



THE CANTON NEWS

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

Blanton joins

CANTON ACADEMY

as elementary principal

By Courtney Warren

Canton Academy has seen huge growth within the last two years, from the pre-school up to the high school. With that in mind, leadership has been a top priority for the board and the head of school. Dawn Blanton will join the Panther family this spring semester as the elementary principal.

"I am thrilled about joining Canton Academy, primarily because of the incredible individuals who make up the entire Canton Academy family," said Blanton. "The opportunity to work with the exceptional students, supportive parents, dedicated faculty and committed staff at Canton Academy is very exciting to me."

Blanton holds a master's degree in education and has a deep understanding of the unique needs of young students. School officials say her dedication to creating an engaging and supportive learning environment is evident in her previous roles as teacher, performing arts director, guidance counselor, and member

of Madison-Ridgeland Academy's administrative team for the last ten years. As a proud mother of four sons and grandmother to two, she says she understands the incredible privilege and responsibility of nurturing young minds and hearts, the CA motto.

"During my brief interactions and visits to campus events, it has become evident that the school's greatest asset is its people," Blanton said. "Canton Academy has not only wonderful students and families, but also a team of passionate educators as its faculty."

"The leadership is deeply committed to enhancing the school's already established foundation of excellence. Witnessing the enthusiasm and dedication of both the teaching staff and the leadership team has reinforced my belief in the school's tremendous potential for strategic growth in all facets. I am genuinely enthusiastic about being part of

all the Lord has planned for Canton Academy's future," said Blanton.

Head of School Ryan Laster said, "Canton Academy is excited about the recent growth in our school, which has been specifically seen in the elementary school. The addition of Dawn Blanton as our elementary principal is a blessing

because we know she brings many years of experience in education to Canton Academy. We are looking forward to the future of the elementary with Mrs. Blanton at the helm."

Blanton's approach is all about open communication and collaboration. She believes in the importance of strong partnerships with parents, teachers and staff to ensure the best possible educational experience for the students. Those who know her say her commitment to building these relationships is one of her many strengths.

"I hope to bring my love for children, passion for excellence in Chris-

tian education and desire to build relationships with families and fellow educators to Canton Academy. I feel so honored to have this opportunity, and consider it a privilege to serve Canton Academy in this capacity," said Blanton.

Blanton's expertise extends beyond traditional education, as she has also successfully directed a thriving performing arts program for ten years. Through this role, she cultivated creativity and talent among students, showcasing her commitment to fostering the development of well-rounded students.

"Having been involved in Christian education for over twenty years, I bring a wide range of experiences to my new role at Canton Academy. I think my time at MRA has been invaluable, as I have witnessed firsthand MRA's growth and development over the past ten years."

"MRA's leadership and commitment to excellence in Christian education has well prepared me to serve Canton Academy in my next chapter," Blanton said. "I am very excited to get started in January, and can't wait to welcome the students and families back to campus in 2024."

For more information about Canton Academy and enrollment, visit cantonacademy.org.



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Dawn Blanton



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Letter from the editor: what can we learn from each other?

By Courtney Warren

One of the best things about being a teacher is that I’m constantly learning. My school makes educating teachers a priority, a true blessing in the teaching world. We are constantly given opportunities to better ourselves so we can return to our classrooms and be better for our students.

Recently, a group of colleagues and I traveled to Little Rock Christian School. While there, we were introduced to a method called The Harkness Method. This method is a teaching and learning method done through discussion. It first began at Phillips Exeter Academy in 1930 and was a gift from Edward Harkness. His philosophy was that education and learning was a “democratic affair.” Essentially, during Harkness, the students sit around a table and explore ideas as a group. They learn how to talk to each other, how to disagree, and how to see different perspectives. The entire point is not about being right or wrong, but, instead, it’s a collaborative approach to solving a problem and learning.

While Socratic Seminar is similar, the main difference is the goal. During Socratic, I would pose a question, and students would reach specific answers. During Harkness, I sit outside the circle at a student

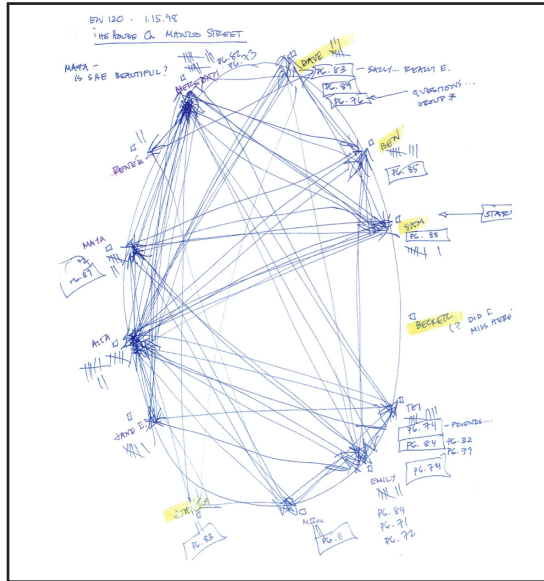
desk, removing myself as the authority in the room. Students then are free to bring any and all ideas to their Harkness. Using paper and a diagram of their circle, I track the conversation, and students can see where their conversation moved throughout the Harkness.

