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Good News You Can Use • December 7, 2023 • Vol. 9, No. 12 • Canton, Mississippi • 24 PAGES

# merry and bright



new fixtures



out of town visitors



amazing volunteers



a place to celebrate the season



family coming together



long standing traditions



local business that gives back



dedicated tourism department

all photos by Courtney Warren

By Courtney Warren

The Canton Christmas Festival kicked off the holiday season. With a brand new sidewalk on the square, new light fixtures and attractions paired with old classics, the Christmas Festival boasted many reasons Canton is merry and bright! Here are a few snapshots and reasons to love this holiday season.

MERRY AND HAPPY  
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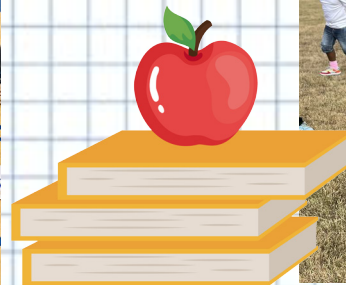
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# Reuben B and Goodloe

*celebrate A rating*

Reuben B. Myers Elementary and Goodloe Elementary held festivities for their students to celebrate the A rating of their schools.



All photos Special to The Canton News



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**Publisher**

Clay Mansell  
ClayMansell@CantonNews.net

**Editor in Chief**

Stephanie Tracy

**Editor**

Courtney Warren  
News@CantonNews.net

**Office Manager**

Doris Bynum

**Distribution**

Ben Barnett

**Sales Representatives**

Clay Mansell  
Lori Lycette  
Courtney Warren

**Graphic Designer / Layout**

Megan Moss  
Designer@CantonNews.net

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# Canton High MAAP Recognition Program 2023

Canton High School Scholars who scored proficient and advanced on the Mississippi Academic Assessment Program were recently recognized. MAAP measures student achievement in English Language Arts (ELA), Mathematics, Science, and US History. Students are assessed in grades 3 through 8 in English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics, grades 5 and 8 Science, Algebra I, Biology I, English II, and US History. The results of all MAAP assessments provide information to be used for the improvement of student achievement.

All photos Special to The Canton News





# CPSD thanks veterans for their service



Special to The Canton News

Alexander Mumford, Jeffrey Dortch, Senior Chief Myers, David Durham.



Special to The Canton News

Victor Harvey and Principal Dr. Pamela Self.



Special to The Canton News

Assistant Principal Damian Davis, student Jaquavian Ratliff, Albert Porter and Principal Dr. Pamela Self.

Special to The Canton News

The Canton Public School District made a point to visit all of the veterans in CPSD and personally thank them for their service.

According to the Department of Veterans Affairs, World War I – known at the time as “The Great War” – officially ended when the

Treaty of Versailles was signed on June 28, 1919, in the Palace of Versailles outside the town of Versailles, France. However, fighting ceased seven months earlier when an armistice, or temporary cessation of hostilities, went into effect between the Allied nations and Germany on the eleventh hour of

the eleventh day of the eleventh month. For that reason, November 11, 1918, is generally regarded as the end of “the war to end all wars.”

Veterans Day continues to be observed on November 11, regardless of what day of the week on which it falls. The restoration of the observance of Veterans Day to

November 11 not only preserves the historical significance of the date, but helps focus attention on the important purpose of Veterans Day: A celebration to honor America’s veterans for their patriotism, love of country, and willingness to serve and sacrifice for the common good.

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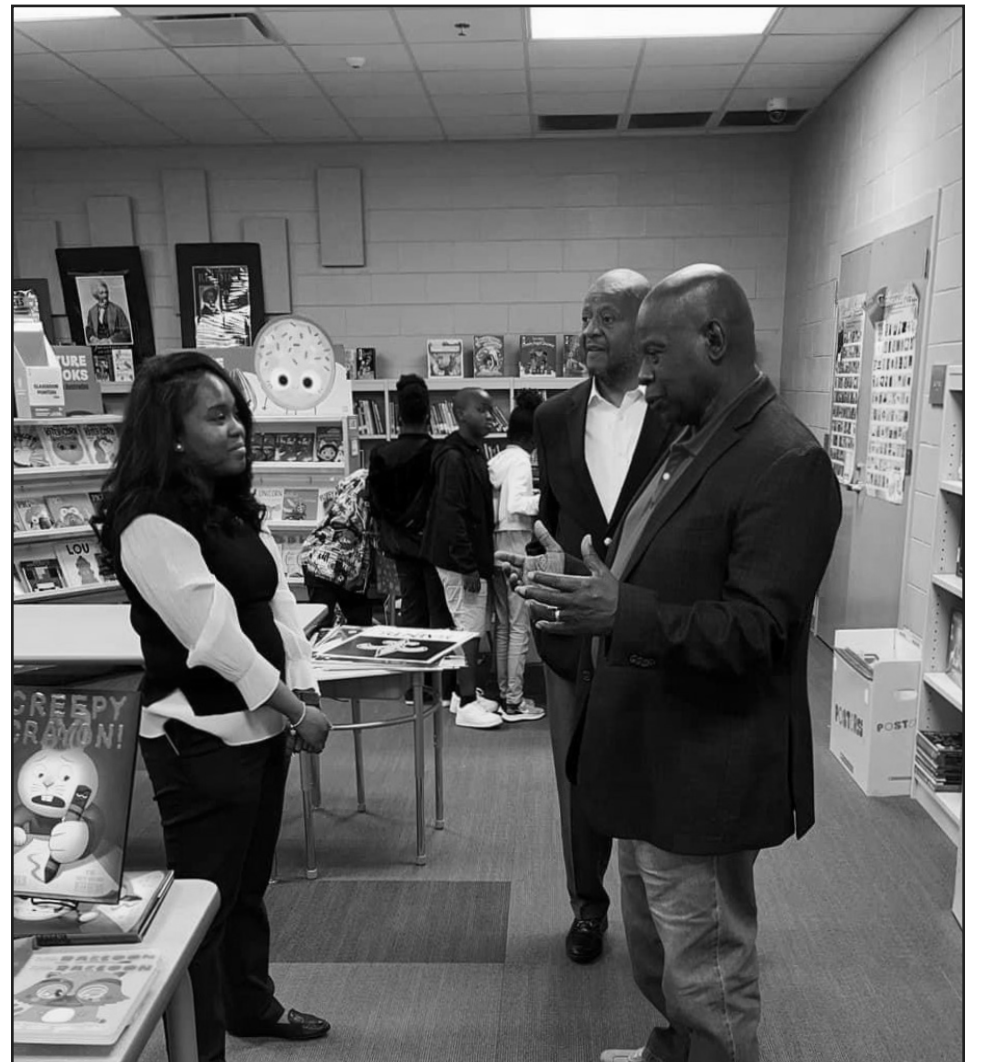
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## City reps visit McNeal Elementary Scholastic Book Fair



