking up to a whole new person that I was forced to become. Waking up to re-

alize I had to be better and do better and get baptized and say positive things about myself, so she heard girls saying positive things about themselves, and it's a never ending list of the things I have to do be-



photo by Courtney Warren

cause I know she's watching.

She loves to play pretend. As I watch her with dolls, unicorns, or even pirates, I know that one day all of that will be gone. She won't want to play pretend. So the words of a favorite person come back to me during the month of November. When her own grandson, whom she raised, was celebrating a birthday, I

asked "aren't you so sad he's growing up?"

She answered, "Not at all. Another birthday with him is more time."

So, while we talk about November and all of the things we can be thankful for, I think I'm most thankful for time. I have all the time in the world to watch her grow. I have the opportunity to put my phone down and watch her dance on the track during football games, to perform all of her made up plays in the living room, to pick up all of the tiny toys that one day won't litter my floors.

I have the time to sit at the table and listen to her tell me about a show she watched. I have the time to help her as she learns to read tough words. I have the time to brush the knots out of her hair, because she refuses to sleep with a pillow.

I have the time, and I just have to remember to make the time.

Make the time to color with her.

Make the time to swing with her.

Make the time to build castles with her.

Make the time to pray with her and for her.

Because she always has time for me, I'm even more thankful for my time with her.

Happy best month of the year, everyone.

## Priestley Chapel received grant for healthy activities



Special to The Canton News

Pictured (l to r) are Sylvester Jackson, Tiffany Jackson, Rochelle Thompson, Chariesse Bester, Sherlonda King, Romelle Britton, Katie Hamlin, Tona Powell, Doris Gilliam and James Martin. Not pictured are Dorothy Davis, Morise Hines, Patricia Levy and Vanessa Parker.

Special to The Canton News

Priestley Chapel Missionary Baptist Church in Canton received a grant from the Mississippi State Department of Health to implement healthy activities for the congregation and the community. Priestley Chapel was one of fifty churches in Mississippi to receive funding

from the Office of Health Equity.

*The Be in Good Health: Implementing Faith-Based Preventive Health Initiatives* program dates are September 1, 2023, to April 30, 2024. Priestley Chapel will host educational workshops, healthy cooking classes, Zumba workouts, honor health observances, and develop other health-related projects

for the community.

The church created the *Health & Healing at the Chapel* project to implement the program. The Health & Wellness Ministry is spearheading activities and working with other auxiliary ministries to execute a comprehensive plan to meet the church and community needs.

# Diamond crowned CHS Queen



Special to The Canton News

Canton High School Homecoming Queen Jakayla Diamond was crowned after a day of parades and celebrations for Canton High's homecoming.

Special to The Canton News

Recently, Jakayla Diamond was named Miss Canton High School Homecoming Queen 2023. Home-

coming festivities were on October 6, and the Canton High Tigers defeated Cleveland Central High School, 14-7.

# Burton awarded Waring Oil Scholarship



Special to The Canton News

Special to The Canton News

The Hinds Community College Foundation recognized 2023-2024 scholarship recipients, donors and other honorees at a reception on Oct. 5, 2023, on the Vicksburg-Warren Campus.

Among those being recognized was Cole Burton of Canton, left. He received the Waring Oil Co. Scholar-

ship. With him was Pierson Waring, right, of Vicksburg.

The Hinds Community College Foundation will award more than 800 scholarships during the 2023-2024 academic year. The deadline to apply for a scholarship for fall 2024 (academic year 2024-2025) is Feb. 15, 2024. For more information visit [www.hindscc.edu](http://www.hindscc.edu).

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# On the shelf: Books to add to your holiday gift list

By Courtney Warren

I love buying gifts. Watching someone open a gift you meticulously chose for them and seeing they love it the best kind of dopamine. Something I've recently started doing is purchasing a gift, but adding in a book as an extra. I tie it with a bow to the top of the package and try to always write a note about why I chose this book for that particular person. As you prepare to give gifts this season, here are a few book suggestions.

