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

Good News You Can Use • August 11, 2024 • Vol. 10, No. 8 • Canton, Mississippi

Nissan Foundation awards \$100K in grants to two Mississippi entities

Special to The Canton News

Two Mississippi entities will each be the beneficiary of a \$50,000 grant awarded by the Nissan Foundation, part of a \$1.2 million grant program that provided funds to forty-four nonprofits who promote cultural understanding that leads to acceptance and appreciation of individuals' differences.

The Foundation for Mississippi History, "Two Mississippi Museums School Visits Program," and the GRAMMY Museum Mississippi, "Soul of the Movement Education Program," each received \$50,000 grants.

The total grant award is the most the Foundation has awarded in a single grant cycle. Grant recipients are based in communities surrounding Nissan facilities in Southern California, middle Tennessee, central Mississippi (Canton), Dallas/Ft. Worth, southeast Michigan, New York City, north central New Jersey and Atlanta.

The Nissan Foundation has awarded approximately \$17 million to more than one hundred fifty nonprofits since its founding in 1992. The Nissan Foundation was created as a direct response to the civil unrest that followed the Rodney King trial verdict. At that time, Nissan's then-U.S. sales headquarters was based just blocks from the riot's epicenter.

"In the thirty-two years since the Nissan Foundation was created, it has helped organizations – big and small – develop and grow programming designed to increase understanding and acceptance of what makes us different," says Chandra Vasser, president of the Nissan Foundation and Nissan's first chief diversity, equity and inclusion officer. "It's an honor to uplift the important work of our grantees who are bettering our world by providing safe spaces to explore our similarities while celebrating our differences."

The 2024 grantees include mobile education programs, museums, history centers, libraries, and other



All photos Special to The Canton News

32 For 32 years, the Nissan Foundation has supported organizations that promote cultural diversity.

NISSAN FOUNDATION

The mission of the Nissan Foundation is to build community by valuing cultural diversity.

- 1992** The Nissan Foundation was created as a direct response to the violent civil unrest in South Central L.A. near Nissan's then U.S. sales and marketing operations. Soon after, Nissan established a **\$5 million endowment** to promote cultural diversity within southern L.A. neighborhoods.
- 1993** The first Nissan Foundation grants were awarded.
- 2023** For the first time, the Nissan Foundation awarded more than **\$1 million** in annual grant cycle.
- 2024** The Nissan Foundation awards the most grants in a single grant cycle.

GRANT RECIPIENTS

Nissan Foundation grant recipients include museums, public television stations, libraries, and other nonprofits, promoting the benefits that diversity brings to these local communities.

They serve communities surrounding Nissan's affiliate locations in: Southern California, Middle Tennessee, Central Mississippi, Dallas/Ft. Worth, Southeast Michigan, New York City, North Central New Jersey, and Atlanta.

40% of Nissan's customers in the U.S. are ethnically diverse.

The Nissan Foundation has awarded more than **\$17 MILLION** to approximately **150 nonprofits** across the U.S.

Learn more at www.NissanFoundation.com

nonprofits promoting the many benefits that diversity brings to society. Each funded program aligns with the Nissan Foundation's mission of building community by valuing cultural diversity.

"I am thrilled that we're able to further the innovative programming of forty-four grantees this year,"

said Ali Tonn, Nissan Foundation executive director. "These organizations are continually coming up with ways to reach new audiences and share the benefits of living and working together in a diverse society."

The 2025 Nissan Foundation grant cycle will begin in October. Local

nonprofit organizations who are based in central Mississippi and who are working to bring diverse cultural perspectives, experiences and voices to communities across the country may be eligible to apply.

Applicants based in a Nissan affiliate market who can demonstrate that their programming increases understanding and acceptance of society's myriad cultural differences are invited to submit a Letter of Intent. Nissan will begin accepting those letters on October 1, 2024. All Letters of Intent must be received by 4 p.m. CST on November 4, 2024.

The Nissan Foundation will announce 2025 grantees in July 2025. Organizations invited to submit a full proposal are notified in January. Proposals are due in March, and awards are announced in June. Funded projects must be implemented no earlier than July and can run through June of the following year. For more information about the Nissan Foundation and its application process, visit the Nissan Foundation website at www.NissanUSA.com/about/community.html.

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Kemp speaks to and motivates CPSD



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Guest speaker, award-winning educator, coach, and transformational leader Troy Kemp motivated CPSD teachers and administrators as they were welcomed back to another exciting year.

Kemp urged educators to be mindful of what students face in their home environments and how to relate to the behavior they may exhibit at school.

He shared how his experiences

growing up helped him understand how to reach students where they are.

CPSD thanked Mr. Kemp for sparking enthusiasm to keep the focus on the needs of the scholars the district serves, for reminding teachers to always find innovative ways to keep them engaged, and to always remember to communicate expectations.

CHS student Kevin Nichols introduced Mr. Kemp at the beginning of the event.

Williams celebrates new book with signing



Special to The Canton News

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Canton native Kalisha Williams is a children's book author motivated to use her creativity and passion for writing to sculpt the minds and hearts of young readers.