Now, at first this was tricky. We had to retrain our brains about being right and wrong – about what a grade actually means. Were we truly learning?

After a few weeks, students came in excited for Harkness. They sat in the circle and talked about reading *The Giver* by Lois Lowry. They came up with theories, answered each other’s questions, made annotations in their books, and then later would come back and prove their own theories to be true or false. It was incredible. Now, this can be scary. Especially when you think of a group of stu-

dents that might be more rowdy than most. I’m supposed to turn them loose in a circle and allow them to talk to each other without any moderation? Yes.

Let me tell you why.



Special to The Canton News

These were the students that thrived. There was no pressure, and they could ask any question. They talked about how the entire book could be a simulation. They discussed the importance of love in a marriage and why human connection matters. They talked about how having those human

connections were dangerous in this book world, because, when we love people, we will go to any lengths to protect them – something the book’s fictional government feared.

These were conversations that students led themselves, with the freedom to explore their own thoughts

and ideas. If anything, it showed them what they are truly capable of. After each Harkness, I point out their major discussion points, and they can see the diagram before they determine a leader. Everyone is brought in; they don’t leave any student to sit quietly in the circle.

Watching these students, who might doubt themselves, might never speak, or might overcompensate by speaking too much, truly blossom and discover what they’re capable of was the highlight of my semester. It showed me the beauty of learning. It showed them how to get excited about literature again.

I saw a student who thought he’d never pass literature become a true leader in Harkness, keeping his group on track and encouraging everyone to participate. I saw another student who started her first Harkness crying because she was terrified of getting the “wrong answers” say “I learned so much. This was actually fun.”

That’s what it’s all about. The questions we are often asked are, “How can we make learning fun? How can we bring back the focus to learning rather than the grade?”

I’m getting to see that in the Harkness Method. Teaching these middle schoolers has always done my heart good, but watching them find a love for learning has done my heart even better.



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CAVS-E visits CPSD tech ed campus



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CAVS-E (Center for Advanced Vehicle Systems - Extension), in Canton, is an engineering extension office of Mississippi State University. One of its focuses has been to bring focus to robotics usage in Mississippi manufacturing. To that end, CAVS-E contacted Mr. Michael Ellis, Principal of the Canton Public Schools technical education campus, and Mr.

Wayne Day, auto body repair coordinator and teacher. They arranged for a hands-on demonstration of robots programmed to travel to a destination while avoiding items blocking its path; virtual reality goggles used for technical training (replacing a spark plug on a car); and programming a robot arm to stack wooden planks and ring a bell.

Students were very interested in the robot that avoided them when they

stepped in its way. Also, according to the students, the virtual reality training was more difficult than it looks. It showed that training was needed to manipulate robot arms to use a screwdriver, a wrench, and turn to the left or right. Students were enthusiastic about hearing and seeing the effects of programming the robots to do tasks required. Mr. Day said his students were enthusiastic and engaged.

McGhee visits CHS Equivalency Program



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Dorrah McGhee, a student leader at Grambling State University, visited the Canton High School Equivalency Program. She talked with the students about the university enrollment