**Picture Books**

**The Adventures of Beekle: The Unimaginary Friend** by Dan Santat

Santat's illustrations have won several awards, including the prestigious Caldecot, which is the highest award given for children's illustrations. This story is all about an imaginary friend waiting to be found by a child. The text is delightful, and the illustrations even more so.

**Early Reader**

Scholastic Acorn books, such as **Do You Like my Bike**

Acorn books are a recent discovery of mine, and my early reader is loving them! They are simple and fun, with cute illustrations. Many of them are in the style of graphic novels, which I highly rec-

ommend for a reluctant reader. As they grow comfortable with the graphic

Mary Pope Osborne

These books have been around for a while. I read them

new fact checker series that can be read alongside the fiction version of the stories. They have also recently released a graphic novel version of the series.

**Middle Grade:**

**The School for Whatnots**

by Margaret Peterson Haddix

I read this book to a few of my students, and it's now being passed around the middle school. We even had to order more copies because it was so popular! Max has grown up surrounded by tons of friends who always make him feel included... until he finds out it was all a lie. This is for readers who enjoy stories with multiple points of view, exciting plot lines, and huge twists in a story.

**Adult: Lessons in Chemistry** by Bonnie Garmus

This one is a big bestseller and was recently turned into a TV show on Apple TV. Chemist Elizabeth Zott battles the difficulties that are the early 1960s, and her all-male team at Hastings Research Institute takes a very unscientific view of equality. She meets chemist Calvin Evans and falls in love as they work to publish their work. A few years later, Elizabeth Zott finds herself not only a single mother, but the reluctant star of America's most beloved cooking show **Supper at Six**, where she teaches housewives about chemistry. It's hilarious, sad, and gripping. I highly recommend this one.



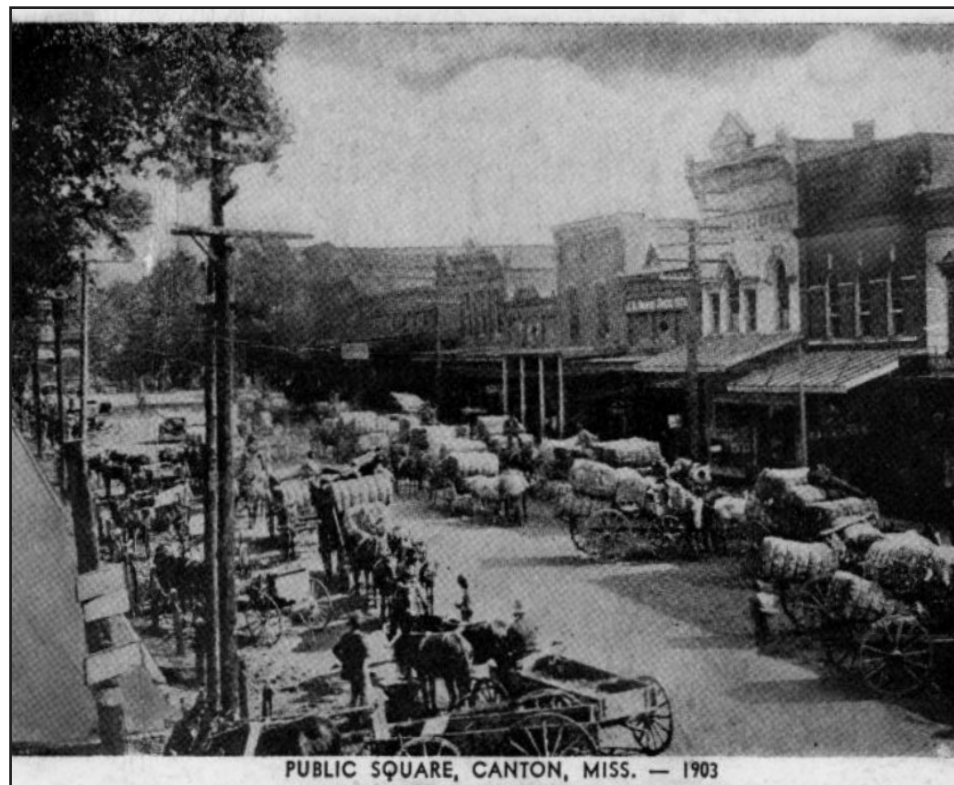
novel style, move them into the other Acorn books that are written in traditional prose.