Late last month, Williams hosted her first book signing for her book, entitled *Precious Prayers*, at the Madison County-Canton Public Library.

Over fifty people were in attendance. Williams says her book shares a special story about how children can use prayer as a method of coping with unforeseen problems.

Williams says she is the proud

daughter of Rev. Preston BULL and Ruby Williams; granddaughter of Onell Carter and the late Cora and Willie Williams. She has two children, Azaria Williams and Zion Powell, both of Canton.

Williams is a 2010 graduate of Canton High School and alumni of Holmes Community College. She is continuing her studies at Jackson State University, where she plans to obtain a bachelor's degree in elementary education.

Precious Prayers is available for purchase at KalishaWilliams.com, as well as on Amazon, BarnesAndNoble.com and Walmart.com



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Cantonian Launches Bailey Barn Farms and Soap Co.



Special to The Canton News

By Courtney Warren

In the heart of central Mississippi, a new chapter is unfolding at Bailey Barn Farms & Soap Co., where Cantonian Bailey Carr is bringing her dream of natural living to life with a small goat farm and handmade soap business.

Carr, a lifelong Canton resident, has turned a personal challenge into a thriving local enterprise. Struggling with persistent skin issues and finding little relief from conventional treatments, she discovered the benefits of goat milk soap. This led to the inception of her farm, dedicated to producing all-natural, skin-loving products.

“My journey began with a deep passion for homesteading and a love for all things natural,” Carr said. “I spent countless dollars trying various treatments, but nothing worked until I found goat milk soaps. It was a turning point for me, and I knew I wanted to share this with others.”

Bailey Barn Farms & Soap Co. is more than just a business—it represents a lifestyle centered around simplicity, sustainability, and community. The farm features a small herd of goats whose milk is used to

create handmade soaps and skincare products. Carr emphasizes that each product is crafted in small batches with natural ingredients sourced from the farm or trusted suppliers.

“We believe in the power of simplicity,” Carr said. “Our products are made with pure essential oils and

“Canton has always been like a second family to me,” Carr said. “Attending the local farmers markets and connecting with familiar faces and new friends has been incredibly fulfilling. It’s this sense of community that I cherish and want to nurture through Bailey Barn Farms.”

The farm’s commitment to quality and authenticity extends beyond its products. Carr and her team are dedicated to fostering a connection to the land and promoting sustainability. The farm’s offerings are designed to reflect the warmth and charm of rural living, making each product a labor of love.

Bailey Barn Farms & Soap Co. invites locals and visitors alike to explore their range of all-natural soaps and skincare items. The farm continues to participate in local markets, strengthening ties with the community and sharing the benefits of their products.

“Whether you’re a fellow homesteader, a natural product enthusiast, or just someone looking to enjoy farm-inspired goodness, we welcome you to Bailey Barn Farms,” Carr said. “It’s not just about the products; it’s about connecting with people and sharing the beauty of farm life.”

For more information or to explore Bailey Barn Farms’ offerings, visit their website or stop by their booth at the next Canton farmers market.



Special to The Canton News

natural ingredients, ensuring an indulgent experience while promoting well-being.”

The farm also draws from Carr’s deep roots in Canton. Her parents previously owned a beloved local furniture store, and her grandparents were known for their handcrafted driftwood pieces at the Old Jailhouse Flea Markets. These connections to the community have greatly influenced Carr’s approach to her new venture.



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CPSD ready for new school year and exciting changes



all photos Special to The Canton News

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“Invigorate! Innovate! Elevate!” was the call to action as the Canton Public School District welcomed back its staff to another exciting school year. Convocation 2024 was packed with excitement as CPSD Superintendent Gary Hannah made a historic announcement. The Canton Public School District is now the highest-paid school district in the State of Mississippi after offering its teachers, counselors, librarians, and interventionists a \$5,000 increase in the local supplement. Regardless of their experience, new teachers’ starting salary will

be \$50,200. The district’s original starting salary for teachers was \$45,200.

Across the board, over the last five years, all positions have received a 2% raise each year.

The cafeteria staff has gone from \$7.25 to \$14.00 per hour. That is over a 50 percent increase.

All cafeteria managers make at least \$30,000 a year.

All teacher assistants make over \$5,000 of the minimum the state requires. The State requirement is \$17,500. CPSD’s minimum is \$22,500.

All teacher assistants’ minimum is

\$24,000.

All school secretaries make a minimum of \$27,000.

All maintenance workers make a minimum of \$30,000.

All custodians make a minimum of \$14 per hour, double the minimum requirement set by the federal wage.

Bus drivers are outsourced.

CPSD has remained fiscally sound and maintained the state-required fund balance by implementing great fiscal practices and adhering to the board-approved budget.

CPSD has also made innovative improvements to its facilities and

grounds, adding artificial turf to the Tiger Stadium football field and updated HVAC systems. Moreover, the district is updating technology offerings for students and staff, including Chromebooks, Macbooks, and Promethean Boards. The district is also currently working on updating computer labs with new desktops.