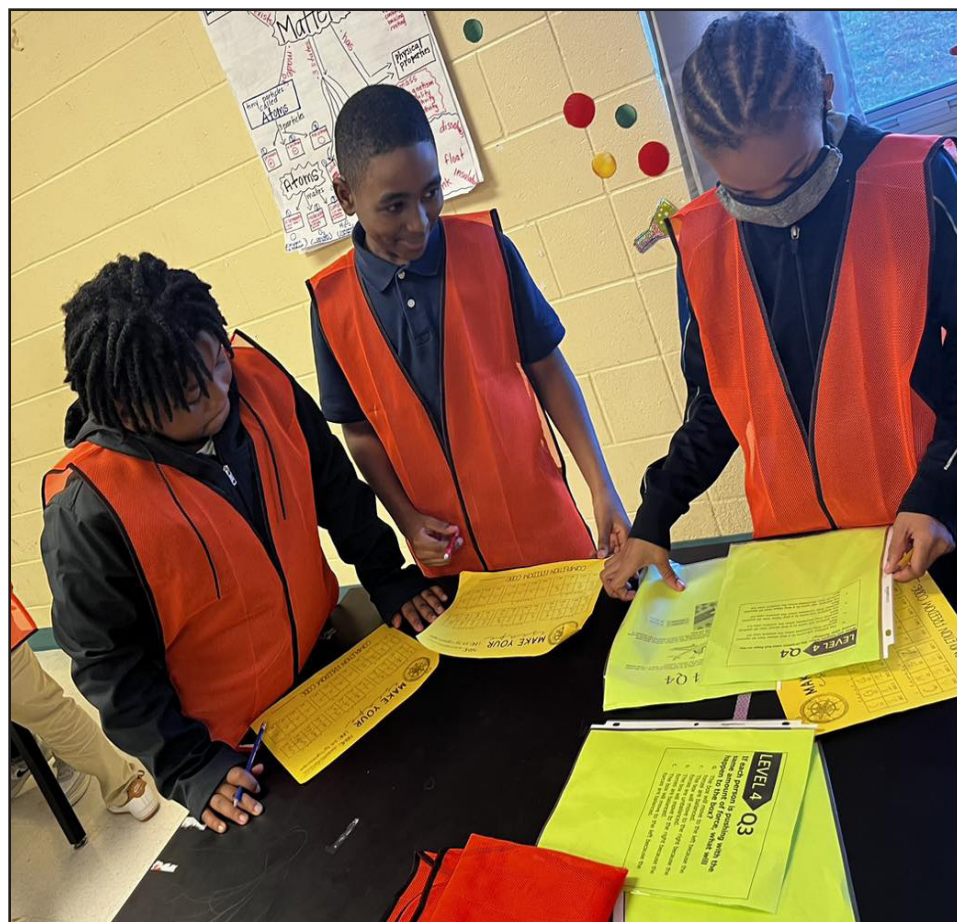
process, student life, and the importance of getting involved. She also gave them encouraging words about continuing their educational path. The Campus Living Department at Grambling State University gifted the students with towels, t-shirts, card

holders, rain gear, and much more. School leaders and students thanked McGhee for sharing her knowledge with CHS scholars. Dorrah McGhee is the daughter of High School Equivalency Program (HSEP) coordinator Mrs. Monica McGhee.

Mrs. Grant and her 5th graders try to escape



Special to The Canton News



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Goodloe Elementary School fifth graders reviewed for their nine weeks assessments using an escape room and guidance from their teacher, Ms. Grant. They answered questions and solved clues to advance to the next level. Fifth-grade students were eager to learn and show growth.

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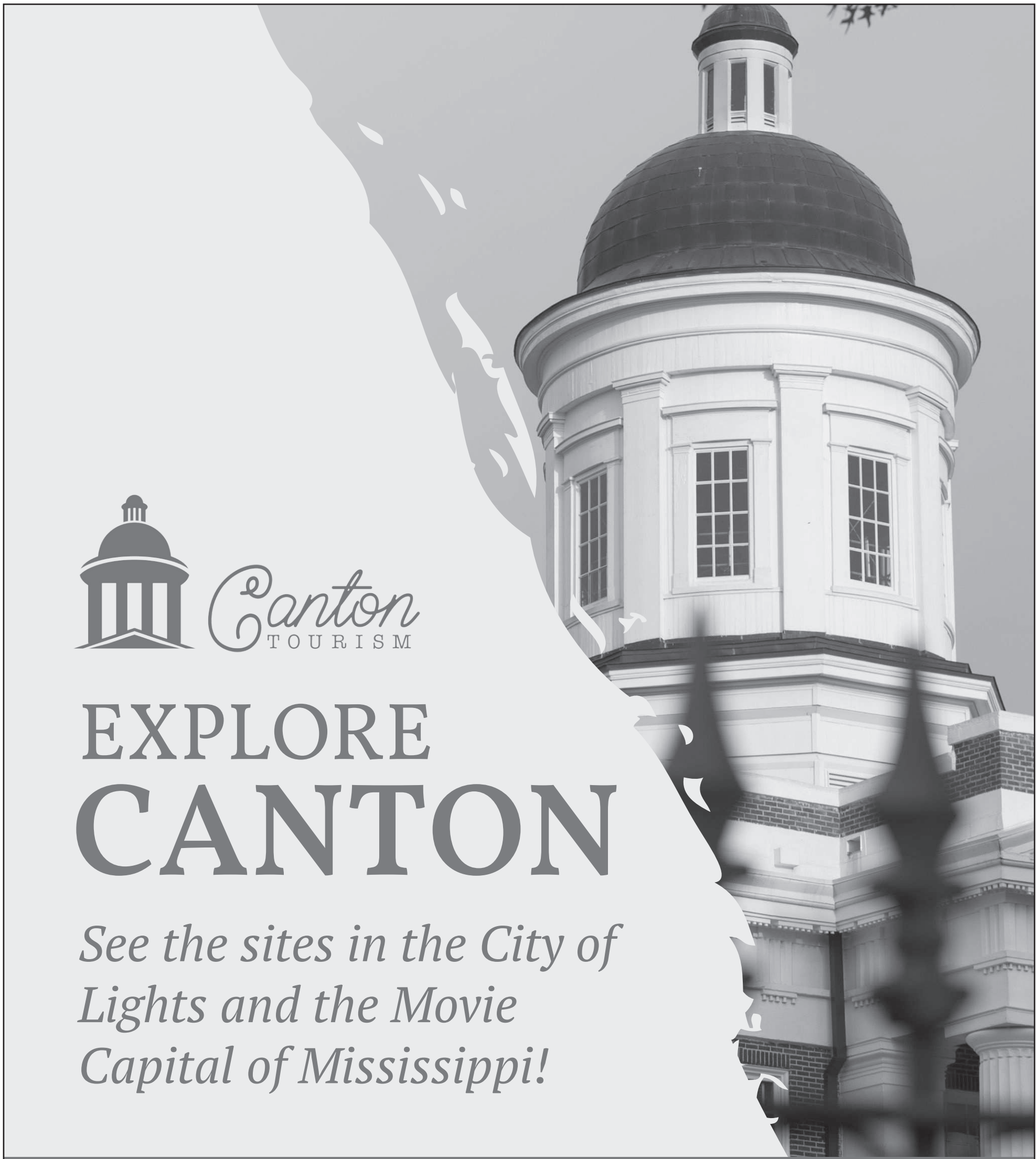
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On the shelf: Books to add to your holiday gift list