Special to The Canton News

During the excitement of the annual Scholastic Book Fair at McNeal Elementary School, Mayor William Truly and Alderman Tim Taylor visited with students and purchased books for a few classrooms. During Scholastic Book Fairs, parents and Cantonians have the opportunity to donate books to classrooms. For more information, contact a local Canton elementary school.

## Remember When: Dancing, quick sand, and a bumpy ride for baby

By Guest Columnist Mary Jane Boutwell

An early memory was going to Pickens to visit kinfolk. Uncle John D had a grocery store - Piggly Wiggly - on the Main Street in Pickens. There was a community center, and, occasionally, after the cows were milked for the night, the family got dressed and went up for a get together and square dancing. The adults were in the large room, where the small band and caller were. We kids were in the small room that was open to the larger room.

I have always thought the dancers were a regular happening, but my family did not go often. The building is now gone. Does the community still have get-togethers like that? The last time Bobby Heath and I spoke, he was still going to the Cameron Community for supper and visiting.

My family went because we had lived in the Camden Community and still had and have kinfolk around there.

On the way just past the turn to Camden, there were several “barr”

pits (short for borrow) on the property where other kinfolk had a new wooden building that was a store and a home. These were not the same family members that had stores in and around Canton.

The original old store right on 51 had burned. My parents ran a rolling store from our home on Poor House Creek outside Camden.

One of Maw’s (my mother) stories was about her coming into Pickens in the rolling store in a heavy rain. She did not make the curve, and the rolling store tumbled down the embankment. The baby, my next older brother, was lying on the seat asleep, and he bounced all over - unhurt, but probably crying.

Going north of Cail on 49 West, there’s a sand pit. The construction company used sand in the building of the road. The sand pit had a spur to back into it to run the rail case in to be loaded with sand and used and make the concrete.

One day, they left the car on the tracks over the sand. The next day, there was no Hopper button rail car. No recovery - it is still there.



Photo by Jack Delano—Farm Security Administration/Library of Congress

Rolling store in Heard County, Ga., in 1941

Quicksand and Sunflower County? Today, the pit is filled with algae, green water and sand trees. The name for the “barr pit” is actually a borrow pit. They borrow the dirt, maybe even gravel, to

build the road.

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



# Christmas Carnival planned for sickle cell warriors on Dec. 16

Special to The Canton News

The Mississippi Sickle Cell Foundation (MSCF) will host a Christmas Carnival for sickle cell warriors and their families on Saturday, December 16.

Coordinating the event this year is Tobi Breland, nurse practitioner at Children's of MS Center for Cancer and Blood Disorders (CCCBD) and MSCF board member, and Teresa Walker, registered nurse at CCCBD and MSCF board member.

"Each year, the Foundation sponsors this event for our young warriors, but we have not been able to have it since 2018, due to the pandemic. We are excited to bring it back this year and hope to have a good turnout," said Breland.

"Sickle cell is a prevalent genetic blood disorder with many possible

complications," said Breland. "We plan the event to provide some holiday fun for families who deal with the effects of it daily."

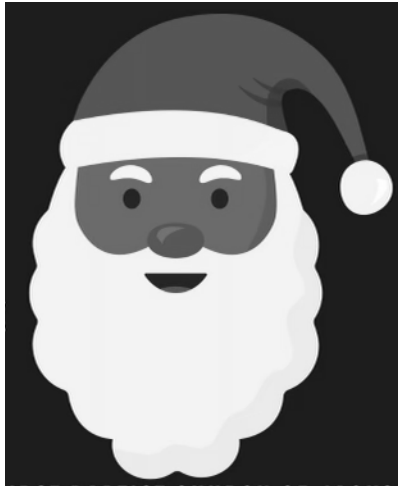
The carnival will feature lots of games, food, a cake walk and a special visit and gifts from Santa. Parents are invited to snap a photo of their youngsters with the Jolly 'Ol Elf.

Set for 10 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. at the First Baptist Church of Jackson's Christian Life Center at 431 North State Street in Jackson, the event is free, but is limited to children with sickle cell disease and their immediate family only.