According to CPSD, “educators and staff are invigorated to return to inspire, educate, and elevate our scholars. They have the support and many innovative tools they need to help our scholars reach their full potential, compete globally, and become life-long learners.”

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Mississippi DMH launches Mental Health Mississippi mobile app

Special to The Canton News

The Mississippi Department of Mental Health (DMH) recently launched the Mental Health Mississippi mobile app, designed to be an innovative and user-friendly tool to provide Mississippians with immediate access to mental health resources and support. DMH says the mobile app is a continuing step in its commitment to enhancing access to mental health services and improving wellness throughout the state.

The Mental Health Mississippi app offers a wide range of features and resources to help users navigate mental health services, including:

•Resource Directory: Easily search for mental health service providers across Mississippi, including counseling, crisis intervention and substance abuse treatment.

•Interactive Map: Mississippians can use the map to find services in their county of residence.

•Crisis Support: Access immediate crisis intervention resources,

including 24/7 hotlines and emergency services.

•Educational Materials: Learn about various mental health conditions, treatment options and wellness strategies through comprehensive articles and guides.

•Crisis Resources: Resources are available in the app for crisis situations, including Mobile Crisis Response Teams, crisis lifelines and Crisis Stabilization Units.

Executive Director of the Mississippi Department of Mental Health Wendy Bailey emphasized the importance of making mental health resources more accessible to all Mississippians.

“The Mental Health Mississippi mobile app represents a significant advancement in our efforts to support mental health and wellness in our state,” said Bailey. “By providing easy access to essential resources and support, we hope to empower individuals to take control of their mental health and seek the help they need.”

DMH says the launch of the Mental Health Mississippi

app comes at a critical time, as the need for mental health support continues to grow. The app is designed to be a comprehensive, user-friendly resource for individuals, families and communities seeking mental health information and services.

The app is available at no cost on the Apple App Store for iPhone and the Google Play Store for Android. The Mental Health Mississippi web site can also be reached at www.MentalHealthMS.com.



All photos Special to The Canton News

City of Canton Fire Department welcomes young visitors for fun and learning



Special to The Canton News

Special to The Canton News

The City of Canton Fire Department recently hosted a heartwarming visit from Mrs. Cathy Chandler, her family, and a special guest, Miss Mattie Pearl. The young visitor was treated to an engaging and educational experience at the fire station, where she learned about the daily life of firefighters and the crucial role they play in the community.

Mrs. Chandler expressed her gratitude for the event, saying, “We

loved our visit and appreciate our firefighters in Canton!! Mattie Pearl is still talking about her visit! Thank you so much for taking the time to do this for us.”

The Canton Fire Department takes pride in connecting with the community and inspiring the next generation with their heroic work. The visit was a reminder of the positive impact these local heroes have on the lives of Canton’s youngest residents.

Canton Police urge residents to lock vehicles amid rise in burglaries

Special to The Canton News

The Canton Police Department is urging residents to take proactive measures to protect their vehicles following a recent uptick in vehicle burglaries throughout the city.

In a public service announcement, authorities stressed the importance of locking vehicle doors and removing valuables to deter opportunistic thieves. The PSA comes in response to a series of recent break-ins, particularly affecting areas such as The Links Apartments, The Trails Apartments, Wood Creek Apartments, and Kingston Place.

“Crimes of opportunity are on the rise, and these incidents can be easily prevented with a few simple steps,” said a Canton Police announcement. “Locking your vehicle and removing all valuables is crucial in safeguarding your property.”

The recent surge in vehicle burglaries has been particularly pronounced in the Harrington Drive and Bushmier Lane areas, where several incidents occurred recently. Police are actively investigating these cases and

are appealing to the public for assistance.

“If anyone has video footage or any other information related to these burglaries, we encourage you to forward it to the Canton Police Department,” the announcement added.

Items commonly targeted by thieves include firearms, computers, tablets,

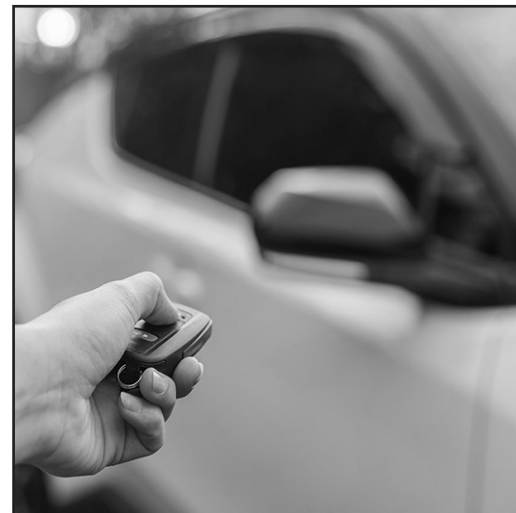
phones, and bags or purses. Residents are advised to make it a routine habit to remove these valuables from their vehicles and ensure that their doors are securely locked.