By Courtney Warren

The New York Times
Chain Gang All Stars by Nana Kwame Adjei-Brenyah

From the publisher: Loretta Thurwar and Hamara “Hurricane Staxxx” Stacker are the stars of the Chain-Gang All-Stars, the cornerstone of CAPE, or Criminal Action Penal Entertainment, a highly popular, highly controversial profit-raising program in America’s increasingly dominant private prison industry. It’s the return of the gladiators, and prisoners are competing for the ultimate prize: their freedom.

The New Yorker
The Bee Sting by Paul Murray

From the publisher: The Barnes family is in trouble. Dickie’s once-lucrative car business is going under—but Dickie is spending his days in the woods, building an apocalypse-proof bunker with a renegade handyman. His wife, Imelda, is selling off her jewelry on eBay and half-heartedly dodging the attention of fast-talking cattle farmer Big Mike, while their teenage daughter, Cass, formerly top of her class, seems determined to binge drink her way through her final exams. As for twelve-year-old PJ, he’s on the brink of running away.

If you wanted to change this story, how far back would you have to go? To the infamous bee sting that ruined Imelda’s wedding day? To the car crash one year before Cass was born? All the way back to Dickie at ten years old, standing in the summer garden with his father, learning how to be a real man?

The Bee Sting, Paul Murray’s exuberantly entertaining new novel, is a tour de force: a portrait of postcrash Ireland, a tragicomic family saga, and a dazzling story about the struggle to be good at the end of the world.

Goodreads Peoples Choice

Yellowface by R.F. Kuang
 From the Publisher:

Authors June Hayward and Athena Liu were supposed to be twin rising stars. But Athena’s a literary darling. June Hayward is literally nobody. Who wants stories about basic white girls, June thinks.

So when June witnesses Athena’s death in a freak accident, she acts on impulse: she steals Athena’s just-finished masterpiece, an experimental novel about the unsung

contributions of Chinese laborers during World War I.

So what if June edits Athena’s novel and sends it to her agent as her own work? So what if she lets her new publisher rebrand her as Juniper Song—complete with an ambiguously ethnic author photo? Doesn’t this piece of history deserve to be told, whoever the teller?

R.F. Kuang’s novel is timely, razor-sharp, and eminently enjoyable.

Barnes and Noble:
The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store by James McBride

From the publisher: In 1972, when workers in Pottstown, Pennsylvania, were digging the foundations for a new develop-

it was Chona and Nate Timblin, the Black janitor at Moshe’s theater and the unofficial leader of the Black community on Chicken Hill, who worked together to keep the boy safe.

As these characters’ stories overlap and deepen, it becomes clear how much the people who live on the margins of white, Christian America struggle and what they must do to survive. When the truth is finally revealed about what happened on Chicken Hill

and the part the town’s white establishment played in it, McBride shows us that even in dark times, it is love and community—heaven and earth—that sustain us.

Courtney’s Pick
The Stranger in the Lifeboat by Mitch Albom

From the publisher: Adrift in a raft after a deadly ship explosion, ten people struggle for survival at sea. Three days pass. Short on water, food and hope, they spot a man floating in the waves. They pull him in.

“Thank the Lord we found you,” a passenger says. “I am the Lord,” the man whispers.

So begins Mitch Albom’s most beguiling novel yet.

Albom has written of heaven in the celebrated number one bestsellers *The Five People You Meet in Heaven* and *The First Phone Call from Heaven*. Now, for the first time in his fiction, he ponders what we would do if, after crying out for divine help, God actually appeared before us?