"We hope families will come and experience some happiness and joy with

others who understand what they go through on a daily basis," said Breland. "We want them to know they are not alone."

For more information, email MS-SickleCellFND@yahoo.com.



# Canton Lions December update



Special to The Canton News

Pictured left to right: Minadine Waldrop, Heather Chisholm, Lion Mike Ozborn, and Lion President Moses

By Guest Columnist Joy Foy

The Canton Lions enjoyed many good speakers in November, including a program by Heather Chisholm, the drop-off team leader, and Minadine Waldrop, the area coordinator for Operation Christmas Child, a branch of Samaritan's Purse. This is a very good charity and one that has impacted so many lives over the years. Heather works at Center Terrace Baptist Church, which is serving

as the drop-off location for Operation Christmas Child. The goal is to collect one hundred boxes this year. The cost to fill a box is approximately \$30, and they are also accepting donations. This program closed November 20, 2023; however, Center Terrace plans to be the collection site for 2024, as well. Heather said, "This is a gospel opportunity, and it doesn't matter your denomination; all are welcome." Call Heather at 601-859-4186 with any questions.

THE CANTON NEWS

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# The Greater Love Pregnancy care center opens

Special to The Canton News

The Greater Love Pregnancy Care Center is now up and running, serving expectant and new mothers in the community. The center is located at 339 West Peace Street in Canton, in the former Rich Grain Distillery building.

The first phase of the center is a monthly support group, which began on August 3 and typically takes place the first Thursday of every month. Each meeting runs approximately an hour and a half, including refreshment time.

“The support group meetings are designed to build life skills and identify the spiritual applications of the skill,” said co-founder and executive director Fredia Day. “We are currently serving six young moms with a total of eight babies.”

Each attendee receives two passes to shop in the resource room, to be used during that same month. Access to the resource room is by appointment only, after attending that month’s meeting.

The ministry is a non-profit, dependent on donations of new or gently used baby and toddler items from individuals, as well as local businesses.

“The pregnancy resource room is



Special to The Canton News

completely community funded and supported,” said Day. “A number of churches, agencies, companies and individuals have come alongside us to help ensure moms have access to the material items they need to care for their babies.”

Organizing and stocking the

shelves in the resource room with supplies is essential in serving the clients well.

“We have a wonderful group of volunteers who help with receiving and putting away donations each month,” Day added. “Additional support is always needed and wel-

comed.”

The 2nd Annual Supporters Luncheon is in the works for spring 2024.

For more information, call Fredia Day at 601-407-4212 or email: [glpregnancyresources@gmail.com](mailto:glpregnancyresources@gmail.com). The Facebook page is titled Greater Love Pregnancy Resource Room.

## Recent news from Madison County Farm Bureau

By Guest Columnist Joy Foy

The Madison County Farm Bureau Board met on November 7, 2023, for their by-monthly meeting. This board represents the farmers and ranchers of the county. Recently elected Mississippi Representative Jonathan McMillan met with the board to hear concerns and issues of importance to Madison County. Among items discussed was high cow sales, increase in pine beetle damage and young tree farm destruction resulting from the summer drought. Also, the board was informed of the changes in insurance for 2024.

Kevin Brown, Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation Regional Manager explained that sale barns are seeing 2,000 to 3,000 head of cows per sale date. Most of the cows are being bought and shipped to northern states, because that area has had rains. He reported that cattle prices are still high because the cattle herd is the lowest since 1962. Without

rain, the cost of feeding and lack of sufficient water will be a deterrent to building up herd count.

Because Madison County ranks a D4 drought county, livestock owners qualify for payment to offset the cost of feed as well as supplement payment to offset the cost of hauling hay and feed. Contact Jeff Tuberville at the Madison County Farm Services at 601-859-4272 to see if you qualify for these government assistance programs. While there is assistance, the side effects to this drought has created environments with deadly fungus on ponds. The fungus kills cattle when consumed while drinking water. According to Ty Jones, Madison County Agent, as ponds recede due to the heat and drought, the livestock wade into the mud trying to get water and sink. They are not able to free themselves. In some instances, the farmer can rescue them with a backhoe or a tractor

lift, but, in others, the buzzards get the calves and cows who are helplessly immobile. In other places in Mississippi, the ground is cracking open and the livestock step into the holes and aren’t able to move.

Kevin said that, even with the large number of cows being sold, the predictions have cattle prices remaining high through 2026.

The drought has harmed trees by stressing pines and making them more vulnerable to the pine beetles. John Carr Bates, Madison County Young Farmer and Rancher representative and also a professional forester, recommended that anyone interested in selling timber be mindful that white oaks are selling at a premium. He also reported that, after trees are planted, it is up to the land owner to keep the trees alive for the first year. But, in years two and three of the tree’s life, funds to replant the forest can be obtained from Natural Resource Conserva-

tion Service.

Another note of interest was from Farm Bureau Insurance Manager Bob Atkins, concerning insurance for 2024. According to Bob, the age of the house roof is a bigger trigger for an increased insurance rate than the distance from a fire station. The cost for replacing a roof has risen in the last four years from \$175 square in 2019 to \$350 today. Bob’s advice to anyone looking to purchase a home is to get an inspection. If the inspection shows a weak roof, he advises that you not purchase the house without requiring roof replacement.

The Mississippi Farm Bureau annual meeting is scheduled for December 1-4, 2023, at the Refuge in Flowood. Speakers will include Kayleigh McEnany, former press secretary to President Donald Trump, and Dr. Jason Brown, an atmospheric scientist. All Farm Bureau members are invited to attend.