The Canton Police Department hopes that by raising awareness and encouraging preventive

measures, the community can work together to reduce the frequency of these crimes.

For those who may have witnessed suspicious activity or have additional information, contact the Canton Police Department at 601-859-2121.

“Let’s work together to protect our community and keep our neighborhoods safe,” the announcement concluded. “Thank you for your cooperation and vigilance.”



Special to The Canton News

MDAC certifies Old Jail Farmers Market



Special to the Canton News

Special to The Canton News

Canton's Old Jail Farmers Market has been recognized by the Mississippi Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce Andy Gipson as a certified farmers market in Mississippi. It is the only certified farmers market in Madison county.

This year, the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce (MDAC) has certified thirty-two farmers markets in twenty-five counties as part of the Mississippi Certified Farmers Market Program. The program serves as a marketing initiative designed to identify and promote markets where producers of Mississippi grown produce and other agricultural products gather to sell their goods directly to consumers. Sales of food products that are grown, made or processed in Mississippi and sold from Certified Farmers Markets are exempt from sales tax.

"People today want the best when it comes to feeding their families," said Gipson. "And, because of that, many farmers markets around the state have

been certified through our Mississippi Farmers Market Certification Program. With the certification, these markets are informing the public that they can find fresh, locally-grown produce, meats, eggs and other farm products near them."

In order to be recognized by the Mississippi Farmers Market Certification Program, local farmers markets must be identified and approved as locations where Mississippi farmers are gathered to sell their Mississippi grown produce and other agricultural products. By shopping at one of the state's certified markets, consumers can be confident that they are purchasing both fresh and nourishing food.

The Old Jail Farmers Market is located at 234 East Fulton Street and is open Thursdays from 4 until 7 p.m. For more information about Old Jail Farmers Market, follow them on Facebook, or call 601-519-9671.

Find a complete list of farmers markets across the state, visit www.MS-FarmersMarket.com.

Canton makes Summer Connections



Special to the Canton News

By Courtney Warren

The Summer Connection program at the Canton Connect Center recently came to a close.

Spanning six weeks this summer, the Summer Connection program provided fun and educational opportunities for children in the community.

Attendees learned the importance of planting seeds in good soil, how to conduct a science excitement and

how to make slime.

Students also practiced a variety of life skills. They learned how to fix the tires on their bike, how to sew a button and how to bake resurrection rolls. They studied how Jesus rose from the grave, and they reviewed John 3:16, which they learned during the school year at Tutoring Connection.

To learn more about the Connect Center, visit CantonConnectCenter.org

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Canton Police Department hosts first Junior Police Academy



Special to The Canton News

By Courtney Warren

The City of Canton Police Department (CPD) recently hosted its very first Junior Academy.

This event was free for youth ages eight through fourteen and was held at Mt. Zion Recreational Center.

CPD covered several lessons with the Junior Cadets over the course of a week.

The Junior Cadets got a tour of the Madison County Detention Center and Canton Municipal Court.

Investigator Sergeant Gooden spoke

to the Cadets about the two categories of crimes and types of crimes that he investigates.

Officers Esco and Smoots taught the Cadets about the importance of CPR/first aid as well as how to properly perform the Heimlich maneuver. All

Junior Cadets became CPR certified.

The department thanked Mt. Zion MB Church of Canton for allowing them to use their facilities for the free event and Uplift Incorporated and EKK Omega Men for being sponsors.

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Canton, MS through the Lens



photo by Betsy Sligh

This month's photo is by Cantonian Betsy Sligh and is titled "I Think Door Dash is Here."

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CA's Warren represents her country



Special to The Canton News

Cantony Academy junior softball player Kaitlyn Warren recently represented Team USA in the Dominican Republic. The Panther and her fellow teammates kicked off their journey with an impressive 11-2 victory. Warren's CA teammates and family say they are excited and cheering her on as she shines in the DR.

Kickoff the Great American CleanUp!



Special to The Canton News

By Keeping Canton Beautiful Club Member Jessica Stein

The Canton Garden Club hopes you've gotten some of the rain passing through this summer! Compared to last year's drought, we count each drop as a blessing. Now is the time for weeding, watering and planning for fall. You can still start a few vegetables: tomatoes, peppers, beans. Next, think about perennial flowers to seed in the fall, like echinacea and yarrow. It's also a good time to think ahead and order lettuce, collard, and root vegetable seeds, etc.

In your wider neighborhood, it's time for The Great American Clean-up, which kicked off July 22. This is

a two-year program by Keep America Beautiful, celebrating America's 250th birthday. Together, we can work for cleaner, safer streets, and make them more attractive while we're at it.

Keep America Beautiful has calculated that each person picking up 152 pieces of trash would lead to a fully clean nation! The president of KAB says "Our goal of picking up 25 billion pieces of litter and making 25,000 communities even more beautiful is ambitious."

Please join Keep Canton Beautiful's efforts locally and follow the program at kab.org. You can also like and follow on social media.

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Thompson receives MCBL&F Award



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Ms. Thompson and MCBL&F Executive Director Jan Collins.