**Chapter books:** **Magic Tree House Series** by

There are dozens in this series, including a

as a child, and the covers recently got a revamp to make them more appealing to current readers.

## Through a Lens: The Old Square



PUBLIC SQUARE, CANTON, MISS. — 1903

Special to The Canton News

Remembering the days of horse-drawn carriages and gas street lamps! Canton Square in 1903 was a sight to behold. Photo provided by the Canton-Madison County Historical Society.

## Bullock inducted into Hinds PTK



Special to The Canton News

Special to The Canton News

The Gamma Lambda Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa at Hinds Community College held a ceremony Oct. 20 at the Raymond Campus to induct new members for the fall 2023 semester.

Phi Theta Kappa is the international honor society for community and junior college students. Membership in Phi Theta Kappa is extended to

students who have a 3.5 cumulative grade point average or above on 12 or more transferable credit hours. There are more than 1,285 Phi Theta Kappa chapters throughout the United States and abroad.

Inductees included Lovish Malik of Braxton, Kassandra Randall of Crystal Springs and Madison Bullock of Canton.



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# Cook and Fleming represent on MCYL 2023



Special to The Canton News

Pictured (l to r) are, front row: Georgia Love Greenlee Doty, Jackson Prep; Connor Young, St. Andrews; Thomas Blanks, Jackson Academy; and Julia Lever, Germantown High School; middle row: Amelia Rose Cook, Canton Academy; Bryce Perry, Tri County Academy; Warren Hutchinson, Madison Central High School; and Destinee Stewart, Ridgeland High School; and back row: Connor Odom, St. Joseph; Serenity Chesser, Velma Jackson High School; Jamarion Fleming, Canton High School; and Blayne Williams, Madison Ridgeland Academy.

Special to The Canton News

The Madison County Business League & Foundation and MCE-DA recently announced the 2023-2024 Madison County Youth Leadership (MCYL) Class. All

public, private and parochial schools in Madison County, plus Jackson Academy and Jackson Prep, select one junior to represent their respective school in the program. All students are Madison County residents.

Madison County Youth Leadership's mission is to provide students with a deeper understanding of the careers available in Madison County in an environment that develops their leadership skills and encourages grad-

uates to take their knowledge and their experience into the community for the betterment of Madison County as a whole. The students receive a scholarship upon the successful completion of the program.

# GA Carmichael's Pastor Appreciation Luncheon



All Photos by David Ammon

Special to The Canton News

The G.A. Carmichael Family Health Center designated the en-

tire month of October as Pastor's Appreciation month. On Thursday, October 19, the organization cele-

brated their pastors and other religious laborers within the Madison, Leake, Humphreys, Yazoo and Le-

flore counties they serve. An appreciation luncheon was held in Canton at the Canton Multipurpose Center.

# Shirley Simmons Middle School wins championship



Special to The Canton News

Recently, Shirley Simmons Middle School won their championship football game. Cheered on by coaches, faculty and friends, these athletes were proud that their hard work as a team paid off.

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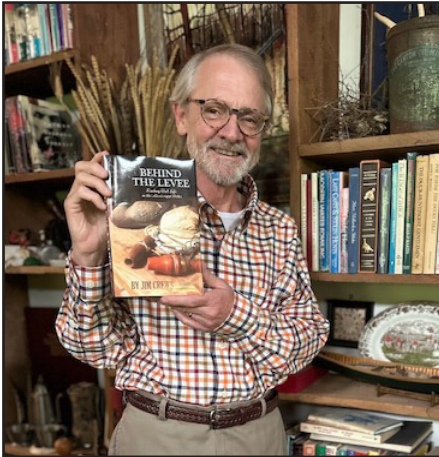
# Crews releases *Behind the Levee*

By Courtney warre for the Crew releases story

Jim Crews has recently released his second book, *Behind the Levee*. Part history and part hunting and fishing tales, *Behind the Levee* is his personal story of more than fifty years of life at Ward Lake Hunting Club in Coahoma County, Mississippi.