At the board meeting, the 2023-2024 Farm Bureau Committees were named, and we are excited to have new members. If you are interested in becoming involved as a volunteer for Farm Bureau, please contact the Canton office at 601-859-3215.



Joy Foy

Special to The Canton News





# McNeal Elementary completes the Great Pumpkin assignment



Special to The Canton News

Mrs. McClenty's class at McNeal Elementary School is currently learning about adjectives. As an activity, they decided to describe a real pumpkin, both inside and out, using their five senses. When Mrs. McClenty cut the pumpkin open, the students were able to get a better understanding of adjectives. They ran their hands through the pulp and even roasted some pumpkin seeds for a taste test.



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# THANKSGIVING FEAST IN CANTON PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT

"We should just be thankful for being together. I think that's what they mean by Thanksgiving, Charlie Brown."



All photos special to *The Canton News*

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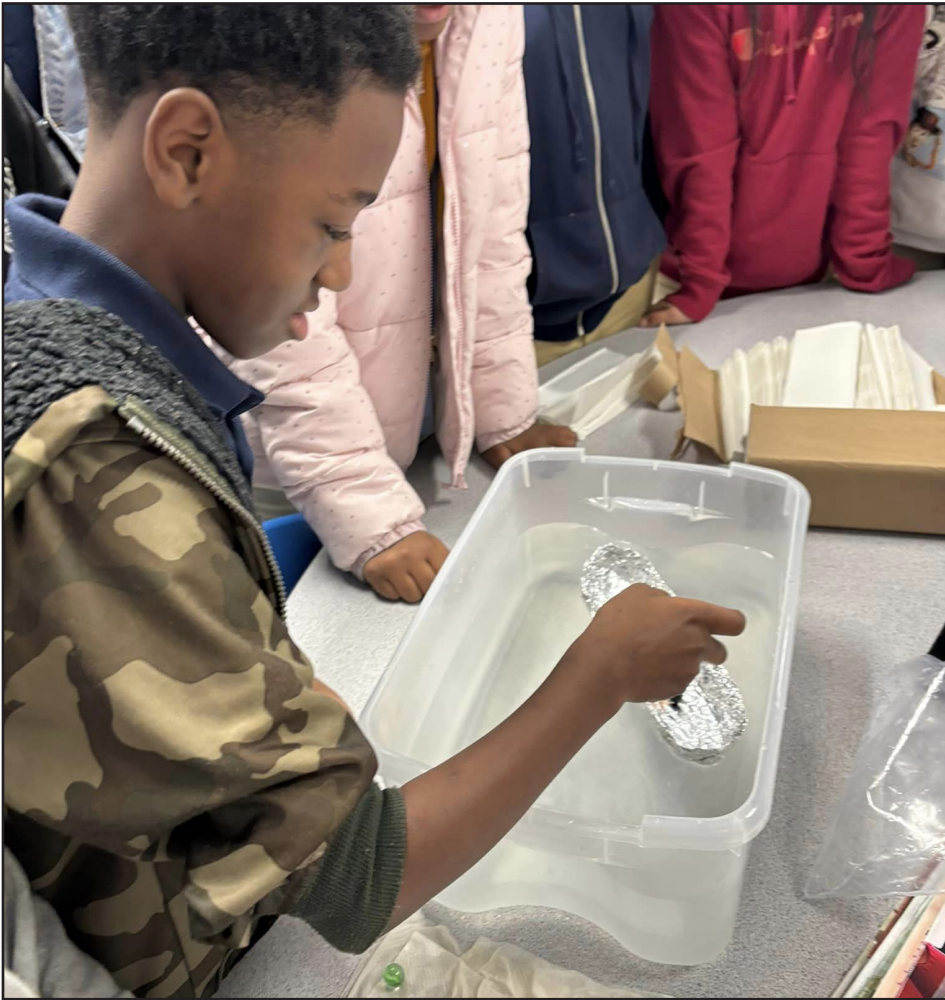
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# Canton Elementary studies density



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*Make sure your car is ready for winter travel*

- Check antifreeze level and have radiator system serviced.
- Replace worn tires and check tire air pressure.
- Keep gas tank full to avoid ice in tank and fuel lines.
- Bring your pets indoors as temperatures drop!
- Make a winter emergency kit to keep in your car.
- Dress warmly and limit exposure to the cold to prevent frostbite.
- Avoid getting wet to prevent hypothermia.

If power lines fall on your car, warn people not to touch the car or power lines.

If power lines are down, call your local utility and emergency services.

*Prepare yourself for exposure to winter weather.*



# Nissan volunteers at MadCAAP



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Madison Countians Allied Against Poverty (MadCAAP) was recently visited by a volunteer team from Nissan to work in the garden. Six brand new raised garden beds will bring vegetables to those in need. This group also cleared out okra

then tilled and weeded. MadCAAP is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization dedicated to assisting families living in poverty. As construction continues, MadCAAP is always looking for volunteers. For more information, or to volunteer, call 601-407-1404 or visit [www.madcaap.org](http://www.madcaap.org).

# On the shelf: *The Little Liar*

By Courtney Warren

The power of social media never ceases to amaze me. I am an active social media user, and, recently, I put my email in my bio, which has caused different companies to reach out asking if I'd be interested in trying or reviewing their products. One of the coolest things happened a few weeks ago, when someone from Harper Collins Publishing reached out. They saw my review of *Strangers in a Lifeboat* by Mitch Albom and wanted to know if I'd be interested in reading his new book, *The Little Liar*. I said yes and sent over my address, excited to read the new release because of how much I loved *Strangers in a Lifeboat*.