In *The Stranger in the Lifeboat*, Albom keeps us guessing until the end: Is this strange man really who he claims to be? What actually happened to cause the explosion? Are the survivors in heaven, or are they in hell? The story is narrated by Benji, one of the passengers, who recounts the events in a notebook that is discovered—a year later—when the empty life raft washes up on the island of Montserrat. It falls to the island’s chief inspector, Jarty LeFleur, a man battling his own demons, to solve the mystery of what really happened.

A fast-paced, compelling novel that makes you ponder your deepest beliefs, *The Stranger in the Lifeboat* suggests that answers to our prayers may be found where we least expect them.



That’s what June claims, and the New York Times bestseller list seems to agree.

But June can’t get away from Athena’s shadow, and emerging evidence threatens to bring June’s (stolen) success down around her. As June races to protect her secret, she discovers exactly how far she will go to keep what she thinks she deserves.

With its totally immersive first-person voice, *Yellowface* grapples with questions of diversity, racism, and cultural appropriation, as well as the terrifying alienation of social media.

ment, the last thing they expected to find was a skeleton at the bottom of a well. Who the skeleton was and how it got there were two of the long-held secrets kept by the residents of Chicken Hill, the dilapidated neighborhood where immigrant Jews and African Americans lived side by side and shared ambitions and sorrows. Chicken Hill was where Moshe and Chona Ludlow lived when Moshe integrated his theater and where Chona ran the Heaven & Earth Grocery Store. When the state came looking for a deaf boy to institutionalize him,



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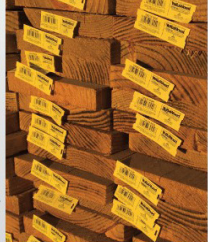
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Kelly and Walker graduate from Northwest



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Northwest Mississippi Community College officials recently announced Janina Kelly and Grayson Walker of Canton as graduates who have been awarded a degree and/or certificate for the fall 2023 semester. Degrees were officially conferred by Northwest President Dr. Michael Heindl on December 8, during the college's 115th Commencement. Northwest welcomed Tony Sandridge, a lifelong Tate County resident and the first African American to sit on the Tate County Board of Supervisors, as the commencement speaker. Currently, Sandridge is serving his fourth term, and he prides himself on being an advocate for the community. Sandridge founded a non-profit organization called "Tate County Bridging the Gap Inc" in 2012. Northwest Mississippi Community College is a public, two-year institution primarily serving eleven counties in Northwest Mississippi.

Canton Lions: January update

By Guest Columnist Joy Foy

The weekly programs for Canton Lions have included locals, state-appointed and elected officials, and numerous special interest presenters. Lions welcomed one new member, Cheyenne Stewart, in 2023. Canton High School senior Erin Nichols received a \$1,000 scholarship from the Lions. Please, make note of this scholarship, which is open to all Canton seniors. One scholarship will be available to winners from each of the city schools.

Longtime Lion John McPhail died in 2023. The Lions are very grateful to the family for requesting that donations be made to Canton Lions in his honor in place of sending flowers.

Lions ended the year with local musician Frazier Riddell entertaining with Christmas music. A fun time set everyone in the spirit of the season.

Canton Lions invites you to join in the fun and civic activities for the New Year. Noon meetings are held weekly at the Canton Country Club. Please, come as our guest, if you have any interest in becoming a Lion.

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MCBL&F announces 2024 MCCT Board of Directors



Special to The Canton News

The Madison County Business League & Foundation (MCBL&F) recently announced the 2024 Madison County Community Trust (MCCT) Officers and Board of Directors. The Madison County Community Trust, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to improving the educational health, economic and social status and wellbeing of the citizens of Madison County. Pictured (l to r) are, front row: Brian Johnson, FBBI/Trustmark; MCBL&F Chair John Geary, Tellus Operating Group; Brad Gatlin, BankPlus; MCCT Vice Chair/Secretary Wesley Goings, C Spire; and Phil Buffington, Adams & Reese; and back row: Raymond VanNorman, Renasant Bank; MCCT Chair Barney Daly, Community Bank of MS; and MCCT Treasurer Cecil Harper, Harper Rains Knight & Company.

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Canton through a lens: "Robin Invasion"



Photo by Betsy Sligh

The Canton News features a photo each month by a Cantonian or of Canton. This month's feature is by photographer Betsy Sligh. On November 13, hundreds of robins descended here. They stayed about an hour. Never had we seen such here. It was a "Robin Invasion."

Nissan Canton and Habitat for Humanity celebrate milestone

Special to The Canton News

In a collaborative effort, Nissan Canton Vehicle Assembly Plant and Habitat for Humanity Mississippi Capital Area (HFHM-CA) today marked a significant milestone with the completion of their 15th home build in the tri-county area. More than 100 dedicated employee volunteers from Nissan contributed their time and skills during an eight-day building project from August to October, benefiting Canton resident Sharon Wilkes and her family.