The rich, wild lands along the Mississippi River between Memphis, Tennessee, and Vicksburg, Mississippi, are home to some of the finest hunting and fishing clubs in the nation and hold a particular mystique. Filled with waterfowl, wild turkeys, deer, small game, and a huge variety of other wildlife, these Delta bottomlands have provided recreation and enjoyment to many sportsmen – indeed, Jim’s own family has enjoyed them for four generations. *Behind the Levee* provides an inside look at a fabled locale in the heart of the Delta.

“I have always enjoyed writing and have kept a journal detailing



Special to The Canton News

my hunting and fishing experiences for most of my life. I am also an avid reader and collector of sporting books. At some point, I decided that I wanted to publish a book of my own, so that other readers and collectors might enjoy the tales of my adventures,” said Crews.

Crews has sold books all over the country, Canada, and even Australia and New Zealand.

“The support for my writing has been amazing. Publishing my books has been one of the most gratifying experiences of my life and has placed me in contact with lots of interesting people who share my passions,” he said.

Crews is excited for readers to get their hands on his newest release.

“I hope that it will remind them of happy times in their own wild places outdoors. Many readers have told me that my writing makes them feel as if they were physically present and watching the stories as they transpired,” he said.

# CCC October “Student of the Month”



Special to The Canton News

Pictured (l-r): Michael Ellis, Canton Career Center Director; Rochelle Williams; Mark Galtelli.

Special to The Canton News

Madison County Business League & Foundation member Mark Galtelli, Emergency Medical Services Director with Holmes Community College Ridgeland campus, presented the Canton Career Center October “Student of the Month” award to Rochelle

Williams. Rochelle is a junior at Canton High School and is enrolled in the Health Science Program at the career center.

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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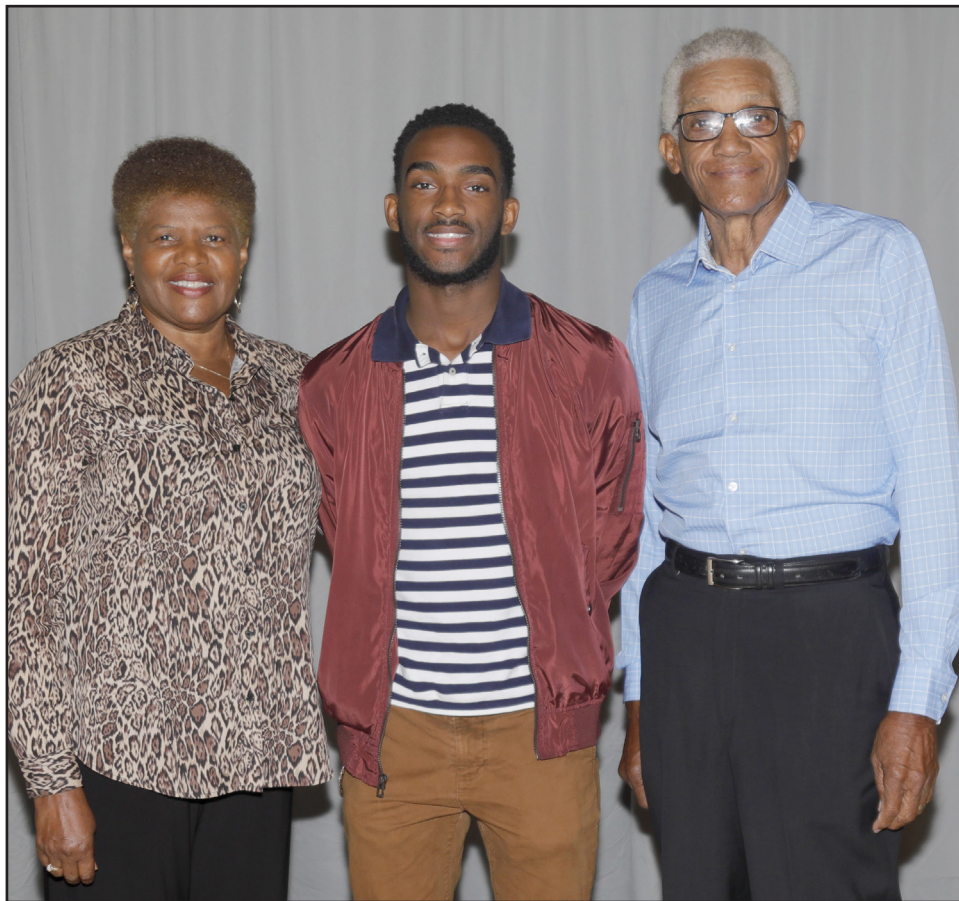
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### Johnson receives Hinds CC scholarship