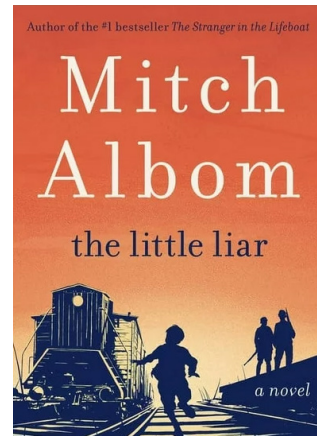
The book arrived quickly, and it wasn't long before I was totally captivated by another Mitch Albom story.

Friends, this book is incredible. *The Little Liar* tells the story of a little boy named Nico, who lives in Salonika during the time of the Nazi invasion. He is known for never telling a lie—a beautiful and trustworthy

little Jewish boy. As the Nazis continue to force their way into Greece, Nico's family is thrown out of their business, synagogue, school, and finally their home. When he gets separated from his family, Nico meets a Nazi general, who convinces him that the trains leaving their local station will be taking his Jewish friends and family somewhere safe, so they can start over. Nico is asked to stand on the platform and assure his friends and family that they are going to be safe. Trusting this little boy, the Jewish community gets onto the trains...which take them to Auschwitz.

Narrated by the voice of truth itself, Albom weaves the stories of Nico, his older brother Sebastian, their crush

Fannie, and the Nazi officer Udo together as he described the journey these characters take during the rise and fall of the Nazis. His story shows the repercussions of lies and the freedom of truths. I can't recommend it enough, and this story solidified Albom as one of my favorite authors of all time.



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**CANTON HOME GROWN**

How fast time flies, but our own home-grown Brandon Gillum feels it was worth every minute serving an eight-year stint in the Navy. A graduate of Canton High School class of 2012. Not sure of his approach toward a rewarding career he ventured out attending a traditional college, he soon found out the classroom setting was not for him, so he acted on plan B which gain him a rewarding career. Brandon spent his years in the Navy being part of a team that refuels jets on an aircraft carrier. Before transitioning he spent his last six months as an intern learning to be a power plant operator at NRG Energy near Houston and hired full-time. Brandon always remembered his parents' wisdom to always keep a back-up plan and never give up, and success is not always linear, but recognizing the ability to choose the right options.

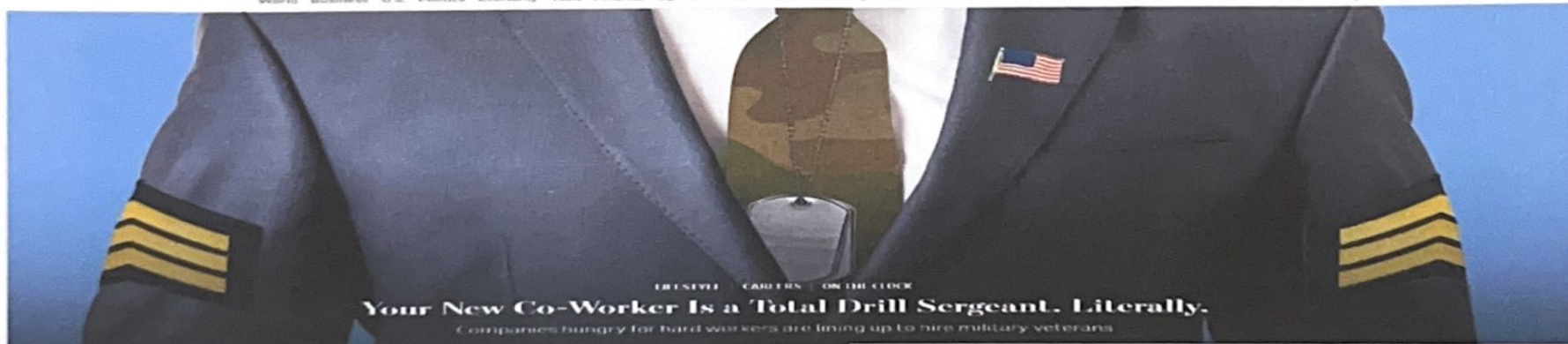
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**Your New Co-Worker Is a Total Drill Sergeant. Literally.**

Companies hungry for hard workers are lining up to hire military veterans

Listen up, maggots. What this company needs is more effort and less whining, and I know just the person to set the tone: a drill sergeant or somebody who survived one. So goes the thinking at the companies that are lining up to hire the roughly 200,000 people who leave the military each year.

The last jobs report before Veterans Day showed the unemployment rate for former service members is 2.9%, a full point lower than the overall U.S. rate. Businesses' interest in a Pentagon program that connects service members to companies grew so intense over the summer that the

Department of Defense **temporarily stopped taking applications** from companies to join the ranks of private-sector partners. The **SkillBridge** program, as it's known, had 150 participating employers in 2019. Today there are more than 3,800—including Bank of America, Lowe's and Deloitte—and applications recently reopened, following a review of how to handle the **staggering demand**.

Veterans and companies that recruit from the armed forces say vets' appeal is rooted in hard work, humility, and attention to detail. Many a manager has complained to me that such qualities are hard to find in the age of **quiet quitting** and **coffee badging**.