Special to the Canton News

"As we commemorate two decades of being part of Canton's story, our commitment to building exceptional vehicles has been mirrored by our dedication to our extraordinary community," said Victor Taylor, vice president of manufacturing, Nissan Canton. "Our collaboration with Habitat for Humanity embodies our commitment to making positive, lasting impacts. As we extend a helping hand, we're shaping a better future for everyone."

"The corporate support of Nissan

cont. on page 15

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Residents urged to plan ahead for winter weather

Special to The Clinton Courier

The Mississippi Emergency Management Agency (MEMA), in partnership with the National Weather Service and the Mississippi Department of Transportation, urges Mississippians to plan ahead for winter weather this year. NOAA's Climate Prediction Center forecasts a "wetter than average" winter for the state.

Mississippians should be prepared for cold temperatures, the potential for flash flooding and prolonged power outages this season.

"While we may not experience lots of snow in Mississippi, we are prone to ice during these cold months. All citizens should have a disaster go-kit that can get them through at least seventy-two hours without power," says MEMA Executive Director Stephen McCraney. "Check on your neighbors and elderly, too."

"As winter approaches in Mississippi, it's crucial to prepare for cold temperatures, potential snowy and icy conditions. Stay informed, have emergency supplies like blankets and non-perishable food on hand, and ensure your home is adequately insulated. Preparedness is key to navigating winter weather effectively in Mississippi. Now is the time to prepare," says Michael Hill, National Weather Service Jackson Warning Coordination Meteorologist.

The winter season can also make roads and bridges treacherous for drivers.

"As we've seen in recent years, winter weather and extreme cold events capable of impacting Mississippi highways can strike quickly this time of the year," said MDOT Executive Director Brad White.

"With that in mind, MDOT offers the public preparedness resources for the winter months, including safe driving tips, a car kit checklist, and car care information at GoMDOT.com/winter."

More preparedness tips can be found at MSEMA.org.



To winterize a home:

- **Store a good supply of dry, seasoned wood for the fireplace or wood-burning stove.**
- **Insulate walls and attics; use caulk and weather-stripping around doors and windows. Install storm windows, or cover windows with plastic.**
- **Winterize the house, barn, shed, or any other structure that may provide shelter for your family, neighbors, livestock or equipment.**
- **Clear rain gutters, repair roof leaks, and cut away tree branches that could fall on a house or other structure during a storm.**
- **Insulate pipes with insulation or newspapers and plastic, and allow faucets to drip slightly during cold weather to avoid freezing.**
- **Keep fire extinguishers on hand, and ensure everyone in the house knows how to use them.**
- **Learn how to shut off water valves, in the case of a pipe bursting.**
- **Know ahead of time what should be done to help elderly or disabled friends, neighbors, or employees.**

Car Kit Checklist:

- **Windshield scraper**
- **Jumper cables**
- **Blankets**
- **Water/snacks**
- **Flashlight with extra batteries**
- **First aid kit**
- **Cell phone charger**
- **Emergency flares or reflectors**

Disaster Go-Kit Checklist:

- **Non-perishable food for family and pets**
- **Extra blankets**
- **Additional medications**
- **Phone charger**
- **Flashlights**
- **Water (1 gallon/person/day)**
- **Dry firewood**
- **First aid kit**
- **Hygiene items**
- **Extra batteries**

Historical Society receives donation



Special to the Canton News

A chair with ties to the historic Powell House was recently spotted at an estate sale in Canton by Cantonian Jared Meeks (left). Meeks has donated the chair to the Canton-Madison Historical Society. Meeks is pictured with Madison County Historical Society representative Maureen Simpson (right). The Powell House is located on Peace Street

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Buchanan joins Phi Kappa Phi



Special to the Canton News

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Candice Buchanan of Canton was recently initiated into The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, the nation's oldest and most selective all-discipline collegiate honor society. Buchanan was initiated at The University of Mississippi.

Buchanan is among approximately 25,000 students, faculty, professional staff and alumni to be initiated into Phi Kappa Phi each year. Membership is by invitation only and requires nomination and approval by a chapter. Only the top ten percent of seniors and 7.5 percent of juniors are eligible for membership. Graduate students in the top ten percent of the number

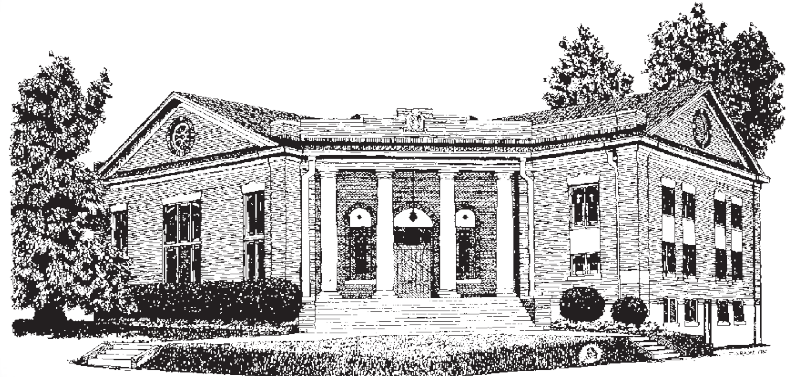
of candidates for graduate degrees may also qualify, as do faculty, professional staff and alumni who have achieved scholarly distinction.