Special to The Canton News

The Madison County Business League & Foundation (MCBL&F) presented an award to Canton native Rochelle Thompson for her exceptional volunteerism and leadership with the Madison County Young Profes-

sionals, Madison County Executive Leadership and the Madison County Youth Leadership programs. Thompson is a MCBL&F Member and serves as director of health promotions for the American Lung Association eastern district.

Canton Sports Schedule

CANTON HIGH SCHOOL

COACH: CALVIN BOLTON

Aug. 30	Velma Jackson
Sept. 6	Germantown
Sept. 13	at Provine (Hughes)
Sept. 20	at Callaway (Huges)
Sept. 27	Neshoba Central
Oct. 4	OPEN
Oct. 11	at Cleveland Central
Oct. 18	Yazoo City
Oct. 25	at Greenville
Nov. 1	Gentry
Nov. 7	at Holmes County

CANTON ACADEMY

COACH: GAGE POSEY

Aug. 16	Greenville Christian
Aug. 23	at Carroll Academy
Aug. 30	at Heritage Academy
Sept. 6	West Memphis (Ark.)
Sept. 13	OPEN
Sept. 20	Central Hinds
Sept. 27	at Tri-County Academy
Oct. 4	at Central Holmes
Oct. 11	Boston Academy
Oct. 18	Riverfield (La.)
Oct. 25	at Indianola Academy

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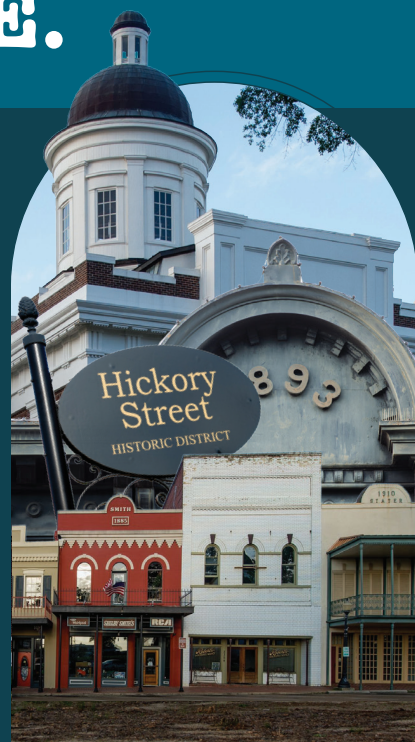
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ON THE TABLE: A CLASSIC LONDON FOG

RECIPE FROM COURTNEY WARREN

Special to The Canton News

By Courtney Warren

Even though it's still way too hot outside, I'm dreaming of cooler weather. I've got the AC cranked up so high, I can get under a blanket and wear sweatpants while I read a book. As we wish for cooler weather, I wanted to share my favorite warm drink with you.

Ingredients:

- Earl Grey tea (I recommend an Earl Grey Moonlight from Adagio teas, but the Bigelow brand works in a pinch.)
- Your milk of choice (I use oat milk.)
- Vanilla syrup or vanilla extract

Directions:

1. Boil the water for the tea
2. Fill up your mug half full with the hot water, and add your tea bag.
3. While the tea steeps, froth ½ cup of milk with a hand frother. When that's complete, add a tablespoon of the vanilla syrup, and froth for ten more seconds.
4. Add the frothed milk to your tea, grab your favorite cozy read, and enjoy!

MadCAAP calls for volunteers!

Special to The Canton News



Madison Countians Allied Against Poverty (MadCAAP's afterschool program (B.A.S.E. Camp) recently started back and is calling for volunteers.

B.A.S.E. Camp is a safe, fun, biblically based program where elementary kids train to become Bodily, Academically, Spiritually, and Emotionally fit (B.A.S.E.).

ALL of B.A.S.E. Camp's activities are focused on Building Foundations for a Balanced Life.



Body: Enjoy fun exercise routines, enjoy healthy snacks and meals, and learn about nutrition, hygiene, and substance awareness.

Academics: Receive homework support, ACT prep for high schoolers, and stimulate minds with games, crafts, and reading.

Spiritual: Explore Bible studies focused on loving God and others, accompanied by weekly memory verses.

Emotional: Foster friendships in age-similar groups, connect with caring mentors and express creativity through free play and imaginative games.



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SCAN ME

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Kylie Melons grows to become Kylie Melons Market

By Courtney Warren

Most locals not only know Kylie Melons, but now use the corner store as a landmark in Canton. Owned by Kylie Warren, the name recently underwent a change and is now known as Kylie Melons Market.

In the summer of 2011, Warren and his family first began selling watermelons from the back of a pickup truck on the lot of Warren Used Cars. Since then, Kylie Melons Market has come a long way.

“In June of 2019, we officially began to add more produce to offer customers,” remembers Warren. “We started with some tomatoes, peaches, and cantaloupes. It was also that summer that we set up our tents and displays in front of the current building in which we are now.”

“We then added Mama’s Rice Krispy’s, as well as her town favorite peanut brittle to the menu. Then came the plums, sweet corn, and fresh shelled peas and butterbeans.”