The learning curve for former service members in the private sector can be steep, companies say, but they come with little sense of entitlement and can handle—or even crave—constructive criticism.

Brandon Gillum, who was part of a team that refuels jets on aircraft carriers during his eight-plus years in the Navy, says being hollered at never bothered him. Boot camp was kind of fun, he claims. He's spent the past six months as an intern learning to be a power plant operator at **NRG Energy** near Houston and was hired full-time. Certain abilities carry over. His trained ear, perfected in a cacophony of fuel pumps below deck, can tell when the machinery he now oversees sounds a bit off. Attitude might be his best asset. Gillum says he seeks feedback—no critique rattles him after basic training—and accepts overnight shifts without complaint. The military hierarchy forges a pay-your-dues mindset that differs from some young professionals' **expectation of immediate flexibility**. "Anytime I go somewhere and there are more senior people, I do not expect anywhere near the perks that they get," he says. "I know it took time, and they worked to get to that point. I'm not entitled to it." Another new NRG plant operator, Air Force veteran Larry Blanco, used to maintain intercontinental ballistic-missile systems. Trading that epic job for intern status while he was training was an adjustment. Then again, there aren't too many private-sector openings for people who take care of nukes. To those who questioned whether he could learn something new, Blanco crafted a convincing pitch: "If I could be responsible enough to maintain that weapon system, I absolutely can maintain this plant for you." Write to Callum Borchers at [callum.borchers@wsj.com](mailto:callum.borchers@wsj.com)

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# Canton Academy inducts new Honor Society Members



Special to The Canton News

Canton Academy hosts a National Honor Society induction each year.

By Courtney Warren

Recently, Canton Academy inducted several high school and junior high students into the National Honor Society.

According to the National Honor So-

ciety website, "National Honor Society (NHS) membership has been the true mark of student achievement for over one hundred years, but it goes far beyond a report card. By empowering, championing, and recognizing



Special to The Canton News

Mary Palmer Tupman speaks during the National Honor Society Induction ceremony.

well-rounded students, NHS provides schools with a values-based framework to elevate a culture of scholarship, service, leadership and character."

Inductees included Mackenzie Mer-

cer, Logan Phillipson, Olivia Ford, Rue Boykin, Addison Cado, Trinity Craig, Emily Dearman, Tanner Floore, Bren Gore, Tillie Oglesbee, Ali Smith, Aisley Spell, Mackenzie Turner, Kaitlyn Warren and Houston Williams.

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# Local State Farm gives back



Special to The Canton News

Pictured are Kendris Lacey (State Farm), Marsha Warfield (principal), LaQuanda Davis (staff), Arnel Bolden (agent) and Kenna Pierce (Fire Chief).

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In recognition of Fire Safety Month, State Farm Agent Arnel Bolden and his team donated edu-

cational materials and supplies to Goodloe Elementary and the Canton Fire Department.

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# Upstairs Downtown: Successful Evening



Special to The Canton News

By Guest Columnist Jessica Stein

The Canton Garden Club wants to thank you all for such a wonderful turn out at Upstairs Downtown this year! After months of preparation, and donation from sponsors City of Canton, Canton Tourism, BankPlus, NetSpeedMS, PSG, Bear Creek Storage, Bob Montgomery, Canton Flea Market, Canton Lions Club, Capstone Insurance & Financial Group, Madison County Board of Supervisors, Beth McNeil, Mississippi Discount Drugs, Phillips Lumber Company, Renasant Bank, Robert Riddell & Susan Buttross, Two Rivers Restaurant & Catering, and Scott Penn Incorporated, the event drew 300 ticket holders for four hours of “over-the-top” festivities across nine locations. Open upstairs lofts were decorated to the hilt with delicious food while friendly guests mingled, generating interest for the city, future sponsors and garden club members. Loft owners Mitch Tyner, Matt Kennedy, Susie Morgan, Jeb and Maria Stewart, Bridget Crosby, Johnny Stewart, the

Canton Elk’s Club, and the Canton Convention and Visitors Bureau graciously opened their spaces as people, conversation, and drinks flowed down the main square accompanied by live music.

Canton Garden Club wishes we could thank everyone who volunteered for, donated, advertised, or attended this event; it was truly a community effort supported by four excellent Canton caterers. Funds raised go towards beautification of the city for all to enjoy, like the planting of 1000 daffodil bulbs soon to bloom this spring at the corner of Fulton and Hickory Street, by the Outdoor Classroom. Canton Garden Club’s tangential effort Keep Canton Beautiful was recently raised to President’s Circle in the greater Keep America Beautiful organization, a worthy distinction. The Garden Club’s next meeting is a private holiday party for members.

**EDITOR’S NOTE:** Jessica Stein is member of the Canton Garden Club and enjoys writing for the group.

# Lampkin and Mabry honored with Heisman Scholarships

By Courtney Warren

Recently, seniors Cooper Lampkin and Anna Claire Mabry were chosen as Canton Academy’s winners for the Heisman High School Scholarship.

“It’s an honor to represent Canton Academy and the city of Canton for my work on the field and in the classroom. I will always be thankful for my time at CA,” said Lampkin. “I am honored to have been chosen as the Heisman female award winner for Canton Academy. I want to thank my parents, teachers and coaches for instructing, encouraging and guiding me during my high school years in the areas of academics, community service, organizations and sports. I am blessed to receive this honor and hope that I can make a difference in my school and community in the days ahead,” said Mabry.