Phi Kappa Phi was founded in 1897 under the leadership of undergraduate student Marcus L. Urann, who had a desire to create a different kind of honor society, one that recognized excellence in all academic disciplines. Today, the Society has chapters on more than 325 campuses in the United States, its territories and the Philippines. Its mission is "To recognize and promote academic excellence in all fields of higher education and to engage the community of scholars in service to others."

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Cantonians awarded Scholarships

cont. from page 10



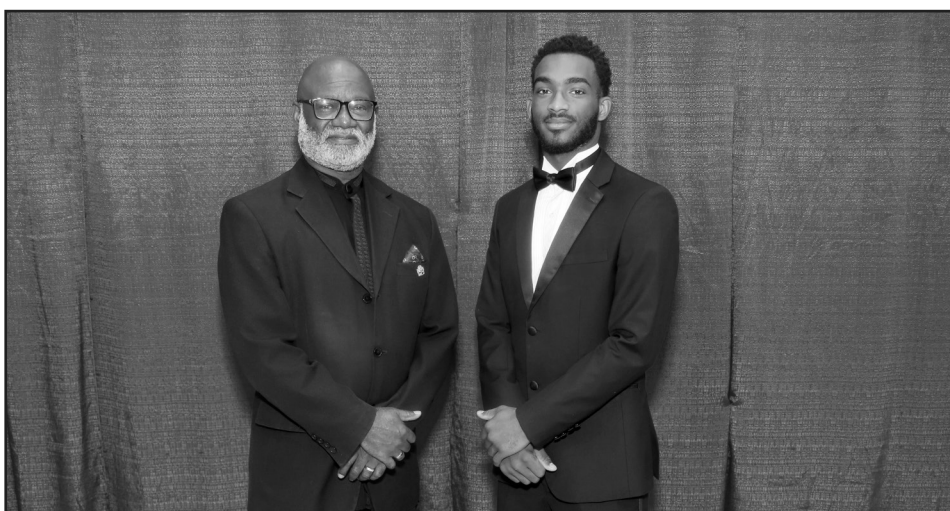
Special to the Canton News

Mareco Baldwin and Hinds Vice President Dr. Keri Cole of Clinton



Special to the Canton News

Kcy Jones and members of the Stamps family



Special to the Canton News

Manuel Johnson and Harry Watson of Madison, Director of Choral Programs on the Utica Campus

Special to The Canton News

The Hinds Community College Foundation recently recognized 2023-2024 Utica Campus scholarship recipients, donors and other honorees at a reception on November 16.

Among those being recognized were Mareco Baldwin of Canton (left), who received the Hinds AHS Class of 1967 Scholarship. Kcy Jones of Canton (center) received the Norcell, Ollie, LeRoy, Malcolm & Ezzard

Charles Stamps Memorial Scholarship. With him were members of the Stamps family. Manuel Johnson of Canton (right) received the Dr. Bobby Cooper Music Scholarship.

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 February 15, 2024. For more information, visit www.hindsec.edu.

Nissan

Canton allows us to build a safe, decent, affordable home for someone living in Canton," said Merrill McKeen, executive director at Habitat for Humanity Mississippi Capital Area.

"With their funding and employees as volunteers they are perfect partners in providing a hand up, not a hand-out."

The Wilkes' new home has four bedrooms and two bathrooms and is Energy Star certified. Wilkes is a mother to seven children, and a grandmother to 12 grandchildren. She currently lives in an apartment. "Through this partnership with Habitat and Nissan, my family and I now can enjoy an affordable energy efficient home, that doesn't come with woes and worries, and I can afford it," said Wilkes.

"I'm looking forward to having a safe place for my grandchildren to play."

Nissan's support for Habitat began in 2005 in response to hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Nissan U.S. donated \$1 million, provided 50 Nissan TITAN trucks and mobilized employee volunteers for homebuilding through Habitat affiliates in impacted communities. Since that time, Nissan has contributed more than \$20 million and more than 112,000 volunteer hours in 13

communities to Habitat for Humanity across the U.S. About Habitat for Humanity Mississippi Capital Area