That next month, Warren said, “we added a crowd favorite, the boiled peanuts! We were officially a roadside produce stand!”

That fall, with the purchase of their first cooler and the addition of mums, pumpkins and haybales, Warren said, “God opened the door



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for us to begin growing. During the closed months, we added a new member to the family, as our first baby girl was born.”

While many struggled during the pandemic, Warren said the business was blessed enough to continue to grow in both family members and products.

“With new paint, new produce tables, and a new look, we were now open on the inside of the building, as well. That year, 2020, was an exciting year for us, as we also added items from local vendors like let-

tuce, honey, salsas, pepper jellies, fresh baked breads, casseroles and more,” he said.

As they continue to grow, the Warren family says they remain grateful to the citizens and visitors of Canton.

Warren explained that God’s Word gives them the keys to success.

“These keys are like secrets, but even better. One thing we have learned is when you make His business your business, He will make His business your business. Matthew 6:33 King James Version says,

‘But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.’”

“All the success we’ve ever received is from Him. God’s plans are greater than ours on our best day, and it’s fun to trust Him,” said Warren.

The market currently offers a bigger selection of fruits and vegetables as well as an array of assorted local products from casseroles, seafood, beef and pork to milk, ice cream, dips and homemade cakes and pies.

“Before each person comes into the store, whether they are frequent customers or first time guests, we would love for them to know how much we appreciate them,” said Warren. “There’s a wonderful feeling of thankfulness and gratitude that we have for all of our friends who chose us.”

“We have a fun saying that we borrowed from our pastor that we love to tell them: ‘The first you come, you are a visitor. The next time you come, you are family.’ And that’s exactly the way it is at Kylie Melons. Our customers are family,” said Warren.

What started out as a pickup truck of watermelons grew into what is now Kylie Melons Market.

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CA holds '24 Back to School Bash



All photos Special to The Canton News

By Courtney Warren

Canton Academy recently hosted their annual back to school bash, where teachers and new patrons could mingle as they get excited for the upcoming school year. Head of School Ryan Laster said, "Canton Academy is excited about the upcoming school year. Our student population will be the largest it has been in several years with 380 plus students. We have also had several exciting things happening on campus this summer. The school

made a big investment in curriculum, better aligning the courses of study throughout each grade. All of our campus buildings have gotten a fresh coat of paint this summer.

"We have also made several important security upgrades, some much needed concrete improvements and installed new lighting in several areas of campus. We are ready to welcome our students back to campus. It's time for a great 2024-2025 school year. Go, Panthers!"

CA continues Panther Paw traditions



Special to The Canton News

The CA cheerleaders get excited to paint the paws and continue the longstanding tradition Canton Academy continues Panther Paw traditions

By Courtney Warren

The walk to the Canton Academy (CA) football field has been covered in white Panther paws bearing the names of beloved CA students and family members for the last fifteen years.

In fact, before the new field house was built, it was a longstanding tradition for the football players to hold hands and take the "walk of champions"- listening to the click of their football cleats over those same painted paws as they made their way to the

gridiron.

Once again, the cheerleaders are prepping the painted Panther Paws, a cheerleading fundraiser, for the upcoming season.

Fifteen years ago, in 2009, the Panther cheer squad, under direction of then-sponsor Suzanne Williams, began the Panther Paw Pathway after being invited to cheer in the Capital One Bowl in Orlando. Selling the painted paws to CA patrons was one of the girls' many fundraising efforts, and it turned out to be a huge success.



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ENJOY ONE LAST TASTY RECIPE WITH SUMMER'S JUICY TOMATOES

The Canton News

As the summer winds to a close, many will mourn the waning of the bounty of freshly grown tomatoes we got used to enjoying. Before the summer crop is gone, give this recipe a try. It can be used as an appetizer or even a main dish or a light lunch. It takes a little effort and preparation (the dough needs to chill about an hour), but the tender crust and flavor-filled center is worth it.

SAVORY TOMATO PIE

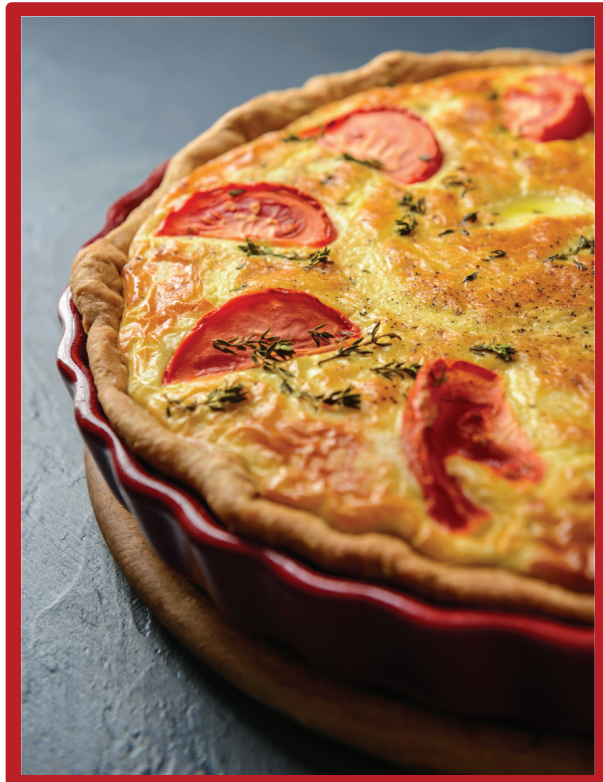
INGREDIENTS:

FOR THE CRUST:

- 1 1/4 cups all-purpose flour
- 2 tsp. baking powder
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1/2 cup shortening
- 1/2 cup sour cream

FOR THE PIE:

- 4 medium tomatoes, peeled and cut into 1/2" thick slices (about 1 1/2 lb)
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 3/4 cup mayonnaise (not reduced fat)
- 1 can crab meat, drained (not imitation) (approx. 1/2 cup)
- 3 green onions, chopped
- 2 Tblsp fresh basil, chopped
- 1/2 cup grated Parmesan cheese (not canned)
- 1 1/2 cups shredded mozzarella cheese



PREPARATION:

FOR THE CRUST:

1. Stir together flour, baking powder and salt.
2. Cut shortening into flour mixture with a pastry blender or knife until mixture resembles small peas.
3. Add sour cream; stir with a fork or mix with hands until combined into a dough.
4. Shape dough into a flat disk.
5. Wrap in plastic wrap and chill one to twenty-four hours.

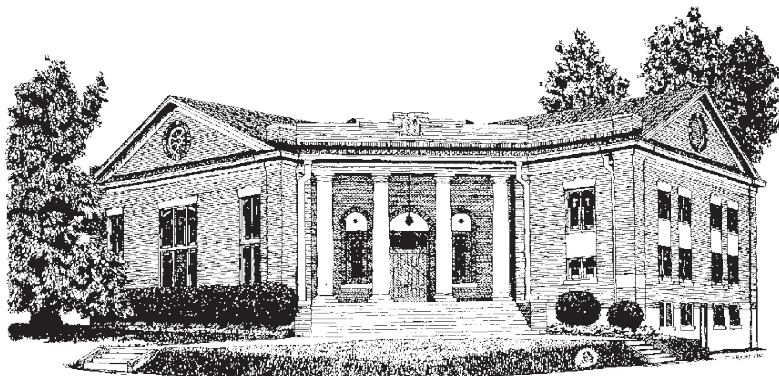
FOR THE PIE:

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees.
2. Place tomatoes in a single layer on paper towels. Sprinkle with salt and let stand for 20 minutes, then pat dry with paper towels.
3. Stir together mayonnaise, crab meat, green onions, basil and cheese, reserving 1/4 cup of the mozzarella cheese for later.
4. Roll sour cream dough into a large circle on a lightly floured surface. Put into a 9" pie plate, crimping edges.
5. Bake dough for 10 to 12 minutes until lightly brown. Remove from oven.
6. Sprinkle the remaining 1/4 cup of mozzarella cheese on top of the crust.
7. Arrange tomato slices over the cheese on the crust.
8. Spread mayonnaise mixture over tomatoes.
9. Bake at 350 degrees for 34 to 37 minutes, or until lightly browned on top.
10. Let cool at least five minutes before serving.

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Letter from the editor: prepping for school and remembering not to compare

By Courtney Warren

Sometimes I wonder if I'm the only teacher that absolutely hates the summer time. I miss my students, I miss my school, and I get so bored being at home. What a blessing it is to have a place to miss so much.

As I prepare for another school year, I'm scrolling through social media, getting new ideas, prepping new lessons and purchasing all of the things.

I think the reminder that we all need as we prepare for another school year is that comparison is the thief of joy. Your classroom doesn't have to look like Pinterest, your backpack doesn't have to be name brand, and your new shoes are cool no matter where you bought them.

Do they express who you are? Do they show off the best parts of you? That's what matters. When students walk into my room, I want them to feel safe and loved.

So, when I find myself scrolling through social media and thinking I'm not as worthy as these other teachers—that's what I remind myself. I am worthy. My students enjoy me. My school enjoys me. They want me there.

We have to remember that social media can be such an awesome

tool. I use Tik Tok and Instagram all the time to learn from and connect with other teachers. However, it can be used in the wrong ways, as well.

A few years ago, I realized I was struggling with my follower count. It was all I thought about, and, when I had special moments in life, I had trained my brain to see them through a photo on social media rather than through a moment I could enjoy.

That was a huge wake up call. I was missing such important moments.

That summer, I deleted all of my social media from my phone. I realized how often I picked up my phone just to check social media, and, eventually, I was able to re-train my brain to not depend on those apps anymore.

Once I got back on, I had such a different perspective. The follower count didn't matter; it was the connections with other people I truly cared about. I loved seeing other amazing teachers and collaborating with them.