Head of School Ryan Laster added, “We are very proud of Anna Claire

and Cooper on being chosen to represent Canton Academy for the High School Heisman Scholarship Program. Both Anna Claire and Cooper excel in academics and athletics, and they are both great kids who will be sorely missed on campus next year.”

According to their website, “The Heisman Memorial Trophy is renowned for symbolizing the pursuit of excellence with integrity. The Heisman High School Scholarship extends the Heisman prestige to our nation’s most esteemed male and female high school seniors by recognizing and rewarding outstanding scholar-athletes who understand

that the most important victories not only happen on the field, but in their schools and communities. These remarkable young leaders set the example and make a game-changing difference every day, paving the way to greatness for everyone around them.”



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# Canton Academy Panthers chess team ready to check



Special to The Canton News

Canton Academy recently created a chess team and has been competing around the state. The chess team competed at the Piney Woods tournament, where third grader Christian Reeves came in second place and third grader Connor Perez came in third place in the elementary division. Seventh graders Ava Hughes, Jasper Branning and Allie Hart Lyon tied for third in the middle-school division. Seventh grader Rut Garcia took third in the rated division.

# Gobble Gobble and give back this turkey season



Special to The Canton News

The Canton Madison Alumni Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi held its 20th Annual Turkey Drive, providing over 115 turkeys to families in the Madison County area.



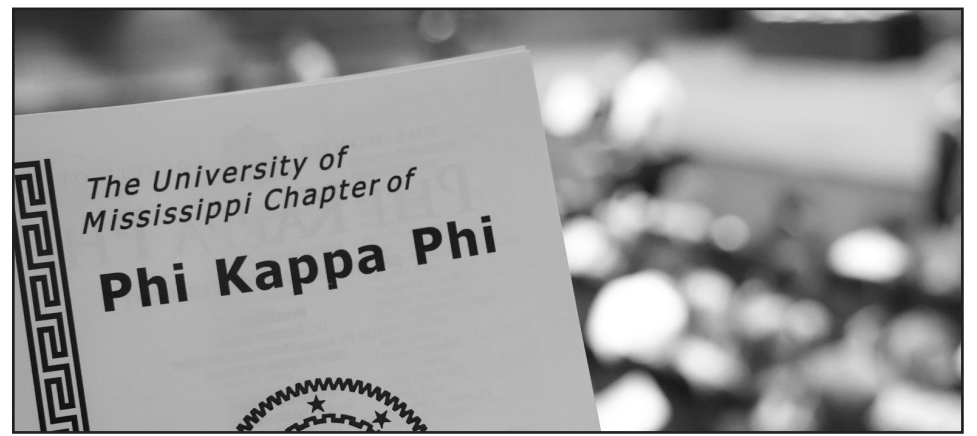
# Veterans Day celebrated by Canton Academy students



all photos Special to The Canton News

As a long standing tradition, the first grade students of Canton Academy recently celebrated and thanked veterans for serving the country during the annual Veterans Day Program. All branches of the United States Military were represented, and students and staff say they could not be prouder or more grateful for the many ways the selfless men and women have served their country. Students took on the roles of Uncle Sam, Betsy Ross and some of the founding fathers.

# Ole Miss Phi Kappa Phi inducts local students



Special to The Canton News

Special to The Canton News

Elizabeth Pace and Hannah Stempkovski of Canton were recently initiated into The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, the nation's oldest and most selective collegiate honor society for all academic disciplines. Both are students at The University of Mississippi.

The rest of the article continues as written: They are 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 10 percent of seniors and 7.5 percent of juniors are eligible for membership.

Graduate students in the top 10 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."

# 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)



## NMED receives 3:1 grant match through the Partnership Grant Program



Special to The Canton News

Pictured are (l to r), front row: Elaine Toney, mortgage loan originator, Community Bank; Dr. Pallascene Cole, NMED board chair; Mrs. Earnestine Bilbrew, NMED board 1st vice chair; Dr. Pollia Griffin, NMED board 2nd vice chair; Will Anderson, assistant vice-president, Community Bank; Deonte Oscar, president-Hinds County; Hynethia Richards, mortgage loan originator, Community Bank; and, back row: Mrs. Doris Sutherland, NMED board secretary; Mr. George Cole, Velma Jackson Foundation president; and Supervisor Paul Griffin, District 5. NMED Board members not pictured are Dr. Mary Sims-Johnson, treasurer; Mrs. Diane Shaw Day; and Major Willie Cline, U.S. Army, retired.

Special to The Canton News

The North Madison County Economic Development Council (NMED) recently announced a grant award through the Partnership Grant Program (PGP), with the Federal Homeland Bank (FHLB) of Dallas and the Community Bank of Brandon, Mississippi, to support NMED's service to the north Madison County community.

FHLB of Dallas provides up to a 3:1 match of members' contributions to provide a match up to \$12,000 per member to promote and strengthen relationships between community-based organizations such as NMED and FHLB members like the Community Bank of Brandon. PGP grants are offered once a year through FHLB Dallas' member institutions via a lottery system.

In furtherance of their mission to promote the delivery of opportunities and services to strengthen community and support economic development, NMED will use funds to support program activities and opportunities related to retaining, expanding and recruiting community businesses, business professionals and other social, health, job and housing opportunities, to include

training sessions and workshops to enhance community awareness and community building.

NMED values the relationship being forged with Community Bank through the Partnership Grant Program with Federal Homeland Bank of Dallas, as well as the service and support of Community Bank's contact, Hynethia Richards, a Velma Jackson High School graduate.