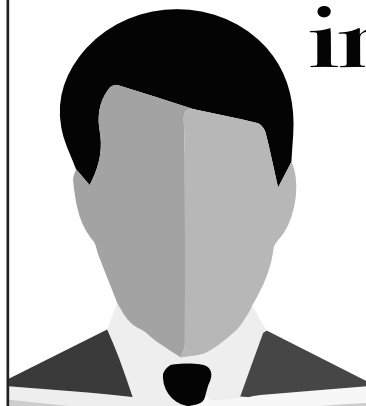
Habitat for Humanity Mississippi Capital Area is a faith-based organization founded in 1986. We have built or renovated simple and sustainable homes for over 660 families in Hinds, Madison, and Rankin counties. Habitat homes are sold at no profit with an interest-free mortgage to families who cannot qualify for traditional bank loans. Homeownership combined with Habitat's required financial education allows these families to invest in our community and their future simultaneously. To learn more about becoming a HFHMCA donor, volunteer or homeowner, please call 601-353-6060 or visit www.habitat-mca.org.

About Nissan Canton Vehicle Assembly Plant Canton Vehicle Assembly Plant celebrated 20 years of manufacturing operations in 2023. The plant employs more than 5,000 people and has assembled more than five million vehicles since it began production in 2003. The \$4 billion factory currently assembles four models: Altima, Frontier, TITAN and TITAN XD. To date, the company has invested \$14 billion in its U.S. manufacturing operations collectively.



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Remember When: hemlines, baptisms, and the uniqueness of one's memory

By Guest Columnist Mary Jane Boutwell

Recently, there was a baptism at the church. At the request of the person making her profession of faith, there was a covered dish meal afterwards.

As a young child, her family would go to her grandmother's church for a baptism and dinner on the grounds. This was in the northeast of the county. It was a small Baptist church - a tradition of food goes on in some places and with some people.

I can understand if you do not wish to read about personal "back-when." If you like, just skip over. My feelings will not be hurt - but I may cause a lot of conversation.

In town the other day, a lady walking by caught my eye and brought back memories. She was wearing a dress that almost touched the ground. Both my mother and I were taller than average; and, at 5'10" at sixteen, I was the shortest in my family. During my early teenage years, dresses came down below the calf - bought with slips, On Mama and I, they came almost to the knee. When home sewing machines were made that could sew nylon fabric (finally) on the Home Markets Home Demonstra-

tion, agents taught its members how to sew the stretchy sliding fabric. Mama set to it with a will to make slips of the correct length for us. At the same time, fashion dictated shorter dress lengths.

I remember walking east on Capitol Street during the days of state band contest with my long, thin-material dress and short slip. The shorter-than-it-should-be slip was obvious.

My church, Old Madison Presbyterian Church, as most other churches, did not allow females to wear pants to church; skirts kept getting shorter. The final length

was known as microsirts. I can remember a teenage girl sitting on the pew, and the hem of her skirt did not touch the seat. The session voted to allow females to wear pants.



Photo courtesy of the Library of Congress

Although we were not Baptist, no dancing was allowed on the church grounds. There was an active 4-H Club meeting in the annex. The leader, a church member, persuaded

the session and members to allow square dancing. The club leader was the wife of the ruling elder. But it still took a lot of talking to get permission.

Out by our mailbox is a pile of woodchips; growing all over are our maypops, known as passion plants by horticulturists. When picking cotton, it was a treat to find one that was ripe - tart and sweet.

The few times we grew peanuts in Canton, they were dug and piled. This was done carefully, so they could dry and not spoil. Then we went out and pulled the peanuts off of the plants. My biggest memory is the peanuts piled in a U shape, with the nuts to the side. I don't know why.

One fall, Mama shelled a dish pan full of peanuts and made peanut brittle. That was the last time we had homemade peanut brittle.

So many things in your memory have no explanation. As long as Daddy lived, we never had a Ford vehicle. But Ray Thompson, the Ford dealership owner in Canton, was the other person who could donate blood when an older brother had surgery. Surgery was common for him in years recovering from polio.

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

Way back when: Simpson House



Photo by Canton-Madison County Historical Society

According to the Canton-Madison County Historical Society - and Mary Temple, specifically - this is a picture of the Simpson House in Canton. The Simpson Sisters with Robert E. Fleming sit out front.



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Cook scores 1,000 career points



Photo by Ashlyn Thompson

Chap Cook and CA Basketball Coach Jacob Iles

By Courtney Warren

Chap Cook, senior at Canton Academy, was recently celebrated for an exciting athletic accomplishment. A multi-sport athlete, at a recent basketball game, Cook was celebrated for scoring 1,000 career points. He

was presented with a specially designed basketball for his accomplishment. Cook said, "I made the goal in ninth grade to beat the record, so it was really rewarding. It feels good to break an individual goal, but a state championship is the real goal."

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Cranberry Pie

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- Shortbread cookie crust
- One can of whole cranberries
- 12 oz container of cool whip

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Canton Academy Panthers' hosts teddy bear toss



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During halftime of the Canton Academy high school girls basketball game against Carroll Academy, the team collected as many new, stuffed animals as possible for Blair E Batson Hospital.

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