Special to The Canton News

The Hinds Community College Foundation recognized 2023-2024 scholarship recipients, donors and other honorees at a recent reception at the Muse Center on the Rankin Campus. Among those being recognized were Manuel Johnson of Canton (center), who received the Fellowship Bible Church Louis C. Jackson Scholarship. Pictured with him were Brenda and Earvin Jones.

### CPSD honors Principals of the Year



Special to The Canton News

Canton Public School District (CPSD) Superintendent Gary Hannah awarded CHS principal Dr. Pamela Self and CNGA principal Kari Johnson Co-Principals of the Year for their hard work and dedication to their schools. The CPSD Board of Trustees also commended them.

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cont. from front page

# CPSD

reach that goal. It is non-negotiable.”

The superintendent also gave a nod to the supportive parents throughout the community. “Equally important, our parents collaborate with teachers to ensure their child meets or exceeds their yearly goal,” he said. “Because of this collaboration, our students are soaring! We have come a long way, but we still have much more to accomplish.”

“With our skilled teams of school principals and teachers, I am confident that our instructional program will become much more robust, and we will continue to make significant gains each year our students walk through those school doors. We have the right recipe for student success, and our students are showing up!”

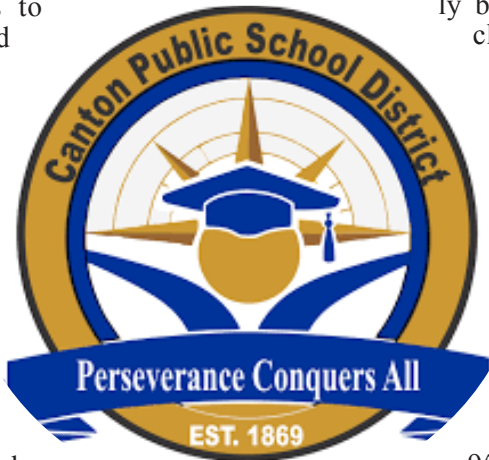
The district’s overall accountability rating decreased from a B in 2022

to a C. The Mississippi Department of Education’s Accountability Standards state that if a school or district does not meet an overall 95% testing participation rate, the school or district will automatically be dropped by one classification level.

Due to the invalidation of scores at Nichols Middle School due to testing irregularities, the district’s testing participation rate was 92.7%, which was below the required 95% testing participation rate.

Superintendent Gary Hannah calls the district’s automatic downgrade “disappointing,” but he is confident that the district will return to its previous rating.