That experience has also allowed me to share a new perspective with my students, because I know what they are going through, and I can relate to how they feel when they open up their own phones. Who



Special to The Canton News

are they comparing themselves to? Who are they worried about seeing on their grid?

So, as we fill our Target shopping carts, decorate classrooms, and

get ready to lay out our first-day-of-school outfits, let's remember to cheer each other on and shine in our own ways, rather than trying to shine like someone else.

KEEP YOUR COOL AS SUMMER HEATS UP

1

Make sure the air coming into your home is clean and healthy. Air filters on some air conditioning units require monthly cleaning or replacing.

2

Set your thermostat at 78 degrees or the highest comfortable temperature. Every degree lower than 78 can raise your bill as much as 3%.

3

Buy a programmable thermostat. As energy use rises, costs also rise. A programmable thermostat can help you manage those costs when you are away, whether for the day or on an extended vacation.

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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On the shelf: Tomorrow

By Courtney Warren

The New York Times recently released their list of the best books of the twenty-first century, and on that list was *Tomorrow, and Tomorrow, and Tomorrow* by Gabrielle Zevin.

A few weeks ago, my best friend Lindsay called and said Millsaps College was having an author talk, and she had gotten us tickets. We had so much fun going to meet Zevin, listen to her talk, and get our books signed. I read the book when it was first released, but read it again in preparation for the event, and let me tell you – it’s wonderful.

It’s one of those books that is hard to buy into just from reading the front flap, but according to the publisher, “On a bitter-cold day, in the December of his junior year at Harvard, Sam Masur exits a subway car and sees, amid the hordes of people waiting on the platform, Sadie Green. He calls her name. For a moment, she pretends she hasn’t heard him, but then, she turns, and a game begins: a legendary collaboration that will launch them to stardom.”

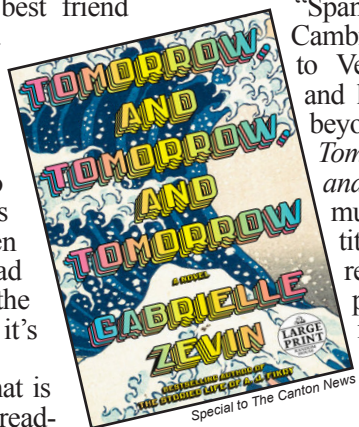
“These friends, intimates since childhood, borrow money, beg favors, and, before even graduating college, they

have created their first blockbuster, *Ichigo*. Overnight, the world is theirs. Not even twenty-five years old, Sam and Sadie are brilliant, successful and rich, but these qualities won’t protect them from their own creative ambitions or the betrayals of their hearts.”

“Spanning thirty years, from Cambridge, Massachusetts, to Venice Beach, California, and lands in between and far beyond, Gabrielle Zevin’s *Tomorrow, and Tomorrow, and Tomorrow* examines the multifarious nature of identity, disability, failure, the redemptive possibilities in play, and, above all, our need to connect: to be loved and to love.”

If you enjoy characters you can immediately love and want to see succeed, this is the book for you. If you like hard-hitting lines and literature that makes you a little uncomfortable and also think deeply about yourself and your own friendships, this book is for you. If you need a reminder that play is important and we as humans can all connect from playing, then this book is for you.

I hope you enjoy *Tomorrow, and Tomorrow, and Tomorrow* and also check out the rest of *The New York Times’* Books of the Twenty-first Century list.



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ABC warehouse coming to Canton

By Courtney Warren

The City of Canton has been selected as the chosen location for the new Mississippi Alcohol Beverage Control (ABC) warehouse.

Officials say the 400,000 square foot new warehouse and distribution facility will be outfitted with the most advanced technical and highly automated distribution



systems.

According to Joey Deason with the Madison County Economic Development Authority, the Department of Finance and Administration purchased the land for around \$980,000.

The property is just over 32 acres and located off Soldiers Colony Road.

The new warehouse will be located to the north and adjacent to the Canton multi-purpose building.

Pregnancy resource room in need

Special to The Canton News

The Greater Love Pregnancy Resource Room, located at 339 West Peace Street in Canton, is in urgent need of donations, to better serve new and expectant mothers in the surrounding community. The non-profit organization was founded in 2023 and offers all things related to the care of babies up to two years of age. Completion of the monthly self-improvement course earns two passes to shop for needed baby/toddler supplies.

Urgently needed items:

- Baby wash
- Baby washcloths
- Baby oil
- Baby lotion
- Baby shampoo



- Diapers- Sizes 3, 4 and 5
- Pull Ups- Sizes 2T-5T (boys and girls)
- Onesies- Size newborn to 24 months
- Socks- Size newborn to 2 years old (boys and girls)
- Dreft laundry detergent
- Diaper rash ointment
- Bottles
- Baby food
- New or gently used clothing for boys and girls (All sizes needed but especially 12 to 24 months)

Contact Fredia Day at 601-407-4212 with any questions or to arrange to drop off items. Day says that monetary donations are always welcomed and appreciated, as well, and a receipt can be provided for tax purposes.

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