## Girl Scout Troop 4421 gives back to Madison County

Special to The Canton News

On Veterans Day weekend, Girl Scout Troop 4421 provided service to some of the furriest members of Madison County. The troop visited Webster Animal Shelter, where they delivered a variety of pet toys they had purchased using money raised from cookie sales. Troop members also learned how to safely care for and provide compassion to animals. Troop leaders are Kate Trotty and Drea Hicks Edwards. According to the Girl Scouts organization, Juliette Gordon Low—also known widely by her nickname, “Daisy”—started Girl Scouts in 1912 in her hometown of Savannah, Georgia. The first troop was made up of 18 girls who all shared a sense of curiosity and a belief that they could do anything.

At a time when women in the United States couldn't yet vote and were expected to stick to strict



Special to The Canton News

Pictured (l to r) are Maggie Johnson, Norah Lennep, McClain Brewer, Ari-Elle Bolden, Collins Brewer, Kimber Edwards; Willow Armstrong, Caroline Carter, Adele McGee, Jordan Packer, Mia Trotty, Evelyn Nisbett and Harper Armstrong.

social norms, encouraging girls to embrace their unique strengths and create their own opportunities was

game-changing. That small gathering of girls over 100 years ago ignited a movement across America

where every girl could unlock her full potential, find lifelong friends, and make the world a better place.



# Letter from the editor: Embracing the busy schedule and remembering the reason

By Courtney Warren

I am tired. Even as I write this, my left eye is twitching and my planner is exploding with sticky notes, while my phone is also ringing from the table across the room. The holiday season is so dang busy. From class Christmas, birthdays, conferences, progress reports, and publishing this newspaper, it feels like the minute November 1 hits, we don't stop running.

So normally, you'd be expecting a column about the importance of slowing down and taking a minute. I've written those before. I've talked about putting the cell phone down and leaning into the moment, and I still absolutely think that way. Don't miss a moment because you watched it through your cell phone screen.

However, something else has been on my mind recently. As I walked through my to-do list this morning while our faculty prepped for an incredible conference that has been long in the making, I reminded myself to once again lean into the moment. I have Christmas gifts to purchase, Angel trees to complete, and my first grader has at least four parties between now and Christmas Day. On top of this, she is performing in a Christmas play with two hour play rehearsals each night.

However, I know that things won't always go this fast. Christmas won't always include Santa. It won't al-

way have unicorn wrapping paper...or will it?

Either way, I am working to make a conscious decision to love the business and the chaos. I'll still cherish those quiet moments in the morning to ground myself and prepare for the day, but rather than looking at my to-do list and feeling my throat close up, I'm going to try to look at it through a lens of excitement. How blessed that we are getting invited to these parties! How blessed that we get to provide Christmas for someone else!

How wonderful it is to be at a school surrounded by positive co-workers who also lean into the busy and make these crazy schedules so that we can all stay on track! How wonderful that our community has so many events and beautiful

Christmas lights for us to enjoy each evening during this holiday season!

As you work through that Christmas list, whether it be big or small, remember those small blessings. Lean into the chaos. Remember the reason for the season. Which, by the way, is not Jesus. We say that—Jesus is the reason for the season.

Actually, it's you. You are the reason for the season. You are the reason He came, He died, and He rose. You are the reason. How cool is that? You are His reason.

Do things with purpose. Do things with grace. Maybe carry a few sticky notes to help. Merry Christmas. I am so grateful to be your editor.



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# Canton Academy elementary students visit Ag Museum




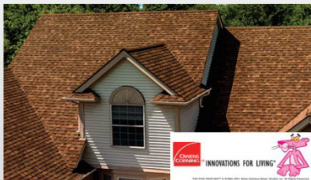

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Recently, Canton Academy elementary students visited the Mississippi Ag Museum. The Heritage Center Gallery and Small Town, Mississippi, provided students with an opportunity to learn about Mississippi's rich agricultural history through the exhibits and artifacts on display.

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Simmer pots have been all over my social media recently, so I was excited to try one out! Now, as I researched the history of a simmer pot, I read that many people believe this is witchcraft. Placing vegetables and leaves in a pot to boil...is also soup. I think intention is what matters when it comes to holiday traditions (think, the Christmas tree). I wanted to create a simmer pot that reminded me of winter time, so I gathered the ingredients I thought would work. It's so easy. Find a sturdy pot, and slice up your orange and apple. Place the slices in the pot with the fresh cranberries, cinnamon sticks, and rosemary. You can get creative with these and mix and match your ingredients. I've seen some people add in one herbal tea bag, as well. Fill the pot with water, and bring it to a boil. Once it's boiled, reduce the heat to a simmer, and leave it uncovered. The entire point is that this simmer pot makes your house smell amazing! You can either let the water evaporate, or pull some for a caffeine-free tree to enjoy by the Christmas tree.

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# Bethany Biggers inducted into The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi

By Courtney Warren

Bethany Biggers 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. Biggers was initiated at Mississippi State University.



Bethany Biggers

Biggers 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 chap-

ter. 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.

"It is such an honor to be a part of Phi Kappa Phi," said Biggers. "This organization has given me the opportunity to meet scholars pursuing a variety of majors. Phi Kappa Phi provides a community where members continually push each other to excel and improve. I am so privileged to be in this honor society and look forward to continuing to pursue my passions."

Phi Kappa Phi was founded in 1897 under the leadership of undergraduate student Marcus L. Uram who had a de-



Special to The Canton News

sire 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 ter-

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