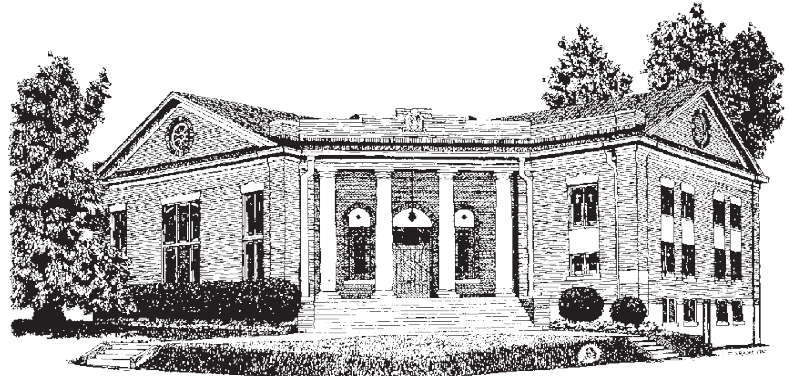
“We used what we learned from this experience to make significant changes to our test security plan, and we are moving forward to get back to our B status or higher.”



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SCAN ME

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# CA Panthers take second



Special to The Canton News

The Canton Academy Lady Panthers cross country team recently won second place in the MSAIS State Championship. Ian Whittington and Sterling Belle Brock were also chosen for the All-MAIS Cross Country Team.

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# Canton Academy Panthers pumped about pumpkins



all photos Special to The Canton News

Recently, Canton Academy elementary students participated in a school-wide pumpkin competition. After a number of votes, the winners were Paxton Hunt in first place, Trace Selby in second, and Kate Killingsworth in third.

## Canton Lions November update



Special to The Canton News

Pictured are Canton Lions parking cars at the Day in the Country: Cheyenne Stewart, Timmy Pickett, Al Salmi, Joy Foy, Tamika Liddell, Gary Teasley, Danny Murphy and Rich Case.

By Guest Columnist Joy Foy

The Canton Lions started off fall helping to park cars for the Day in the Country at the Chapel of the Cross. This is one way the Lions raise money for their many community projects.

Dr. Cory Murphy, associate superintendent with the Mississippi Department of Education, was a program for October. He gave a handout listing ten benefits of being a teacher in Mississippi schools, including a Federal Loan Forgiveness program and up to a \$10,000 bonus for achieving

National Board Certification. He is very passionate about his job, and those Lions who know him personally are expecting to see him in an even bigger leadership role.

If you would like to become a Lion and be part of meeting new and upcoming leaders, networking with a diversity membership, and keeping abreast of the happenings in Canton, the Lions welcome you to visit on Wednesdays from noon to 1 p.m. The weekly meetings are at the Canton Country Club. Contact any Lion member for more details, or message us on Facebook at Canton Lions Club.

# HAVE YOU HEARD THE GREAT NEWS?



The Canton News new site is up! Go check it out today at [www.CantonNews.Net](http://www.CantonNews.Net)

# Canton Academy Panthers visit MS Supreme Court



Special to The Canton News

Canton Academy's American Government class, led by Mr. Busch, visited the Mississippi Supreme Court building, where Presiding Justice Jim Kitchens spoke to the class. After lunch at Iron Horse Grill, the class toured the State Capitol Building.

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### Garden Club prepares for Upstairs Downtown



Special to The Canton News

By Garden Club Member Jessica Stein

Monday, October 9, the Canton Garden Club met at the Sacred Heart Parish Center. Hosts Rose Bradford, Cheryl Melvin and Mary Carol Patrick welcomed members for a presentation from non-profit Keep Mississippi Beautiful Director Sarah Kountous. She led a wonderful discussion on options for recycling and wildflower gardening in Canton. According to Sarah, recycling here does work!

The Garden Club also welcomed new members Kathy DeMesa, Mary Ellen Sullivan, Jessica Stein, Mary Margaret Buchanan and Elaine

Gager, and offered matching monogrammed aprons for sale. Interested parties can join the club with an invitation from a current member.

Member or not, please add November 2 to your calendar for Upstairs Downtown! This event is held only every two years (odd-numbered) to showcase historical architecture in Canton's square. Garden Club members beautify the garden beds, decorate the square with colorful pots and garlands, tabulate and take tickets, and help you navigate attractions and refreshments with your complimentary wine glass. We look forward to seeing you!



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# Lambert named CA homecoming queen



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Riley Lambert was recently named the 2023 Canton Academy homecoming queen. Lambert is the daughter of Travis and Lori Lambert of Canton. She attends Canton Christian Center and is actively involved in the youth group. Lambert has attended Canton Academy since three-year-old kindergarten. She also serves as the editor-in-chief for the yearbook and as

the chaplain for her senior class. Lambert participates in basketball, track, softball and cross country. When Lambert isn't at school or practicing sports, she can be found playing with her dogs, taking pictures for school events, watching Disney movies or musicals and spending time with her friends and family. After graduation, Lambert plans to attend Holmes Community College with hopes of becoming a nurse one day.

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# MCBL&F and MCEDA host luncheon

Special to The Canton News

The Madison County Business League & Foundation and the Madison County Economic Development Authority recently hosted their annual Vision Luncheon, celebrating the business leagues 15th anniversary, October 17, 2023, at the Country Club of Jackson. They had a turnout of over 450 members, elected and appointed officials in attendance.

Jessica Breaux, Regional Leader and senior economic development manager for Amazon, was the keynote speaker.

The three award recipients included Vision Award winner Amazon, accepted by Sameer Khosla, Visionary Leadership award winner City of Gluckstadt, Mississippi Government, accepted by Mayor Walter Morrison, and the Outstanding Young Professional Award presented to Melody Rosenbaum with Citizens National Bank.

MCBL&F and MCEDA gave a special thanks to Miss Mississippi Vivian O'Neal for leading the



Special to The Canton News

pledge of allegiance and to Raphael Semmes Jazz Quartet with vo-

calist Derrick Burt for providing entertainment.

# CMAA accepting applications for scholarships

Special to The Canton News

The Central Mississippi Mayors Association (CMMA) awards scholarships to senior high school students or undergraduates entering college to help cover tuition, books or fees. Applications will be accepted through December 3 through mayors in the CMMA area, which includes the counties of Copiah, Hinds, Madison, Rankin, Simpson, Warren and Yazoo.

Scholarships are available to individuals entering any Mississippi university, college or community college in any year (freshman, sophomore, junior or senior) as an undergraduate student. Students may utilize scholarship funds to cover tuition, books or fees only.

Applications are available for download at [CMPDD.org/cmma](http://CMPDD.org/cmma).

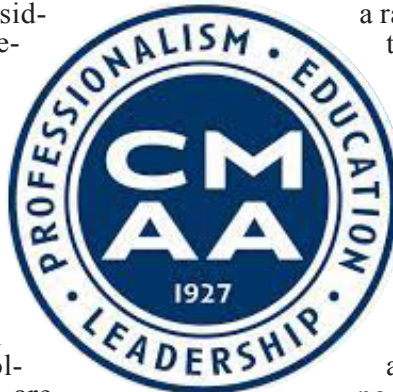
Applications must be typed or clearly written. Incomplete or illegible applications will not be considered, rated or returned. Applications must be received electronically or postmarked no later than 4 p.m. on Sunday, December 31, 2023.

Official high school and/or college transcripts are required, and all community service must be verifiable. Any unverifiable community service will not receive points. No student will be eligible to receive more than one CMMA scholarship

per lifetime.

CMMA will appoint a committee to review applications and assign a rating value to each application according to the rating criteria. The top four applicants will be notified and invited to an interview with the appointed committee in late February 2024. \$1,000 scholarships will be awarded to two students for the 2024-2025 school year. Scholarship awards will be announced no later than May 1, 2024, for the 2024-2025 school year.

For more information, contact Candace Darby with the Central Mississippi Planning and Development District at 601-981-1511, ext. 240.



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# All treats no tricks on the Canton Square



Special to The Canton News

The Historic Canton Square was recently filled with trick or treaters. Merchants and residents along Peace Street and Liberty Street passed out treats for children and pets.

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